

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM (BILL)
HOWARD AHMANSON

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, on October 9, 2004, the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation will recognize William (Bill) Howard Ahmanson for his untiring and committed efforts on behalf of his community, and the County of Los Angeles. He will be presented with the coveted "Twice A Citizen" Award for his extraordinary volunteer work, as well as his long record of dedicated support and service to the law enforcement community.

In 1986, Bill became a Los Angeles Police Reserve Officer. His experience includes the specialized CRASH (Community Relations Against Street Hoodlums) unit, Newton, Hollywood and Rampart Divisions. Currently he maintains a Specialist Reserve Status and is credited with being a member of the host committee for the 2004 International Association of the Chiefs of Police Convention that was held in Los Angeles. He is also the director of the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation that provides assistance to families of police officers who were killed in the line of duty. Recognizing that the rich history of the Los Angeles Police Department must be preserved for posterity, Bill is a director of the Los Angeles Police Historical Society (LAPHS). LAPHS was founded in 1989 to create a world-class museum that reflects the departments many contributions since its inception in 1869.

Horses are also an area of concern for Bill. As the vice president of the Los Angeles Police Equestrian Fund, he is able to direct the humane retirement of the department's horses and supervise acquisition of equipment for the officers and horses of the Los Angeles Police Mounted Unit.

Many of his civic responsibilities revolve around Los Angeles. Bill is a trustee of the Ahmanson Foundation whose philanthropy is directed toward organizations and institutions serving the greater Los Angeles community. He is also a trustee of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. It was established to serve the public through the collection, conservation, exhibition and interpretation of significant works of art and to provide cultural experiences for a wide array of audiences.

He is a member of the Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board (WIB). Nominated by Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. WIB implements the workforce Investment Act of 1998. This Board's mandate is to provide key policy decisions affecting the local workforce development system, and to identify and certify Work Source California Centers in Los Angeles County.

Bill is on the advisory board for the Stennis Family Foundation. The Stennis Family Foundation was founded by Erin and Michael Sten-

nis to heighten awareness within the minority community on the prevention and cure of colorectal cancer, the nation's second leading cancer killer. Bill is also associated with Christ The King Roman Catholic Church and the Wilshire/Los Angeles Chapter of Rotary International.

Bill and his wife, Karla, along with their three children, Chris, Katie and Kara are Los Angeles residents.

Because he exemplifies all that is right with our nation's grassroots volunteer efforts, I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize William "Bill" Howard Ahmanson as a dedicated, compassionate and committed American.

NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 4011, the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and urge all members to support this important legislation. The leadership of the North Korean government has proven to be volatile and unpredictable with a tight rein on a very closed, repressed society. The North Korean government is one of the worse abusers of human rights in the world. Freedom of religion does not exist and the government controls all information, expression, and access to media. Despite international aid efforts, it is estimated that 2 million North Koreans have died of starvation in the last 10 years. One out of every ten children is malnourished.

There are an estimated 200,000 political prisoners in camps. Prisoners are often used as slave labor and conditions in these camps are extremely harsh. Many prisoners die from disease, starvation, beatings, and torture.

In 2002 a former female political prisoner, who testified before Congress about the conditions in these camps described: kneeling Christians in a prison camp having molten steel poured over them by guards because they would not recant their faith; prisoners quarantined into small rooms because of illness and then being forced to lay on top of each other such that all of those underneath were suffocated and died; prisoners used as lab experiments; and numerous executions. The list of horrendous conditions goes on.

The North Korea Human Rights Act reaffirms that human rights in North Korea should remain a key concern in future dialogue and conditions direct aid to North Korea upon substantial improvements in transparency and accountability.

I call on every member of Congress to vote in favor of this important legislation. We must send a strong message to Kim Jong Il that the world will not sit by while his government systematically abuses its citizens.

POEM BY CALVIN DUNN OF
LEXINGTON, MISSOURI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, Calvin Dunn, of my hometown of Lexington, Missouri, wrote an excellent poem, entitled "Our Flag-911." Mr. Dunn wrote this poem on the day after the events of September 11, 2001. I wish to share Mr. Dunn's writing with the rest of the chamber:

"Our Flag-911"

"Old Glory" what a beautiful sight, as she rises in the morn and gets put away at night.

For over 200 years she has waved in the wind, battled the rain and the snow again and again

She had been tattered, torn, ripped and burned, but bounces back each time with a lesson learned.

She has been spit on, trampled and even wolvered in the dirt, yet she feels no pain and shows no hurt.

She is loved, adored, worshiped and praised and she will continue to fly for a million more days.

She is in foreign lands, across the sea, she's at the ball park waving 'oh say can you see'

She's at the federal building flying high, she's at each veteran's final goodbye.

She flies at half mast where tragedy has been, but you can bet tomorrow, she'll fly high again.

So wherever you see her salute her and brag and remember those that died for that "rugged old flag."

ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor of the 44th Anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus. It was on October 1, 1960, that Cyprus became an independent republic after decades of British colonial rule.

I am very fortunate and privileged to represent Astoria, Queens—one of the largest and most vibrant communities of Greek and Cypriot Americans in this country. It is truly one of my greatest pleasures as a Member of Congress to participate in the life of this community, and the wonderful and vital Cypriot friends that I have come to know are one of its greatest rewards.

Since the last celebration of Cyprus Independence Day, Cyprus has experienced events of major historic importance. On May 1, Cyprus became a full-fledged member of the European Union along with nine other countries from Central and Eastern Europe.

• 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.

Cyprus's accession to the EU is a historic achievement. As an EU member, Cyprus will represent European values and policies and, at the same time, will work toward even stronger transatlantic ties with the United States. This has been a long time in coming, and I believe that Cyprus will have much to contribute to the EU.

However, the commemoration of Cyprus' Independence Day this year, as in the past, is clouded by the fact that the Mediterranean island nation's territory continues to be illegally occupied by the Turkish military forces, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions. Unfortunately, the proposed UN reunification plan did not provide for a functional or durable solution to the island's division. Seventy-six percent of Greek Cypriot voters opposed it, citing concerns about security, property restitution, and the structure of the proposed government.

Cyprus and the United States have a great deal in common. We share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under the law.

In fact, Cyprus was among the first nations to express its solidarity with the U.S. immediately following the September 11th terrorist attacks. Cyprus has taken many concrete and active steps to target the perpetrators, collaborators and financiers of terrorism. For example, Cyprus has endorsed and implemented all resolutions and decisions of the U.N. Security Council, the EU and other International Organizations pertaining to the fight against terrorism.

Unfortunately, Cyprus is not without its own difficult history. 37 percent of this nation is still occupied by a hostile foreign power, and it has been for 30 years. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, and to this day continues to maintain an estimated 35,000 heavily armed troops. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots, who fell victim to a policy of ethnic cleansing, were forcibly evicted from their homes and became refugees in their own country.

Despite the hardships and trauma caused by the ongoing Turkish occupation, Cyprus has registered remarkable economic growth, and the people living in the Government-controlled areas enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living. Sadly, the people living in the occupied area continue to be mired in poverty.

Last year, the Turkish occupation regime partially lifted restrictions on freedom of movement across the artificial line of division created by Turkey's military occupation. Hundreds of thousands of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots have crossed the UN ceasefire line to visit their homes and properties or areas of their own country that were inaccessible to them for nearly 30 years. The peaceful and cooperative spirit in the person-to-person, family-to-family interactions between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots bodes well for the successful reunification of Cyprus.

In the times we are facing, it is clear that divisions among people create harmful, destructive environments. We must find a peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem. The relationship between Cyprus and the United States is strong and enduring, and we stand together celebrating democracy and freedom.

RECOGNIZING ALAN J. SKOBIN

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special man, Alan J. Skobin, who has a record of community and civic service that spans more than thirty years. His tireless efforts have made a significant, positive impact on the community and he will be honored on October 9, 2004 with the coveted "Twice A Citizen" Award from the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation for his extraordinary volunteer work.

Commissioner Skobin has served as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for more than twenty years, reaching the rank of Reserve Commander. His experience includes patrol and detective work as well as administration. He has also served on the Department's Valor Awards Evaluation Committee, and has received the coveted Distinguished Service Award from the Sheriff's Department for his overall service. Prior to joining the Sheriff's Department, he served as a Reserve Police Officer with the San Fernando Police Department for eight years, attaining the rank of Sergeant. He is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Citizens Academy.

Commissioner Skobin has also been recognized by a number of private organizations, including the California Peace Officers Association and Baseballers Against Drugs, which honored him with their Positive Image Award.

Alan J. Skobin was appointed to the Board of Police Commissioners by Mayor James K. Hahn in July of 2003, and was immediately elected Vice President. He previously served as Vice President of the Los Angeles City Board of Transportation Commissioners.

Commissioner Skobin is also a member of the State of California New Motor Vehicle Board, where he has served as Board President, chair of the Policy and Procedures Committee and a member of the Administration Committee. He previously served as a Commissioner on the Los Angeles County Institutional Inspections Commission. He is a founding director and member of the Executive Committee of the Sheriff's Youth Foundation of Los Angeles County, which funds education and intervention programs for thousands of at-risk youth each year, and has served as chair of the Youth Foundation's annual Salute to Youth Dinner. Commissioner Skobin is also on the Board of Directors, and is Website and Technology Chair, of the Los Angeles Business Council. He is a past member of the International Board of Trustees of Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY), an international leadership development program for high school students, the Western Region Advisory Committee to the United States Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office, the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, which recognized his leadership and service as Chair of the Justice and Protective Agencies Committee, and the Mid-Valley Community Police Council, where he served as President. A cancer and brain tumor survivor himself, Commissioner Skobin and his family are active with Padres Contra El Cancer, a nonprofit organization that improves the quality of life for children with cancer and their families.

Commissioner Skobin is a member of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the American Corporate Counsel Association, and is admitted to practice law in both state and Federal courts. Commissioner Skobin has also served as a member of the Judicial Election Evaluations Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and was an extern in the United States Federal District Court. Commissioner Skobin is Vice President and General Counsel of Galpin Motors, Inc., and has been in management with the Galpin organization since 1977. He has direct responsibility for, or is integrally involved with, a number of significant functions, including legal, information technology, risk management and insurance, real estate, investments and human resources.

Commissioner Skobin and his wife, Romi, are longtime San Fernando Valley residents. They, along with their two children, Jeff and Jennifer, have made community and civic endeavors an integral part of their lifestyle.

Because he exemplifies all that is right with our nation's grassroots volunteer efforts, I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize Alan J. Skobin as a dedicated, compassionate and committed American.

CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS DESIGNATED AS A 2004 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the children, parents, teachers and principal at the Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School. The designation of a 2004 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Award honors only those schools that have successfully achieved excellence in academics and have closed the achievement gap in academic proficiency for all of their students.

The designation of the Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School is particularly meaningful to me because it is named for the former Congressman Clement J. Zablocki who was my predecessor in the United States Congress, and an effective and beloved Representative who served the citizens of Milwaukee's south side for many years.

It is evident that the principles of accountability, focusing on what works, increased flexibility, reduction of bureaucracy and the empowerment of parents, has been successfully integrated into the daily philosophy of the Zablocki Elementary School.

Under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Patricia Waldia this school has not only achieved academic excellence for the students, but has initiated innovative and creative ways of having the children of Zablocki Elementary School involved with community organizations, agencies and businesses that have enriched their lives and broadened their view of the community and world. Dr. Waldia has successfully established bonds between her staff, parents and the community that support all of the goals of the school.

The Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School is only the 5th elementary school in the Milwaukee Public Schools system to be designated as a Blue Ribbon school since 1982.

This is an extraordinary and remarkable achievement.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the children, teachers and principal at the Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School and commend their efforts in providing a standard of excellence in the field of education.

RECOGNIZING THE WOMEN IN THE
LAW FORUM

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the Women in the Law forum being hosted by the Women's Caucus on October 6, 2004. At this forum, we honor the achievements of the first women Justices of the United States Supreme Court, the Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor and the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, for their pioneering achievements and service to our nation as members of the highest court in the land.

Justice O'Connor was the 102nd Supreme Court Justice to be named to the bench and the first female member of the Court. A quietly determined woman who blazed new trails for her gender, Justice O'Connor is a role model for all Americans. She has left a thoughtful and enduring mark on American Jurisprudence, which has been molded through her wisdom and strong character.

Justice Ginsburg, the 107th Justice to serve on the Supreme Court and second woman Justice to be named to the bench, has advanced the development of our Nation's jurisprudence in order to make our society more equitable for both women and men. Justice Ginsburg brought with her a career of advocacy and experience which she effectively utilizes to empower Americans who have been historically disadvantaged.

Today, women owe their success in the legal profession, in part, to the groundbreaking actions of the women who came before us. Pioneers, such as Belva Lockwood and Susan B. Anthony, defied stereotypes and it is on their shoulders we stand today. Justices O'Connor and Ginsburg continue in this pioneering tradition as women in the law, distinguishing themselves with brilliant careers and exceptional legal minds.

It is an honor for the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues to recognize Justices O'Connor and Ginsburg for their achievements.

On behalf of the Congressional Women's Caucus leadership, Representative SHELLEY MOORE-CAPITO, Representative LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER, Representative HILDA L. SOLIS, and every member of the Women's Caucus, I thank Justice O'Connor and Justice Ginsburg for their courage, fortitude, and perseverance. They both serve as inspirations to every woman in America.

