

her 100th birthday. She is an inspiring member of the community in Laredo, TX.

Mrs. Manuelita Guajardo Juarez was born on July 30, 1907 in Laredo, TX. She is the third child to Manuel Guajardo and Rafaelita Esparza Guajardo. Her siblings were Abelino, Adela, Jose, Alberto, Guadalupe, Elija, and Tomasita. As a child, she attended the El Profesor Dominguez School. Her father worked for the Tex-Mex Railroad Company and moved his family to a Tex-Mex substation named "El Pescador" where she attended school for several years.

In 1918, at the tender age of 11, she lost her mother to the influenza epidemic that hit Laredo in late 1918. Her father then moved his family to a ranch in Devine, TX, to live with his brother, Guadalupe Guajardo and his family. Manuelita's father lived at the ranch until he passed away in 1924 and is buried in Big Foot, TX.

Manuelita stayed in Devine until she married Victorino Juarez on May 14, 1930 at San Jose Catholic Church in Devine. She returned to Laredo as a young bride and lived with her in-laws in a home located several blocks from San Agustin Cathedral. Manuelita and Victorino Juarez are the parents of three daughters: Maria Minerva Juarez Ramirez from San Antonio, TX, Rosa Alicia Juarez Sciaraffa, and Amelia Juarez Magallanes, who reside in Laredo, TX. Manuelita still lives at 803 O'Kane Street in a home her late husband bought in 1937.

Every morning up to the age of 99, she watered her plants that surround her home. Because she can no longer do this, her daughters now attend to her garden. Gardening and sewing have always been her two favorite hobbies. Manuelita has 15 grandchildren who live throughout Texas, 19 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. She is the proud matriarch of five generations in her family.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the dedication of Mrs. Manuelita Guajardo Juarez to her community, and ask you to join me in honoring her on her birthday.

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CANCER SCREENING COVERAGE  
ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 3, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing, along with Representative DEBORAH PRYCE (R-OH) and Representative ROBERT BRADY (D-PA), the Cancer Screening Coverage Act, a bill that will ensure that a greater number of Americans are covered for breast, cervical, prostate, and colorectal cancer screening. This legislation will increase the access to cancer screening exams for patients of private insurance and the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death among Americans. According to the American Cancer Society, more than 1,500 Americans die of cancer every day. Cancer screening allows for the detection of cancer in its earliest form, when the cost of treatment is the least.

Many advances have been made, but the key to survival is early detection. It is esti-

ated that the rate of survival would increase from 80 percent to 95 percent if all Americans participated in regular cancer screening. By providing increased access to screening procedures, the Cancer Screening Coverage Act would help save the lives of many Americans from this deadly disease.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO LAS VEGAS  
FIRE & RESCUE

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 3, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue for celebrating their 65th anniversary serving the Las Vegas community.

The Las Vegas Fire & Rescue got its start in 1906 as the Las Vegas Volunteer Fire Department located in downtown Las Vegas on Fremont Street. Through the 1920s, the Las Vegas Volunteer Fire Department was the only department in southern Nevada to serve the construction of the Hoover Dam and the newly constructed army base, now known as Nellis Air Force Base. In 1942, volunteer firefighters petitioned at City Hall to create a full-time fire department. On August 1, 1942, the first 16 full-time employees of the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue began their shift.

Today, the department has 16 stations across the Las Vegas valley and oversees more than 650 employees. Las Vegas Fire & Rescue is one of eight departments in the country to be accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and to hold a Class One rating from the Insurance Services Offices, Inc., making it one of the safest departments in the country.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Las Vegas Fire & Rescue and the men and women who make up the department. To risk their own lives on a daily basis for the safety of others is truly commendable. I applaud Las Vegas Fire & Rescue for its leadership and wish the department continued success for years to come.

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TRIBUTE TO MS. VIRGINIA  
GUFFEY

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 3, 2007*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and sincerity that I wish to honor Ms. Virginia Guffey, who on August 12, 2007, will be honored at the U.S. Steel Yard by the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Old-Timers Club for her 58 years of service at U.S. Steel.

Virginia Guffey was born in the town of Seymour, Indiana. Until 1949, she worked at the National Veneer and Lumber Company in Seymour. At that time, she was told that her services were no longer needed. Not to be discouraged, Virginia traveled north to seek one of the many employment opportunities in Gary, IN. That same year she was hired at U.S. Steel, and as they say, the rest is history. In the beginning she lived with relatives in order to send her earnings back home to Sey-

mour to support her parents and siblings. Virginia eventually settled in Merrillville, IN.

