

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 8, 2004, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 428, on agreeing to the Rep. Joel Hefley Amendment to H.R. 5006, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005; for rollcall vote No. 429, on agreeing to the Rep. George Miller Amendment to H.R. 5006, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005; and, for rollcall vote No. 430, on the Motion that the Committee Rise. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 428, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 429, and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 430.

IN HONOR OF THE OPENING OF  
TEXANS CAN! AT PAUL QUINN  
COLLEGE

#### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the opening of Texans Can! at Paul Quinn College on September 17, 2004. I am very delighted to join my fellow colleagues in highlighting the tremendous public service that this organization has provided to the local community and praise its current expansion.

In almost 20 years of service, *Texans Can!* have provided educational opportunities to more than thirty thousand academically at-risk students who may have never finished high school. *Texans Cans* currently operates three campus locations in the greater Dallas community, and the new location at Paul Quinn College will provide additional capacity to enroll more students that otherwise might not receive a quality educational experience.

The new campus at Paul Quinn College will serve as an outreach to students from neighborhoods in Duncanville, DeSoto, Grand Prairie, Lancaster and other surrounding communities. I congratulate the first year's class of students at this new location, as they christen the new school and help pave the way for all of the students that will follow them in the future.

I wish *Texans Cans* continued success in their service to the future of our community, and I thank Mr. Grant East the founder of *Texans Can!*, the teachers, administrators, and staff of *Texans Can!* for their unswerving commitment to education.

HONORING KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA'S OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

#### HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend four Olympic medalists from Kern County, California, which I am privileged to represent, on their outstanding performances at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. I am proud to recognize and praise these athletes for their dedication, resolve, and extraordinary talent that so perfectly epitomize the American spirit.

Joey Hansen of Bakersfield helped power the eight-man rowing crew to a gold medal—the first victory in 40 years for the United States in that event. In the kayak slalom, Rebecca Giddens, demonstrating expert skills honed in relentless practice on the Kern River, came from behind to win the silver medal. Swimmer Larsen Jensen, also of Bakersfield, shattered his own American record by eleven seconds in the 1,500 meter freestyle. Finally, Bakersfield's Gabe Woodward also made Kern County proud when he helped guide the 4x 100-meter freestyle relay team to a bronze medal.

Each of these four champions reflects the spirit of hard work and perseverance that is cherished in Kern County, and each resident of Kern County takes great pride in their achievements in Athens. We congratulate Joey, Rebecca, Larsen, and Gabe for making us proud. While I want to especially salute Kern County's Olympians, I also want to laud the achievements of each of the men and women who admirably and honorably represented the United States at the Olympics this summer. They made an entire Nation proud.

HONORING DAVID CREQUE

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of an extraordinary man, David Creque of Oakland, California. David was an instrumental figure in East Bay politics and government for over three decades, and will be missed greatly by those who knew him, as well as by those whose lives have been touched by his work. David passed away on July 15, 2004, and is survived by his wife Sandy and their two children, as well as six grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

David was born in Hayward, California on September 20, 1932. After growing up and at-

tending school in Oakland, he went on to serve in the Korean War and obtain his Masters Degree from the University of Oregon. Upon the completion of his education, David returned to Oakland and began teaching high school biology. Active in local government affairs, David would not only become the longest serving member of the Alameda Civil Service Commission, serving from 1977 until 2003, but would also serve extensively as foreman of the Alameda County Grand Jury during the late 1970s, and on the Oakland Port Commission from 1979 until 1983.

In addition, David was an active and dedicated member of the local labor movement for several decades. As a teacher, he was a member of his local union, and was later elected president of AFT Local 771. He would go on to become a member of the Executive Committee of the Central Labor Council of Alameda County, where he served with dedication until 1999, after which he remained a Council Delegate.

On September 11, 2004, David's friends and family will gather to honor his extraordinary life, and the impact that his tireless efforts to better the Oakland and East Bay communities had on the lives of those around him. David was a unique and distinguished individual not only because of his outstanding accomplishments, but also because of his generous spirit and commitment to helping others. He will be greatly missed by his family, his friends, and the people of the 9th Congressional District.

MOURNING THE PASSAGE OF THE  
LATE JAMES ELLIOTT WEEKS

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passage of James Elliott Weeks. Mr. Weeks passed away on September 8, 2004.

James Weeks was born in March 1917 in Claude, Texas. James served as a Captain in the Army during World War II. He then served as an Assistant Attorney General of Texas, and was elected County Attorney of Lubbock, Texas. He was later elected to the Abilene School Board and the Texas Board of Education. Captain Weeks was a member of the Texas and Supreme Court bar.

James Weeks is survived by his wife Inez, three sons, and eight grandchildren. I urge the House to join me in mourning his passing and remembering him for his life of public service.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CELEBRATING THE VIENNA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (NARFE)

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Chapter 1116 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), located in Vienna, Virginia.

Founded in 1921, NARFE is a multi-tiered, political, nonpartisan organization dedicated to preserving the earned retirement benefits of all federal civilians. Membership eligibility includes current, former, and retired federal civilians, as well as their spouses and survivor annuitants. Chapter 1116 is one of over 1600 NARFE chapters nationwide.

The Vienna chapter hosts speeches from state and local officials as well as those running for specific offices. NARFE officers from state and national organizations address issues of interest to those retired as well as the general public. Musical programs, talks and discussions about home and garden maintenance as well as historical and cultural issues add variety to the meetings.

Currently, the Vienna chapter has 668 members under the leadership of president Ginger King and first vice-president "Van" Van Huizen. The chapter prides itself on approaching all issues in a realistic and humanitarian manner. Its members have worked tirelessly for the benefits of federal retirees and all elderly, cooperating with local, state, and federal agencies to do so. Members assist shut-in seniors and provide convenience items and comfort to those in retirement homes. On a national level, NARFE contributes to Alzheimer's research and sponsors a college scholarship program.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate NARFE Chapter 1116 on 35 years of success. They have become a strong organization committed to serving the interests of their members and their community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the chapter members' past accomplishments and in wishing Chapter 1116 the best of luck in the many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JEREMY WARINER

**HON. MARTIN FROST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate Jeremy Wariner, of Grand Prairie, Texas, in his success in these past Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. Jeremy won the Gold in the Men's 400 meter run with a time of 44.00, the fastest time in the world this year. He also captured a gold medal in the 4x400 relay competition. At the 2004 NCAA Indoor Championships, Wariner, a junior at Baylor University, won the 400m with a time of 45.39 seconds and won an NCAA title with the 4x400m relay team. His remarkable performance brought tremendous accolade to America, and we thank him.

Jeremy exemplifies the spirit of an Olympic champion, and I am so proud to recognize him here today, as a Texan, an American and a gold medal champion.

**GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I will vote against legislation that would create federally funded youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and treatment programs authorized at \$82 million over three years.

At a time when we have the largest deficit spending in history, I'm reluctant to start yet another federal program. Additionally, the states that are having problems, rather than the federal government, should be making the decisions of how much help and what kind of help should be initiated to reduce the problem of youth suicide.

**FREEDOM FOR FÉLIX NAVARRO RODRÍGUEZ**

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Félix Navarro Rodríguez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Navarro Rodríguez is a member of the Democratic Solidarity Party and an independent journalist. He was also a school headmaster before he was fired by the totalitarian regime that mandates propaganda in place of truth. As a teacher who was trained to mold young minds, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez could no longer abide the practice of teaching lies and spreading deceit. After being fired for his beliefs, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez became a peaceful pro-democracy activist, focusing his energies on writing and reporting on the true nature of the totalitarian dictatorship.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez has been subjected to harassment and detention for his pro-democracy activities since at least 1992. In November 1996 he was questioned by regime thugs for allegedly not paying union dues and having a copy of the newspaper "El Nuevo Herald" at his work. It has also been reported that he was detained in November 1999 and September 2001 for participating in a commemoration for two political prisoners who perished in Castro's gulag.

In March 2003, as part of the tyrant's crack-down on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez was arrested. In a sham trial, he was convicted on activities that included, "among other things, leaflets and literature; the latter was proved by the confiscation of aggressive and corrosive writings and printed material from his house." This sham trial resulted in Mr. Navarro Rodríguez being sentenced to 25 years in the abhorrent totalitarian gulag.

Just a few weeks ago, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez was able to send a message of strong support for President Bush's Cuba policy initiatives from his cell in the totalitarian gulag. In that cell, Félix Navarro Rodríguez personifies the heroism and perseverance of the Cuban people and their admirable commitment to see freedom reign in Cuba.

Let me be clear, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez is locked in sub-human conditions for writing and owning printed materials that contain facts and truth. Simply because he does not subscribe to the lies and propaganda forced upon the nation of Cuba by the communist tyrant, he is locked in a dank dungeon.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez is languishing in the repulsive squalor of the tyrant's gulag because he believes in truth and freedom. It is detestable that at the dawn of the 21st century, and a mere 90 miles from our shore, honorable men and women are imprisoned in repugnant gulags for believing that all men have an inherent right to live in freedom. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Félix Navarro Rodríguez and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

**IN RECOGNITION OF ALEXANDER CITY ALL-STARS**

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of young people in my Congressional district from Alexander City, Alabama.