HONORING BOBBY SHERMAN

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, on October 9, 2004, the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation will recognize Bobby Sherman for his commitment and dedication to the Los Angeles County Reserve Foundation. He will be presented with the coveted "Twice A Citizen" Award for his extraordinary volunteer work.

Reserve officers are volunteers who supplement the deployment of full-time officers by performing a wide range of duties, including working as uniformed patrol officers, desk officers, detectives, chaplains and community-relations officers. During 2003, reserve officers donated 200,000 hours of service, the equivalent to more than 5 million dollars in officer salaries. The LAPD Reserve Officers live up to their motto; "To Be A Reserve Is To Be Twice A Citizen."

Bobby Sherman is one of the most successful and diversified figures in the entertainment industry. The first performer to star in three television serials before the age of 30, he has gone on to earn a fine reputation not only as an actor and singer, but as a producer, director and composer as well.

His career success allows him to devote much of his time and energy to charitable and community activities. He is a certified EMT instructor, a technical reserve officer with the Los Angeles Police Department and a Reserve Deputy Sheriff with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. He has been named LAPD's Reserve Officer of the Year for 1999, received the FBI's Exceptional Service Award and is the Vice Commander of the Court Services Reserve Unit for the San Bernardino County Sheriff. For fifteen years, he has served as a medical training officer at the Los Angeles Police Academy, instructing thousands of police officers in first aid and CPR. Through The Bobby Sherman Volunteer EMT Foundation, he provides free first aid and emergency medical services at dozens of charitable and community events each year.

Bobby began his career on ABC's, *Shindig*, the first prime time rock and roll showcase. He starred for two seasons as Jeremy Bolt in ABC's *Here Comes the Brides* and then his own series *Getting Together*. He was a frequent guest star on the series *Murder, She Wrote* and *Frazier* and appeared in the motion pictures *Wild In Streets*, *He is My Brother* and *Get Crazy*. His records includes *Hey Little Woman*, *Easy Come Easy Go*, *Julie Do Ya Love Me?* and *Cried Like a Baby*, which along with others sold more than 10 million records and won seven gold singles and five gold albums. His Christmas album remains a perennial favorite and personal appearances sold out the Houston Astrodome and The Los Angeles Forum.

Bobby's autobiography *Bobby Sherman:—Remembering You* has been on several best-seller lists. He built and maintains a 24-track digital recording studio where he composed, arranged and performed the musical scores for many television programs and videos. He lives in San Fernando Valley and is the father of two sons, Christopher and Tyler.

Bobby is a stellar example of the statement "to protect and serve." We can only say a

simple and heartfelt thank you to Bobby Sherman and to all the men and women who courageously protect and serve the citizens of America.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
REGARDING OPPRESSION BY
CHINA OF FALUN GONG IN
UNITED STATES AND CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Con. Res. 304, expressing the sense of Congress regarding oppression by the Government of China against the Falun Gong in the United States and in China. I urge all members of Congress to support this important legislation.

The United States must stand up for basic decency and human rights and for men and women who are being persecuted on account of their religious or political beliefs. As a congress, our policy must be a policy that helps promote human rights and freedom, not a policy that sides with dictators who oppress their own citizens.

H. Con. Res. 304 calls on the Government of China to stop the harassment of Falun Gong practitioners in the United States, calls for the immediate release from detention of all prisoners of conscience, and calls on the Attorney General to investigate reports that Chinese officials in the United States have committed illegal acts while attempting to intimidate Falun Gong practitioners.

Those who are persecuted for their religious or political beliefs around the world are encouraged when the United States speaks out on their behalf. America must be true to its founders and continue to stand up for basic decency and human rights. Thomas Jefferson said the God who gave us life, gave us liberty. Every man and woman—with inalienable rights. Those are the rights, not just for those who are blessed to be Americans, but for every man, woman and child in this world.

I call on every member of Congress to vote in favor of this important resolution.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISSOURI
TEACHER OF THE YEAR, LINDA
EISINGER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Linda Eisinger for receiving the Missouri Teacher of the Year Award.

Mrs. Eisinger was born on October 8, 1951, in Independence, Missouri. After graduating from Raytown High School, she attended Central Missouri State University where she graduated in 1973 with a degree in Elementary Education. In 1977, she received a Masters degree in Education from Central Missouri State University.

Mrs. Eisinger has been a teacher for over three decades, and this year she begins her

27th year as a teacher in Jefferson City. Currently, she is a third grade teacher at West Elementary School in Jefferson City.

Last spring, Mrs. Eisinger was chosen from more than 100 applications as the Jefferson City District's Teacher of the Year. Then, out of a group of six teachers competing for the State honor, she was chosen as the Missouri Teacher of the Year. As Missouri's Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Eisinger automatically will be entered in the National Teacher of the Year Competition.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I wish to extend my congratulations to Mrs. Linda Eisinger. It is with great pride that I honor her for being named the Missouri Teacher of the Year.

OXI DAY SPEECH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the Hellenic-Americans and Philhellenes in my district and throughout the country in celebrating "OXI Day (No Day)," which falls on the 28th of October. This year marks the 64th anniversary of a very important day in Hellenic history, the day on which brave Greek patriots said "No" to fascism, "No" to injustice, and "No" to slavery.

For those individuals who lived through that momentous period and their descendants, many of whom live in the 14th Congressional District of New York, "OXI Day" is more than a memory: It is the embodiment of Hellenism and its highest ideals.

On October 28, 1940, a terrifying sound went up throughout all Greek cities and towns, the sound of sirens and klaxons announcing the invasion of Greece by the Nazis. Walls that before had echoed only with the tolling of church bells now reverberated with the din of alarms.

At a time when Europe was descending into the inferno of another world war, the people of Greece did not panic. Men went calmly to their closets and retrieved their military uniforms and weapons. Women went about their necessary tasks, and the children assisted as they were able. With level-headed determination and steadfast resolve, the citizenry of Greece mobilized against the coming invaders and delivered their resounding "No!" to the Axis aggressors.

On OXI Day, the people of Greece chose the harder path, the path of resistance. If they had opened their gates to the invaders, much bloodshed and many deprivations might have been avoided. That brave generation of Hellenes, refused to submit to oppression, even at the cost of their homes, their land, and their lives. They chose to fight and even to die so that their children and the children of other nations might live in liberty. Theirs was an act of self-sacrifice that clearly proclaimed the humanitarian ideals of their Orthodox Christian faith and their ethnic heritage.

Demonstrating poise under pressure, the heroes of that period fought against tyranny and delayed the Axis onslaught in the Balkan Peninsula. The Greek nation which said "OXI" contributed to the eventual downfall of the Fascist powers in Europe.

This year the Hellenic community is celebrating another great moment in their history,

having successfully hosted a magnificent and peaceful Olympics at a time when terrorism imperils every public gathering. The smallest nation to ever host the Olympics, Greeks once again showed that they always rise to the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the heroes of OXI Day. In their brave words and deeds we see all of the highest virtues of Hellenic heritage: Passion for justice, courage at a time of trial, unity in the midst of conflict, and willingness to sacrifice one's life for the good of others. On this day, we thank Greece for saying "OXI."

RECOGNIZING ROBERT T. "TOM" FLESH

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, on October 9, 2004, the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation will recognize Robert T. "Tom" Flesh for his untiring and committed efforts on behalf of his community, the county of Los Angeles, and the State of California. He will be presented with the coveted "Twice A Citizen" Award for his extraordinary volunteer work, as well as his long record of dedicated support and service to the law enforcement community.

Tom is the Vice Chairman of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Youth Foundation, an organization dedicated to the creation and implementation of effective programs for at-risk children and active intervention with their development. He also serves on the LA County Sheriff's Office Foundation, and he is on the Board of Directors of the Sinai Temple in Los Angeles. For many years, he served the West Los Angeles Little League as a commission, coach, and held offices on the Board of Directors. In addition, he is a member of the Board of Councilors in the School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California, the State Bar of California, a USC Associate, a member of the Los Angeles Business Council and many other professional and charitable organizations.

Mr. Flesh is a Public Member and President Emeritus of New Motor Vehicle Board of California. Tom was originally appointed by former Governor Pete Wilson and later reappointed by former Governor Gray Davis. Among his many accomplishments was the creation of a forum for industry manufacturers and dealers to dialog and exchange ideas in an effort to foster good relations. The forum has received national attention and has now been replicated in several states.

Tom's community leadership began in Los Angeles, where he attended local public school, graduating from Palisades High School and the University of Southern California. Later he attended Loyola Law School where he graduated with a Juris Doctorate Degree in 1975.

Tom started his career with Thrifty Oil Company, where he rose to the level of senior Vice President/General Counsel. Today, he is President and CEO of Safety Investment Company and Community Asset Management, a national real estate acquisition, development and management company emphasizing man-

ufactured housing communities. The company has been in business since 1989.

Tom Flesh and his wife, Judy, live in Los Angeles. They, along with four children, Daniel, Jacqueline, Jamie and Michelle make community and civic endeavors a priority in their lives.

Because he exemplifies all that is right with our nation's grassroots volunteer efforts, I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize Tom Flesh for his dedication, compassion and commitment.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MICHAEL SMITH ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE 440TH AIRLIFT WING

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 23, 2004, the 440th Airlift Wing will be honoring its Commander, Colonel Michael L. Smith, as he enters retirement following an illustrious thirty-three year career in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

Growing up in the cornfields of Iowa, Colonel Smith looked to the sky and dreamed of flying and serving his country. He pushed himself academically and entered United States Air Force Academy as a cadet in 1967, distinguishing himself as a student in engineering management. Following graduation, he attended pilot training, served actively in the Air Force for four years, and then transferred to the Air Force Reserves where he utilized what he learned at the academy by serving as an advisor to the director at the Headquarters of the Military Airlift Command and Air Force Reserves.

For the past nine years, he has become a fixture in Milwaukee as the 440th's Commander. He has trained his base and troops to be ready for any challenge that may come. Committed to the Air Force motto, "integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all [the members] do," Colonel Smith has shown himself to be an embodiment of those core values and has expected the same from those who serve with him.

Although Col. Smith is leaving his current post, he will continue to serve the men and women of the Armed Forces as an Ombudsman with the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ensuring that Wisconsin National Guard Members and Reservists receive the necessary support from their employers.

The same precision, enthusiasm and skill he shows when flying and leading the Airlift Wing will be useful when he is pursuing his other passions: golf, woodworking and photography with his wife Joni, and children, Brett and Abigail.

It is with both great appreciation and sadness that I join the 440th Airlift Wing, his family, and Milwaukee area as a whole in thanking Col. Michael Smith for his 33 years of exemplary service. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on October 4, I was detained in Florida due to a speaking engagement and as a result, missed three votes. I ask that my absence be excused and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show that had I been present:

For rollcall No. 487—the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. Con. Res. 76, I would have voted “aye;” for rollcall No. 488—the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1814, I would have voted “yea,” and for rollcall No. 489—the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 567, I would have voted “yea.”

INDIANA STATE DELEGATION
WORKING TO PROMOTE CIVIC
EDUCATION**HON. BARON P. HILL**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, Alexander Hamilton once said, “Here, sir, the people govern.” These words grace the entrance to the House of Representatives to remind us of the promise of our representative democracy. The Founders of this nation understood that a free society must rely on the knowledge, skills, and virtue of its citizens and those serving in public office on their behalf. That is why civic education in our schools is so important. In my state of Indiana, and throughout the nation, I am pleased to learn that a proactive effort has recently been initiated to improve civic learning and instruction.

On September 20–22 of last year the First Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education was launched. The conference was sponsored by the Alliance for Representative Democracy and co-hosted by the four leaders of the U.S. Congress.

One of the very positive outcomes of the congressional conference was the establishment of state delegations that would return to the state to enact specific policies designed to restore the civic mission of our schools. I would like to recognize John J. Patrick, the facilitator of the Indiana delegation, for leadership in working to design an action plan to improve civic education in our state. These state activities include: (1) organizing conferences for professors of Indiana colleges and universities to emphasize civic education in the preparation of teachers; (2) producing reports about exemplary practices of civic education; (3) supporting programs to improve teaching and learning about the United States Constitution in schools, and (4) building a network of organizations and individuals to promote civic education in Indiana.

Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the success of the Indiana civic education delegation and their participation at the Second Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education on December 4–6 of this year.

TRIBUTE TO 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF TRINITY EVANGELICAL LU-
THERAN**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 100th year anniversary of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This celebrated Church has stood and continues to stand as a symbol of faith, hope, and reverence.

The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church began as a mission congregation on December 4, 1904. The first service was held at “The Auditorium” on Portage Street, and the church was referred to as the English Lutheran in the 1905 Kalamazoo City Directory. When the congregation had grown to need a larger facility, the present site was purchased on April 11, 1926 for \$7,200.00. The “new” Trinity Lutheran Church construction began September 12, 1927, with the cornerstone being laid on Reformation Sunday. The building was dedicated June 10, 1928, and 262 members moved into the new building.

Another stint with over crowded conditions and the need for more space led to another building project—the 34-room Parish Education Building. The cornerstone was laid in 1956 and the new \$160,000.00 project was dedicated on October 13, 1957. Several projects over the years have changed the appearance of this wonderful church building, both “inside and out,” bringing it to the current configuration 100 years later.

