

Officers Mike Ortega, Joe Botti, Phil Alvarado, Juan Silva, and Eddie Antommarchi for their heroic actions and sense of duty during one of America's most difficult times. Their dedicated service is a shining example of the quality of character of America's best citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARTHA ROMER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Martha Romer, a dedicated public servant from Grand Junction, Colorado. I personally know Martha well, and when she has not been busy working on her farm, she dedicates her time to local government organizations. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation today to recognize Martha's efforts in her community.

Martha grew up in Memphis, Tennessee and attended Southwestern College where she participated in the local USO during World War II. After the war, she married and moved to Colorado. Martha became active in the political system, hosting caucuses, campaigning, and volunteering as an election judge. Outside her volunteer work, she managed a hog farm with several breeds that were shown throughout the Midwest and garnered numerous awards. Martha also was the chairperson of three state pork associations and collaborated with Colorado State University to develop pork research. Since moving to Mesa County in 1974, Martha has continued to volunteer in the local political process, serving as a precinct committeewoman, and a district captain.

Mr. Speaker, Martha Romer is a warm and genuine individual who has dedicated herself to bettering her Grand Junction community for many years. It is a privilege to stand here before this body and recognize the efforts of such a selfless and benevolent woman. Thanks for all your hard work Martha, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

PROVO RIVER PROJECT TRANSFER ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3391.

Mr. Speaker, due to pressing family matters, I was unable to be present on the floor while this bill was being considered. I want to go on record strongly supporting this bill and want to thank the House for unanimously supporting this legislation.

H.R. 3391 authorizes the title transfer of certain features of the Provo River Project—including the Provo Reservoir Canal, as well as the Salt Lake Aqueduct and certain land in Pleasant Grove, Utah, from the Bureau of Reclamation to non-federal ownership.

For the past 60 years the Provo River Water Users Association has operated the Provo Reservoir Canal, also known as the Murdock

Canal. As long as the title remains in the name of the federal government, the water users association and local communities who use the water are unable to obtain the tax-exempt financing necessary to properly improve and manage the canal. Passage of this title transfer will now allow that to happen.

There are additional benefits to this legislation. For example, significant water efficiencies will result from title transfer. Approximately 8 percent of the water is lost each year to evaporation and seepage since the canal is not enclosed. Transferring ownership will allow it to be enclosed. There are environmental benefits as well—for instance, some of the saved water will be made available to meet the needs of the endangered June sucker. Further, covering the canal will also allow for the development of recreational trails that can be used for hiking and cycling.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you and my other colleagues for supporting this important piece of legislation.

HONORING 2004 PERSON OF VISION "SHRUB" KEMPNER

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Harris L. "Shrub" Kempner of Galveston, Texas. Shrub is the 2004 Person of Vision chosen by Prevent Blindness Texas and will be honored Tuesday, October 12 in Galveston.

Shrub is President and Portfolio Manager of Kempner Capital Management and a Trustee of Kempner Trust Association. He has given his time in service for community boards including the American Jewish Committee, UTMB's Development Board, Galveston County Economic Development Alliance, Galveston Economic Development Alliance, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at UT and the City's Finance Committee.

Shrub is a graduate of Harvard and Stanford. He is a husband and father of two sons. He is the former director of Balmorhea Rances, the Imperial Sugar Company, the United States National Bank, the Frost Bank and Cullen-Frost Bankers, Inc.

Prevent Blindness Texas has chosen to honor someone who has served the Ninth District with distinction and continuing generosity. In announcing his award, Prevent Blindness said:

"We feel Shrub epitomizes a true person of vision. His clear perspective and farsightedness have made a difference in the life of so many. He has truly made a lifelong allegiance to improving and enhancing the quality of life for others and, his devoted friendship and extraordinary dedication deserve recognition."

Mr. Speaker, I want to echo those sentiments and congratulate Shrub Kempner on adding this honor to so many he has received from community organizations in the Ninth District of Texas.

CRIMINAL VIOLENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw your attention to the wave of criminal violence, much of it targeting women and children, now engulfing America's neighbors in Central America. In Guatemala, human rights organizations have recorded an appalling 16,788 violent crimes between January and June of this year and report that one woman is murdered every day in a country smaller than the state of Tennessee. Unfortunately, violence is hardly a recent development in Guatemala, where citizens and leaders continue to grapple with a legacy of fifty years of political violence and humanitarian atrocities during the Cold War era that claimed more than 200,000 innocent lives.

Sadly, Guatemala's recently elected President Oscar Berger has been able to do little to curb the violent crime threatening his people or to punish those responsible for past human rights violations. Ironically, Berger has had to rely upon those very human rights violators still serving in the police and military to combat the current wave of violent crime. The frustration of the Guatemalan people with the ineffectiveness of their new leader in addressing the situation was painfully evident in the massive demonstrations in Guatemala City last August to protest the growing tide of criminal violence. The violence now plaguing Guatemala and other Central American countries should be of great interest to this congress because, as law and order deteriorate in the region, many Central Americans, out of desperation, will seek refuge abroad, with many immigrating illegally to the United States.

The following research memorandum about the criminal violence which plagues Guatemala was authored by Eleanor Thomas, a British research associate at the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs, an independent, non-profit, non partisan, tax-exempt research and information organization founded in 1975. It has been described on the Senate floor as being "one of the nation's most respected bodies of scholars and policy makers."

GUATEMALANS SPEAK OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE

On August 13, over 12,000 people took to the streets of Guatemala City to protest the horrific wave of violent crime currently engulfing the country. The march was organized by the Human Rights Protector's Office (PDH) and supported by 560 of the country's civil associations. PDH Director, Dr. Sergio Morales, said in an interview with COHA that the main purpose of the march was to draw attention to the "plight of women and children" who have been the most severely affected by the violence. The march in Guatemala built upon similar demonstrations in Argentina, where 130,000 people took to the streets in April to petition Congress for stiffer penalties against criminals. Mexico City also witnessed at least 300,000 people march through the capital protesting the high levels of violent crime and kidnapping that have plagued the country in recent months. The overriding message to come out of the march in Guatemala is that newly-elected President Oscar Berger must take bigger steps to tackle the endemic problem of violence that could swamp the country's most vital institutions if redress is not achieved.