On July 19, 2004, the Alexander City All-Stars traveled to Atmore and won their second straight state baseball championship. I am particularly proud of these talented young people for their accomplishments, and especially proud to note the team's unique accomplishment of winning back-to-back state titles.

The names of the youths who earned this achievement are as follows: Trey Bennett, Griff Gordon, Dylan Johnson, Larry Kemp, Douglas Kimbrough, Thomas Lutz, Elliot Mahan, Clay Phillips, Timothy Phurrough, Luke Smith, Gage Whiteard, and Levi Wilson. Their coach is Marlin Smith.

As the House goes about its business today, let us remember these gifted young people for their accomplishments, and congratulate them on this remarkable and memorable occasion. They are indeed All Stars for our community, and I am proud to acknowledge them in the House today.

**IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN WALKER**

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to express my sorrow for the passing of a dear personal friend and pillar of the community in southeast Texas and Gulf Coast, Mr. John Walker. John passed away suddenly this past weekend, leaving many of

us stunned and saddened at the loss of such a wonderful individual.

John was a loving husband and family man, and a friend to many in the Galveston community. John, or "Johnny" as those close to him knew him, served as President of Ducks Unlimited's national organization, was on the board of Galveston College, and was a strong supporter of the School of Nursing at the University of Texas Medical Branch. He participated with these organizations because he knew the importance of core, fundamental values that aid us all not only locally, but nationally. In addition, John's grandfather was former Congressman Clark W. Thompson, who served proudly in this very chamber, and who was a great friend and mentor of mine as well.

I express my deepest condolences and sympathy to John's wife Susan, and the rest of his family and loved ones, and know that he is now at peace with the Lord.

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GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2634—A Youth Suicide Prevention Bill.

Suicide knows no boundaries. It affects children of every race, ethnicity, religion, and economic background and takes the lives of 3,000 young people every year. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for children and young adults between the ages of 10 and 24.

My neighbors and close personal friends, Doug and Sharon Strouse, tragically lost their daughter, Kristin, to suicide shortly after the September 11th Terrorist Attacks in New York. Kristen was a gifted student at the Parson's School of Design in New York at the time of her passing and had a promising future in the design field.

In Kristin's memory, the Strouses used their grief to help other young people who may be depressed or considering suicide. Kristin's sister, Kim, established a non-profit organization that runs art workshops to provide suicide prevention education and crisis intervention. The Strouses also support suicide awareness through a moving videotape that helps young people and their parents identify the signs of depression while offering solutions to help them address the issue.

I believe S. 2634 also known as the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act of 2004 will help the Strouses and other families further these important programs. The bill will also improve nationwide access to prevention and intervention techniques for youth.

The bill authorizes \$82 million over three years for mental health services, including screening, assessment, mentoring, and counseling, on the local, state, and federal level. These services will be offered in a variety of settings including schools, juvenile justice systems, foster care establishments, and substance abuse programs.

The legislation will also help establish a comprehensive federal strategy to share data, disseminate research, and coordinate the

evaluation of early intervention and prevention programs for youth.

I believe S. 2634 will help fund some very important work to help families like the Strouses avoid the pain of losing a loved one.

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GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, S. 2634, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, contains some very important language that I would like to point out to my colleagues. The bill requires written, informed parental consent before a child may participate in the programs funded under this bill. The bill provides an exception for this in cases where there is an emergency and the safety of the child or other students is at risk and in cases where parental consent cannot reasonably be obtained.

Mr. Speaker, this language is very important. The topic of suicide and death is very sensitive, especially for younger children who are very impressionable. I believe that parents, not schools, should be the first line of defense for educating against and preventing their children from considering suicide. Studies have shown that in some cases, suicide education has actually led to suicides. Parents should have the option of keeping their child out of such classes. In addition, if parents are aware that their child is in such a class or program at school, they will be able to look for any warning signs that their child is considering suicide.

The exceptions included in the parental consent requirement are intended to be very narrow—emergency situations and cases where parental consent cannot reasonably be obtained. Emergency situations will be obvious—this would be a situation where a student is threatening his life or the life of someone else. Obviously, in such a case, the counselor or teacher should immediately counsel the student to stop the threatened activity.

Some may wonder what is meant by cases where parental consent cannot be "reasonably" obtained. This is intended to mean situations where the parent, despite the best efforts of the school or other organization operating a suicide intervention program, cannot personally give consent. One such situation would be where a single parent in the military has gone overseas for duty and the child is temporarily staying with grandparents. But let me be clear—this is not a loophole for those who find obtaining parental consent to be inconvenient or time-consuming. It is for those rare and very limited situations in which a parent simply is not able to provide consent.

I would like to thank Chairman BARTON for working so diligently on this important language.

HONORING THE MARRIAGE OF  
BETHANY ANNE KORCZYNSKI  
AND DOMINIC A. ZUCCHERO

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor and recognition of Bethany Korczynski and Dominic Zucchero as they celebrate their devotion to each other and to their future together.

It seems that we face a challenging time regarding one of the "lode stones" of our society: the family unit. It may seem that the moral fiber of America is being tested. During these times of changing attitudes, I believe that we can encourage the traditional values that have made our country strong. Those values that are best learned and practiced within the family unit based on the holy, loving union of a man and a woman.

The union of these two individuals from the Chicagoland region, Bethany Anne Korczynski, daughter of Edwin J., pilot and Chief Airport Operations Supervisor and Diane M., teacher of special education, and of Dominic A. Zucchero, son of Theodore J. and Andrea L. of the Chicagoland area, will be on October 9, 2004. The wedding will take place at the landmark Catholic Church of Notre Dame De Chicago established in 1864 by the first settlers who were of French descent. The church is located at 1334 West Flourndy Street in Chicago.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that both the Zucchero's and Korczynski's share in the happiness of this union. The commitment of this couple is both impressive and deserving of special recognition and honor.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing this great couple many years of health and happiness.

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PROPOSED CHANGES IN FINANCIAL  
DISCLOSURE LAW FOR 527  
POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to draw my colleagues' attention to a bill I have introduced to address concerns that have been expressed about political organizations referred to as "527's". This bill, H.R. 5013, would give the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Election Commission, and the American people a better understanding of 527 organizations by attempting to subject them to the same type of reporting requirements as PAC's and other political organizations.

This bill would make 527's, which is the section of the Internal Revenue Code under which they are registered, more transparent through the four main components of this bill.

First, any political organization that meets defined minimum financial requirements must disclose this information to the Department of the Treasury. Second, political organizations that raise, spend or intend to raise and spend over \$25,000 in an election year will have to

file disclosure reports with the IRS monthly. Previously, organizations in this category were only required to file quarterly. Third, organizations that have less than \$25,000 in receipts must file quarterly. Fourth, the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Election Commission must work together to improve the database disclosure system.

This bill will provide the American people with more information about who is donating to the political process and how that money is being spent. If we want to inspire and encourage more Americans to participate in the political process, we must make all aspects of the process accessible to them.

The guidelines in my bill will expose political organizations' donors and demonstrate they have nothing to hide. Moreover, this information will help Americans to make more informed choices.

I believe that efforts to restrict 527 organizations could raise First Amendment concerns and may merely result in their reconstitution as 501(c)4, 501(c)5 and 501(c)6 organizations, which have virtually no public disclosure requirements. I believe that it would be more beneficial to our political process to mandate greater transparency of 527's rather than attempting to shut them down or otherwise curtail their participation in the political process. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MARTIN FUNERAL HOME

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the Martin Funeral Home, of Mt. Morris, MI. On Saturday, September 11, 2004, the funeral home along with the community will commemorate this milestone with a full day of festivities that will include the sealing of a time capsule, a replica of President Lincoln's coffin, and free workshops on grief management.

Mr. Miles B. Martin established the Martin Funeral Home in November of 1929. Miles received his mortuary license from Worsham School of Anatomy in Chicago on June 28, 1928. He married Mildred C. Doyle and of this wonderful union were born three sons, Patrick J., Michael A. and Miles T. "Tom". Mrs. Martin worked alongside her husband as a licensed funeral director to build one of the largest family owned funeral businesses in Genesee County. Of the three sons, Miles T. "Tom" Martin took on the interest of mortuary science. He received his degree in Mortuary Science from Wayne State University. His desire to assist his father in the business was delayed by the call to serve his country in the U.S. Army as a combat medic in Vietnam. On January 1, 1972, Miles T. acquired the family business from his father. On October 21, 1988 Miles B. Martin passed away and Mildred C. Martin on August 30, 1993.

Miles T., in his commitment to honor his father's mission of providing affordable and caring funeral service for Genesee County, has expanded the operation by opening homes in Vassar and Fairgrove. The process of bereavement can be overwhelming. The commu-

nity has come to know they can depend on the Martin family to help them through this difficult process. I commend the Martins for taking on, and being committed to this delicate task.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring the Martin Family and their Funeral home for 75 years of unwavering support and guidance to those who have lost loved ones.

SALUTING MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND PARENTS FOR OUTSTANDING SAT SCORES

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues the news that the highest systemwide average SAT score (1102) ever achieved by the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) was produced by the graduating class of 2004, marking the first time the average score has exceeded 1100. The average included the highest ever average mathematics score (561) and the highest average verbal score in 12 years (541), the first increase in the average verbal score in five years. The improvements were achieved with a student participation rate of 80.2 percent, representing the largest group (7,263 students) ever to take the test in the school district.