It goes without mention that God has richly blessed Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo and there is and always has been much talent, enthusiasm, and dedication among Trinity’s members. Of even greater significance has been their repeated desire for and response to the Word of God for direction.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF CAPTAIN ROBERT J. APRILL**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Captain Robert J. Aprill of the United States Naval Reserve. Captain Aprill joined the Reserve Officer Candidate program in February of 1974 while pursuing dual degrees at Eastern Michigan University in Political Science and History. After his graduation, Captain Aprill attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island and received his commission in the Naval Reserve in December 1975.

In his twenty nine years with the Naval Reserves, Captain Aprill has served America honorably. His many reserve duty assignments included: Training Officer and Executive USS *W.S. Sims*, Commanding Officer USS *Elmer Montgomery* and Gaining Command Liaison Officer USS *Elmer Montgomery*.

Mr. Speaker, since 1915 it has been the mission of the United States Naval Reserve to maintain a state of constant readiness and availability, able to deploy rapidly and effec-

tively in times of peace or war. With the new threats facing America in the War on Terror, this mission has been paramount to America’s security, but it cannot be accomplished without dedicated civilian soldiers like Captain Aprill. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Aprill for his service to America and to wish him the best in his retirement.

9/11 COMMISSION
IMPLEMENTATION**HON. TOM DeLAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, in this, the final week of this legislative session, Congress will cap off two years of diligent, important work protecting America’s security, prosperity, and families. We have strengthened and improved health care for American seniors, funded the liberation of two enslaved nations, protected our homeland, outlawed partial-birth abortion and protected pregnant mothers, held the line on spending, and provided pro-growth tax relief to millions of American families.

And this week, the House will finish its work on the most sweeping homeland security and intelligence reform legislation in decades: the 9/11 Commission Implementation Act.

When the 9/11 Commission first released its report, many sought for Congress to either rubber-stamp or reject outright the commission’s findings. But we in the House took a novel approach: we read them. And we studied them, in six committees, in more than 20 hearings.

The bill has been marked up by five full committees—Armed Services, Intelligence, Judiciary, Government Reform and Oversight, and Financial Services—and two more committees have approved it without markup. In other words, Mr. Speaker, we set out to craft a comprehensive, thoughtful, and valuable reform package, and that’s exactly what we’ve got.

The 9/11 Commission Implementation Act takes the findings of the commission, shapes them into legislative language, and then adds in necessary details where the report lacked specifics. The 9/11 Commission’s report is not just 41 recommendations. It is 567 pages of problems we face defending America. This bill goes right to those problems and begins the process of solving them one at a time.

The bill will reform America’s intelligence infrastructure by establishing a National Intelligence Director and a National Counter-Terrorism Center, both strong recommendations of the commission. We will also include provisions that will help our intelligence and homeland security officers better fight terrorists, prevent them from ever endangering the American people, and prosecute those who do. And we will work to better secure our borders from penetration by terrorists, and make it easier for authorities to throw terrorists out once they do get in.

These are important reforms, all necessary to the protection of the American people and our victory in the war on terror, the most critical priority of this Congress and the entire government. Passage of these reforms will mark a fitting close to the legislative session, and, I should add, the debate surrounding it

will serve—on its own—as a fitting reminder to the American people that those of us in Congress are more interested in winning the war than just winning the next election.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on October 4, 2004, I had a meeting in my district and, therefore, missed three recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Vote No. 487, "aye" on rollcall Vote No. 488, and "aye" on rollcall Vote No. 489.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was absent attending to a previously scheduled commitment and missed the votes on rollcall Vote No. 487, on S. Con. Res. 76, Recognizing November 2, 2003 as "A Tribute to Survivors" at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; rollcall Vote No. 488, on S. 1814, to Transfer Federal Lands Between the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of the Interior; and rollcall Vote No. 489, on H. Res. 567, Congratulating the American Dental Association for sponsoring the second annual "Give Kids a Smile" program.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 487, "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 488; and "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 489.

IN MEMORY OF TROY H. LAGRONE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, my remarks today are to honor my friend, Troy H. LaGrone, retired President of Ben E. Keith Beers. Troy was a fixture in both the business and academic community in my hometown of Denton.

Troy LaGrone was a graduate of Carthage High School and later attended Draughton's Business College in Dallas before joining the Ben E. Keith Company as a clerk in 1953. After 47 years of service, in 2000, Mr. LaGrone retired as President of the company, but he continued to serve on its board of directors and for the company's Foundation.

In addition to his extensive business career, Mr. LaGrone had served in the U.S. Army and was consistently involved in local and community projects. Throughout the years, Troy served on the board of directors of the Denton State School, Denton Orchestra, Denton Public Schools Foundation and North Texas Fair.

He organized the President's Fellows of the University of North Texas and chaired the President's Council. He also served on the President's Council of Texas Woman's University.

Mr. Troy LaGrone is survived by his wife, Sarah LaGrone and their three children, Joanna LaGrone-Headrick, Robert A. Strawn and James A. Strawn; one brother, Joe Ben LaGrone of Oak Ridge, Tennessee; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

As a Texan and a friend, I can say we were blessed to have had him with us as a guide, to encourage us and to direct our paths. I am glad I had the chance to know him, and I honor his life here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 4, I was unable to vote on the motion to suspend the Rules and agree to S. Con. Res. 76, (rollcall No. 487), on the motion to suspend the Rules and pass S. 1814 (rollcall No. 488), and on the motion to suspend the Rules and agree to H. Res. 567 (rollcall No. 489). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three measures.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN A. PEREZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize John A. Perez, the Director of Political Affairs for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 324.

Mr. Perez has spent over a decade working as a labor organizer and political operative. He initially gained an appreciation for politics while growing up in the working class community of Highland Park, a nearby suburb of Los Angeles. From a young age, he appreciated the impact of politics on the lives of working people.

He channeled that appreciation into a career helping working people organize and gain political power. After graduating from the University of California Berkeley, John began working on designing and organizing education programs for several community-based organizations and unions. In the 2002 election, he served as Political Director of the California Labor Federation of the AFL-CIO, which represents over 2.1 million working families. He co-chairs the California Democratic Party Finance Committee and is an elected member of the Democratic National Committee.

In addition to his efforts to improve the lives of working families, Mr. Perez is very active in other areas including AIDS Project Los Angeles, the CORO Foundation, and the California League of Conservation Voters.

He has been an asset to the labor movement and numerous Democratic organizations. I commend him for his dedication to improving the lives of hard working people throughout Southern California.

HONORING PETER H. DIAMANDIS

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter H. Diamandis, the X Prize Foundation and SpaceshipOne. The X Prize Foundation is based in St. Louis and SpaceShipOne is the now famous commercial rocket which won the Foundation's \$10 million award for successfully completing two trips into space within a 14-day time span on October 4, 2004. Without the leadership and initiative of Peter H. Diamandis, president and founder of the Foundation, this historic feat would not have been accomplished.

Resurrecting the ingenuity of the Spirit of St. Louis Organization and the legacy of Charles Lindbergh, the X Prize Foundation ensures that Americans will continue to lead. The X Prize Foundation utilized the inspiration and "can-do spirit" so characteristic of other great American entrepreneurs and innovators. Astounding the world and catapulting the commercial aviation industry into a new economic stratosphere, Charles Lindbergh's flight in 1927 was truly transformative. Lindbergh proved that the vision and leadership of the individual and private industry compose the greatest impetus to secure new technology and expand the horizons of human accomplishment. Seventy-seven years later, the X Prize Foundation provided the opportunity for pilots Brian Binnie and Michael Melvill to complete the two trips in order to claim the prize. With this most recent triumph, the horizon is no longer the objective, but rather the runway to the stars.

Beginning with the 1904 World's Fair, St. Louis has played an integral role in the aerospace industry. St. Louis has been home to the designers and builders of the beginnings of the Apollo Moon landings, the origin of Lindbergh's historic flight, a center of aerospace manufacturing and, most recently, the X Prize Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the initiative and ingenuity of the X Prize Foundation and the crew of SpaceShipOne for their great accomplishment of opening the door to the heavens more widely to everyone.

HONORING MRS. PAULA D. HAVERON, CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Paula D. Haveron, who retired on July 31, 2004, after completing over 42 years of Federal Service.

Mrs. Haveron began her Civil Service career in 1958 as a clerk-stenographer in the Office of Air Force Civil Engineers.

Having demonstrated her competence in working with Members of Congress and their staffs, Mrs. Haveron was selected for service in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Legislative Liaison Inquiry Division, in 1960.

Over the years, she served in numerous roles, culminating in her current duties as a Congressional Liaison Representative in 1997. In this capacity, Mrs. Haveron has been responsible for well over 100,000 constituent inquiries, from all 50 states and territories. In fact, she was the first civilian action officer to draft and successfully staff a Congressional response for signature by the Air Force Chief of Staff.

During her 42 years of work in the Office of Legislative Liaison, Mrs. Haveron has provided dedicated and professional service to both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. She has developed close working relationships with many of our staffs, and her efforts have greatly enhanced congressional understanding of Air Force personnel matters. The distinctive accomplishments of Mrs. Paula D. Haveron highlight a long and distinguished career in the service of the Federal Government, and reflect great credit upon herself and the Department of the Air Force.

IN HONOR OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON ETHIOPIAN JEWRY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry on the occasion of the first annual Adopt-A-Student reunion in Israel. On October 13th there will be a first-time reunion of Ethiopian Israeli graduates that were able to obtain education because of NACOEJ. Hundreds of American sponsors who provide support, correspondence and financial assistance have arranged to travel to Israel to take part in the celebration.

NACOEJ was founded in 1982 to help Jews cope with living conditions in Ethiopia; provide educational opportunities; aid with their emigration to Israel; and help aid the absorption of the émigrés into Israel's society while preserving their unique and ancient culture. In Ethiopia, NACOEJ is the sole supporter of compounds in Addis Ababa and Gondar Province providing 10,000 meals to babies, children, and pregnant or nursing women daily. In addition, it supports Jewish Day Schools for 3,500 students, as well as adult education, employment training, family food distributions and religious facilities.

In Ethiopia generations of Jews were always among the poorest inhabitants. Families faced poverty, famines and malaria epidemics while malnutrition, disease and civil war were a part of daily life. Yet since 1984, 2,200 Ethiopian Israeli university students have received NACOEJ living stipends that many times can mean the difference between dropping out and graduating. Many people that relocated to Israel are now leading free, fulfilling and fruitful lives because of the work this group does.

For their generosity, for their commitment to freedom and democracy in Ethiopia and Israel, and for their unyielding commitment to improving the lives of people in the worst of conditions, it is my privilege to honor the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House late in the afternoon on Thursday, September 30th, due to an unavoidable commitment, and, for the first two votes on Monday, October 4th, due to mechanical problems on the plane from Newark International Airport. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

On rollcall Vote No. 484, H.J. Res. 106, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage, "no";

On rollcall Vote No. 485, H. Con. Res. 501, honoring the life and work of Duke Ellington, "aye";

On rollcall Vote No. 486, H. Res. 792, honoring the United Negro College Fund on the occasion of the Funds 60th anniversary, "aye";

On rollcall Vote No. 487, S. Con. Res. 76, recognizing that November 2, 2003, shall be dedicated to "A Tribute to Survivors" at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "aye"; and

On rollcall Vote No. 488, S. 1814, the Mingo Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center legislation, "aye".

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, during the debate last week on the amendment that would overturn Massachusetts' decision to allow same-sex marriage, I received permission to put into the RECORD an excellent article by M.V. Lee Badgett, refuting the shoddy scholarship of Stanley Kurtz, who has alleged with no logical basis that same-sex marriages have somehow caused a decline in heterosexual marriages in some European countries. I should note that Mr. Kurtz completely ignores, in his research, the most relevant example for us—civil unions in Vermont. But even with regard to the handful of European countries he analyzes, his work does not support the conclusion he is so desperate to sustain.

M.V. Lee Badgett has done a very good job of refuting Mr. Kurtz, and I was glad to have a chance to insert her analysis in the record of the debate from last Thursday. Unfortunately, her name was omitted. I recommend, Mr. Speaker, that those reading this insertion who are interested in the subject go to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for September 30, at page H7914, to read the article entitled "Will Providing Marriage Rights To Same-Sex Couples Undermine Heterosexual Marriage?" in which Ms. Badgett demolishes Mr. Kurtz.

A TRIBUTE TO SONNY HALL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sonny Hall, the President of Transport Workers Union of America International, in commemoration of his 50 years of dedicated service to the union.

As the International President of TWU, Sonny Hall represents more than 110,000 men and women employed in the nation's transportation and allied industries. Hall was elected to this post at the Unions 19th Constitutional Convention in October 1993. Previously Sonny had served as President of TWU Local 100, the largest local union of TWU, representing nearly 38,000 members who operate the New York City subway system and both public and private bus lines.

Sonny, served in virtually every union position from Shop Steward on up. He was named President of Local 100 in May, 1985 and subsequently elected to full three-year terms in December 1985, 1988 and 1991. He joined TWU in 1950 as a Bus Cleaner for the old Omnibus Corp. and became a Bus Operator in 1957. In between, he served tours of duty in both the Marines and the Army.

