

name four post offices. While I support the post office bills, I oppose the Republican's misdirected priorities. As a result, I chose to vote present on these post office bills.

On September 14th, either the ban will be extended and our communities will remain safe or the weapons used by terrorists around the world will be legal on America's streets.

President Bush and Republican leaders have a choice: allow Congress to vote an opportunity to extend the ban or do nothing and allow assault weapons to be used to terrorize police officers and our families.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GUS' GANG

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to an impressive group of community leaders from Pueblo, Colorado. These men, driven by a desire to serve their community and promote economic development in the city of Pueblo, began meeting every week for lunch to discuss problems, and solutions, for issues facing their community. As a result, Gus' Gang has been meeting now for over thirty-five years and although the membership has changed over the years. Their service and loyalty to the community remains a constant.

Gus' Gang is a group of local businessmen, lawyers, bankers, realtors, and public officials that meet every Friday afternoon to encourage companies to consider Pueblo when establishing, expanding, or relocating their business. The group invites corporate executives to lunch and encourages them to locate their companies in Pueblo by welcoming and introducing them to leaders in the community. Many achievements in Pueblo have been born out of Gus' Gang meetings such as the creation of the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation, and the idea and approval to locate the Colorado Lottery Office in Pueblo.

The unusual but highly effective meeting venue, Gus', has been recognized in several publications and media outlets such as The Rocky Mountain News, The Denver Post, The National Geographic and Ripley's Believe It or Not, for its western atmosphere and good hometown spirits. Some of the founding members of Gus' Gang include: Tommy Thompson, Director of the Southeastern Water Conservancy District; Bob Ellis, the Vice President of First National Bank; Jade McGuire, the President of the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce; and Walt Bassett, President and CEO of Bassett Construction.

Mr. Speaker, Gus' Gang is a staple of the Pueblo community, and their persistent efforts to attract businesses and corporations to Pueblo has helped strengthen their community and the Colorado economy. Gus' Gang is a terrific group of dedicated, innovative individuals. It is my privileged and honor to recognize their accomplishments and service before Congress and this Nation. I thank the members of Gus' Gang for all their hard work and commitment, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF JESS OJEDA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jess Ojeda, an extremely gifted police officer who dedicated much of his life to the Watsonville Community and the California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement. Mr. Ojeda, who was born in Chihuahua, Mexico in 1912 and moved to Watsonville, California in 1922, passed away of natural causes on August 9th, 2004. He was 91. Mr. Ojeda's wife, Lillian Martha Ojeda, passed away in 1999. He is survived by three children, Kelley, Martha, and Shane, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The son of Jesus Antonio and Rosa Luisa Ojeda, Mr. Ojeda worked hard upon his arrival to America. Before becoming a police officer, his jobs included working in a butcher shop, starting up a courier business, deputy civil engineer, and tomato farming. After assisting in the construction of Fort Ord, one of the largest training bases in the U.S., Mr. Ojeda became a police officer with the Watsonville Police Department in 1949. He was known for his true concern for the people of Watsonville and the compassion with which he performed his job.

Mr. Ojeda worked for the Watsonville Police Department until 1957 when he earned a spot as an undercover agent with the state's Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement in San Francisco. During his time as an undercover agent, Mr. Ojeda faced great danger in order to successfully arrest the criminals whose extensive drug operations he was determined to bring down. During his long career, he made over 5,000 arrests and had a 95 percent conviction rate.

Mr. Ojeda never lost sight of his true goal, which was to protect the people of his community who suffered at the hands of drug kingpins and dealers. His main objective was to reduce the number of addicts, not through punitive means, but through legislation focused on treatment, counseling, and support programs.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my condolences to the Ojeda family during these difficult times. His legacy as a devoted police officer and community leader will have a longlasting effect in both the Pajaro Valley and all of California. I join the Watsonville community, friends and family in honoring this truly admirable man for all his lifelong achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE LOS ANGELES CITY CHICANO EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Los Angeles City Chicano Employees Association (LACECA) for its thirty-three years of service to the city of Los Angeles and its Latino employees. Since its inception on March 10, 1971, LACECA has been dedicated to the educational, economic, and social wel-

fare of hard working Americans in the workplace and the promotional advancement of Latinos serving our nation's second largest city.

LACECA provides critical leadership and a progressive vision that has successfully fought for passage of the City's Bilingual Skills Ordinance, formation of the City's Advisory Affirmative Action Committee (AAAC), and employee payroll deductions for LACECA membership. LACECA understands the importance of community development and outreach and devotes significant time, energy, and resources in support of many local activities, such as the City's Latino Heritage Month, voter education and registration drives, scholarships to Latinos seeking higher education, and an annual donation drive to support organizations which seek to improve the status of Latinos.

As LACECA celebrates its thirty-third year of service, I am proud to recognize its executive board and members who have distinguished themselves as exceptional leaders in the Los Angeles community. I look forward to continuing to work with LACECA as it promotes the advancement of Latinos serving the city of Los Angeles.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PALMER FRANKLIN SMITH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to mourn the passing of Palmer Smith of Alamosa, Colorado. Palmer recently died unexpectedly of a suspected pulmonary embolism. He was a lifelong learner and dedicated activist in his community who shared his knowledge with countless students. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize his life and accomplishments.

Palmer was born in 1932 in Los Angeles, California. He attended the California Institute of Technology where he studied chemistry under five Nobel Prize winners before enlisting in the Air Force. At Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, he taught the top secret 1009th Special Weapons Project. In 1956, Palmer continued his education at the University of Colorado at Boulder in a mathematics masters degree program, despite his lack of a bachelor's degree. Palmer also taught in the applied mathematics program at CU for five years as he worked on a doctorate before he went on to teach at Nichols State College.

In 1962, Palmer returned to Colorado to teach and chair the mathematics department at Adams State College where he received emeritus status after retiring in 1987. After teaching, Palmer became involved in buying and selling real estate, and ran for Alamosa County treasurer. He continued to take courses in law, taxes, and bonds and investments from the local college. Palmer was a renaissance man with a wide variety of interests that ranged from archaeology and history to stamp collecting. He was a concert pianist, an avid reader, and a writer.

Palmer is survived by his wife, Erin Macgillivray Smith, his daughter, Laura Suzanne Smith, his son, Brian Smith, his granddaughter Sara Powell and two great grandchildren, Zachary and Allison Powell.