The higher SAT scores mark the achievements of the first graduating class of students taking the SAT who were exposed to the full range of the ongoing high school reforms in Montgomery County. The reforms began when the students were ninth graders in the 2000–2001 school year and have expanded greatly the opportunities for more rigorous coursework in preparation for college.

In addition, the improvement included a significant gain in the system's "average highest score," the same number used by colleges to identify the best performance among students on the SAT. The system's average highest score increased to 1115 last year, the best result ever and an increase of eight points over the year before.

Overall, there were numerous achievements in the 2004 SAT results for which MCPS should be proud:

Highest ever average SAT score of 1102, a gain of eight points;

Best ever "average highest SAT score" of 1115, a gain of eight points;

Highest ever average math score (561);

Largest number of students ever taking the SAT (7,263 students);

Highest average score for white students (1163), a gain of 10 points;

Highest average score for Asian American students (1160), a gain of 33 points;

Most high schools (four) with average scores above 1200;

Most high schools (11) with average scores above 1100; and

Average score of students receiving special education services increased by 26 points to 924.

The average scores for African American and Hispanic students receiving Federal meal assistance also increased significantly—up 17 points among African American students (854) and six points among Hispanic students (837). This is an important point because the percentage of both groups of students participating in the Free and Reduced-price Meal System (FARMS) is increasing, lowering the overall average score for each group even as the specific subgroup scores increase.

According to Dr. Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of the Montgomery County Public Schools, all of this has occurred during a significant demographic change in student enrollment, characterized by greater cultural and racial/ethnic diversity, a rise in students from low-income families, an increase in the number of students for whom English is a second language, and more students with disabilities.

I want to commend Dr. Weast, the Members of the Montgomery County Board of Education, and all teachers, principals and staff for implementing school improvements including strengthened curriculum, improved assessments, greater coordination among and within schools, and increased staff training and professional development. The improvements also included increased student enrollment in expanded Advanced Placement (AP) and honors courses.

Mr. Speaker, public schools are truly the backbone of our community. Young people across America face ever-changing social and economic challenges. We have an obligation to prepare them for the challenges that lie ahead, and I applaud the great work of the teachers, principals and other education personnel in Montgomery County who offer so much support to our families.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GAYLE RUDOFSKY

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gayle Rudofsky, a Half Hollow Hills High School East student who has been named a 2003–04 High School All American in Diving.

Ms. Rudofsky has a long history of diving accolades, including being named one of the Top 40 High School Divers in the United States, winning the 2003 New York State Public High School Women's Diving Championship and winning the Lester J. Schloen Jr. Memorial Award for Most Promising First Year Diver. She recently broke her own Suffolk County 11–dive meet record and also set a new Suffolk County 6–dive meet scoring record. In addition to these record-breaking performances, the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association ranked Ms. Rudofsky the third best high school diver in 11–dive competitions and the fourth best diver in 6–dive meets. She is also a member of Long Island Divers, a U.S. Diving Team, and is qualified to represent the Long Island region in the 2004 Empire State Games.

Not only has Ms. Rudofsky accomplished much on the diving board, she is also gifted in the classroom. She has managed to balance an outstanding athletic career with equally impressive academics. Ms. Rudofsky has been

named an Academic All American, New York State Public High School Athletic Association Women's Swim-Dive Scholar-Athlete of the Year and Half Hollow Hills High School East Female Scholar-Athlete of the Class of 2004. She has also received the Citibank/News 12 Scholar-Athlete Award and the 2004 Scholar-Athlete Milk Moustache of the Year Award.

This fall, Ms. Rudofsky will attend Princeton University, where she will be a member of the diving team. I congratulate her on her many achievements and am confident that she will have continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING JUSTIN GATLIN  
ON WINNING A GOLD MEDAL IN  
THE ATHENS OLYMPICS

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize one of the finest U.S. sprinters, Justin Gatlin, a 2004 Olympic gold medalist from Pensacola, Florida. As the youngest track and field champion in 36 years, twenty-two year old Gatlin won the gold medal in the men's 100 meters at the 2004 Olympic games in Athens, making him the "Fastest Man in the World."

As soon as the gun went off, he surged immediately to the lead. Never relinquishing his advantage, he finished in a personal-best, world-leading time of 9.85 seconds. After winning the gold he said, "It was going to be the most exciting race in the world, and it was. This is what I train for, that's why I shoveled the snow off North Carolina tracks. That's why I'm here. I'm here to win the gold medal."

Not only did he leave with a gold medal, but also took home a silver and a bronze in the men's relay and 200 meters, respectively.

Returning home as an Olympic medalist, it is Gatlin's self-composure and attitude that set him apart from the rest. "I want to show that nice guys can finish first. I feel that I'm likable. I feel that I'm honest. I go out there and give a good race for the crowd." Gatlin did more than just give a good race. He gave a superb race and is a shining example for all to follow in not only the first district of Florida, but around the world.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Justin Gatlin on his Olympic victories and thank him for representing Pensacola to the world in such a first-class manner.

TRIBUTE TO CHEVRONTExACO  
AND THEIR EMPLOYEES LO-  
CATED IN CALIFORNIA'S 11TH  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. RICHARD W. POMBO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise to honor and congratulate ChevronTexaco and their employees located in California's 11th Congressional district on ChevronTexaco's 125th Anniversary.

Tomorrow marks the 125th anniversary of the merger of California Star Oil Works and

Pacific Coast Oil Co., which formed ChevronTexaco's oldest predecessor. ChevronTexaco's history is a story of great progress and innovation spread over dozens of companies that have come together over the last 125 years to become the ChevronTexaco family.

Over 100 years ago, a converted farmhouse and 80 employees in a rural area not far from San Francisco started handling 10,000 barrels of oil a day. Today, with bustling metropolitan communities surrounding the refinery, 1,300 employees move 240,000 barrels of oil per day.

ChevronTexaco is one of the world's largest integrated energy companies. They are involved in every aspect of the energy industry, from oil and gas exploration and production to transportation, refining and retail marketing, as well as chemical manufacturing and sales and power production.

Active in more than 180 countries, ChevronTexaco employs more than 50,000 people worldwide and about 9,000 in California alone. Over 4,000 of those employees are in San Ramon, the world headquarters for the company.

ChevronTexaco's vision—to be the global energy company most admired for its people, partnership and performance—runs throughout the combined history of all the great companies that today form ChevronTexaco.

The work undertaken by the many generations of ChevronTexaco has made a tremendous and positive impact on the lives of people around the world. I commend and congratulate ChevronTexaco on this very important milestone.

TRIBUTE TO MARY GRACE RAMEY

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 23, 2004, McMinn County, Tennessee lost one of its sports legends. Mary Grace Ramey served as a teacher and cheerleading coach for McMinn Central High School since it opened in 1966. She was 73 years old.

Mrs. Ramey touched the lives of hundreds of cheerleaders and thousands of students who passed through the halls of McMinn Central High School. Her colleagues said she was always positive and cared deeply about her students.

Mrs. Ramey, a mother of one and grandmother of three, will be missed by all those who knew her.

I would like to call this Daily Post-Athenian article from July 26, 2004, on Mary Ramey to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Daily Post-Athenian, July 26, 2004]

RAMEY LOSS LEAVES HOLE IN THE CENTRAL FAMILY FABRIC

(By Jack Slayton)

She never hit a home run, sank a clutch basket, or scored a touchdown, but McMinn County was stunned by the loss of a sports legend in her own right this past Friday.

Teacher and cheerleading sponsor Mary Grace Ramey passed away at Chattanooga's Erlanger Medical Center on Friday.

Ramey, who taught Family and Consumer Sciences, was discovered behind the school on Friday, July 16, by two students where she had either accidentally fallen or suffered a seizure and struck her head, suffering a concussion.

Ramey (age 73) had shown some improvement and had been moved from the intensive care unit to a private room before her sudden passing Friday.

"Mary Grace," as I had known her over the past 30 years, had been a teacher for more than half a century and the cheerleading sponsor at Central High School since the doors opened in the 1996-97 school year.

"It's a sad day at Central High School," said Principal Roger Freeman of the last remaining member of the original staff at the school. "She was a legend—an icon of what everybody should aspire to be as both a person and a teacher. She was dedicated to her profession and students, always prepared and way ahead of the game."

Ramey touched the lives of hundreds of cheerleaders and countless thousands of students who passed through her classroom over the past 51 years.

"I don't know of anyone who didn't like Mary Grace—she was always so positive and cared deeply about her students," Freeman said. "It will be difficult, no impossible, to replace her. People like Mary Grace are rare."

Rare, indeed. In a day and time where most people can't wait to call it quits, Mary Grace never discussed retirement, despite being well beyond the required age and with her lengthy years of service.

She had returned earlier in the week from a stay in Knoxville where her latest batch of cheerleaders had attended a camp at the University of Tennessee.

She loved what she did and continued to serve the students of Central with a level of excellence and commitment equally rare today.

I would more often not run into Mary Grace and husband, Jack, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, going into games at Central or on the road—it seemed we always arrived at about the same time.

She always had a smile and chipper attitude as we exchanged pleasantries walking into the gym or stadium together.

I recall one time several years ago at a basketball game, with the skies threatening, Mary Grace asked me if I thought it was going to snow.

"Not a chance," I said.

Of course, it did and we faced a slippery ride home that night. She never let me forget it.