Mr. Hall was elected an International Vice President at TWUs 17th Constitutional Convention in September 1985. He was appointed Executive Vice President by the International Executive Council on January 9, 1989, and was elected to that post for a four-year term at the Unions 18th Constitutional Convention in October, 1989.

Sonny was elected Secretary-Treasurer to the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department in 1995 and President of that organization in 1998. He was elected to the AFL-CIO's Executive Council at the Federation's Convention in October 1995. In addition to the aforementioned duties, Sonny is also a Board Member of the Mount Sinai Hospital Health and Safety Department; on the Board of Governors of the New York Chapter Arthritis Foundation, and the President's Advisory Council of the Deborah Heart and Lung Center of the Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation. He also serves as President of START (Safe Transit And Rail Transportation).

Sonny holds a B.A. from the Cornell Labor College and studied military and criminal law at the University of New Mexico. He is the son of a retired New York City Bus Operator, now deceased, who served the riding public for 30 years and was an early member of Local 100.

Mr. Speaker, after 50 years of dedicated service to the TWU, Sonny Hall is stepping down as International President of TWU. During this time, he has worked hard to improve the lives of TWU members, their members and all of organized labor. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

COMMENDING Rx NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend six months of operation of Rx New Hampshire, a website and program designed to bring affordable prescription drug costs to New Hampshire residents. Launched on April 5, 2004, it has already hosted more than 14,000 visits and is responsible for hundreds of anecdotal cases of Granite Staters using the information to save on their needed medications.

New Hampshire Governor Craig Benson is a leader on this issue and has demonstrated that affordable prescription drugs and safety are not mutually exclusive goals. In order to provide citizens with the confidence to use any of the screened pharmacies located in Canada listed on the State website at <http://www.state.nh.us/governor/prescription/prescription.html>, Governor Benson directed the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services to identify only those Canadian pharmacies that meet strict domestic and international accreditation standards. Onsite inspections of facilities in Canada have also been performed by independent New Hampshire pharmacists for each listed provider. Samples have been bought and shipped through the normal process and were analyzed for active ingredients at the NH State Police Forensic Laboratory and examined by the NH Board of Pharmacy. No significant difference between these drugs and a duplicate prescription list that was filled from local U.S. chain pharmacies was found.

For more information, I have linked the prescription drug section of my Congressional Web site at www.house.gov/bass to the Rx New Hampshire page and urge my House colleagues and all Americans to visit and examine the good work and solutions offered in the Granite State.

I again call on Congress and the Federal Drug Administration to adopt importation policies that do not stand in the way of such innovative and proven solutions to these growing costs. I am certain that Governor Benson and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services would be willing to lend their expertise to any other State or Federal agency wise enough to follow their lead.

HONORING MRS. GRECIA GRECIA ALAJAR

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Grecia Grecia Alajar, a retired teacher and Nevada's recipient of the Outstanding Older Worker Award. The work for and dedication to the community of retired individuals, like Mrs. Alajar, are inspiring to all of us as we seek to improve our districts and our States.

Mrs. Alajar, after a lifetime of teaching in the Philippines, Los Angeles, California, and Las Vegas, Nevada, returned to the workforce, this time as a member of health care delivery sys-

tem. She is an integral part of the operations of the First Choice Home Health Care Agency.

Mrs. Alajar was born and raised in the Philippines, where she taught high school before moving to the United States in 1970. After overcoming the language barrier, she began teaching mentally challenged children. Her good works continued as she impacted the lives of many children facing challenges. I applaud Mrs. Alajar and her dedication to our community as an excellent role model for us all.

HONORING THE FORMER FIRST LADY OF NORTH SAINT PAUL, DOLORES SANDBERG

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend of mine, the former First Lady of North Saint Paul, Dolores Sandberg.

Dolores Sandberg passed away last month, surrounded by her family including her loving husband William, her daughter Karen and two grandchildren, Caroline and William.

Dolores was a woman of great character and strength. She always had a tremendous sense of humor and wit and was always positive even as she dealt with her illness.

She was also a woman who supported and loved North St. Paul and its people along with her husband Mayor Sandberg, our beloved mayor. I know that I am not the only one who will miss her kind words, warm smile and soft voice.

We will miss Dolores dearly. She led a life of dignity and warmth, and will be remembered fondly in the hearts of many.

HONORING THE ANI DANCE ENSEMBLE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, Mr. WAXMAN and I rise today to honor "the Ani Dance Ensemble," part of the Armenian Educational and Cultural Society, Hamazkayin, as it celebrates its 30th anniversary. Hamazkayin was founded by a group of community leaders on May 28, 1928, in Cairo, Egypt with the objective of providing a sound education to the new generation and preserving the ethnic identity and cultural heritage of the Armenian people forced to live outside their homeland after the 1915 Armenian genocide.

Subsequently, Hamazkayin chapters sprouted throughout the Middle East, Europe, the United States, Canada, South America and Armenia to instill, perpetuate and preserve the centuries of Armenian culture. Hamazkayin has been successful in establishing secondary and higher educational institutions which have prepared scholars, literary figures, and community leaders throughout Armenia and the Diaspora. The establishment of "the Ani Dance Ensemble" achieves the objectives of Hamazkayin through their unique performances of traditional Armenian folk dances.

"The Ani Dance Ensemble" was established in 1974 in Los Angeles, California under the leadership of artistic directors/choreographers Ms. Suzy Barseghian-Tarpinian and Mr. Yeghia Hasholian. The ensemble has had more than 80 dances in its repertoire, and presently consists of 40 dancers. Since its inception it has performed and captivated audiences throughout California as well as cities across the nation including Washington DC, Chicago, Illinois; Falls Church, Virginia; and Las Vegas, Nevada. In addition, the group has performed in Armenia and Karabagh in 1999, 2001, and 2004. The ensemble has also represented Armenian Culture through Armenian folk dances at the American Ethnic Day in Washington, DC in 1987. They are frequently invited by American, ethnic and Armenian organizations to perform at functions. As one of the oldest and most accomplished Armenian Dance Ensembles in the United States, it is recognized as one of the best ethnic dance groups in America.

It is our distinct honor to recognize the cultural contributions of "the Ani Dance Ensemble." I ask all members to join me in congratulating the "the Ani Dance Ensemble's" 30 years of performing traditional Armenian folk dances.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES OF CARIBBEAN DEVASTATED BY HURRICANES CHARLEY, FRANCES, IVAN, AND JEANNE

SPEECH OF

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 496, a bill I cosponsored, which expresses the sense of Congress on the need for humanitarian assistance to hurricane-ravaged Caribbean countries. As you know, Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne struck the Caribbean, leading to widespread destruction and devastation.

This is a matter of great concern to me because many of my constituents in Dade and Broward Counties are from, have ancestors from, or have relatives presently living on the islands of the Caribbean. I also represent the largest Haitian constituency in the country. Of all the islands in the Caribbean, Haiti was particularly hard hit. As of today, the toll was more than 2,900 dead or missing and presumed dead. An estimated 300,000 Haitians are left homeless. The extent of this destruction has severely strained the already meager resources of the government, law enforcement authorities, and the United Nations forces in Haiti.

Haiti especially has suffered. Just yesterday, the Washington Post reported the heartwrenching story of Monise Alsenor, a Haitian mother, two of whose children are missing after water tore through her house and swept her family away. She could not reach her children as they yelled "save me!" in Creole. She and her husband spent the night holding onto a tree while the water tugged at them and the tree thorns ripped off

their clothes. There are still reports of people living on roofs and of food and water shortages. The New York Times reported that two men were found lying in a semi-conscious state on the ground near an Argentine-run clinic. Doctors said that the two men appeared to have not eaten in several days and demonstrated signs of psychological trauma. I cite these accounts as examples of the terrible circumstances under which Haitians have suffered. Similar stories could sadly, easily be found thousands of times over throughout this poorest of nations and other countries in the Caribbean.

After Hurricane Jeanne ravaged the city of Gonaives, the international community's response was impressive. Trinidad-Tobago pledged \$5 million in aid. Venezuela pledged \$1 million and sent food, water, and medicine. Argentina dispatched rescue workers and supplies. Brazilians sent medical supplies. Chile also sent emergency aid, as did the Spanish, and the French.

Incredibly, the Bush Administration has been slow to respond to this tragedy. In the first several days after the disaster, as news reports out of Haiti detailed the widespread death, destruction and suffering, the United States was virtually silent while other nations, including European Union countries and Venezuela, immediately stepped in to help. For this reason, I wrote to President Bush to ask for substantial and immediate aid to help the flood victims. A copy of my letter follows this statement.

President Bush has proposed \$12.2 billion for hurricane relief and recovery in Florida and the Southern states. \$50 million of these funds are set aside for the Caribbean nations, and almost half is intended for Haiti. However, in the words of the Washington Post: "The amount set aside for the Caribbean nations is a pittance—not to mention a fraction of what was spent on U.S. military interventions in Haiti and Grenada." Millions more will be needed to help Haiti alone recover from Hurricane Jeanne's aftermath. The Bush administration should be supportive in a more substantial way.

It is because of these horrendous conditions that I support Congresswoman LEE's resolution. I call on this administration to provide greater humanitarian and emergency assistance to Haiti and other Caribbean nations.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2004.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: I write to bring to your personal attention a humanitarian crisis of the highest magnitude in Haiti and to ask that your Administration follow the lead of other nations and provide substantial and immediate assistance to help ease the desperate suffering of the people of Haiti.

Tropical Storm Jeanne caused devastating floods that ravaged this impoverished country this past weekend. As of this morning, the death toll in Haiti exceeded 800, with 1,000 missing. The death toll increases steadily as the water recedes.

Haiti is already the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, and this latest crisis has made conditions there even worse. This crisis also comes on the heels of ruinous floods four months ago when over 3,000 Haitians were killed, missing, or presumed dead. According to eyewitness accounts, there are bodies scattered in the streets. Some are forced to camp on the roofs of mud-filled homes. Unimaginably, families were sleeping in trees because of the destruction.

Numerous news reports document a desperate need for food, water, medicine, shelter and clothing. The Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Gonaives said that the possibility exists that several thousand Haitians may die of starvation. "We have nothing," he is quoted by the Associated Press as saying. "About 80 to 90 percent of the houses are under water."

The present interim government of Haiti is totally unequipped and unable to deal with this massive crisis. It has neither the necessary resources nor the organization. Private voluntary groups are also reportedly overwhelmed by the enormity of this crisis, and there are numerous reports of mobs seizing aid vehicles. Transportation in Haiti, extremely difficult even in the best of times, is particularly crippled now.

However, despite the fact that this crisis struck Haiti over four days ago, the Administration reportedly has released only \$60,000 in relief assistance to CARE. This is wholly inadequate to properly respond to this disaster. It pales compared to the \$1.8 million provided by the European Union and \$1 million and rescue supplies from Venezuela. Other nations are already acting. It is a national embarrassment that the United States of America should respond so slowly and inadequately to so great a crisis in a country so close to our shores. While your Administration assesses, monitors and watches, the suffering in Haiti gets worse.

Haiti does not need expressions of sympathy; it does not need promises. Haiti needs concrete help, and it needs it right now. Your Administration has a responsibility to immediately send significant U.S. emergency assistance to Haiti in the form of food, medicine, fresh water, clothing and emergency shelter and to immediately coordinate, with the international community, the manpower, transportation and distribution of these needed commodities to provide immediate relief to the people of Gonaives and the surrounding countryside.

The time frame for this aid should be hours, not weeks or months. Thank you for your attention and I look forward to your prompt reply to this urgent matter.

Sincerely yours,

KENDRICK B. MEEK,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, because of an emergency in my district, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 487, 488 and 489. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 487, 488 and 489.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE RAILROAD SECURITY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ACT OF 2004

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, not enough is being invested in improving rail and transit security. We have seen massive efforts to shore up security in our skies and even on our roads, but efforts to boost rail security have not received the same federal commitment.

At present, rail and transit systems move 14 million passengers a day—almost eight times as many passengers as the U.S. aviation system, which carries 1.8 million air travelers daily. The federal government spends \$9.16 per aviation passenger for aviation security yet only \$115 million has been appropriated for transit security over the last 2 years, or six-tenths of a penny per passenger. Our national homeland security strategy is only as strong as our weakest link. This funding balance needs to be addressed in any comprehensive legislation implementing the 9/11 Commission's recommendations.

For these reasons, today Representative KIRK and I are introducing the Railroad Security and Public Awareness Act of 2004, which would enhance rail worker security training; fund station, train and infrastructure security projects; and increase passenger awareness of railroad security. Rail security is a priority for many Americans, who depend on rail for both inter-city travel and commuter service. I know that many states, including my own state of Delaware, rely on rail—for commuters, personal transportation, economic necessity, or a combination of services.

Few of us doubt that there is a real threat to our transportation systems, including the U.S. rail system. On April 2, the FBI and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) sent out an uncorroborated bulletin stating that terrorists could attempt this summer to conceal explosives in luggage and carry-on bags, such as duffel bags and backpacks. The bulletin indicated that such bombs could be made of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and diesel fuel, similar to what was used to blow up the Oklahoma City federal building in 1995.

Awareness among workers and riders must continue, so that Americans are well educated on the threats to our nation's rail systems, and our rail systems are well equipped to respond to an attack. The March attacks on Madrid's commuter rail system clearly shows that al Qaeda is targeting and will strike rail targets throughout the world using simplified methods of delivery.

