

of his great accomplishments. Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Mr. Austin Simon. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, especially his wife of 39 years, Mrs. Bertha L Simon, his daughter Linda Duhon, and his sons Austin Jr., Ricky, Anthony, Aaron, Christopher, Marcus, Gregory, Cedric, and Kevin. His legacy will live on through his siblings, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, godchildren, in-laws, and loving friends. May his soul rest in peace.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM "BILL"
EDWARDS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend William "Bill" Edwards of Hot Springs, Arkansas, who passed away June 1, 2008, at the age of 79.

I will forever remember Bill Edwards as a good friend, a devoted public servant and someone who cared deeply about improving the quality of life in Hot Springs and Garland County Arkansas. As a natural born leader, he excelled at every task he took on and was an inspiration to all of us who knew him.

Bill Edwards served the people of Hot Springs as Alderman and City Director for more than 35 years, however, most people just knew him as a caring friend. He was one of those rare individuals who never forgot the importance of maintaining a high degree of customer service to ensure that all those he worked with over the years were in good hands. From his very first day on the job working for the people of Hot Springs and Garland County, his number one priority was always the person he was talking with, and he would not stop working until he had exhausted every possibility to help out that individual.

Bill Edwards's leadership in Hot Springs was guided by his dedication to the city and to all of those who work and reside in our beloved state. I truly believe the Hot Springs Sentinel Record, the local paper which covered him over the years, said it best in their editorial on June 3, 2008, by stating, "It is not an exaggeration to say that this director had a 'heart for Hot Springs.'" Whether it was helping a constituent, promoting tourism in the city, or simply putting a big smile on a friend's face, he knew only one way to do it—with a big heart.

Bill Edwards will always be known for his outstanding service to Hot Springs and the surrounding communities. I extend my deepest condolences to his two daughters, Brenda Deaton of Texarkana, Texas, and Laura Rivera of Leander, Texas; his two sisters, Margaret Bennett of Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Martha Young of Hot Springs, Arkansas; his three brothers Jimmy Edwards, Charles Edwards and Mike Edwards, all of Hot Springs, Arkansas; and to his nieces, nephews, and numerous friends. Bill Edwards will be greatly missed in Hot Springs, and I am truly saddened by this loss.

THE SPARTANS ARE SOFTBALL
CHAMPIONS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to congratulate the girls' softball team of Central Davidson High School for winning the North Carolina 2-A championship. The Spartans won the title on Saturday, May 31. The team was led by seniors Allison Barnak, Lindsay Thore, Hannah Buie, Alison Lohr, and Gina Antonucci, who were an integral part of back-to-back championships along with a 54-game winning streak.

This year's title, which was won at the Walnut Creek Softball Complex in Raleigh, culminated an outstanding season for the Spartans, who were led by Head Coach Gene Poindexter. Not only did they win a State championship, the Spartans finished the year ranked 8th in a national poll of high school softball teams.

The championship contest began and ended quickly. Chelsea Leonard led the way, pitching a one-hit shutout to lead the Spartans to a 7-0 win against formidable South Lenior. The team was led with 2 hits each from Kara Lohr, Whitney Lohr, Hannah Buie, and Nicole Perry.

While there were many strong efforts, the championship win was a team effort including juniors Carrie Jernigan, and Chelsea Leonard, sophomores Leanna Hildebrand, Whitney Lohr, Haley Hanes, Nicole Perry, Laura Fritts, Emily Mills, Mindi Morris, and Haley Thore, along with freshmen Kara Lohr and Emma Comer. And just as important as the players on the field were the leaders off the field. We would like to recognize, head coach Gene Poindexter and his able assistants Jim Welborn, Bryan Starnes, Greg Leonard, Sterling Charles, Steve Hayes, Mike Pickett, Jordan Stogner, Brittney Taylor, and Richard Cid.

Also assisting the team during this incredible season were scorekeeper Ernie Antonucci, public announcer Stewart Koonts, as well as team managers Chris Keel and Brandon Gilchrist.

Again, on behalf of the Sixth District, we would like to congratulate Principal Emily Lipe, Athletic Director and Head Coach Gene Poindexter and everyone affiliated with the Central Davidson Spartans on having another great season and for winning the North Carolina 2-A softball championship for the second year in a row.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE LOMEDICO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Anne LoMedico has reached the ranks of the growing number of centenarians in the United States. As she reaches 100 years, on July 26, 2008, she can look back with pride. Anne has lived through the most prolific era in world history.

Anne was born in our very own Bronx, New York. She is a mother of two, grandmother of 7, great-grandmother of 16, and great-great grandmother of 9.

She is a hard worker who isn't afraid to say what's on her mind. From the age of 18 to 67 Anne worked at a bookbinder company. She entered the field as a machine operator and in no time worked her way to a supervisory position. Anne was never one to sit and wait for things to happen. She took initiative and in by doing so, as a union delegate she was once honored with a gold pin from the Bookbinder Union.

Anne is a very active member of her Senior Club at the Nyack Senior Center; she raised the most money out of anyone in the 2007 Walkathon fundraiser. She can also be accredited for helping women in her community who have recently been widowed, get out of the house and into the center of life.

Anne attributes her long life to her strong faith in God, the fact that she believes in eating right, exercising, and not smoking. Before she started driving, Anne would walk from the West Side of Manhattan to the East Side twice a day to go to work. She has watched her children grown and has seen the world change. We thank God for allowing Ms. LoMedico to remain with us and share her years of experience with us all.

I offer her my sincere wishes for the happiest of birthdays and congratulate her for a long and successful life.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF POLICE SERGEANT TIMOTHY
P. GRACE FROM THE FAIRFIELD
POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Police Sergeant Timothy P. Grace who faithfully served the residents of the city of Fairfield for 31 years.

Sergeant Grace began his service with the Fairfield Police Department on September 27, 1975, where he worked in several capacities including drunk driving enforcement grants, the traffic unit, patrol, investigations and the training and communications unit. Sergeant Grace continued to serve as a defensive tactics instructor as well as a field training officer.

Sergeant Grace earned his well-deserved promotion to the position of police sergeant in 2000. He worked as a valiant leader in both the patrol and the professional standards unit, where his dedication to these units made a valuable impact on the operations of the overall department.

Sergeant Grace evidenced a commitment to his community on a daily basis. He served as a loyal representative of the law and is admired by his community for his hard work, dedication and positive influence on the entire department.