From that time on, regardless of the conditions, Mary Grace would look at me with that wry smile of hers and asked me if I thought it was going to snow.

The family will receive friends from 5-8 p.m. tonight and funeral services will follow with Bordwine Funeral Home in charge of arrangements (see Page 2 for complete obituary information).

Friends and family will gather at Sunrise Cemetery in Englewood at 11 a.m. Tuesday for the burial service.

And no, Mary Grace, I don't think it will snow.

HONORING OCEAN MIST FARMS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I am able to rise to

recognize Ocean Mist Farms, the premier grower and shipper of artichokes in the United States. Based in Monterey County, California of my congressional district, Ocean Mist Farms produces over a dozen other vegetables in addition to artichokes on its farms which are located throughout California. On Saturday, August 28, 2004, the people of Ocean Mist Farms celebrated their company's 80th anniversary.

In 1924, Castroville area farmers Daniel Pieri, Amerigo and Angelo Del Chiaro, Alfred Tottino and Louis Bellone combined formed a company to grow, ship, and market artichokes. Their little company persevered through the Great Depression and WWII to transform artichokes from an obscure ethnic specialty to a national delicacy. It took genius and hard work to accomplish this, and these characteristics have assured their success through today. Under the current leadership of the Boutonnet and Bengard families, Ocean Mist Farms employs more than 60 people in sales and administrative positions, more than 160 workers in its packing, shipping and cooling facilities, and nearly 600 individuals in related harvesting and production operations, as well as operating several affiliate operations throughout California and Arizona. It is a company that has helped make the Central Coast of California the most productive agricultural region in the world and it continues to give back to the local communities of the Salinas Valley.

Ocean Mist Farms is also an environmental leader in our region. It has remained in the forefront of innovations in farming methods designed to protect the environment. Using advanced techniques of irrigation and integrated pest and soil management, Ocean Mist Farms has proved itself to be truly invested in the preservation of the beauty and natural resources offered by Monterey County. It also took the lead in developing the world's largest reclaimed wastewater irrigation project.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Ocean Mist Farms on its 80th anniversary. Monterey County has benefited immensely from their commitment to growing outstanding produce and I wish the company and all who work for Ocean Mist Farms the very best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. VERNON  
CUNNINGHAM AND MR. JAMES  
SHEPARD

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend two of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Mr. Vernon Cunningham and Mr. James Shepard of Portage, Indiana. On Saturday, September 11, 2004, they will be honored for their exemplary and dedicated service to the community.

Mr. Vernon Cunningham will be awarded the Portage Township Citizen of the year. Vernon's qualities include a dedication to community causes. Vernon has been a resident of Portage, Indiana for over fifty years. Those who know him best describe Vernon as a kind, fun-loving person, who always wants to help others. His outstanding service and donation of time and money to Gabriel Horn's homeless shelter represents the epitome of

what a dedicated public servant should be. South Haven American Legion Post 502 will be filled Saturday night with friends and family who have been blessed with the opportunity to know and work with Vernon and who wish to celebrate with him as he receives his award. Vernon's work, which has earned him Portage Township Citizen of the Year, has been improving his community and the lives of Porter County residents for many years. Although Vernon has dedicated his time serving the community, he has never neglected to provide support and love to his family. Vernon and his late wife Peggy have three children Scott, Gail, and James.

Mr. James Shepard is being honored as the Portage Township Fireman of the Year. Mr. Shepard was voted by peers as Fireman of the Year for his outstanding service and dedication to the South Haven Volunteer Fire Department. James is a third generation fireman; his father was a volunteer fireman for South Haven and his grandfather was also a fireman. James graduated from the Georgia Fire Academy, the National Fire Academy, and he is also a Certified Fire Instructor. His career as a firefighter began in 1988 when he worked as a firefighter near Savannah, Georgia. In 1993, James became a Certified Emergency Medical Technician. He then moved to Porter County Indiana and has been a full-time fire fighter for the City of Valparaiso for the last eleven years. For the past ten years, he has also served as a volunteer fireman for the South Haven Fire Department. While James has dedicated considerable time and energy to his work and protecting the lives of others, he has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family. He and his wife Stacy have two children, James and Samantha.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Vernon Cunningham and James Shepard for their outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. Their commitment to improving the quality of life of the people of Northwest Indiana is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE  
STEIN

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of Marjorie Stein of Aspen, Colorado. Marjorie recently passed away at the age of ninety-four, and leaves behind a legacy as an active and generous member of her community. I am honored to join my colleagues in remembering Marjorie's life before this body of Congress and Nation.

Marjorie grew up in Chicago, Illinois and went on to attend Connecticut College where she studied abroad in Paris, France. Marjorie and her husband Henry first fell in love with Aspen in the late 1940's, when they purchased a second home in the small, developing town. Their time spent there inspired them to make Aspen their permanent residence, and for the next half century they made their home on the Mill Iron Ranch.

Marjorie took great pride in her good works for the community. Her great passion for music and entertainment inspired her to get involved with the Aspen Music Festival in the 1950s. She also had a desire to help people that led to her co-founding of the 'Blue Ladies', a group of volunteers at Aspen Valley Hospital in 1960. The 'Blue Ladies' of Aspen Valley Hospital took their name from a Red Cross group with the same name that Marjorie worked with during World War II. Both groups performed similar duties, providing their services to the hospital wherever it was needed. Outside her volunteering efforts, she also enjoyed tennis and skiing Colorado's slopes.

Mr. Speaker, Marjorie Stein was a selfless contributor to the Aspen, Colorado community. She passionately pursued her interests, and in doing so made Aspen a better place. In this difficult time of bereavement, I wish to offer Marjorie's family and friends my heartfelt condolences.

HONORING BRIG. GEN. DONALD  
POLK, M.D.

### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to take a moment and thank a leader who has served not only his community in Tennessee, but also our Nation. After a lifetime of service as an officer in the United States military and as a physician, Brig. Gen. Donald H. Polk, M.D. is retiring.

In 1976, my friend Dr. Polk began working with the Tennessee Army National Guard. As Deputy Commander, State Area Command, Tennessee Army National Guard, General Polk has been responsible for supervising and training 3,000 combat service support soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard. Over the years Tennesseans have come to know and respect his leadership abilities.

And as a family physician in Wayne County, Dr. Polk has cared for thousands of people across our community. Again, his leadership abilities shone through as Medical Director of Emergency Service at Wayne Medical Center.

We are grateful for Dr. Polk's dedication and today I am pleased to honor and recognize his many years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DR.  
HUGH LANGDON ELSBREE

### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Hugh Langdon Elsbree, who died on August 30, 2004. Dr. Elsbree served as the Director of the Legislative Reference Service (LRS), now the Congressional Research Service, from 1958 to 1966. He was a noted political scientist, academician, and dedicated public servant who led the Legislative Reference Service (LRS) in providing research to the Congress.

Dr. Elsbree joined LRS as a research counsel in 1945 and became a Senior Specialist in

American Government and Public Administration in 1946. From 1954–55 he served temporarily as the Deputy Director of the Commission on Inter-Governmental Relations and then served as LRS's Deputy Director from October 1955 until March 1957 when he left LRS to become chairman of the Political Science Department at Wayne State University. He returned to LRS in September 1958 as the Director and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1966.

Dr. Elsbree received A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University in 1925, 1927, and 1930, respectively. In 1927–28 he was a Sheldon Traveling Fellow in Paris and Geneva, then began his teaching career at Harvard as an instructor in government from 1928–1933. He then served as assistant professor (1933–37) and professor (1937–43) of political science and as chairman of the Department of Political Science (1937–41) at Dartmouth College. For a brief period in 1934 he worked as a research specialist for the Federal Power Commission. In 1943 he joined the Office of Price Administration as principal business economist then the Bureau of the Budget (1945) as administrative analyst. For several years, Elsbree served as the book review editor and member of the editorial board of the American Political Science Review and from 1952–56 as its managing editor.

Upon his retirement, L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress, presented Dr. Elsbree with a Distinguished Service Award. In the accompanying letter, Mumford noted “. . . your ability to discover, attract, and develop talent, your personal integrity, your standards of excellence, your sound judgment, your profound understanding of the requirements of the Congress, your skill in public administration, and your fine qualities as a human being have not only maintained an admirable esprit de corps but have enabled the Legislative Reference Service to fulfill its highest duty—to be responsive to the needs of the Congress.”

Dr. Elsbree's leadership of the Legislative Reference Service contributed significantly to Congress' action in 1970 to expand the scope of the Legislative Reference Service and create the Congressional Research Service. His intimate knowledge of political science provided insight into how Congress' research needs were changing and how the Service could adjust to meet those needs.

To his son, Hugh L. Elsbree, Jr. and his family, friends, and former colleagues, I extend our deepest sympathies.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO SAM MAYNES

##### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mourn the passing of my close friend Sam Maynes of Durango, Colorado. Sam passed away recently at the age of 70 after a courageous battle with lung cancer. He was a humorous, kind-hearted man who was a bastion of goodwill and stability for his friends, family and community. Sam dedicated his life to the betterment of those less fortunate than himself, and I am honored today to stand before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize his many contributions to the State of Colorado.

Sam was born in Silverton, Colorado in 1933. After moving with his family to California during World War II, he came back to a Colorado setting in the city of Durango. He worked his way through high school and went on to Colorado College on a football scholarship before going on to study law at the University of Colorado in Boulder. It was there that he met Jacqueline Stahl, his beautiful wife of 45 years, who passed away last February.

