

NATO member, Denmark is one of the strongest supporters of the United States in its campaign against terrorism. It still has soldiers and its air force present in Afghanistan. From day one in 2003 Denmark took part in the coalition's efforts in Iraq with combat troops. It still has 531 combat troops and now has an embassy and an Ambassador in Baghdad. Ambassador Federspiel has worked tirelessly with the Danish government's major role in the reconstruction of Iraq.

Ambassador Federspiel has also been very much involved in other areas of the Middle East. During the Danish EU presidency in 2002, Denmark worked closely with the EU in drafting the Road Map for peace in the Arab-Israeli dispute. Furthermore, since early 2003 Ambassador Federspiel has worked to promote his government's ideas about reform, democracy and security in the Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA). Denmark and the U.S. are now seen as the parents of this idea that is generally accepted by the EU, G8 and BMENA countries.

He has seen the importance in strengthening inter-parliamentarian relations and has helped to build and support the Congressional Friends of Denmark. As a result of this important work, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly U.S. House of Representatives delegation will participate in bilateral meetings with the Danish parliament in November.

Ambassador Federspiel has also strengthened the economic relations between the U.S. and Denmark, and direct investments in both countries have increased over the last years. In the transatlantic dispute over lifting the EU's weapon embargo towards China, Ambassador Federspiel played a crucial role in postponing the lifting of the embargo indefinitely. Denmark is a consistent defender of the human rights of the Chinese people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ambassador Federspiel for his outstanding service and uncompromising dedication to furthering the friendship between our two great countries, and to wish him well in his future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF PETE
MATTIVIV'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I submit recognition in honor of Pete Mattivi of New Castle, Colorado on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Since his earliest days, Pete has been dedicated to helping his community. He is well loved and respected by all who know him. With wishes for many more years of happiness and health, I congratulate Pete by submitting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following Glenwood Springs Post Independent article, dated September 12, 2005:

With a twinkle in his eyes and a smile on his face, Pete Mattivi, of New Castle, credits "wine, women and song" with reaching his 100th birthday.

But on a more serious note, he says it's friends, family and his creator that allowed him to see his centennial year on Sept. 8, 2005.

A birthday celebration held Sunday afternoon for Mattivi in Burning Mountain Park

drew a huge crowd and a long line of people who wanted to congratulate him and wish him well.

With music by "Heart of the Rockies" and a buffet of birthday cake and ice cream, Mattivi sat in a folding chair, his cane over his legs as friends lined up to speak to him.

Some were old friends, in wheelchairs and walkers, and some were newer friends who knew of the illustrious Mattivi, although they might not have met him before.

"You are so wonderful—everybody loves you," said longtime New Castle resident Rosie Ferrin.

"One hundred years old—you look great," another well-wisher admired.

"I feel that way, too!" Mattivi smiled and agreed.

Some shared old memories they had with Mattivi.

Liz Lewis, of Rifle, recalled when she was a school bus driver in the 1970s and on a field trip with the kids while Mattivi recounted the history of Marble for the students.

"It was one of the most interesting trips I'd ever been on," Lewis said.

Mattivi has long been a well-known figure in the small town that currently has a population of about 3,000.

Born in 1905, he was raised in Crystal and lived in Marble, Salida and Glenwood Springs before settling in New Castle in 1929. There, he helped his brother, Matt, open a small service station in town, which was booming at that time.

In 1931, he married Opal Woos and the two operated the Mattivi Motor Company at 298 W. Main St. It was later the Three Rivers Repair/Phillips 66 station. Mattivi retired from the business in 1982. Opal Mattivi passed away in August 2000.

Mattivi was also a former longtime mayor of New Castle, serving from 1954 to 1969, and from 1974 to 1981. He was a Garfield County Commissioner from 1957 to 1977 and served 10 years on the Re-2 school board.

"Can we have your autograph?" asked Karen Wentzel, the wife of current mayor Bill Wentzel, when it was her turn in line as she showed Mattivi a collage she had of his past birthdays.

Mattivi graciously signed his name.

For years, Mattivi was known for his beautiful flower gardens at his home on Main Street, just across the street from where his daughter, Pam Bunn, now owns and operates the New Castle Cafe.

"He comes in for breakfast every morning at 8:30 on the dot," Bunn said with a laugh. "He also comes to the senior lunch and dinners."

Mattivi sold a portion of his property on the west side in 1997 but continues to garden the rest.

And even at 100, he is still active, riding his scooter across the street to the cafe and tending to his yard.

Mattivi has no big secrets to making it to the big 1-0-0.

"I live day by day," Mattivi said earnestly. "The next thing you know, you're 100. People have been good to me, and my creator has been good to me. I've just followed what was given to me."

NATIONAL ADDICTION RECOVERY
MONTH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Addiction Recovery Month this

September, I would be honored to have Congress join me in celebrating those who commit their time and effort to addiction recovery.

Last year, over 19 million Americans used illicit drugs. Fifty-five million had engaged in binge drinking, and over 16 million are considered heavy drinkers. These numbers are more than just statistics. If you take the time to examine them, they are in fact quite staggering. Imagine if the entire populations of New York and Los Angeles combined were all illicit drug users. Imagine if the entire population of Florida were heavy drinkers. That's how prevalent the problem is. The impact is felt not only by individuals and their families, but by society as well. Addiction costs our society and economy billions of dollars each year, in health care costs, property damage, and lost productivity. It also costs lives, and causes immense amounts of grief and pain. Each one of those millions of Americans has a story, and we should ensure that each one of them has the chance to tell their story to an addiction counselor, in hopes that they will receive the necessary treatment and care. Addiction is a disease, as serious and as deadly as many others. Alcohol and drug addiction are very serious, and very destructive. No one is immune from addiction, as it afflicts people of all ages, all races, all classes, and all professions.

As with any serious disease, the treatment for addiction relies on great amounts of research and advances in health sciences. The National Institutes of Health is a leader in this regard, and many of its 27 institutes have committed funds to research on addiction, including research on how addiction takes over the brain, the body, and the central nervous system. Two institutes in particular at NIH focus only on this issue of critical importance: The National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. For many decades, these two institutes have been making tremendous strides in the fight against addiction. Congress spends billions of dollars each year on addiction research, and these institutes have justified our faith and commitment to this issue.

Too often, problems in our society carry with them a certain stigma. Addiction is one such problem. Thousands, if not millions, of people do not seek treatment for addiction because of a misunderstanding of their condition, both on their behalf and on society's behalf. NIDA and NIAAA have both sought to understand this stigma, and bring it to an end. Led by Dr. Nora Volkow and Dr. T.K. Li, respectively, NIDA and NIAAA are constantly making progress to improve our understanding and treatment of addiction. Addiction is a disease, and must be attacked as such. Our fight against it must be aggressive and unyielding. Both NIDA and NIAAA fund scientists all over the country, who in turn will one day unlock the mysteries of addiction and its impact on individuals and society.

NIDA and NIAAA provide the ammunition for the troops on the front lines battling this disease. I am referring of course to the addiction counselors, who must daily encounter the difficult task of prevention, intervention, and treatment. These foot-soldiers in our war against addiction need all of the support we can give them. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we can show our support for them through our strong support for NIDA, NIAAA, and the other NIH institutes committed to solving the enigma of addiction.