Areas of vulnerability within our rail systems and the various delivery methods for attacks should be outlined and incorporated into a strong plan for employee training, passenger screening, and incident response. I realize that the answers to rail security are not the same answers to air security. Standard security precautions may not be practical for rail, many of which have the potential to drastically reduce ridership and cargo use.

My legislation would do the following:

(1) Require the Secretary of DHS to develop and issue detailed guidance for a rail worker security-training program to prepare front-line workers for potential threat conditions. Each railroad carrier would develop a rail worker security-training program in accordance with that guidance and submit it to the Secretary for approval. The legislation authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to railroads, hazardous materials shippers, owners of rail cars used in the transportation of hazardous materials, universities, colleges, and research centers, and State and local governments (for railroad facilities and infrastructure) for full or partial reimbursement of costs incurred to implement the program

(2) The Secretary of Homeland Security would develop and implement a national plan for public outreach and awareness. The plan

would be designed to increase awareness of measures that the general public, railroad passengers, and railroad employees can take to increase railroad system security.

(3) The bill authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to railroads (including Amtrak), hazardous materials shippers, owners of rail cars used in the transportation of hazardous materials, universities, colleges, and research centers, and State and local governments (for railroad facilities and infrastructure) for full or partial reimbursement of costs incurred to prevent or respond to acts of terrorism, sabotage, or other railroad security threats. As examples, these areas can include such steps as securing critical communications, electric power (including traction power), computer, and train control systems essential for secure railroad operations or to continue railroad operations after an attack impacting railroad operations; secure passenger railroad stations, trains, and infrastructure; and all provisions included in the Railroad Transportation Security Directive established by the Transportation Security Administration on May 20, 2004.

The convenience of rail could easily be jeopardized if our security and response solutions are not well planned. We must ensure that attacks like those committed in Madrid in March are prevented but also that proper response training is undertaken to prepare for such an incident.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, September 23, 2004, the House had rollcall Votes Nos. 469, 470, 471, and 472. Unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all four rollcall votes.

Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, October 4, 2004, the House had rollcall Votes Nos. 487, 488, and 489. Unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three rollcall votes.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents I want to take this opportunity to extend to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian, and the good people of Taiwan, our congratulations on their National Day.

President Chen is to be commended for his capable and skilled leadership, which is reflected by Taiwan's high standards of living and political reforms.

President Chen is to be further commended for his efforts seeking greater international understanding and harmony in the region. Taiwan and the United States share a long lasting friendship that has extended for over five decades.

Mr. Speaker, on Taiwan's National Day, I join my colleagues in the United States Congress to salute and honor the 23 million citizens of Taiwan. I join with all Americans who take pride in the many accomplishments of the Taiwanese people.

IN MEMORY OF IGNACIO GARCIA OF HOUSTON

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the following obituary was printed in the Houston Chronicle, Thursday September 30, 2004, after the death of a good friend and great Houstonian, Ignacio Garcia.

"Ignacio Garcia was born September 3, 1917, died September 28, 2004. Ignacio immigrated to the United States under the Bracero program and settled in Houston, August of 1959. He worked as an auto mechanic in the near north side of Houston and owned and operated an "Enco" gasoline station at North Main and Pinckney for over fifteen years. He then opened a garage with his son Victor and they worked together until his retirement in the early 1980's. Although officially retired, he was a constant help and source of inspiration and wisdom to his children, grandchildren, and anyone who met him. Ignacio Garcia was a 32-degree Mason and Past Worshipful Master of the Lorenzo De Zavala Masonic Lodge #1397 A.F. & A.M. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Mary Garcia and his Children and Grandchildren: Victor Garcia and his wife Elsa and Children, Victor Jr., Krista and Sara; Bernardo Garcia and his wife Gloria and children, Bernardo Jr., Adriana and Leia; Ignacio Garcia Jr. and his wife Elena; Rosa Gonzalez and her husband Juan and children Rosalinda, Raquel and Elisa; Adrian Garcia and his wife Monica and daughter, Nina. Mr. Garcia was preceded in death by his son Gilbert Garcia in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I have personally known Mr. Garcia for many years and our community and his family will miss him.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the people of the Republic of China in celebrating their forthcoming National Day on October 10th. I believe it is appropriate to recognize the substantial political and economic achievements of the Taiwanese people during the last few decades and to highlight the strong and important relationship that continues to grow between the people of Taiwan and the people of the United States.

Taiwan has established itself as a stable and successful Asian democracy in recent decades. The elected representatives at every level of Taiwan's government have successfully confronted the most significant challenge that faces an emerging democracy—the peaceful transition of power from an incumbent leader to a newly elected leader in ac-

cordance with the results of a free, fair, and legitimate election. Additionally, Taiwan boasts a thriving, multi-party democracy in which citizens and elected representatives alike freely debate and discuss the full range of issues that face Taiwan.

Just as the state of democracy in Taiwan has continued to strengthen, so too has the relationship between Taiwan and the United States. The relationship between the United States and Taiwan has grown stronger each year since the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act in 1979. Both nations have an unwavering commitment to democracy and a firm belief in the protection of fundamental human rights. Furthermore, Taiwan and the United States share important economic interests as well. Bilateral trade between Taiwan and the United States exceeded \$65 billion last year, making Taiwan America's eighth largest trading partner. Additionally, last year nearly 30,000 Taiwanese students studied in colleges and universities in the United States; and aside from Asia, the people of Taiwan visit the United States more than any other country—even more evidence of the increasing interconnectivity between the peoples of Taiwan and the United States.

Unfortunately, at a time when Taiwan's political and economic example could most benefit the world community of nations, some countries continue to insist on Taiwan's isolation from that community. Restoration of Taiwan's membership to the United Nations and the World Health Organization would serve as beginning steps toward ending that isolation. As other new democracies emerge, I am convinced that the world could greatly benefit from the counsel of a nation that has recently transformed itself into a democracy as effectively and successfully as Taiwan. As an ally and friend to the United States, Taiwan is a nation of great importance, deserving not only of our recognition but also of our support.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, on Taiwan's National Day, I would like to salute Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian and the 23 million people of Taiwan for their many and varied accomplishments, and acknowledge the ever-growing bond that exists between Taiwan and the United States.

RONALD REAGAN'S VOICE OF FREEDOM PARK

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my neighbors in Butler County, Ohio for renaming a park at the former site of the Voice of America's Bethany station "Ronald Reagan's Voice of Freedom Park." This park is enjoyed by Butler County families each and every day, and it has been made all the more special by the fact that it is located on the same spot from where Voice of America broadcasts originated from 1944 to 1994.

In many ways, this "name change" isn't much of a "name change" at all. Ronald Reagan was and in many ways still is the Voice of America.

It's that voice which brought us back from the Vietnam era and the malaise of the 1970s. It's that voice that urged Mr. Gorbachev to

"tear down this wall." And it's that voice that ended the Cold War through his policy of "peace through strength."

So, we're not marking the end of one name for this park and beginning of a new one. Instead, we're celebrating the passage of title from one Cold War messenger of freedom to another. Ronald Reagan recognized what an effective and influential tool the Voice of America was in our battle to end the Cold War. In fact, in 1983 he delivered an address via Voice of America, in which he outlined his vision for long-term negotiations with the Soviet Union. He recognized the vital role Voice of America played in our struggle against the Soviets, and he used it to the advantage of our nation and our fight for freedom.

Last week, another American President—George W. Bush—spoke in that park. He spoke of a different battle—this time against the evils of terrorism—in which we are currently engaged. Just like the Cold War, it will be a long struggle—but one which we know we will win. Why? Because we have the same message of freedom on our side that we did when Reagan and the Voice of America led us to victory against communism. And so that message of freedom and the Voice of America continues, in that park and across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends back home in Butler County who were involved in the effort to place President Reagan's name on the park. In this year of tributes to a man I know as a hero, I can think of very few higher than this one.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED
CHURCH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the 120th anniversary of the United Church in Walsenburg, Colorado. Through good times and bad the church has stood the test of time, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing the Church and its long tenure of service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

The United Church, a Methodist congregation, was founded in 1884 by miners in Walsenburg. On a plot of land sold to them by the town's namesake for one dollar, the church built its first building. In 1929, the United Church built its current building with funds from its membership, a local bank, and the Methodists' Board of Church Extension. Although the Church struggled to survive during the depression and poor economic times, they were able to pay off all debts by 1944. In 1961, the United Church merged with the Community Congregational Church, and today has a membership of about 80 people.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the United Church in the year of its 120th anniversary. For over a century it has provided compassion and spiritual guidance to the community, and I am honored to congratulate them on their anniversary before this body of Congress and this nation.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICES CORPS OF LOWER MERION AND NARBERTH, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Volunteer Medical Services Corps, VMSC, of Lower Merion and Narberth, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating 60 years of service to their community.

In 1944, during the height of World War II, the residents of Narberth Borough felt it was their duty to provide routine transportation for those involved in the war to and from the ports of Philadelphia. The group quickly became incorporated as the Volunteer Medical Corps of Narberth with the main goal was to provide first aid care to those in need and to facilitate non-emergency transports.

In 1951, the corps leased property from the Borough of Narberth and built a new building that could accommodate their needs and growing business. Since 1951, times have changed and medical services have continued to grow in size and scope, and VMSC of Lower Merion and Narberth has proven itself versatile as it has grown with the times. In the 1960's and 1970's when EMS became a specialty, the State health department and the Lower Merion Police Department recommended that VMSC expand its role and provide all emergency care for Lower Merion Township. VMSC quickly became the provider of emergency medical services not only to Lower Merion Township, but Narberth Borough as well.

In the 1990's, the VMSC again grew considerably thanks to its paid staff and volunteers. The company moved to a new headquarters in Ardmore, Pennsylvania and, during that time, it integrated another ambulance company into its own. In 1999, Pleasant Valley Ambulance was integrated in to VMSC, providing ALS services to the Conshohocken Area. This move also helped to reduce response time and the volunteers were able to provide a more timely service. The integration of Pleasant Valley Ambulance also gave VMSC the ability to bring advanced life-support units to those in need.

In 2002, VMSC founded a bike patrol unit. The bike patrol teams consist of two EMTs or medics who can help reduce responder time in large or crowded medical emergencies. The state-of-the-art equipment includes a full range of cardiac medicine, bandaging and splinting supplies, oxygen, and a defibrillator. The bike patrol is extremely important because the EMTs on bikes have the capability of arriving at the scene of an accident well before an ambulance and they can provide life saving care.

Today, VMSC prides itself on providing high-quality, cost-effective emergency and non-emergency medical transportation services to the ill and injured citizens of Lower Merion and Narberth, Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Volunteer Medical Services Corps of Lower Merion and Narberth for their commitment to providing quality care, mutual respect, and open communication with their community. It is an honor to recognize an organization that selflessly provides for its

community each day and in turn creates a better quality of life for the citizens of Narberth and Lower Merion Township.

TAIWAN AND THE UNITED
NATIONS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has been excluded from the United Nations since 1971 and since then, Taiwan's 23 million people have had no representation in the United Nations. Exclusion of Taiwan is a violation of the United Nations principle of universality.

I, therefore urge my colleagues and friends of Taiwan to support Taiwan's return to the United Nations because Taiwan's political reforms should be recognized by the international community. Taiwan's return to the United Nations will not hinder the eventual reunification of Taiwan with the Chinese mainland as long as such reunification has the approval of the 23 million people of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Taiwan's ambassador, Dr. David Lee, to Washington. Prior to his Washington assignment, he was Taiwan's premier diplomat in Europe and Taiwan's Political Vice Foreign Minister. I had the pleasure of having Ambassador Lee and his wife at my table during the Congressional Black Caucus' dinner during the Annual Legislative Conference. Ambassador Lee struck me as highly intelligent, poised and well-mannered. My colleagues and I look forward to working with him and his deputies.

Finally Mr. Speaker, my best wishes to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian for his well-received Inaugural speech on May 20. His conciliatory attitude toward mainland China is most laudatory. President Chen should be recognized for his work towards permanent peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PEGGY LUE
REECE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Peggy Lue Reece, a truly amazing woman from Gunnison, Colorado. Peggy Lue spent nearly half a century working to better the Stockgrowers industry. She amassed an impressive record of accomplishments during her tenure, and I am honored to recognize her service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Peggy Lou Reece began her service in the agriculture industry as Secretary for the Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association in 1963. For the last 41 years, she has held the post under the leadership of 21 presidents. In addition to secretarial duties, Peggy Lue also served as the organization's treasurer. She came from an agricultural family, and brought with her a great passion for the industry. Even in her retirement, Peggy Lue plans to help whenever she is needed.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Peggy Lue for her dedication to the Stockgrowers of Gunnison County and Colorado's Agriculture industry. She has served her community and state well for over 40 years and deserves our gratitude. It is with great pleasure that I recognize her today before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thanks Peggy Lue, and I wish you well with all of your future endeavors.