Throughout his life, Sam was an engaged, bright individual with a brilliant sense of humor. His acumen and passion for the legal profession served him well throughout his tremendous legal career. At 26, Sam became the youngest lawyer in the Larry McDaniel and Byron Bradford firm in Durango. He soon became one of Colorado's foremost experts in water law. However, Sam's motivation was not money; he spent most of his career working to empower those in need, including the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Sam was a beloved husband, and father. He is survived by his mother Louise Maynes and his four remarkable children; Michele Hurley, Melinda Higgins, Sam W. Maynes and Mark Maynes. He also leaves behind eight beautiful grandchildren whom he loved dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call attention of this body of Congress to the life of Sam Maynes. His industrious, strong-willed nature made him a resilient force in the Durango community and the State of Colorado is a better place as the result of his many contributions. Sam dedicated his life to helping others, and I am truly honored to have been his friend.

#### HONORING AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM OF ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

##### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I will join with many other South Carolinians to celebrate the 90th birthday of a Palmetto State legend, Mr. Austin Cunningham. In 1998, my predecessor Congressman Floyd Spence; made the following remarks before Congress describing the life of Austin Cunningham:

As a young man, Austin Cunningham, went to work to help support his family when his father died. He worked during the day and went to both high school and college at night, earning a law degree from the University of Virginia in 1940. During his business career, Mr. Cunningham has been the president of five companies and he has owned two manufacturing plants in South Carolina. President Reagan recognized Mr. Cunningham for his work with the Jobs Tax Credit Program and he has been involved with the administrations of former Governor Carroll Campbell and Governor David Beasley in improving race relations in our State. He has also contributed his time and efforts in the Orangeburg area on behalf of: Crime Watch, Crime Stoppers, the People's Assault on Drugs (PAD), as well as the collaboration between South Carolina State University and the South Carolina Philharmonic, which has resulted in an annual three concert satellite series.

As Congressman Spence rightfully pointed out, Austin Cunningham has been active in

public service and community leadership throughout his life. He continues to make a large impact on South Carolina through his regular newspaper columns that are featured in newspapers such as the Orangeburg Times & Democrat and The State.

I am honored to have been able to call Austin a close friend for many years, and I have learned so much from him. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Austin Cunningham a happy 90th birthday, and thank him for his years of service to others.

#### HONORING ROGER PALOMINO

##### HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Roger Palomino's distinguished career in public service to California's San Joaquin Valley. Through a lifetime of dedication he has led a remarkable career advocating for and empowering low-income families to achieve self-sufficiency in this economically challenged region.

A native of Fresno, California, Mr. Palomino earned a bachelor's degree in Criminology from California State University-Fresno in 1964 and quickly began a 30-year career in the juvenile justice system. During this time he served in almost every capacity of the juvenile justice system including as administrative director of both juvenile institutions and probation services. An expert in the field of juvenile corrections, Mr. Palomino has lent his expertise to countless local, state and federal juvenile justice agencies and task forces dedicated to eradicating juvenile violence and crime.

It was his understanding of the root causes of juvenile delinquency that led Mr. Palomino to join the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, where he has spent the last 10 years working as Executive Director. The Fresno County EOC is one of the largest community action agencies in the United States, providing social services and promoting economic development through a variety of programs. Under his leadership and innovation Fresno County EOC has experienced both growth and programmatic expansion. With a current annual operating budget of more than \$100 million and 1,400 employees, Fresno County EOC continues to function as a critical lifeline for many struggling families in California's Central Valley. The agency provides such critical needs as pre-school, vocational education, preventive health care, and job placement services. Mr. Palomino and the Fresno County EOC have truly undertaken a comprehensive approach to improving the lives of Central Valley families.

Mr. Palomino's distinguished career has made him a highly respected community leader both in Fresno and the entire San Joaquin Valley. His dedication is evident in the number of local community organizations in which he participates in an effort to improve the local economy and create jobs. He is a gifted administrator and a tireless advocate for positive social change and the underserved. Throughout my years in Congress, I have come to respect Mr. Palomino for his passion in helping low-income Valley families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Roger Palomino in celebration

of his years in public service and contribution to the community. I wish him continued success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ETHAL  
JORDAN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ethal Jordan, a dedicated weather observer from Hamilton, Colorado. Ethal was recently honored with the 2004 John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding service in the Cooperative Weather Observer Program by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Her observations have helped our government accurately describe the climate of our country, and I am honored to stand here today with my colleagues before this body of Congress and this nation and recognize her accomplishments.

The National Weather Service Cooperative Weather Observer Program has provided scientists and researchers continuous data on temperature, precipitation, and other weather factors such as river levels and soil temperature. Once a month observers mail their records to the National Climatic Data Center. These weather records retain importance over time as they provide an accurate picture of a locale's normal weather and give scientists a basis to predict future trends. Through these predictions scientists are able to enhance economic security and provide for the national safety of Americans.

Ethal has served for over 47 years as a cooperative observer. The award that she received this year is one of the agency's most prestigious awards and she is one of only twenty-six that received the honor this year. She established the Hamilton station in 1957, where she began reporting daily precipitation data to the National Weather Service. With her hard work these records have helped establish climatology parameters for northwest Colorado and the central Yampa River Basin.

Mr. Speaker, Ethal Jordan is a devoted weather observer whose data have been an important source of information for scientists to make accurate weather forecasts and predictions in the United States. She has provided a great service to her country for over 47 years, and I am honored to recognize her efforts before this body of Congress. Congratulations on your award, Ethal, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING JANESVILLE  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Janesville Performing Arts Center on its grand opening and spotlight this exciting new addition to Janesville, Wisconsin.

Today the Janesville Performing Arts Center opens its doors—and opens a new chapter of

the life of historic Janesville High School on Main Street. The center will give our area's performers a wonderful new stage for their creative energies and serve as a resource for people of all ages throughout our community. Besides providing a terrific venue for local arts groups to showcase their talent and skill, the Janesville Performing Arts Center will bring new opportunities for entertainment to everyone in our region.

The grand opening of Janesville's first community performing arts center is a cause for celebration throughout our area and especially for those who have worked so hard to make this center a reality.

RECOGNIZING THE CHARACTER  
COUNTS YOUTH FLAG RALLY IN  
LISLE, ILLINOIS

**HON. JUDY BIGGERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Ms. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of young constituents in my district whose efforts to recognize September 11 brought a local community together in collective pride for the United States.

Three years ago, when our Nation was overcome by fear and dismay, Katie and Carrie Straub came together with other young people to make a difference during the aftermath of our Nation's greatest tragedy. They planned a local flag rally to bring youths together to share in their grief and honor America's heroes.

The first rally was an impromptu response to the profound sadness and patriotism expressed in the days after September 11, and it caught the eyes and ears of a community and its local leaders. Now, with the help of many other youths in the community and local businesses, the annual rally has grown to incorporate charity fundraising events and has become an uplifting day, focused on staying positive and helping others in the wake of tragedy.

The girls sought out and received official approval for the annual rally, and this year, September 11, 2004, has been declared Character Counts Youth Flag Rally Day in the village of Lisle, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of these young constituents. They heard the call of the President to stand up in support of our nation in the days after September 11, and their dedication and spirited efforts have proven once again that teens can make a difference.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SCOTT  
TIPTON

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Scott Tipton, a dedicated businessman and friend from Cortez, Colorado. Scott is a prominent member of the Cortez business community, selling pottery for over a quarter of a century from his establishment, Mesa Verde Pottery. He is a tremendous serv-

ant of the community, and I am honored to stand with my colleagues today before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize his accomplishments.

Scott passed up an opportunity for a successful law career to open a seven hundred square foot pottery shop on East Main Street in 1979. Twenty-five years later that business is thriving in a building twenty times its original size. The pottery is sold in all fifty states and six foreign countries. The heaviest concentration of his business is concentrated in the Rocky Mountain region and the Southwest, but also stretches to specialty stores and gift shops throughout the nation.

Mesa Verde Pottery employs eight salespeople and fourteen full-time American Indian artists and production workers. These artists paint designs on geometrically carved white and red-earth objects evolving Navajo monument and silhouetted mountains into intricate patterns. Scott takes pride in the unparalleled craftsmanship and employee spirit that results in better products. Scott has also taken many opportunities to give back to the community, donating twelve thousand dollars worth of goods, services, and financial contributions to local non-profits and charities in addition to pottery awards for the Indian Summer Run contestants.

Mr. Speaker, Scott Tipton is an outstanding member of the Cortez community. He has followed his dream and inspired his fellow Coloradans to do the same. The pottery created at Mesa Verde Pottery celebrates an important part of America's history, and I am honored to stand here before this body and this nation and recognize his service to his community and the nation. Congratulations on your twenty-five years of successful business, Scott, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

HONORING METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES, DEDICATION  
OF THE BLUE RIVER  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS  
CENTER BUILDING

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a new addition to Metropolitan Community Colleges. On Friday September 10, 2004, the Metropolitan Community Colleges will officially open the Campus Center Building at Blue River Community College. The new two story Campus Center Building is adjacent to the Education Center and the Western Missouri Public Safety Training Institute. The addition houses a lecture hall, student activities offices, food services along with the Academic Resource Center that includes library and tutoring facilities. The second floor features hi tech classrooms, laboratories and faculty offices.

