

To me, the highlight of the Exchange is that it is almost entirely run by the private sector. The State brought together a technology company, a finance company, and many different insurers who have worked out the necessary details to provide a platform for this new marketplace. We were able to go from a signed bill to a functioning exchange in just five months. This is the very definition of forging unprecedented partnerships to find solutions that government alone cannot provide. The driving force behind any proposed exchange must continue to be private sector ingenuity, with government assisting in the appropriate ways.

I look forward to working with you in a similar manner to ensure that federal and state healthcare reforms are compatible and will result in success for the citizens of our great State. I believe that together we can develop workable alternatives to the traditional Washington D.C. "one-size-fits-all" solution. We must continue to recognize that states are the laboratories of innovation and that the best solution to our nation's challenges is to empower states to serve their unique populations in the best ways possible.

Please contact me if there is any way I can be of assistance with this very important issue.

Best Regards,

GARY R. HERBERT,  
*Governor, Utah.*

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT  
ZACHARY J. RHYNER, USO AIR-  
MAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Staff Sergeant Zachary J. Rhyner's distinguished service in the United States Air Force, and to congratulate him on being named USO Airman of the Year. Staff Sergeant Rhyner's extraordinary heroism in Shok Valley, Afghanistan on April 6, 2008 as part of Operation Enduring Freedom is a testament to his training, character, and personal strength.

While conducting an air assault infiltration as Special Tactics Combat Controller, Sergeant Rhyner and his team were caught in an ambush. Intense sniper, machine gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire rained down on the team from a well-trained insurgent force. Sergeant Rhyner was shot once in his left leg and struck twice in his chest. Although wounded, Sergeant Rhyner stayed calm and called in more than 50 air strikes and strafing gun runs. He placed himself between enemy forces and his men several times in order to return fire and to allow his teammates to retrieve the critically wounded and the deceased. He has been recognized for his heroism several times. In addition to being named USO Airman of the Year today, he received the Air Force Cross, the service's second highest medal for valor, on March 10, 2009. He also received a Purple Heart and the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs Grateful Nation Award.

Staff Sergeant Rhyner is based at Pope Air Force Base, in North Carolina's Second District and lives in Harnett County, my home county. I am proud to have him as a fellow North Carolinian, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this honor and saluting his service.

HONORING SENATOR EDWARD  
KENNEDY

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Edward Kennedy, who passed away August 25, 2009, at age 77. A leader in the Senate for over 46 years, Senator Kennedy dedicated his career to equality and justice for all.

Senator Kennedy believed that the fight for quality and affordable healthcare was the cause of his life and nothing less than a moral obligation for us all. His courageous commitment to improving the welfare of all people was inspirational to me and millions of Americans. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, he influenced nearly every piece of legislation that came before the Senate. Because of his deep concern for the treatment of mental health patients, he helped individuals suffering from mental health and substance abuse disorders receive adequate coverage and prompted the growth of America's Community Mental Health Centers. Senator Kennedy was also committed to increasing access to health care for everyone. I wish he was with us long enough to see all his hard work come true.

Senator Kennedy was a compelling advocate for equal access to education for all children. His leadership was instrumental in expanding the Head Start Program and he devoted himself to improving teaching quality and equality across the country.

Senator Kennedy fought tirelessly to ensure all students who wished to obtain higher education were able to do so. During the 110th Congress, he helped enact the most substantial increase in student aid funding, making higher education more accessible and affordable to all.

Madam Speaker, Senator Kennedy was a shining example of what the very best public servants can aspire to become and his passion for helping others will live on through the lives he has touched. His legacy of hard work, compassion, and excellence will continue to impact America for generations to come.

HONORING ELDON ROTH

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eldon Roth, a celebrated and respected member of the agricultural community. I am privileged to be joined by the distinguished Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO in recognizing Mr. Roth. It is a remarkable day indeed when we can both wholeheartedly endorse the same objective.

Growing up in rural South Dakota, Eldon Roth learned the values of a strong work ethic and perseverance. Lacking access to electricity and running water in his home, he never allowed the limitations of sheer circumstance to hinder his pursuit for excellence. Eldon and his wife Regina, who is his business partner, started their business in San Francisco back

in the 1970s. A self-educated man who never accepted the status quo, Mr. Roth occupied his spare time by employing his understanding of mechanics to improve the efficiency of the meat freezing process.

This focus led him to working with stainless steel firms in the area to develop a large drum. His natural mechanical genius devised a way to liquefy the meat product at the lowest possible temperature. The FMI Roller Press Freezer, a huge piece of equipment, was a new concept for the continuous quick-freezing of ground meats and other similar consistency products. Through his work, the freezing process was trimmed from two days to a matter of mere minutes. It revolutionized the industry and standardized the quick-chill process that now assures high levels of food safety.

Over the years, Mr. Roth continued his innovating work and as a selfless man of integrity, he takes time to share his discoveries with other meat processors to protect consumer health. Mr. Roth has not only developed unique ways to increase the value of beef and pork, but he led a revolution in equipment design. By taking great pride in his work, Mr. Roth undoubtedly raised the bar in terms of excellence for the U.S. meat and poultry processing industry.

Today, the company Mr. Roth founded, Beef Products Inc. is the world's leading producer of boneless beef. Mr. Roth's impact in the market of beef and poultry has justly earned him multiple awards. BPI has built plants in Texas, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska. He is a recipient of a 2008 Beef Industry Division award presented by the National Cattlemen's Foundation as well as the recipient of the 2007 E. Floyd Forbes Award, the highest honor from the National Meat Association.

Along with founding the world's leading producer of high-quality lean-beef trimmings, Mr. Roth made sure to give back to the local community. Last year, Mr. Roth organized an event in Sioux City, Iowa where he hosted a prime rib appreciation dinner Salute to the 185th Refueling Wing of the Iowa Air National Guard. He had about 1,500 Guardsmen with their families and guests to attend at the BPI aircraft hangar, and he and his company staff cooked hot roast beef for everyone! One of his special guests was Congressional Award winner Col. Bud Day, along with other local dignitaries.

Mr. Roth is known as a self-made man who possesses unequalled discipline, drive, and discernment. He is successfully building a legacy of generosity by giving back to the people of his own community. I am proud to stand here today, shoulder to shoulder with Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO, to honor Eldon Roth of South Dakota.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was not present during the rollcall vote Numbers 758 to 760 on October 7, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On rollcall vote No. 758 I would have voted "yes."