HONORING THE GREEN VALLEYS
ASSOCIATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Green Valleys Association on the occasion of their 40th Anniversary. For forty years, the Green Valleys Association has been working diligently to protect the watersheds and ecosystems in northern Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The Green Valleys Association was founded in 1964 by landowners who were threatened by the proposed damming of the French Creek in Chester County. The proposed damming would have transformed the area into a reservoir, so the landowners took a stand and created a formidable defense against the dam—a group called the French Creek Watershed Association. This spirit and drive has been, and still is, a part of all who work within the Association, now known as Green Valleys Association. Six years later, in 1972, the Association expanded to oversee all five of the northern and eastern Chester County's Schuylkill River watersheds. This area includes Pigeon Creek, Stony Run, Pickering Creek, French Creek, and Valley Creek. The region covered by the Association is largely rural and more than 70 percent of the population who live there depend on the activism of the Green Valleys Association to help protect their water resources. Today, the Association's activity spreads throughout 21 municipalities and over 155 square miles. The Green Valleys Association is unique in its work and purpose as it is the only watershed association in northern Chester County.

Throughout the past forty years, the Association has worked to protect the natural resources in northern Chester County by helping to limit the Warner Quarry expansion, protecting Valley Creek and by achieving "Exceptional Value" status for the upper French Creek. In fact, all of the watersheds under Green Valleys Association's oversight have been designated either "High Quality" or "Exceptional Value." Exceptional Value is the highest protective designation offered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Green Valleys Association has also taken on the task of educating the public on resources and the environment. They provide the community with information on environmental laws; organize meetings on water resources, effective land-use planning and wildlife resources; and bring the community together for local participation in stream watches. They also provide summer camps and school programs for students introducing them to important environmental concerns. The Green Valleys Association has also developed

the Sustainable Watershed Management program to be utilized as a tool for local municipalities to incorporate in regulations of water use.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Green Valleys Association's role as an educator and a protector of the watersheds of northern Chester County, Pennsylvania. They have done tremendous work, and for that, they should be commended.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL DAY—OCTOBER 10

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as the Republic of China (Taiwan) gets ready to celebrate its National Day this October 10, I join my colleagues in sending my best wishes and congratulations to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian and the Taiwanese people on this happy occasion.

In recent years Taiwan has continued to press forward with democratic reforms and economic development. We wish Taiwan continued success as a democracy and economic power and an early return to the World Health Organization.

The United States maintains a strong relationship with Taiwan. We appreciate Taiwan's continuing commitment to combating global terrorism and we are committed to help Taiwan find peaceful solutions to any and all external challenges it may face. I am sure that this strong relationship with Taiwan will grow and flourish in the years to come.

I commend President Chen Shui-bian for his commitment to a policy of mutual respect and dialog with China. I share his view that such a stance is the only reliable foundation for long-term peace and stability for the people and later generations on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. We all hope that peace and stability will forever prevail in the Taiwan Strait.

Greetings and congratulations, President Chen, to the people of Taiwan on your National Day.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES
CALVIN MOORE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to recognize the passing of Charles Calvin Moore, a great man from Silverton, Colorado. Charles was a community leader, public servant, and a great friend to many. He made a tremendous impact on Silverton, and I am honored today to bring his contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

Charles Moore arrived in Silverton in 1969 with his wife Penny with the intention of only staying two years. Thirty-four years later, he had made a profound impact on the city's institutions and its people. Charles began his life in Silverton as a science teacher, a position

he held for eleven years. He also served his community as a leader in both the police department, and as the San Juan county Under Sheriff from 1987 to 2003. Charles also contributed as a member of the San Juan Regional Planning Commission, the Silverton Board of Trustees, the Silverton Ambulance Association, and the Treasurer of the Silverton Congregational Church.

Mr. Speaker, Charles Calvin Moore was a dedicated man that selflessly served his community and country, and I am honored to pay tribute to him before this body today. His lifetime of service is an incredible model for all Americans. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends during this time of bereavement.

HONORING STANLEY BALZEKAS
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable gentleman, and friend, Mr. Stanley Balzekas in the celebration of his 80th birthday on October 8, 1924. It is with great honor that I recognize the contributions of a man who continues to serve the community of the Third Congressional District of Illinois.

The Balzekas family's years of service have been an invaluable contribution to the City of Chicago and beyond, as the Balzekas family members have been prominent leaders in the business and cultural life of our community. Stanley Balzekas's personal sacrifices of time and energy to family, friends and country stand as a testament of a truly fine individual. For his service to our Nation in the United States Army during World War II, we owe Mr. Balzekas a debt of gratitude.

Mr. Balzekas's interest and dedication to Chicago's great Lithuanian population has made him one of the foremost leaders amongst Chicago's diverse, ethnic communities; his great desire to bring peace to all people for the betterment of mankind is just one of his many noble qualities. He has worked with leading institutions, such as the Library of Congress, the National Endowment of the Arts and Humanities, Baltic freedom organizations, and the Chicago Public Library to enhance the world's understanding of Lithuania's deep history.

Mr. Balzekas has enriched the diverse fabric of our entire Chicago community by founding the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, one of the largest ethnic museums and libraries in the United States. Through such measures, Mr. Balzekas has been a dedicated guardian of the heritage, history and culture of this nation's Lithuanian ancestry.

Currently, Mr. Balzekas proudly serves as the Honorary Consul General of the Consulate for the Republic of Lithuania in Palm Beach, Florida. He also presides over the Ethnic Cultural Preservation Council, Chicago Sister Cities International Committee, the Baltic Foundation, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art and as vice-chairman for the Lithuanian-American Council.

Mr. Balzekas has been blessed with a wonderful family of three children and four grandchildren, all of which will be celebrating his birthday this week.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Stanley Balzekas on reaching the milestone year of 80, and I wish him many future years of happiness and enjoyment in his personal and professional endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY ROTH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside County has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to making their communities a better place to live and work. Cindy Roth is one of these individuals.

Cindy currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce. In this key position, Cindy has been instrumental in the development of Riverside's business community. She became the first woman to hold this post, and her leadership is a testament to her diligence and understanding of business management in Riverside.

Additionally, Cindy serves as the President of the Southern California Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives and is a past board member of the Western Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

Cindy's dedication is not only to local business, but also to the wider community. She serves as part of numerous organizations, including the Monday Morning Group of Western Riverside County, the Science and Technology Education Partnership, the Raincross Exchange Club, the Foundation Board of Trustees for La Sierra University, and the Honorary Commanders of March Field. She has received the 1996 Community Service Award from the Rotary Club of Arlington, the 2000 Athena of the Inland Valleys Award, and has been honored as the 2003 Woman of the Year by Assemblyman John Benoit.

It is no surprise that she is now honored as the 2004 Distinguished Citizen of the Inland Empire by the California Inland Empire Council, Boy Scouts of America. Cindy's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside. She has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many in our community are grateful for her service and salute her as she receives this award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRYAN HESS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bryan Hess, a dedicated man-

ager of Emergency Medical Services at the Gunnison Valley Hospital in Colorado. Bryan was recently awarded the Rural Healthcare Excellence Award by the Colorado Rural Health Center for his tireless efforts in the Gunnison community. It is my privilege to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation today to recognize Bryan receiving this well-deserved award.

Bryan began his medical career at the young age of sixteen as an Emergency Medical Technician in rural Pennsylvania. He currently serves as the manager of Emergency Medical Services at Gunnison Valley Hospital, as well as the Director and Coordinator of the local EMS training center. Through his leadership, several new technological innovations have been implemented for the services the organizations provide. These include the Life Pack 12 monitors that give an electrical representation of a patient's heart, and automated external defibrillators which aide first responders in procedures at the scene of an accident. One of the most important changes implemented by Bryan is a rigorous training program for the Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department and local search and rescue teams. The hard work and dedication of Bryan and his crew has paid off in providing excellent personal patient care in very stressful situations.

Mr. Speaker, Bryan Hess is a strong, dedicated individual who devotes his time to helping those in need. His work as a paramedic and director of Emergency Medical Services has taken him away from friends and family, often putting him in harm's way. It is my honor to stand here before this body and recognize the efforts of such a selfless and benevolent man. Congratulations on your award Bryan, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE FARMWORKER HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roberto Franco, who is stepping down as director of the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, FHDC, after years of effective service to Oregon's farmworker community.

FHDC is a non-profit community-based organization that was founded in 1990 to help serve farm workers in Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley by developing affordable housing for workers and their families. Despite many hurdles, under Mr. Franco's leadership at FHDC has been very successful in achieving its mission and now provides housing for over 100 families. The group's major complex, Nuevo Amenercer or "New Dawn," gives 93 families who otherwise might not have acceptable living quarters an opportunity to live in clean, decent, and dignified housing.

But FHDC has done more than put a roof over the head of those it serves. Mr. Franco led a head of those to create the Cipriano Ferrel Education Center, a multipurpose community facility that serves the needs of Nuevo Amenercer residents and others in the community. With the opening of the center last year,

FHDC has begun offering opportunities for self-enhancement to those who wish to get ahead. Earlier this year I visited Cipriano Ferrel to address a group working to improve financial literacy and homeownership opportunities for Oregon's Latino community.

Cipriano Ferrel includes a Head Start program, child care, and a computer lab that provides opportunities for both young and old alike to learn technology skills that will help them get ahead. In addition, Cipriano Ferrel provides adult educational programs, including literacy and language classes, homeownership education, preparation for becoming a U.S. citizen, and a microenterprise program that helps people start their own businesses. A recently announced grant by Microsoft to upgrade the computer lab will provide software and help fund an instructor, thus offering even more opportunities for Nuevo Amenercer residents and members of the community.

I want to thank Roberto Franco and the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation for their work in offering low-income farm workers additional opportunities. Thanks to you, hundreds of families truly have experienced a New Dawn.

CRIME PREVENTION FOUNDATION OF BROWN COUNTY

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the Crime Prevention Foundation of Brown County is the first of its kind in the United States. Its sole purpose is to provide financial support for crime prevention programs in Brown County, Wisconsin, and is managed by the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation. It will support programs like DARE, Crimestoppers, School Liaison Officers and Teen Court—programs that keep our children safe.

This program is completely privately funded, and will provide a stable, long-term funding source for these programs that face elimination because of state and local budget cuts. The Crime Prevention Foundation of Brown County is governed by a Board of Directors independent of any political body. The mission of the board is simply to support the most effective crime prevention activities in Brown County, Wisconsin.

This program is an innovative way to help continue effective programs that help keep our communities and kids out of harms way. I am proud to recognize the innovative efforts of the Crime Prevention Foundation of Brown County, and wish them great success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MOYER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the legacy of William Moyer from Grand Junction, Colorado. William was a leader of the community who left an indelible print on the city of Grand

Junction, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous generosity before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1859, William Moyer traveled the country as a salesman. After a trip to Grand Junction in 1888, he decided to move there permanently in 1890. Four years later, he opened the Fair Store and married a local girl, Ida Shantz. William was an active member of the community and in addition to owning the Fair Store; he also had partial interests in the Grand Valley National Bank and the Valley Building and Loan Company. He used these associations to help students pay for college and to help small businesses survive difficult times with low or no interest loans.

When, in 1921 a young boy died while swimming the Colorado River, William knew something had to be done. He approached the city council and asked to build a swimming pool. William offered more than \$25,000 for construction and made only one stipulation; that children would be able to swim free at the pool at least one day a week. The city council agreed and the pool was opened in 1922. This year a new pool is being opened that will bear the Moyer name. In addition, consistent with his original request, the pool will allow children to swim free every Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor William Moyer for his selfless contributions to the people of Grand Junction. Even today, 61 years after he passed away, he is fondly remembered in the community. Thanks, William, for everything you did. This Congressman and the people of Grand Junction will never forget you.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY STAFF SERGEANT (SSG) DARREN J. CUNNINGHAM

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a fallen hero, Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Darren J. Cunningham of Groton, Massachusetts. SSG Cunningham was deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and died tragically on September 30th when his unit came under mortar attack in Baghdad. He gave his life in service to our country, and we will forever be grateful.

Ever since he was a young boy, SSG Cunningham knew he wanted to pursue a career in the military. His eighth grade teacher recalls Darren talking about wanting to join the armed forces so that he could serve our country with pride. For Darren, the military stood for more than a respectable job: it offered education, discipline, and a chance to travel. The quote on high school yearbook page said it all: "My ambition is to enjoy life to the fullest, see the world."

At the age of eighteen, Darren graduated from high school and immediately enlisted in the Army. He moved up through the ranks of the 545th Military Police Company of the Army's First Cavalry, stationed at Fort Hood in Texas. He served nobly during the Persian Gulf War in 1991 and returned to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom to train Iraqi police

and help rebuild local infrastructure. He planned to retire next year.

SSG Cunningham leaves behind a wife and two children who adored him. His friends and family remember him as spirited, outgoing, fun, and a jokester. A great athlete, one of his proudest moments was being chosen as co-captain of the high school varsity basketball team. Today, SSG Cunningham's relatives, friends, community, and Nation mourn his loss.

SSG Cunningham died fighting for the country he loved, alongside his comrades-in-arms. Our Nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a father, husband and hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2004 RIVER CATS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the 2004 River Cats, the deserving winners of the 2004 Pacific Coast League Championship. The 2004 River Cats successfully recaptured the Pacific Coast League championship for the second consecutive year by sweeping the Iowa Cubs in a hard fought thrilling three-game series. The 2004 Sacramento River Cats displayed their trademark determination and teamwork that continue to make them a great source of civic pride and a prominent local attraction for years to come. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting the triumphant 2004 Sacramento River Cats.