Since 1969, the Kansas City Metropolitan Community Colleges have been governed by an elected Board of Trustees. The six member Board serves for six years with jurisdiction over four community colleges and the Business and Technology Center encompassing the county of Jackson and parts of Cass, Clay

and Platte County. In 1997 the Board of Trustees deemed that Blue River would be designated a Community College with locations in Blue Springs and Independence, Missouri.

I have been a strong supporter of the Metropolitan Community Colleges and the educational opportunities they provide. As Ranking Member of the Intelligence Subcommittee for the Homeland Security Committee, I previously secured \$400,000 in federal funding for first responder training at the Western Missouri Regional Police Academy at Blue River Community College. Since 9/11 we have become cognizant of the importance of well trained first responders for natural disasters and threats of terror.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Metropolitan Community Colleges for their continued growth with the addition of the Campus Center Building at Blue River Community College. The college provides a resource that impacts economic growth by educating a work force equipped to solve future problems.

HONORING DETECTIVE SERGEANT  
BRAUN AND DETECTIVE BALDWIN

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the bravery of two law enforcement officers from my district whose heroic acts will be honored by The National Association of Police Organizations at their annual TOP COPS Awards on Saturday September 11th.

While all of our nation's law enforcement officers deserve recognition for their invaluable and often unnoticed service, the TOP COPS Awards pay tribute to those outstanding individuals who performed actions that went beyond the call of duty to protect the citizens of their community. All of the award recipients displayed extraordinary courage and resolve in bringing dangerous criminals to justice.

I am pleased to recognize and share the story of two individuals from my district that have received a TOP COPS honorable mention. In October 2003, the Somerset Medical Center contacted the county prosecutor's office concerning several unexplained deaths of their patients. Detective Sergeant Braun, son of a detective lieutenant and a law enforcement officer for 24 years, and Detective Baldwin, a law enforcement officer for 12 years, began to investigate the case and quickly identified 43 year old registered nurse Charles Cullen as a suspect. Cullen had worked at more than nine medical facilities for brief periods of time in the New Jersey and Pennsylvania area, all of which had recorded an inordinate number of unexplained deaths, many occurring during Cullen's shift.

Based on the evidence these skilled investigators compiled, an arrest warrant for Cullen was issued in December 2003. The innovative, unique and ethical interrogation techniques used by these veteran law enforcement officers, resulted in Cullen's confession. He admitted to taking the lives of more than 40 of his patients, 15 at the Somerset Medical Center alone, over a 16-year span.

Thanks to these two outstanding individuals, a killer targeting the most vulnerable of victims

at our area medical facilities will be brought to justice. Their efforts in this case have forced health care facilities nationwide to re-examine the hiring practices for their nurses.

I commend the dedication and commitment of Detective Sergeant Braun and Detective Baldwin to solve this most tragic and heinous crime and extend my heartfelt gratitude to law enforcement officers across the country for their service to our communities.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEVIN  
SHAEFFER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an individual of remarkable courage who serves as an inspiration to many Americans. Kevin Shaeffer was the only survivor of his section at the Pentagon's Navy Command Center that was destroyed in the attacks on September 11, 2001. Kevin was severely wounded in the attack; and he has overcome many challenges on the long road to recovery. Kevin is a brave and dedicated patriot, and despite his wounds, has continued his service to his nation. I am honored to tell his story before this body of Congress today.

Kevin had been working for the Navy's Command Center for almost thirteen months as a junior action officer in the branch that dealt with naval strategy and concepts. Specifically Kevin was working on the final phases of a new service strategy for the Navy in the twenty-first century. At 9:43 a.m., Kevin's world was dramatically altered when the command center exploded in flames, blowing Kevin to the ground. He quickly rolled to douse the flames, and with the help of Sergeant First Class Steve Workman, made his way over flames and debris toward the daylight that came from the gaping hole that Flight 77 left in the Pentagon.

Kevin was placed in an ambulance and sent to Walter Reed Army Hospital to be treated for seared lungs and burns that covered forty-two percent of his body. On his path to recovery, Kevin was forced to endure intolerable pain, several skin graft operations, two heart attacks and multiple infections. He received the Purple Heart from the Navy for the wounds he sustained in the attack.

Kevin was discharged from the Navy while in the hospital, but vowed to continue in the service of this country. He found an opportunity to keep that promise by seeking an appointment to the 9/11 commission, charged with investigating the 9/11 attacks. Kevin has faithfully devoted his time and energies to the commission, and worked alongside the panel's members to develop a number of strategies for the government to consider to prevent such a terrible disaster from reoccurring.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin is a phenomenal individual who has prevailed in the course of disaster and tragedy. His tremendous courage and continued dedication to our nation certainly deserves the attention of this body and nation. I am honored to recognize his service. Thank you for all your hard work Kevin, and I wish you, your wife Blanca and your daughter Sophia all the best in your future endeavors.

MEMORIALIZING DR. CLIFFORD I.  
UYEDA

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements and the life of Dr. Clifford I. Uyeda, M.D., a dedicated human rights activist, pediatrician and a loving family man. Dr. Uyeda passed away of cancer on July 30, 2004 in San Francisco. He will be fondly remembered for his contributions to human rights and social justice issues, and for his service to the Japanese American community. Dr. Uyeda is survived by his wife, Betty Uyeda.

Clifford Iwao Uyeda was born in Olympia, Washington on January 14, 1917 to Matsutaro and Kimiyo Uyeda. He attended the University of Wisconsin and Tulane University medical school. During the Korean War, Dr. Uyeda served as an Army doctor and as a captain in the United States Air Force.

In 1953, Dr. Uyeda moved to San Francisco, where he worked as a pediatrician at Kaiser Permanente for more than twenty years. In addition to touching the lives of countless children and their families, Dr. Uyeda was committed to human rights, social justice and service. He was active in many medical and community organizations and served as editor of *Nikkei Heritage*, a quarterly journal.

After retiring from medicine in 1975, Dr. Uyeda turned to full-time activism. In an era when the United States government did not recognize the grievances of its Japanese American population, who had been disenfranchised during the Second World War, Dr. Uyeda was instrumental in fighting for their rights.

During his tenure as president of the national Japanese American Citizen's League, Dr. Uyeda helped push for a federal Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Citizens, which eventually led to a formal apology and monetary compensation for surviving internees. He was also part of the successful "Tokyo Rose" campaign to clear the name and reinstate the citizenship of Iva Toguri, an American who had been falsely accused of treason during World War II.

Dr. Uyeda was a proud advocate of Japanese American rights but, foremost, he was dedicated to social and historical justice. In 1998, he helped establish the Rape of Nanking Redress Committee to raise awareness about Japanese military atrocities committed during World War II. As president and member of the National Japanese American Historical Society, he was determined to seek and disseminate the truth, even if it was painful or incriminating.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Dr. Clifford Uyeda. His commitment to human rights and social justice has left an indelible mark on the countless individuals he helped over his distinguished lifetime. He will be fondly remembered by his family, friends and members of the local and national communities he worked so passionately and unselfishly to serve.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MILTON DIAL

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Milton Dial, a talented and dedicated Deputy Associate Director of the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service whose service will be missed upon his retirement. In this capacity, Milton has been responsible for the oversight of natural resources transactions between the Federal Government and the industry. Milton has been a faithful servant of the Department of the Interior and steward of our public lands for 32 years, and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Milton received both his bachelor of science and masters degree in business administration from Arizona State University, and immediately began working as a supervisor auditor for the Inspector General's office from 1971 to 1979. He later moved over to the mineral management division where he has served in numerous positions such as deputy conservation manager for offshore royalty with the U.S. Geological Survey, senior technical advisor to the associate director, chief of the Royalty Compliance and the Valuation and Standards divisions, and manager of the royalty in-kind program at Minerals Management Service.

Mr. Speaker, Milton Dial is an industrious public servant who has always gone the extra mile to make sure that the job is done quickly and appropriately. I, along with my fellow Americans am indebted to him for his dedicated service to the management of our public lands. It is a privilege to recognize his efforts before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thank you for all your hard work, Milton, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

DISABLED VETERANS TRANSITION  
ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2004

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, Mr. HOYER, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and I are honored to introduce this bipartisan legislation to help our severely wounded soldiers returning home from the field of battle.

With the number of U.S. military deaths in Iraq moving past 1,000 this week and over 7,000 servicemen and women wounded in combat, we believe Congress must act now—before we leave in October—to help these heroes and heroines. Many of these surviving men and women now face the daunting task of rebuilding their lives with severe disabilities—soldiers who have lost a limb, been blinded or lost an eye, suffered a disabling brain injury, or disfiguring burns or wounds. They have served their country without question honorably and bravely, and they deserve our help now to transition back to civilian life as they work to put their lives back together.

This simple and straightforward bill would work quickly and appropriately to address the

needs of our wounded troops. First, it honors all servicemembers in each of the U.S. Forces with deeds as well as words by helping them when they need us most. Second, it honors the Army and Department of Defense for recognizing this critical need and initiating the Disabled Soldier Support System (DS3) program in April 2004. The current program provides the Army's severely disabled soldiers and their families with a system of advocacy to assist them as they transition from military service back to civilian life. DS3 has been able to step in to advocate for soldiers and their families by working with government agencies to resolve pay, benefits, entitlements, and care issues. We applaud these efforts and believe with adequate resources they can continue to help more wounded servicemembers.

