

York, and a longtime public servant whose retirement at the end of this year will mark the close of a career in elective office that has spanned nearly four decades. Today, I want to honor the career in public service of Erie County Legislator Edward J. Kuwik.

Ed Kuwik is a special kind of public servant and leader. Born and raised in gritty Lackawanna, Ed was educated at local schools, and earned a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University at Buffalo, and a Master's degree in education from Niagara University.

Ed began his public service as a mathematics teacher in the Lackawanna city school system. Later, after serving a stint as Lackawanna's City Engineer, Ed was elected to the first of two four-year terms as Mayor of Lackawanna.

In 1983, a vacancy occurred in the 1st district seat in the Erie County Legislature, and Ed sets his sights on filling it. Fighting an uphill battle for the appointment with a candidate supported by the party leadership, Ed won the appointment and was in November 1983 elected to the Legislature in his own right. Aside from a primary election in 1987, Ed Kuwik was never seriously challenged for election again.

Throughout his many years of service to his constituents, public safety has been a hallmark issue for Ed Kuwik. From 1984 to 2001, and from 2004 to today, Ed Kuwik has served as Chairman of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee, overseeing the operations of the county's Correctional Facility, Department of Central Police Services, STOP DWI Division, Department of Emergency Services, and worked closely with the county District Attorney's Office and the county Sheriffs Office. Ed has always been a fighter for additional resources to fight crime, adding prosecutorial positions in the District Attorney's Office, civil and criminal deputy positions in the Sheriff's Office and probation officers in the Division of Probation.

In 1993, Ed began a stint as a member of the Legislature's formal leadership, and was unanimously selected as Majority Leader, a position he held until 1996. After finishing his service as Majority Leader, Ed returned to focus his attention on his continued leadership of the Public Safety Committee and on an unparalleled reputation for constituent service.

Ed Kuwik is a full time public official, and when he says full time, he means it. Until January of 2003, when Ed was unexpectedly hospitalized for several days, Ed Kuwik had attended every single legislative session since his initial appointment to the Legislature in 1983—543 consecutive legislative sessions. Ed has also attended every scheduled committee meeting that has been held since that time. No other member in the nearly four decade history of Erie County Legislature has a record to match.

Ed is also a forceful and effective member of his local Democratic Party. Ed is a former Chairman of the Lackawanna Democratic Committee and has been a force in Lackawanna city politics for more than 30 years.

Ed Kuwik has enjoyed many successes as a public official. However, his greatest success has been as a devoted husband and father. Ed is married to the former Karen Moore, a public school teacher in the Lackawanna City school system. Ed is the father of three sons, Kevin, Keith and Mark, all of whom have collectively made their mark academically, mili-

tarily and professionally in their respective fields of study and service.

In 2005, Ed Kuwik chose not to run for reelection, and although he will be succeeded in the Legislature by another fine public official, the Legislature and his district will each be poorer for his absence. It is my fervent hope and belief that Ed Kuwik will remain an active member of his community, and allow us to work together to make his city and our region a better place to live, work and raise a family. I am proud to call Ed Kuwik my colleague and my friend, and I am grateful, Mr. Speaker, that you have allowed me this opportunity to commemorate his service here today.

HONORING DR. M. VALI SIADAT,
ILLINOIS PROFESSOR OF THE
YEAR

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. M. Vali Siadat, Professor at Richard J. Daley College and recipient of the Illinois Professor of the Year Award.

The U.S. Professors of the Year Award Program was created in 1981 to increase awareness of the importance of undergraduate instruction at all types of higher education institutions. This program recognizes faculty members for their achievement as undergraduate professors. The State Professors of the Year Award Program selects outstanding educators in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and this year Dr. M. Vali Siadat of Richard J. Daley College in Chicago was chosen as the 2005 Illinois Professor of the Year.

Richard J. Daley College located on the southwest side of Chicago has been offering university-bound students a solid liberal arts education in their own neighborhoods since 1981. Richard J. Daley College has a full-time faculty of 81 members and a student body of 4,500.

Dr. M. Vali Siadat has been valuable asset to the success of Richard J. Daley College. Dr. Siadat received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and after working in the engineering field, he began teaching at the Chicago Technical College and later at various schools in California. In the early 90s, Dr. Siadat started teaching at Richard J. Daley College as a Mathematics Professor in 1982. The Keystone Project which was pioneered by Dr. Siadat is a method of learning basic mathematics. The Keystone Project shows students how to concentrate through cooperative learning, precision teaching, and dynamic assessment of the student. Besides for this project, Dr. Siadat is the director of Chicago PREP (Proyecto Access Chicago), which is an intensive mathematics-based academic summer program targeting low income and minority students.

It is my honor to recognize Dr. M. Vali Siadat who serves as an outstanding example in school leadership and continues to exemplify excellence in education.

SANGRE DE CRISTO NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to designate part of the San Luis Valley in Colorado as the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area. In the 19th Century, the San Luis Valley was at the crossroads of cultures. As America spread west, Spanish, Anglo, and Native Americans converged to create a unique cultural experience.

A National Heritage Area designation will help increase local tourism, which currently represents less than 9 percent of the basic income of the affected counties. As tourism grows in this area, it will provide economic benefits to a rural region with a rich history.

Heritage designation also brings with it tangible financial support to restore historic buildings and sites; develop interpretive programs and museums; build regional trail systems and fund other improvements and enhancements.

Private participation and oversight is the cornerstone of the heritage concept. I believe this will also create opportunities and benefits for private landowners who contribute in the planning and demonstrate best practices management of their properties.

The activities of a functional heritage area will be able to tie-in and stimulate wider interest in attractions throughout the valley. This includes outdoor recreation activities on the extensive National Forest and other federal, state, and private lands, and increase visitation at museums, historic sites, and commercial attractions located in other counties bordering the heritage area.

Congress must act quickly to ensure the heritage elements preserved continue to have relevance for the people of the San Luis Valley and for the nation for generations to come. I urge my colleagues to support me in this legislation.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
EUREKA COUNCIL NO. 1067

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Centennial Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus, Eureka Council, No. 1067, chartered in Eureka, California on December 3, 1905. Over the past ten decades, this fraternal and spiritual organization has had a proud and distinguished record of public service in Humboldt County and is deserving of our recognition.

Through charity, fellowship and hard work, the Eureka Knights of Columbus have reached out to thousands of families and children to establish important community institutions of compassion and caring.

Among other endeavors, the Eureka Knights of Columbus helped establish St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka, which serves the sick and the poor from across the region. They initiated efforts to found the local St. Vincent DePaul of