

profit organization Becoming Independent, after 21 years of work on its behalf. Mr. McCue has been hugely influential in establishing and expanding the programs that Becoming Independent offers, and this hard work has been reflected by the remarkable success of participants in the program.

Mr. McCue was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and received his Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton in 1971. He has 36 years of experience in disability services, and has a credential in adult education. Mr. McCue joined Becoming Independent in 1981 as a program director before becoming CEO in 1986. In 1991 he received his Master of Public Administration degree from Sonoma State University.

During Mr. McCue's tenure as CEO, Becoming Independent has dramatically expanded the range of services available to persons with disabilities in Sonoma County, while retaining a high quality of service and satisfaction among program participants. Becoming Independent focuses on helping provide individuals with the skills they need to live fulfilling lives through community living support services, which enable individuals with disabilities to live on their own with dignity and responsibility. Vocational education is also a major emphasis in the organization, and with the assistance of Becoming Independent's employment services, hundreds of participants have found rewarding jobs all over Sonoma County. This success has been reflected in the annual gains they have charted in participant employment and earned wages.

In addition to his leadership at Becoming Independent, Mr. McCue has been active in local and state organizations, focusing on benefiting individuals with disabilities. He has been a longtime member of the California Rehabilitation Association, and served as Chair of the Board of Directors from 2004–2005. He is also a board member of the Nonprofits Insurance Alliance of California. He is active in Sonoma County and beyond as a member of the North Bay Housing Coalition, North Bay Developmental Disabilities Services, and Leadership Santa Rosa, among many others.

Madam Speaker, at this time it is appropriate that we thank John McCue for his many years of service to the people of Sonoma County and his work with Becoming Independent. His leadership has been instrumental in providing superb services to individuals with disabilities to help them gain their independence.

IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF
THE MEN AND WOMEN VOLUNTEERS
AT THE RAMSEY AMBULANCE
CORPS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the men and women who volunteer their time, skills, and energy to the people of Ramsey, New Jersey through their dedicated service to the Ramsey Ambulance Corps.

Since 1953, when the Ramsey Ambulance Corps got its first ambulance and responded to its first calls, the faithful volunteers of this

organization have been an integral part of the community. From its birth more than 50 years ago, the Corps has blossomed to a strong and steady group that today responds to more than 1100 calls for help a year.

And, the Ramsey Ambulance Corps volunteers do far more than respond to calls for ambulance assistance. They also loan important medical equipment, like wheelchairs and crutches, to people in need. They operate a bike corps for special events. They train people in emergency medical services, like CPR. And, they help with important search and rescue efforts.

This weekend, I will join these fine public servants and their neighbors at the dedication of two new ambulances. One will be dedicated to Mr. Lawrence R. Inerra, Sr. His family, a pillar of the community, generously donated the funds to purchase one of these new ambulances. The Inerra Family is in its third generation running a local supermarket chain of more than 20 stores in North Jersey and nearby New York. They have used their wealth to make North Jersey a better place to work, live, and raise a family, including through an endowed chair in Italian and Italian American Studies at my alma mater, Montclair State University.

The other will be dedicated to one of the committed leaders of the Ambulance Corps, Michael F. Adams. In addition to being a life member of the Ramsey Ambulance Corps, the Ramsey Police Reserve, and the Ramsey Rescue Squad, he is also completing his thirty-third term as the Borough of Ramsey's Emergency Management Coordinator. As a CERT Program Manager and Instructor and head of the Ramsey Citizen Corps Council, he is one of the Borough's leading advocates for citizen preparedness.

I commend these fine citizens for their commitment to their community and the example of service that they demonstrate daily.

HONORING JOHN MCCUE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative WOOLSEY in honor of John McCue, who is retiring as CEO of the non-profit organization Becoming Independent, after 21 years of work on its behalf. Mr. McCue has been hugely influential in establishing and expanding the programs that Becoming Independent offers, and this hard work has been reflected by the remarkable success of participants in their programs.

Mr. McCue was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and received his Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton in 1971. He has 36 years of experience in disability services, and has a credential in adult education. Mr. McCue joined Becoming Independent in 1981 as a program director before becoming CEO in 1986. In 1991 he received his Masters in Public Administration from Sonoma State University.

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retaining a high quality of service and satisfaction among program participants. Becoming Independent focuses on helping provide individuals with the skills they need to live fulfilling lives through community living support services, which enable individuals with disabilities to live on their own with dignity and responsibility. Vocational education is also a major emphasis in the organization, and with the assistance of Becoming Independent's employment services, hundreds of participants have found rewarding jobs all over Sonoma County. This success has been reflected in the annual gains they have charted in participant employment and earned wages.

In addition to his leadership at Becoming Independent, Mr. McCue has been active in local and state organizations, focusing on benefiting individuals with disabilities. He has been a longtime member of the California Rehabilitation Association, and served as Chair of the Board of Directors from 2004–2005. He is also a board member of the Nonprofits Insurance Alliance of California. He is active in Sonoma County and beyond as a member of the North Bay Housing Coalition, North Bay Developmental Disabilities Services, and Leadership Santa Rosa, among many others.

Madam Speaker, at this time it is appropriate that we thank John McCue for his many years of service to the people of Sonoma County and his work with Becoming Independent. His leadership has been instrumental in providing superb services to individuals with disabilities to help them gain their independence.

TRIBUTE TO SKIP RICH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize the extensive career of Skip Rich. Mr. Rich spent over 30 years serving Cole County as its Collector of Revenue, but will retire on October 3, 2007.

Skip Rich was first appointed as collector in 1977, and he was re-elected to that position every term thereafter. His record as collector has been outstanding. He has presided over notable increases in county collections and he was instrumental in starting the Cole County employee retirement system.

Skip Rich has also honorably served our country in uniform. He is a Marine who served a tour of duty in Vietnam and who later joined the Missouri Army National Guard. In that position, he held the rank of command sergeant major for over 14 years and received over twenty awards and service medals.

Having devoted his life to public service, Mr. Rich's leadership will indisputably be missed. He plans to spend his retirement traveling with his wife, Eva, and spending time with his three children and four grandchildren. I trust that Members of the House will join me in wishing Skip Rich and his family the best of luck in their future endeavors.