Third and most important, this bill expresses congressional support for the DS3 program and extends the same assistance to all wounded Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Guardsmen and Reservists. We believe that the Congress must adequately fund the DS3 program and expand it to include all branches of the service since all branches have served this Nation in harm's way.

While both the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs have voiced their support for this program, DS3 is currently staffed by only 10 people and has a budget of only \$1 million dollars. This bill would give the Secretary of Defense the authority to correct that by providing the reprogramming authority necessary for adequate staffing to assist the number of wounded servicemembers returning from overseas. This bill would also designate an executive agent within the DoD with the authority and responsibility to carry out the program in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security for all U.S. servicemembers with severe disabilities.

What these soldiers and their families must face as they return home is unimaginable to most Americans including many of us in Congress. We are a grateful Nation for all our brave men and women in uniform do to protect the very freedoms we enjoy each and every day. How we treat these new veterans as they return home will be a great test to this generation, and we believe this is a small program that can make a huge difference.

This bill has been endorsed by the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS), the PAV, DAV, VFW, AMVETS, and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), and has the support of over 40 other military and veteran organizations. We urge the leadership in both Houses on both sides of the aisle to bring this bill to the floor quickly for passage and send it to the President to be signed into law in the next few weeks. With so many severely wounded in the system now, we cannot wait for a new Congress. We urge our colleagues to act now.

CONFERENCE OF MAYORS CALLS  
FOR ADDITIONAL SUPERFUND  
DOLLARS

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, as the representative of a district which con-

tains a number of abandoned industrial sites, I have a particular interest in the Superfund program. Sadly, the priorities of the congressional majority and the current administration do not include Superfund, and as a consequence, this important environmental cleanup program has been denied the resources needed to meet the promise we have made to many American communities.

In my own district there are three Superfund sites on which I have worked hard, and where we have made some progress, but where inadequate funding threatens to deny the people of the city of New Bedford and the towns of Fairhaven and Norton the full environmental response to which they are entitled by federal law.

This is a problem of national scope, as evidenced by the fact that the United States Conference of Mayors, one of the leading voices for sensible public policies in our country, recently passed a resolution at its 72nd annual meeting in Boston calling for "increasing appropriation levels for Superfund." The resolution notes the slowdown in remediation that is taking place because of the preference for tax cuts for the wealthy over important public needs, and urges us to increase the Superfund appropriation by \$300 million a year for the next 5 years.

This is a very well informed and important statement from a group of thoughtful public officials who share with us the responsibility for public policy in this country, and I ask that the Conference of Mayors' very cogent resolution be printed here.

INCREASING APPROPRIATION LEVELS FOR  
SUPERFUND

Whereas, the Environmental Protection Agency has developed plans, designs, and records of decision for the remediation of large hazardous waste sites, many of them located in or near urban areas; and

Whereas, such plans, designs, and records of decision were developed at great cost and over many years, in close consultation with local and state governments; and

Whereas, EPA and its state and local partners have fielded teams capable of remediating such sites; and

Whereas, because of inadequate funding, actual performance of the agreed upon remedies has been put on hold, or slowed down; and

Whereas, because of inadequate funding some large sites, such as New Bedford Harbor, in New Bedford, MA, have been put on a 26 year cleanup schedule; and

Whereas, such a stretched out remediation is likely to greatly increase the ultimate cost of cleanup to the federal and state governments; and

Whereas, such a stretched out or delayed cleanup schedule is likely to undermine the feasibility of selected remedies, necessitating a new and expensive planning and design process in the future; and

Whereas, such delays perpetuate the public health and environmental threat posed by such sites; and

Whereas, delays in cleanup impose severe obstacles to economic development in many cities; and

Whereas, the money needs of many of the largest sites, which have been in the system for many years, have created a blockage in the system, interfering with EPA's ability to list new sites or to perform remedies at smaller sites; and

Whereas, the problems presented by large sites that are ready for construction can be resolved through an increase in appropriations for Superfund of \$300 million a year for the next five years; and

Whereas, such an increase would actually reduce the cost of the Superfund program over time, and confer significant public health, environmental and economic benefits on many American cities.

Now, Therefore, be it resolved that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to increase the appropriation for Superfund by \$300 million a year for the next five years, and to dedicate such increase to financing actual cleanup at ready to go sites.

TRIBUTE TO KEN YEAGER AT THE  
BAY AREA MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm joined by Representatives LOFGREN and HONDA in rising today to recognize the achievements of Ken Yeager, District Six City Councilman for the City of San José and co-founder of the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee, a four county Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender political action group celebrating 20 years of civil rights advocacy.

Ken represents the neighborhoods of Willow Glen, Rose Garden, Shasta/Hanchett, Sherman Oaks, Cory, Canoas Gardens, Hamann Park and Buena Vista on the San José City Council. He is a graduate of San José State where he interned with former City Councilmember Susie Wilson. He then worked for Congressman Don Edwards, leaving to earn a Ph.D. from Stanford in 1991.

Ken was the first openly gay man to be elected to office in Silicon Valley when he was elected to the San José Community College Board. He has dedicated much of his impressive career to educating the community about LGBT issues and fighting for their rights throughout the Silicon Valley.

BAYMEC was founded to educate and inform, and it has raised its concerns with countless elected officials. It lobbied Sacramento on AIDS and LGBT civil rights and worked with police, fire departments, governmental, organizational, and a variety of community groups to further equality for LGBTs. BAYMEC continues to lobby for the passage of hate-crime legislation, transgender issues, domestic partnership rights and civil unions, as well as bringing LGBT sensitivity to the forefront in the domestic violence field.

During LGBT Pride weekend, Ken spearheaded the campaign to fly the rainbow freedom flag over City Hall. He worked hard to make sure that the Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center was completed on time and chaired the fundraising committee to improve the center. Ken has also led the drive to pass a Gender Non-Discrimination Ordinance for the City and he supports providing full benefits for all married City employees, regardless of sexual orientation.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in thanking Ken Yeager for his steadfast and tireless service to his constituents and to the LGBT community. We look forward to working with him to further the causes important to BAYMEC, because until all people are treated with dignity and respect, none of us can truly be free.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRUCE  
ROCKWELL

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to mourn the passing of Bruce Rockwell of Denver, Colorado. Bruce dedicated his life to improving his community, and the entire City of Denver is indebted to him for his service. His enthusiasm for serving others resonates throughout Colorado, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Bruce for his tremendous service to the City of Denver before this body of Congress and this nation.

Bruce grew up on Marion Street in Denver and came from a strong family that made community service a vital part of their daily lives. Bruce's father ran a small real estate and insurance business and was a respected ornithologist. His family was of modest means but constantly thought of those less fortunate than themselves, often feeding the unemployed from their own kitchen. Bruce put himself through Yale University on various military scholarships.

Bruce was devoted to the development of downtown Denver, spearheading the creation of Downtown Denver, Inc. and playing a crucial role in the development of the Sixteenth Street Mall. From 1954 to 1968, he chaired the Denver Urban Renewal Authority and aided the preservation of Larimer Square. At the same time, while serving as the CEO of Colorado National Bank, Bruce loaned talented developers the money to buy and restore numerous historic buildings.

Mr. Speaker, Bruce Rockwell set a new standard for community service and his deeds have touched nearly every community institution in Denver. His model of leadership and service will be hard to replace. I am honored to recognize the efforts of such a devoted public servant before this body of Congress. My thoughts and prayers go out to Bruce's friends and family during this time of bereavement.

HONORING THE SCHUYLKILL  
CHAPTER 0413 OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL  
EMPLOYEES ON ITS 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TIM HOLDEN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Schuylkill Chapter 0413 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees as it celebrates fifty years of distinguished service to Federal retirees, employees and their families in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

Originally chartered as Pottsville Chapter 413 in 1954, the Chapter made recruiting and retention a top priority. By way of free luncheons, speaker series, outdoor summer picnics, catered dinner meetings, and a recruiting booth at the Schuylkill County Fair, membership spread to many towns in the county.

Area-wide recruiting success was achieved when the National Association of Retired Federal Employees authorized the Chapter's name change to Schuylkill Chapter 0413, allowing them to serve a greater number of citizens.

An association such as Schuylkill Chapter 0413 achieved success through the continued hard work of dedicated members and officers. Since its first meeting, the Chapter has stood as an integral facet of the community, working to meet the needs and concerns of the community in which it serves. As a member of Schuylkill Chapter 0413, I share the profound pride felt by my fellow members as our organization reaches this milestone.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to be able to recognize an organization that has been sustained for fifty years on its commitment to the people of my district and all of central Pennsylvania. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Schuylkill Chapter 0413 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees on fifty years of devoted service and thank them for the many contributions they have made toward the well being of the citizens of this great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM KOLBE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday and this morning, I was in my Congressional district for the primary election and missed the vote on the following measures:

(1) On agreeing to H.R. 4381, the Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building Designation Act (No. 422). I intended to vote "aye."

(2) On agreeing to H.R. 4556, the General William Carey Lee Post Office Building Designation Act (No. 423). I intended to vote "aye."

(3) On agreeing to H. Res. 754, On ordering the previous question providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes (No. 424). I intended to vote "aye."

