

children—daughter Artemis and son Christopher—began their service to the House in the Ford House Office Building. Their unwavering commitment to serve the needs of every customer to the fullest extent possible no matter who they are—and regardless of their political affiliation—has endeared them to Members, House staff, Capitol Police and visitors. This was particularly evident as the Skentaris family made sure their customers and employees were taken care of during 9/11 and anthrax. Since the Ford Building was closed for weeks following the anthrax attack, this was no easy task, but they persevered and found a way to keep continuity of service without missing a beat to the customers and community they so value.

Many times we hear people say that Capitol Hill is a family. I would like to say that the Skentaris family has not only been part of the Capitol Hill family, they have become my family. Many of the customers who pass through the cafeteria daily are greeted by name. Jordan, Soula, Artemis and Christopher can be proud of the level of service they provide to their customers each and every day.

On behalf of the entire House community, we bid a fond farewell to the Skentaris family and extend our deepest appreciation for their dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish them much success in their future endeavor at the Voice of America where I, my staff and hundreds of others will follow them—not only for their delicious food, but for the warmth and considerate service they provide to all who enter. They will be sincerely missed.

THE DAILY 45: A HERO DIES TO
SAVE OTHERS AS A GUNMAN EN-
TERS A CHURCH

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the U.S. Last weekend, the nation's attention was riveted by the shocking act of a gunman who felt comfortable walking into a church, on Sunday, and opening fire. This incident, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, was especially horrific because of the loss of life—two, to date—as well as the long-term scars it will leave on the children who were participating in a choral presentation for their families and friends.

As sometimes happens in these incidents, there was a hero involved who martyred himself to protect others. Such was the case, this time, as church members told police that 60-year-old Greg McKendry, without blinking an eye, saw what was happening and, literally, placed his body in the line of fire. I extend a heartfelt prayer to the church community, Mr. McKendry's family and the other victims whose sense of peace was violated.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

IN HONOR OF CELEBRATING THE
SERVICE OF MR. GREGORY M.
DIAMOND

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gregory M. Diamond, a dear friend and colleague who had served for over 10 distinguished years as my District Director in the First Congressional District of Colorado.

Greg grew up in Denver as the son of Greek and Canadian immigrants. Both of his parents worked extremely hard to establish themselves in the United States instilling within Greg a tireless work ethic, an acumen for equality, an exceptional attention to detail, and a sharp mind for finance, politics, and sympathy for the human condition.

Greg's leadership abilities shined through early when he was elected Head Boy at Denver East High School. Greg moved on to attend the University of Denver earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy during the turbulent 1960's. This era of frustration with the Vietnam War and society's status quo inspired Greg to become involved in the University's anti-war and civil rights movements, imbedding a desire for social justice and fairness and the pursuit of public policies to benefit all people throughout his working life.

Greg earned a Masters of Science in Judicial Administration at the University of Denver College of Law and worked for a few years in the Wayne County Court System in Detroit, Michigan.

When his father became ill, Greg returned to Colorado to work in the family restaurant in the Cherry Creek neighborhood of Denver. In 1988, Greg became greatly inspired by the presidential campaign of Michael Dukakis and joined the Colorado Coordinated Campaign. In addition to sharing Greek heritage with Governor Dukakis, Greg admired his practical yet inclusive style of governing and fiscal policies.

Dukakis' loss was a disappointing blow for Greg, but he had caught the political bug. He moved on to manage a U.S. Senate primary, and worked in senior capacities on various other presidential, congressional, state, local and referenda campaigns, including the bond election to build Denver International Airport, where he met his future wife Faye, to whom he has been married for 16 years.

In 1991, Greg began his career in public policy, serving in former Governor Roy Romer's cabinet in the Office of Energy Conservation, then four years as the Deputy State Treasurer under former Colorado State Treasurer Gail Schoettler. He finished up his years in the Governors Office of Economic Development as a Science and Technology Advisor.

Greg is unique individual and a tower in Denver and Colorado politics in a District with a multitude of strong political personalities. In a city defined by a history of rough-and-tumble politics and a varied electorate, with their own political desires, Greg has managed to fly above the fray gaining the respect, admiration, and trust of the diverse constituencies of the First Congressional District.

Greg has the enviable ability to actively listen to constituents concerns and to frame their arguments and the political realities in ways

only a seasoned political mind and public policy analyst could. Greg will long be remembered for his extensive briefings and memos for District meetings which were exhaustively researched and supplied with extensive supporting materials. In any meeting I attended with Greg, I was confident I was well briefed and any issue or argument would be at my fingertips. Greg is also an eloquent writer, penning many of our offices tributes and speeches.

There is also no doubt Greg was extremely popular in Colorado politics and in the broader Denver community. Any meeting or reception I would attend with Greg, constituents, business, and political leaders would joke with Greg and regale me about some past shared experience. Greg would always return the favor with his hearty infectious laughter filling the room.

Greg is fondly regarded by his District Office staff, many of whom he hired. The high retention rate in my District Office is a great tribute to Greg who treated his employees with respect, compassion, and a sense of humor which often kept the staff on their toes. Greg related well to young and older employee alike, always interested in what everyone had to say, encouraging staff for good deeds done, but also willing to guide staffers back in line when they went astray.

Greg leaves my office in the height of his career, rising with me as a first term Representative to the Dean of the Colorado Congressional Delegation. I am deeply indebted to him for his service, guidance, and enduring commitment to the residents of the First Congressional District of Colorado.

At the end of the day, there is one main reason we come to serve in this body: to help the people we represent and to improve their communities and livelihoods to the best of our abilities. It is with the assistance of such exceptional staff members as Greg Diamond that we are able to achieve these goals. There are thousands of Coloradans and residents of Denver, Englewood, Sheridan, and Cherry Hills Village whose lives have been touched by Greg's dedication and service.

I ask you and our colleagues to join me as I thank Greg for his 10 years of service to the First District, express my gratitude for his long friendship and congratulate him as he enters a new phase of his public service.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL SNOW

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay honor and tribute to the memory of Samuel Snow, of Leesburg, Florida.

In 1944, Samuel Snow was among a group of black American soldiers involved in the largest and longest U.S. Army court martial of World War II.

Mr. Snow, then a 19-year-old Army private, and 42 other black troops were tried at Fort Lawton in Seattle for the death of an Italian Army prisoner of war. All 43 were accused of rioting, while three of the GIs were charged with first degree murder. Mr. Snow was one of two men still alive to tell the story.