It is important to understand that Virginia was one of only 300 women working in a workplace dominated by males at U.S. Steel. The small group of 300 women is epitomized by Virginia, who demonstrated strength of character and devotion to her career, and over time she persevered to gain acceptance and make great strides to ensure women's equality in the workplace. Fifty-eight years later, her loyalty to U.S. Steel and passion for her job still burns strong. Virginia is now an inventory clerk in the tin division's coating-packaging warehouse. At 82 years old, she does not intend to retire any time soon.

Virginia has overcome a life of hardships and discrimination with courage and determination. She is a dedicated employee who loves her work and who greets each workday with enthusiasm. Her optimism and tenacity are an example to us all. Her strong work ethic and positive attitude have earned her the respect and admiration of not only her co-workers, but of every person who has the pleasure of knowing her.

One such person is Chester Lobodzinski, founder of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Old-Timers Club, an organization for retired and current employees in the steel industry. Mr. Lobodzinski accurately painted a portrait of Virginia when he stated, "Virginia's work ethic of pride, dedication, concern, and 150 percent effort takes a back seat to no one. She is not just an employee at U.S. Steel, but is a living legend whose survival in life can be credited to her very positive attitude, combined with her many true class of friendships."

Madam Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Virginia Guffey as she is honored for her longevity and unmatched commitment to her job. Her unselfish and lifelong dedication to U.S. Steel is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent her in Congress.

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IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF  
AMERICA'S UNSUNG HERO,  
THOMAS A. O'ROURKE

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 3, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on June 26, 2007, the world lost one of America's unsung heroes when Thomas A. O'Rourke, originally of Ramsey, New Jersey, succumbed to a bone marrow disease known as Myelodysplastic syndrome.

At the height of the Vietnam war, Tom O'Rourke sought out service to his nation, as both his mother and father had done before him. During college, Tom attended United States Marine Corps Officer Candidate School. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant and sent to flight school in Pensacola, Florida, where he earned his "Wings of Gold." As a naval aviator, he headed off to Vietnam to fly AH-1G Cobra helicopters.

Tom retired as a captain and went to work for Bell Helicopter International as a test pilot and then as manager for their Maintenance Test Flight Division in Iran. In the true spirit of lifelong allegiance to the values of the Corps

and to his comrades still serving and yet to serve, he ensured the safety and effectiveness of their aviation equipment from his new place in the private sector. Tom later worked as the contracting administrator for the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) and then in a number of capacities for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in Washington State, protecting the natural resources of those lush lands.

Tom also found time to pursue personal interests, like scuba diving, travel, and softball—both as player and as coach. He spent a wonderful life with his wife of 28 years, Lohna; his son Kevin Thomas O'Rourke and his wife Casey; and his beautiful granddaughter, Mallie. Tom's son not only carries on his father's name, but also the proud family tradition of service as a pilot in the United States Marine Corps.

Tom O'Rourke's place in this world is not easily filled; he touched so many lives with such sincerity of spirit. But his courage and determination and sense of fellowship live on with his family and friends. And, I join them in celebrating this heroic life.

A TRIBUTE TO LISA SHOMAN ON  
HER APPOINTMENT TO FOREIGN  
MINISTER OF BELIZE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 3, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an opinion editorial published in the New York *CaribNews* newspaper the week ending July 17, 2007 titled "Ambassador Lisa Shoman: Belize's First Female Foreign Minister," and honor the contributions of Ambassador Shoman to Belize and the rest of Central America and the Caribbean.

Ambassador Shoman has been a trailblazer and a pioneer in many different areas. She has often taken the path less traveled, excelled in her chosen field and created opportunities and hope for women in her country. Known to be a vocal advocate of women's issues, she used to conduct free legal clinics for women and has helped draft domestic violence, sexual offenses and sexual harassment legislation for Belize.

In 2000, Ambassador Shoman was selected as the first woman to serve as Belize's ambassador to the United States, permanent representative to the OAS and high commissioner to Canada. She proudly represents a country that is a model of racial tolerance and cultural harmony and a beacon of multicultural plurality and while ambassador worked tirelessly to train the people of her nation and educate policy makers about its many virtues.

In June 2007, she led the Caribbean ambassadors in a working group with congressional staff to identify and prepare a substantive agenda for the CARICOM Presidents and Prime Minister Summit in Washington, DC, that addressed the core issues in the U.S. and CARICOM bilateral relations. Ambassador Shoman was instrumental in putting this summit together. She clearly articulated the goals of these meetings and insisted that tangible results should be accomplished. She deserves a great share of the credit for a summit re-

garded by everyone as a great success in achieving a new enhanced framework for consultation and cooperation between the governments of the United States and the CARICOM nations.