The 2004 Sacramento River Cats are comprised of an outstanding blend of experienced professionals with major league experience and bright young prospects who are destined to become the stars of tomorrow. The 2004 River Cats team is led by the excellent all-around play of 2004 Pacific Coast League Most Valuable Player and Playoff Most Valuable Player Dan Johnson. In addition, the outstanding roster was anchored by the consistent contributions of recently promoted major leaguers: Nick Swisher, Jairo Garcia, Esteban German, Joe Blanton, and Justin Lehr. All the aforementioned River Cats are among the best touted prospects in all of baseball. Whether a seasoned veteran or an up and coming prospect, every member of the 2004 River Cats demonstrated outstanding commitment to team play and hard work as they march toward the 2004 Pacific Coast League Championship.

In addition to a wonderful roster, the 2004 River Cats also benefited greatly from the tutelage of one of the best coaching staffs and the leadership of one of the most accomplished and innovative front offices in all of professional baseball. On the bench, the River Cats were led by the 2003 Sporting News Minor League Manager of the Year Tony DeFrancesco. Mr. DeFrancesco and his able assistants were able to cultivate a spirit of camaraderie and an unyielding commitment to hard work and fair play in the clubhouse. In the front office, the River Cats are led by the extraordinary leadership of President and CEO Art Savage and the astute management of Executive Vice Presidents Warren Smith and

Robert Hemond. Under this leadership team, the River Cats have taken great steps to forge one of the strongest and most unique relationships in all of sports with their team supporters. Given the River Cats front office's commitment to the city of Sacramento, it is no wonder why the River Cats have led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance during each of their five years in Sacramento.

Mr. Speaker, as the Sacramento River Cats conclude its second consecutive championship season and prepare to achieve greater triumphs in the future, I am honored to pay tribute to the many hard working men and women of the River Cats organization who brought so much joy and pride to the people of the Capitol Region and River Cats fans everywhere. Their successes are highly commendable, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to their accomplishments. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the Sacramento River Cats on a wonderful season and wishing them greater success in future seasons.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DICK AND NANCY KNOWLTON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dick and Nancy Knowlton, two generous and loving people whose extraordinary compassion and dedication to each other and the State of Colorado is highly commendable. Dick and Nancy will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary this year, and I am honored today to bring their story and their contributions to their community to the attention of this body of Congress and this Nation.

When Dick was young, his father Lyle suffered a debilitating heart attack at the age of 42 and was laid-off from his job for medical reasons. To make ends meet, the family would buy dilapidated homes and fix them up for profit. As a result, their living conditions were often barely habitable. Dick and his six brothers and sisters were raised by both Lyle and Rose. Rose was a sweet and lovely woman who took loving care of each of her children. It was Rose's love and guidance that led all of her seven children to lead successful lives. Upon graduation from high school, Dick attended college on a football scholarship at the University of Colorado where he would meet his future bride, Nancy VanDerbur. After he graduated from college, he received his papers for government service, and Dick and Nancy were married shortly before he left to serve his country.

Following his military service, Dick returned to work at the Hormel Company where he had begun working during the summers at the young age of fifteen. Through hard work and many hours of dedication, Dick worked his way up to become President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board of the Hormel Company. Along the way, Dick worked every job in the company from the gut shanty to the corner office and each job in between. When he retired, Dick received the Horatio-Alger Award in recognition of his status as a successful, self-made man. Fellow recipients of this prestigious award are Colin Powell, Henry Kissinger, Wayne Huizenga and fellow Coloradan

Phil Anschutz. Dick is still very active in the Horatio Alger organization, which provides scholarships for kids with disadvantaged backgrounds.

Nancy was born and raised in Denver. Her grandfather founded Olinger Mortuaries, which Nancy's father eventually took over. Nancy and her sisters Gwen, Val, and Marilyn worked odd jobs at the family business before they all would eventually attend the University of Colorado. All four of the VanDerbur girls were beautiful, young, and successful women. Nancy's sister Marilyn would go on to win Miss America in 1958. Nancy is the consummate wife, mother and friend. She provides the strength that motivates Dick to be a strong father and community figure, and her work behind-the-scenes is worthy of multiple praises. Nancy is a warm and friendly person who is beloved by her many friends and family members, including each of her five children.

Mr. Speaker, it is a rare and beautiful thing when a couple's love and devotion for each other shines as brightly as does the love between Dick and Nancy Knowlton after fifty years of marriage. I rise before my colleagues today to recognize that beautiful accomplishment and to applaud the example that Dick and Nancy's loving marriage provides to countless Coloradoans. It is an honor to congratulate them on fifty years of dedication to each other, and I wish them all the best in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, because I was part of a Congressional delegation that traveled to Iraq, I missed several votes last week.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 469, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 785, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 470, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 794, waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1308) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to accelerate the increase in the refundability of the child tax credit, and for other purposes, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 471, on adoption of H. Res. 794, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 480, adoption of the conference report on H.R. 1308, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO SAN FRANCISCO AIDS FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAT CHRISTEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, tonight in my district, community leaders will gather to pay trib-

ute to the work of Pat Christen, Executive Director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation for the past 15 years. I want to join in expressing my admiration and gratitude for Pat's outstanding leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS in San Francisco, across America, and around the world.

Pat has effectively and enthusiastically led the San Francisco AIDS Foundation through some of the most difficult times of the epidemic. She is the longest serving Executive Director of an AIDS service organization in the nation and has established a remarkable legacy.

In 1988, after returning from Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer and volunteering with the Foundation's hotline, Pat was named the Foundation's first director of public policy. Within a year, she gathered colleagues from across the nation to address the growing crisis of caring for the thousands of people with AIDS who were critically ill and had no means of support.

Those initial discussions laid the foundation for the Ryan White CARE Act. I was an original co-sponsor of that legislation, and joined Congressman HENRY WAXMAN, Senator EDWARD KENNEDY and many of our colleagues who worked with Pat and community leaders from across the country to ensure swift passage. The CARE Act has proven to be one of the most significant public health achievements of the Congress in the past 15 years. Declines in AIDS deaths are a direct result of the therapies and services that have been made more widely available through the CARE Act to large numbers of uninsured and under-insured people with HIV and AIDS.

Pat's courage and competence later drew San Francisco to the forefront of the fight for effective needle exchange programs. When most leaders were intimidated by this innovative and controversial approach, Pat led the charge to city hall and Sacramento to put needle exchange in our HIV prevention strategy. Pat and others in San Francisco were also early to see that mobilization against this pandemic had to be international. She founded Pangaea, the global affiliate of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, to apply San Francisco's experience as a leader in the domestic fight against HIV/AIDS to the global crisis. Through Pat's vision and leadership, Pangaea has brought hope and care to thousands of Africans facing HIV/ADS.

I have been proud to work with Pat and the San Francisco ADS Foundation over the years to ensure that HIV/ADS care, treatment, prevention, and research initiatives, domestically and internationally receive the funding they need, and to improve and strengthen those programs as the epidemic evolves.

Pat Christen's leadership at the Foundation may be coming to an end, but her legacy will live on as the fight to end AIDS continues. Her success reminds us what community leadership can do. It inspires us to not only work effectively at the local level, but also to take responsibility to make change at the national and global level. I know I join many in saying that the world is a better place because Pat Christen graced it with her leadership, vision, and integrity.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PEDRO PICAZO-POTEET

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pedro Picazo-Poteet, an extraordinary fifteen year old who has overcome seemingly impossible obstacles in order to compete in martial arts competitions. Pedro is a true fighter, and someone other citizens can look to for inspiration. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation today to recognize his accomplishments.

In 2002, Pedro was riding his bike to school when he was hit by a car. His injuries were so extensive that the doctors were not certain whether he would live, and resulted in the loss of an arm. Pedro's grandmother Darla, who has raised Pedro since the age of eight, stayed by his side during his entire stay at the hospital. Although the family had to move to a different home to help pay for Pedro's medical costs, Darla refused to let Pedro quit pursuing his passion of martial arts. With the encouragement of his coach and family, Pedro has returned to martial arts and trains in the stick fighting competition. Pedro practices for hours, preparing himself for older, stronger, and more physical opponents.

Mr. Speaker, Pedro Picazo-Poteet is a strong, dedicated individual who has triumphed in the face of difficult obstacles. His persistent determination has taken him further than anyone imagined and I am honored to stand here before this body and recognize the efforts of such a zealous young man. Good luck with your martial arts training, Pedro, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

OSHA'S FAILURE TO ESTABLISH AND ENFORCE SAFETY STANDARDS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, since 2001 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, has failed to carry out its core mission of protecting the health and safety of American workers. By withdrawing more rules aimed at workplace safety than it has promulgated over the past 4 years, OSHA has set an appalling track record indeed. As such, OSHA and the Bush administration have earned the dubious distinction of definitively turning back the clock on worker safety.

As documented by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, in a March 2004 report, OSHA has decreased the proportion of its budget dedicated to enforcement activities by 6 percent at the same time it has increased by 8 percent the proportion reserved for its Voluntary Protection Program, VPP. Under the VPP, OSHA offers regional partnerships with certain industry associations—such as construction—to reduce worker injuries and illness. In return for keeping injury rates 25 percent below the industry average and holding comprehensive training sessions for workers,

participating contractors receive a lower priority for scheduled OSHA inspections. Although certain contractors participating in the VPP have met with some success in reducing injury rates, this can never suffice as a substitute for adequate enforcement of U.S. safety standards.

In its budget request for fiscal year 2006, the Bush administration promises to undermine even further OSHA's ability to develop and enforce essential safety and health standards through funding cuts of \$12 million. This is a clear subversion of congressional intent in passing the OSHA Act more than 3 decades ago. Let me remind my colleagues that OSHA's clear statutory mandate is to "assure every working man and woman in the United States safe and healthful working conditions."

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that an article that appeared in today's Washington Post, outlining OSHA's woeful neglect of worker safety, be printed in the RECORD at this point.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 5, 2004]

OSHA WITHDRAWS MORE RULES THAN IT MAKES, REVIEWS FIND

(By Cindy Skrzyzcki)

It's no secret that the Bush administration prefers voluntary, collaborative efforts on the part of companies to improve their safety records. Since the administration took over in 2001, the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has forged hundreds of agreements with companies and business associations to improve their safety records while rulemaking has been sharply curtailed.

According to OSHA Assistant Secretary John Henshaw, the approach has resulted in safer workplaces with fewer fatalities, injuries and illnesses—what he calls the triple bottom line. "I've seen what works and doesn't work on the shop floor," said Henshaw, reflecting his own career as a safety and health professional at chemical companies, Monsanto Co. and Astaris LLC, before he came to the safety agency.

But labor unions and some watchdog groups would rather OSHA play its more traditional role, issuing regulations.

"We have a preference for an actual regulation that is enforceable and fair across the board," said J. Robert Shull, senior regulatory policy analyst at OMB Watch, a nonprofit group funded mostly by foundations that has three union officials among its 15 directors.

Adds Peg Seminario, director of occupational safety and health for the AFL-CIO: Setting and enforcing standards is part of their mission. "So why aren't they?"

Since fall 2000, the agency has not been regulating in the traditional sense, OMB Watch found in a series of reviews. Twenty-four rules that were in some stage of development on OSHA's agenda were withdrawn by the administration. Nine rules were completed, but none were major and several were related to recordkeeping.

In examining the agency's December 2003 and June 2004 regulatory agendas, which track the progress of its rules, OMB Watch found that since last December, OSHA has revised a rule on commercial diving operations, reexamined one on mechanical power presses and changed how musculoskeletal disorders are reported. It completed one rule, to protect shipyard workers from fire hazards, and yesterday proposed new standards to protect workers from hexavalent chromium, a chemical used in chrome plating. That was under a court order.

"It's a meager output. It's the black hole of government," Shull said. "OSHA cleared

the decks of its agenda. Just swept it clean." His group maintains that gutting the agency's regulatory agenda is a sop to business, which won a big victory when the Bush administration cancelled a final rule to protect workers from ergonomic injuries.

Early in the Bush administration, Henshaw said he didn't put much stock in the regulatory agenda, calling it a wish list that contained proposals that had been incubating for years with no result. He said he preferred a "to-do" list—which OMB Watch now calls a "do-nothing" list.

That list has 24 items, including whether employers have to pay for protective equipment for their workers.

Said Henshaw, who inherited the protective equipment proposal from the Clinton administration: "We're reviewing the comments now and we're committed to taking the next step. But I don't want to say exactly what the next step is."

His emphasis, he said, has been on cooperative efforts with business and stepped-up enforcement of "bad actors" who are responsible for most safety problems.

The agency has formed 231 long-term alliances with trade associations and companies since 2002 that emphasize outreach, education, and sharing "best practices." OSHA under Henshaw has forged 214 active strategic partnerships that set safety goals involving 4,762 employers, and there are 1,153 voluntary protection program sites, where companies with exemplary safety records forego routine inspections.

Critics of the agency are leery of these arrangements, where union participation is minimal. And they don't entirely trust the numbers OSHA uses to support its claim that injuries and illnesses are decreasing. Unions don't consider the reports dependable, she said, because they are furnished by employers.

