

New Mexico may have a shortage of open water, but what it lacks in shoreline it makes up in volcanoes—and hot springs. When the Spanish explorers of the 15th and 16 centuries stumbled across New Mexico's natural hot springs, they discovered the healing properties that the Native Americans had known about for centuries. The Jemez Mountains are the remnants of a volcanic peak more than 14,000 feet high and date from 14 million to about 40,000 years ago. The hot springs in Jemez Springs are a product of the relatively recent eruption of the Valles Caldera. Naturally occurring minerals in the hot springs include acid carbonate, aluminum, calcium, chloride, iron, magnesium, potassium, silicate, sodium, and sulfate.

The spectacular crimson-colored formations known as Red Rocks and the narrow and dramatic walls of the Jemez River valley as well as the surrounding public lands have helped preserve the intimate village setting of Jemez Springs. The U.S. Census in 2000 counted just 375 people in Jemez Springs; 218 women and 157 men.

Major attractions include year-round recreational opportunities in the Santa Fe National Forest, the hot springs, Jemez State Monument, and fishing the Jemez River. Fenton Lake, Bandelier National Monument, and the Valles Caldera National Preserve are also unique features in the region. The community also hosts a Fourth of July celebration and a fiesta in August.

There is a saying that you find so much red in the Jemez Valley because it is the living, beating heart of New Mexico. Indeed, Jemez is where the sky, mesas and the water meet. I am proud to represent Jemez Springs where residents and visitors alike can find both peaceful sanctuary and fun recreation.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask you and my esteemed colleagues to please join me in congratulating Jemez Springs on their five decades of success.

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ON THE PASSING OF HELEN  
ANTON VALANOS

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, in the constantly changing world of Capitol Hill, all of us who are privileged to serve here recognize that people come and go—Members, staff, journalists, lobbyists and others.

And, if you work hard and have some luck, you can make your mark and make a difference in this great city and the life of our Nation.

Today, we mourn the loss of a truly wonderful woman who clearly did just that by establishing, along with her husband, one of Washington's enduring institutions—the Monocle restaurant. For 25 years, Helen Anton Valanos and her husband, Conrad (“Connie”), oper-

ated the Monocle, which the Washingtonian magazine recently said “remains a Hollywood East of political stars,” and “a sort of political refuge flying a white flag . . . a place where Republicans and Democrats mix over food and drink and the bad blood between political parties seems to get bottled and checked at the door.”

Mrs. Valanos passed away on January 4th in Boca Raton, Florida, where she had lived since 1985. But the memories of her—like the political lore that has been generated at the Monocle for more than four decades—will always be with us.

She was born in Anderson, Indiana, and graduated from the University of Miami before settling in Washington with Connie in 1950. She worked with her husband in their accounting firm, and then, in 1960, they opened the Monocle. As the Washingtonian recounted: “The Monocle opened with no advertising, no sign outside and all 86 seats filled for lunch.” And thus was born, in September 1960, a place to see and be seen.

Today, says John Valanos, who since 1989 has run the restaurant that his parents started, three-quarters of his customers are “people coming to the Hill to do business or to show friends or family what Washington is all about. They stop to see the photos on the wall, to experience some of the history that makes us unique. They say this is where JFK dined, where Mark Russell taped his CNN shows.”

During much of that time, as The Washington Post recently noted: “Mrs. Valanos, a stylish presence at the restaurant for 25 years, would leave her bookkeeping duties upstairs, enter the restaurant and sweep through the room, greeting customers and making sure the regulars had a momentary chat with the owner.”

The secret to the Monocle's success is not only its proximity to Capitol Hill, its great food and its unique ambience, but also the fact that Connie and Helen—and now their son John—have nurtured a politically nonpartisan establishment and worked to protect the privacy of the public figures who dined there. Personally, I remember going to the Monocle when I was still a Congressional aide in the 1960s, and still go there for dinner and political fund-raisers.

I know that I speak for literally thousands of Members and others in offering my deepest condolences to Connie, John, the Valanos' other son, George, and the entire Valanos family for their loss.

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HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF THE NEVADA STATE SOCIETY  
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th Nevada State Conference

of the Nevada State Society Daughters of the American Revolution. It is indeed an honor to salute such an extraordinary group of women committed not only to maintaining a legacy that acknowledges the undaunted efforts of our forefathers as they formed our great nation, but also to honor them for their continued patriotism and commitment to education, our veterans and historic preservation.

When we entered the 21st Century five years ago, the secure and optimistic stride of American strength and prosperity was marred by the outrageous actions of a cowardly few. The Constitutional assurances of domestic tranquility and liberty established in 1787 were seemingly knocked off-balance when our borders and our lives became the victims of foreign terrorism in 2001. Yet, even when we seemed broken by the challenge of this assault, we stood resilient. And like the patriots who fought for democracy and freedom at the infancy of this nation—like shadows of their legacy—we rose strong to proclaim the ideals that are the fabric of this great nation. Like a quilt, the patchwork picture of America—a colorfully authentic composite of her people, her struggles, her history, and her future—remains tethered together by a commitment to our country, a belief in God and the values and virtues of home.

This organization exemplifies the same spirit of patriotism and vision once held by our great forefathers. Whether through their efforts to help finance the educational dreams of diverse groups of Nevadans or the thousands of hours of service they give to our veterans, they reach back into the past to honor those who struggled for freedom and reach forward into the future to pave the way for young Americans who will face newer, broader challenges in perpetuating the vision of democracy.

Likewise, through the perpetual concern they have had for Native American people and participation in the issues that affect them, we all can take part in the appreciation of their rich history and the impact Native Americans have had on Nevada. And now, all of America will remember the Native Americans and their struggle as they gaze upon the statue of Sarah Winnemucca in the United States Capitol, a graceful symbol of a great American woman who spent her life trying to unite men and women who were divided by color and culture.

Mr. Speaker, through every facet of society, the hands of the Nevada State Society Daughters of the American Revolution leave lasting impressions. Today, I salute them for their continued work and service to Nevadans and Americans everywhere.