Since the Summit, the U.S. Secretary of Education is scheduled to travel to the region to provide assistance in expanding tertiary education programs in the CARICOM nations. The Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in response to the concerns expressed by the leaders of CARICOM, held a hearing on that examined the effects criminal deportees are having on Caribbean nations. The administration and senior members of the Committee on Ways and Means have committed to a renewal of the Caribbean Basin Initiative to guarantee special access to the U.S. market for exports from the Caribbean.

Ambassador Shoman has been a powerful and effective advocate for the interests of the people in the Caribbean and Latin America. I look forward to continue to work with her in her new capacity as foreign minister of the great country of Belize.

[From the *CaribNews*, July 17, 2007]

AMBASSADOR LISA SHOMAN BELIZE'S FIRST  
FEMALE FOREIGN MINISTER

(By Tony Best)

BELMOPAN.—Lisa Shoman was sworn in as Belize's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, recently at a quiet ceremony at the residence of Governor General Sir Colville Young.

The first female Foreign Minister, in her characteristic style, insisted on having her grandmother at her side to hold the bible while she took her oath of office.

According to her father, Yasin Shoman, her mother, Hilda Hoy Shoman could not stop the young Lisa from heading out on to the then rough campaign trail in the Cayo district. From the outset, Lisa proved to a shrewd observer with a knack for dealing with difficult people and talking to even the most hostile with a natural ease. She also proved to be one of the best polling agents and counters that an unbiased campaign manager could want. She has never missed a campaign since, serving in Cayo, Freetown, Caribbean Shores, San Pedro and Port Loyola, and on the PUP's National Campaign Committee.

According to Lisa Shoman's family, they always knew she would study law, a natural for this feisty advocate, and she remained fiercely focused on her path, winning scholarship after scholarship; from high school to sixth form to university and doing exceptionally well at CXC's, O and A levels.

At 24, Shoman returned to her beloved Belize fresh from law school and went to work at the DPP's office. After her return from doing a Masters Program in Barbados at UWI, Shoman returned to private practice at Young's Law Firm and during the five years she was there, also devoted time to community service, giving talks and lectures to a variety of groups, and serving as the first female president of the Belize Bar Association.

She is perhaps best known as a vocal advocate of women's issues, appearing on radio and television programs, conducting free legal clinics for women, working with Women Against Violence (WAV), and helping to draft Domestic Violence, Sexual Offences and Sexual Harassment Legislation. During those years, Shoman worked on children's issues, and served as legal advisor to the Toledo Maya Cultural Council on land rights issues. She also lectured Constitutional and

Administrative Law for UWI's Challenge program and the UB Paralegal program.

After the 1998 election, Shoman was chosen by the PUP Administration to be the Government of Belize's representative to the Board of Directors of Belize Telecommunications Limited, and was duly elected as Chairman, serving for an eventful two year term, while on her own in private practice, and then going into partnership with Michel Chebat.

In July 2000, Prime Minister Musa tapped Shoman to serve as Belize's Ambassador to the United States, as well as Permanent Representative to the OAS, and High Commissioner to Canada, the first woman to be so honored. She has now served for almost seven years, under four Belizean Foreign Ministers and is currently the deputy dean of Ambassadors at the OAS.

Shoman has been a member of the Belize-Guatemala negotiating team since her arrival in DC and has been a part of virtually all negotiating meetings under the auspices of the OAS. In a difficult and delicate phase in 2004, she was sent by PM Musa as his Special Envoy to Guatemala for two months, just prior to the publication of the historic Facilitators Report.

She has served with three OAS Secretaries General and was able to attain Belize's membership in the Grupo Centro Americano (GRUCA) caucus of ambassadors, thereby gaining for her country the singular honor of being the only country at the OAS to belong to two regional groups, CARICOM and GRUCA. Shoman has served twice as regional coordinator and chair of both groups for the customary six month term.

Shoman was given Mexico's highest honor to a foreign Diplomat, in the highest grade—the Order of the Aztec Eagle. Lisa Shoman also earned the Order of Jose De Marcoleta in the Grade of Grand Cross later that same year from the Republic of Nicaragua. At the OAS, Ambassador Shoman served two 18 month terms as Chair of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development, and also Vice Chair of the Permanent Council and has chaired several key meetings of the Permanent Council.

Ambassador Shoman has been a powerful and effective advocate for the interest of the people of Belize.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND CHIEF  
MASTER SERGEANT VICKIE  
ORCUTT

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 3, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that Command CMSgt Vicki Orcutt of Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, MO, has retired after 29 years of service.

Command Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt joined the Air Force in the mid-1970s. In her current role, she advises the Wing Commander on matters related to the health, morale, and welfare of the enlisted force and on matters related to the proper training, equipment, and utilization of enlisted personnel. Throughout the entire Air Force there are 138 Command Chief Master Sergeant positions. Only nine are women.

In her early years, Command Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt obtained a degree in Human Resources. She is now considering a teaching