Seminario points out that there have been two major changes in the way employers collect injury and illness data since 2002, making comparisons to earlier years difficult. For example, the incidence of musculoskeletal injuries on the job—injuries from repetitive work and poorly designed workplaces—is no longer reported separately.

Data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on days missed from work for illness show that over the past few years, the percentage of days taken off due to injuries and illnesses related to ergonomic issues has remained constant—about 34 percent—though the overall number of injuries and illnesses has decreased.

The business community said it wasn't that focused on the proposed rules OSHA axed but wanted to prevent new regulations. And groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have been unhappy that the safety regulators issued citations for ergonomic violations under a broad enforcement authority. Since Congress killed the ergo rule two years ago, OSHA has opened cases against seven companies for ergonomic-related violations.

Randel Johnson, vice president of labor, immigration and employee benefits for the chamber, called the trend troubling. "The agency has aggressively pursued ergonomics citations . . . demanding abatement measures that sound much like the repealed regulation and micromanaging targeted employers with a laundry list of requirements. Despite what the unions may allege, our life with OSHA has been no rose garden."

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES OF CARIBBEAN DEVASTATED BY HURRICANES CHARLEY, FRANCES, IVAN, AND JEANNE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to support H. Con. Res. 496 commending the governments of the countries of the Caribbean for their efforts to respond and assist the people of the region after the devastation caused by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne from August to September 2004. I also recognize American aid workers, development organizations, and the response teams who have provided humanitarian assistance to the people of Grenada, Jamaica, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the other affected island nations.

Coming from Houston, I know all too well that hurricanes are a fact of life for anybody living in the region. But this year's hurricane season is different. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted that 2004 would be an above average Atlantic hurricane season and three of these four hurricanes have been categorized by the National Weather Service as "major" hurricanes. The American people have also endured the impact of this year's hurricane season.

The challenges that the people in the Caribbean have faced since Charley's arrival in August have been particularly great. Hundreds have died and tens of thousands of people are displaced or are homeless as a result of these hurricanes. Some estimate that the cost of reconstruction in the region could exceed a quarter billion dollars.

Nevertheless the effects would have been greater were it not for the actions of the Caribbean governments and the international community. The U.S. assistance to the region is being coordinated by the U.S. Agency for International Development with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency and donor organizations in the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group. International organizations such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations, and the Organization of American States have joined the U.S. in providing necessary assistance to the region.

I support this resolution and ask my colleagues to encourage the President and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development to provide the funding to private volunteer organizations, the United Nations, and regional institutions that will help to mitigate the effects from Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne and to provide technical assistance for the reconstruction that will help to minimize the impact of future hurricanes in the region.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ADAM
CAMPFIELD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Adam Campfield, an extraordinary fourteen year old from my district, who has overcome seemingly impossible obstacles in order to compete in martial arts competitions. Adam is a true fighter, and someone other citizens can look to for inspiration and I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation today to recognize his accomplishments.

Adam earned his black belt despite the fact that he lost his vision to cancer when he was six years old. Adam's coach Troy says that there was no doubt that Adam had the ability; his worries came from being able to teach him the material. Adam grew up in a supportive family that would not allow him to use the word can't and today not only is he a martial arts competitor, but he also plays tennis and participates in a ski program. Adam's blindness has only sharpened his other senses, so much so that Adam has said that if he were given the option of not going blind he might not choose to have his vision.

Mr. Speaker, Adam Campfield is a strong, dedicated and gifted athlete who refuses to let life's impediments obstruct his physical activity. His persistent determination has taken him farther than anyone imagined and I am honored to stand here before this body and recognize the efforts of such a courageous young man. Good luck with your martial arts training Adam, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO
COUNTRIES OF CARIBBEAN DEV-
ASTATED BY HURRICANES CHAR-
LEY, FRANCES, IVAN, AND
JEANNE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, by now we are all aware of the enormous toll exacted by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne on the Caribbean. Indeed, the cumulative force of these disasters has claimed thousands of lives and displaced hundreds of thousands of residents. The tourism and agricultural sectors of the Caribbean, of which so many nations are dependent, have been battered.

While total monetary damage to the region has yet to be firmly established, it is easily in the billions of dollars. These staggering statistics not only sadden us, they clearly compel us to take significant action. The United States has already distributed some assistance, and the administration has requested an additional \$50 million in emergency funds for the Caribbean in the supplemental appropriations bill we have before us this week.

While this assistance is appreciated, substantially more is needed if we are to make a

meaningful impact. An October 4th editorial in the Washington Post noted that the requested assistance for the Caribbean is a minute fraction of the \$12.2 billion requested for southern States affected by the recent hurricanes. I myself have joined other friends of the Caribbean in this House in asking that the administration at least double the size of its request for the Caribbean.

In light of these funding needs, I am extremely pleased to support the resolution introduced by the gentlewoman from California, H. Con. Res. 496. Congresswoman LEE's resolution represents a non-partisan appeal to provide adequate humanitarian assistance to our neighbors in this time of crisis. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this legislation, and urge my fellow colleagues to lend their support to this critical measure.

We have all borne witness to the difficult road our neighbors have taken towards democracy. As such, we must always strive to ensure that their road is free from obstruction. This resolution is but one step in that ongoing effort. Again, I sincerely thank Congresswoman LEE, and offer my whole-hearted support for her resolution.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 4, 2004]

CALAMITY IN THE CARIBBEAN

In Haiti the bodies are still turning up. Reports from the island republic mention Haitians shoveling corpses out from under branches and mud—the detritus of Tropical Storm Jeanne and the floods it triggered last month. Perhaps 2,000 are dead, and more may be missing. In tiny Grenada, whose landmass is scarcely twice that of the District, 90 percent of the buildings on the island were damaged by Hurricane Ivan. The hurricane also decimated Grenada's nutmeg trees, which take a decade to become productive, and devastated hotels, mainstays of the tourist industry that provides the island with 70 percent of its income.

The storms paused long enough in the Caribbean on their way to Florida to deliver knockout blows to the bantamweight islands. Americans fixated on Florida may have barely noticed, but the destruction and suffering in the islands was overwhelming. The Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, the Bahamas, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and St. Lucia—all were damaged. Grenada's recovery will take years.

Haiti, no stranger to calamity, is suffering a catastrophe. An estimated 300,000 people have been made homeless by floods. In the northwest, where Jeanne unleashed much of its wrath, food and potable water are scarce. Highways are cut or impassable; Port-de-Paix, a town of 45,000 on the north coast, is reachable only by air. In the port of Gonaives, Haiti's third-largest city, marauding gangs desperate from thirst and hunger have attacked trucks hauling bottled water and depots holding humanitarian food stockpiles. Fears of famine are rising, since flood waters and mud covered some of the most fertile acres in the country. Poverty, deforestation and the virtual absence of effective government all conspire to deepen the misery.

President Bush has proposed \$12.2 billion in aid for hurricane-damaged areas, mostly in Florida and other Southern states. The package includes \$50 million for the islands, nearly half of it for Haiti. We hope Congress passes it quickly, but let's be blunt: The amount set aside for the Caribbean nations is a pittance—not to mention a fraction of what was spent on U.S. military interventions in Haiti and Grenada.

Americans who wish to help may send their own donations. One conduit for such

private support is CARE, which has been active in Haiti for 50 years and is deeply involved in the current relief efforts. Information is available at www.careusa.org.

CONGRATULATING AMERICAN
DENTAL ASSOCIATION FOR
SPONSORING SECOND ANNUAL
"GIVE KIDS A SMILE" PROGRAM

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Res. 567 which congratulates the American Dental Association for once again successfully administering the Give Kids a Smile program.

The Give Kids a Smile program has worked hard to emphasize the importance of kids' access to high quality dental care. This year's program, held on February 6, 2004, resulted in an estimated one million children receiving dental education, screening and care.

The Give Kids a Smile program highlights not only the importance of children's dental care but also the need to help those that may not have access. Access to dental care for children is a critical component of overall health care. Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease and results in thousands of children experiencing poor eating and sleeping patterns and suffering decreased attention spans at school. Congress must join the American Dental Association in recognizing our role in providing assistance to children in need.

I want to thank the dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and others who volunteered their time during this year's Give Kids a Smile program. In addition to the success of this program, America's dental community deserves our thanks for the services and help they provide year round.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL
HESSE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great privilege to recognize an outstanding individual who, for many years, has honorably served the interests of my district and the State of Colorado. Michael Hesse has served as my chief of staff, and during that time he has worked to improve the lives of many of his fellow Coloradans through his compassionate activism. Mike is a dedicated public servant and a dynamic leader whose devotion to Colorado is unparalleled. I am honored to recognize his service before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Mike earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Denver School of Business in 1987. After graduation, President George H.W. Bush appointed Mike as the Assistant to the Health and Human Services Secretary, Louis Sullivan, from 1989 to 1992. In that capacity, Mike coordinated the President's National Initiative for Childhood Immunization and the Presidential Health Mission to Africa.

Mike has also played a vital role in furthering and representing the interests of his party. He served as the primary spokesperson and overall manager of the Bush-Quayle 1992 Colorado campaign, and was the 1992 executive director of the Colorado Republican Party. Mike's strong leadership and focused management led to effective candidate recruitment and significant improvement in fundraising goals by tripling the traditional party base support. Mike's political experience and dedication to the Mountain West made him a natural candidate for his position as the regional political director of Bob Dole for President. There, Mike was instrumental in building support for Western priorities while establishing close working relationships with officials on both the federal and local levels.

I learned firsthand of Mike's skills as an effective manager and team builder when he became my Chief of Staff in 1998. Through his direction, my office has been able to provide consistently high quality service to the people of Colorado's Third Congressional District. Mike has recruited a respected congressional staff who are committed to constituent casework and who work tirelessly to help me pass a number of sizable legislative initiatives, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. Mike has implemented a strong organizational structure throughout the office that has enabled greater staff interaction and has stressed personal responsibility, by providing timely and substantive responses to inquiries from my constituents. Mike has also fostered valuable relationships with city, county, and State officials, and has a successful working relationship with many of my colleagues in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Hesse is a natural leader and a passionate public servant whose dedication to the State of Colorado and this Nation serves as an inspiration to us all. Indeed, the legislative and policy successes I have enjoyed over the last 6 years would not have been possible without Mike's leadership within my office. I consider it a great honor to recognize his service and accomplishments before this body of Congress today. I want to personally thank Mike for his many years of commitment to our home state. I have never worked with such a fine individual as Mike Hesse.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

September 30, 2004: Rollcall vote 485, on H. Con. Res. 501, honoring the life and work of Duke Ellington, recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, and supporting the annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival, I would have voted yes.

October 4, 2004: Rollcall vote 487, on S. Con. Res. 76, recognizing that November 2, 2003, shall be dedicated to "A Tribute to Survivors" at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, I would have voted yes. Rollcall vote 488, on S. 1814, to transfer federal lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, I would have voted yes. Rollcall vote 489, on H. Res. 567, congratulating the American Dental Association for sponsoring the second annual "Give Kids a Smile" program which emphasizes the need to improve access to dental care for children, and thanking dentists for volunteering their time to help provide needed dental care, I would have voted yes.

October 5, 2004: Rollcall vote 490, on H. Res. 814, ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted yes. Rollcall vote 491, on H. Res. 814, adoption of the rule, I would have voted yes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUE SMITH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great privilege to recognize an outstanding individual who for many years has honorably served the people of my congressional district and the entire State of Colorado. Susan Smith has served as my District Director for the past several years, and in that time, I have come to rely on her strong sense of integrity and leadership abilities to provide an unparalleled quality of constituent services to the people of my district. Sue has amassed an impressive

record of public service over her lifetime, and I am honored to bring attention to her accomplishments today before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Before Sue joined my staff, she worked at Colorado's Pueblo Community College in the Executive Vice President's office, where she was in charge of the school's operational policies and procedures. One of her main responsibilities was overseeing the funds provided to PCC under the Carl D. Perkins Federal Grant. Sue has always been a strong advocate for the importance of higher education and, over the years, has volunteered her time and energies to countless youth-oriented non-profit organizations. Before joining my staff full-time, Sue coordinated an educational program for my office known as SEEDS. This terrific program accepts and refurbishes donated government computers and places them in schools throughout the region whose students are in need of the educational opportunities these computers provide.

Sue's variety of non-profit experience made her a perfect candidate for the director of my district offices. Sue oversees four district offices in Pueblo, Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, and Durango in one of the largest congressional districts in the country. She has cultivated strong working relationships with city, county and state officials that have led to increased, effective communication and cooperation between local and federal governments. Through her diligent guidance and direction, my district offices have been able to make a difference in the lives of the people of Colorado's Third Congressional District. In addition, Sue coordinates my US Service Academy nomination process, which has enabled many high school students to pursue rewarding careers in our armed forces. Sue has personally spent countless hours aiding various local organizations as they try to navigate the complicated federal grant process in order to benefit from the much-needed funding those grants provide.

Mr. Speaker, Sue Smith is a dynamic and extraordinary leader whose amazing dedication to public service has made her a compassionate advocate for the interests of the State of Colorado. I am truly honored to stand before my colleagues to recognize the service of such a devoted public servant, a loving mother, and valued friend. Thank you, Sue, for your many years of hard work and your service to the people of Colorado and this Nation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Com-

mittee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2004 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 8

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the current employment situation for September.

SD-628