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NIXA, MISSOURI,  
PEGGY TAYLOR, PRESIDENT

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding leaders dedicated to the education of our youth in southwest Missouri. At a time when many school systems are struggling to provide a quality education, these civil servants have settled for nothing less than excellence in preparing our students in southwest Missouri for the future.

The Missouri School Boards' Association has selected the Nixa R-II Board of Education as the State of Missouri's Outstanding Board

of Education for 2004. This decision was made by a committee of school board members from among 524 districts. It is the second time that Nixa's school board has received this honor, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to education in our community.

The Nixa School Board, chaired by Peggy Taylor, has successfully lobbied local, state, and federal officials for continuing support of educational goals. Their leadership contributed to the lives of Nixa students in five general areas of significance: school district accreditation, community engagement, improved student achievement, success with school district goals and local board initiatives. Through their dedication and relentless pursuit of the goals placed before them, this school board has called attention to the strength of the education system in the Seventh Congressional District of Missouri.

Additionally, the school board has built overall trust and encouraged effective communication between the Nixa RII School Administration and the community. The District Superintendent, Steven Kleinsmith, attributes much of the school district's success to the high expectation that the Board of Education placed on itself and sought from others. Success, such as a perfect score on Missouri's Annual Performance Review conducted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and earning the State of Missouri's highest accreditation possible, "Accredited with Distinction for Performance," demonstrate a demand for superior education and represents the quality of our public schools in southwest Missouri.

Today is a great day for the city of Nixa, the Nixa RII School System, and its Board of Education. I am proud to salute their leadership as an example for us all.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID  
THOMSON

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of David Thomson, a lifelong Boy Scout, dedicated patriot and beloved community activist who recently passed away at the age of 87. David died at his home in Redstone, Colorado after a lifetime of service to Colorado and the nation. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation and recognize his service and accomplishments.

David was born in Glen Ridge, New Jersey in 1917, and attended his first Boy Scout Jamboree in 1937. After he attained his Eagle Scout and Silver Beaver status with the Boy Scouts he met Shirley in 1940 and married her two years later. Together with their three children John, Janet, and JoAnn they lived in North Carolina, Virginia, and Texas where David served in the Marine Corps as an aircraft mechanic instructor during World War II. After the war, the family spent fourteen months in Lima, Peru while David was an inspector for Pan American. When his stint in Peru was completed, the family settled in Golden where David took swing shifts at the Gates Rubber Plant as he finished his coursework to complete his college degree.

In 1952, David completed his degree and applied to the Boy Scouts' Western Colorado Council to serve as a district executive in Grand Junction. After 20 years of long hours on nights and weekends, David retired to Redstone. There he served as a substitute teacher for the Roaring Fork School District and operated a small library that was used to give story hours on Saturday mornings. David and his wife Shirley were very active in their local church, which prompted the pastor to name them true "visionaries". Despite his busy career, David always maintained his service with the Boy Scouts, acting as a mentor and fundraiser for the Western Colorado Council.

Mr. Speaker, David Thomson was an honorable, kind, and genuine soul who lived a long and full life doing what he loved. He touched the lives of many who have been fortunate enough to cross his path, and I am privileged to recognize the life of such a tremendous public servant. My thoughts and prayers go out to David's family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE AIR  
CARGO HARDENED CONTAINER  
PILOT PROGRAM

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask for unanimous consent to address the House for as much time as I may consume.

I want to bring to the attention of this Congress, legislation that I have introduced today—The Hardened Containers for Air Cargo Security Act of 2004.

This legislation is in direct response to the 9/11 Commission Report's recommendation that a blast proof container should be on every commercial airplane that handles cargo. This legislation is a proactive step that puts this much needed and much delayed technology to immediate use.

To successfully implement the hardened container program, a win-win partnership needs to be formed between the government, the air carriers and the flying public.

This legislation puts these partners together. Specifically, this legislation creates a pilot program that does the following:

Creates an incentive program that provides assistance to air carriers to test the use of hardened containers.

Develops guidelines that determine the type of cargo that will be placed in hardened containers on a passenger aircraft.

The pilot program will test the function and interaction of the hardened containers with other components of the aviation security system. It will validate estimates of the quantity of hardened containers required in the air carriers' operations, and identify issues in logistics and control.

The pilot program will ultimately validate training and maintenance requirements required for integrating hardened containers into a carrier's fleet.

The total investment in this pilot program is \$1.7 million.

As the 9/11 Commission Report has outlined, our nation must have a layered ap-

proach to aviation security. Hardened containers and the subsequent program this legislation creates, I firmly believe, must be a staple in aviation passenger security in the near future.

Hardened containers, or blast proof containers as they are sometimes called, are the last line of defense if an explosive device eludes active security measures.

We cannot rely on one technology or one security measure to protect our citizens, our aviation infrastructure and our aircrafts.

Integrating a hardened container program will compliment technology and security measure that are already in place such as Explosive Detection Systems (EDS), on ground screeners, air marshals and of course our brave flight attendants.

Since the catastrophic bombing of Pan Am 103 in December 1988, industry, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Transportation Security Administration, have developed hardened containers that safely contain the detonation of bombs that otherwise would destroy airliners in flight.

We have made the investment in this technology, now is the time to integrate it into our aviation system. The hardened containers are effective now in preventing damage to airliners by bombs considerably larger than the one that destroyed Pan Am 103.

I ask my colleagues to strongly support the "The Hardened Containers for Air Cargo Security Act of 2004" and to comply with the 9/11 Commission Report's recommendation on this very important issue.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVE  
NORMAN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. SCOTT McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dave Norman, a dedicated Colorado native who has committed himself to 30 years of service on behalf of senior citizens in Garfield, Mesa, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties. Dave is a compassionate individual whose devotion has aided over 8,800 seniors in Colorado. He is a valuable member of his community, and it is an honor to recognize his service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Dave received his bachelors degree from Colorado State University, and his masters degree in Social Work from the University of Denver. He has been the Director of the Northwest Colorado Area Agency on Aging for the past 30 years, which assists more than a quarter of the senior citizens in the Western Colorado region. The agency provides seniors with adult day care, home delivered meals, legal services, caregiver information, nutrition education, respite care, congregate meals and basic transportation.

Throughout his extensive career of service, Dave has found time to serve as the Director for the Northwest Colorado Council on Aging, a volunteer group that serves as an advisory board on senior needs and programs. He also served as a member and past chairman of the Colorado Aging Policy Advisory Committee for which he received an Outstanding Performance Award from the Colorado Division of

Aging and Adult Services. Dave lent his expertise to several senior task forces and committees, such as the Meeker and Craig Assisted Living taskforce, the Fruita and Parachute Community Center Committee, and the Advisory Committee to the Colorado Senior Lobby Organization.

Mr. Speaker, Dave Norman is a dedicated public servant who goes above and beyond the call of duty to serve his community and his Nation. I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of a person who encourages his fellow Americans to aide our Nation's senior citizens. It is the efforts of people like Dave that help build strong and caring communities. Thank you for your service, Dave, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR RIKLIN,  
CITIZEN EXTRAORDINAIRE

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great honor to recognize today a friend and mentor who has distinguished himself brilliantly in business, politics and community. I speak of Arthur Riklin, who has lived his entire life—outside of college and military service—in

my hometown of San Antonio, Texas. This Sunday, September 12, 2004, the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, commonly known as AIPAC, is honoring Arthur for his service to the community and his steadfast support of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship.

Arthur is a leader in every sense of the word. He inspires others and leads by example. He currently serves as chairman of the San Antonio Friends of Israel Committee, a group he has nurtured and encouraged the past few years with great success. When you speak with Arthur, you can feel his passion, his commitment, and his dedication. He is an advocate who speaks from the heart about the common values and mutual interests shared by the United States and Israel.

A few years ago, Arthur spoke at Temple Beth-El in San Antonio about the impact of Judaism in his life. He spoke of his early experiences with anti-Semitism growing up in San Antonio, planting within him the seeds of political activism. He ended his talk by urging his friends to be involved in the political process to fight injustice and promote issues of importance. He explained that it meant not only voting, but also getting to know elected officials personally, to share viewpoints, and thereby be in a position to make a difference.

Arthur has done just that—he has made a difference to me and to countless others. A successful businessman whose family had little when he was a child, Arthur has given

back to his community. He served five years as an officer in the United States Air Force, followed by seven years in the Reserves. He has raised money for charitable causes and given of his time generously. Arthur has served in senior leadership positions with numerous organizations, including the USO Council of San Antonio, the Rotary Club, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He helped establish the Judeo-Christian Studies Committee of St. Mary's University and is a lifetime member of the NAACP, both part of his lifelong effort to bring diverse people together in ways that increase understanding and break down barriers. It is no wonder that he has received the Lyndon Baines Johnson Humanitarian Award, the NCCJ's National Brotherhood Humanitarian Award or Hadassah's Myrtle Wreath Award.

Above all else, Arthur is a gentleman, a loving husband, father and grandfather. He is married to Helene Katz, also of San Antonio, and they have three children and five grandchildren. Of all his awards and honors, I know he values them the most.

Mr. Speaker, those in this House who know Art Riklin, and many of us on both sides of the aisle know him, appreciate his quiet, yet persistent voice, and we value his counsel and advice. Arthur Riklin is a gentleman and a citizen extraordinaire. May he go from strength to strength.