

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MARGRIT BIEVER
MONDAVI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margrit Bieber Mondavi on the occasion of her being distinguished as an Honorary Member of the Agricultural Leadership Alumni. The award will be bestowed upon Mrs. Mondavi at the annual conference of this organization.

Selection for this distinction is "reserved for special individuals who have, over a period of time, demonstrated consistent commitment and uncommon excellence in the furtherance of education and leadership in California agriculture."

Mrs. Mondavi is a native of Appenzell, Switzerland and was raised in her family home in the canton of Ticino. Margrit studied art at Minusio, an art school in Switzerland, under a professor who had been a student of Hans Hoffman. In 1967, Margrit joined the Robert Mondavi Winery and pursued her life-long interest in uniting wine with fine arts, music, and culinary artistry.

Mrs. Mondavi founded the winery's popular Summer Music Festival in 1969 as a benefit for the Napa Valley Symphony. She and a small group of other dedicated Napa Valley art lovers formed a board of directors to rebuild the original 19th-century opera house in the city of Napa. In 1998, the opera raised significant funds for the restoration as part of a challenge grant from Margrit and Robert G. Mondavi. Mrs. Mondavi introduced a program of cooking classes to develop guests' appreciation of great food paired with fine wine, as well as the Great Chefs of France and the Great Chefs of America programs. She and Robert also recently made a substantial personal gift to the University of California at Davis to establish the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science and to launch The Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts opened in October 2002. The couple work together as founding patrons of Copia: The American Center for Wine, Food, and the Arts. Margrit was also instrumental in securing the downtown Napa location for the center.

Margrit has applied her talent to commercial design and has now created a line of home accessory designs exclusively for the Robert Mondavi Winery. She has been married to Robert Mondavi since 1980. An accomplished linguist, Margrit often translates her husband's speeches for international audiences.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Margrit Bieber Mondavi as an Honorary Member of the Agricultural Leadership Alumni. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Margrit Bieber Mondavi many years of continued success.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY OF DION'S PIZZA

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most successful small business enterprises in the state of New Mexico. February marks a quarter century of quality pizza, salads and sub sandwiches from one of New Mexico's beloved dining establishments, Dion's Pizza. This achievement marks another important chapter in a story of two childhood friends, since the ninth grade, who have formed a lasting friendship and partnership.

The owners of Dion's, Jon Patten and Bill Scott, came to Albuquerque from Michigan in 1978 with dreams of opening a restaurant. After purchasing New York Pizza, a small local restaurant in financial trouble located in the Northeast Heights, Jon and Bill proceeded with plans of turning the pizzeria into a Greek restaurant to be called Dionysus. However, the struggling entrepreneurs found that the cost of ordering a sign with all those letters was too costly, but the name "Dion's" fit the bill just fine. While waiting for equipment necessary for the preparation of Greek food, the previous owner taught them how to make pizza so they could continue to operate in the interim. After a few weeks, Jon and Bill started serving Greek food along with the pizza. Surprisingly, however, customers continued to order pizza, encouraging Jon and Bill to develop and refine a quality pizza recipe, eventually resulting in today's secret recipe that has made Dion's one of New Mexico's best-loved eating establishments.

The success of Dion's is easily documented. It grew from one employee in 1978, to 12 employees in 1979, to over 600 employees today. There are currently 10 Dion's in New Mexico. The company has plans to open a location in Las Cruces later this year and Santa Fe in 2005. The owners tease that their goal is world pizza domination by the year 3000. Clearly, they are on their way.

Dion's attributes its success to a set of principles that has helped the chain expand and at the same time maintain a loyal base of satisfied customers. Among those principles are always using the freshest ingredients; never changing ingredients simply to get the cheapest price; only serving food that is presentable and quality; hiring the best people; and giving the customer exceptional quality, service and cleanliness.

The company's set of beliefs appears to be working. Dion's has received several awards over the years. The first recognition came in November, 1979, only 19 months after opening the first location. The Albuquerque Tribune named Dion's "the second best pizza in town." According to the owners, that was the last second place finish. Since then, Dion's has accumulated a number of first place

awards. I know that Jon and Bill are the most proud of the praise they receive from regular citizens.

One of the most admirable aspects of Dion's business philosophy is its dedication to being a family-oriented establishment. None of the locations serve alcohol, and smoking is not allowed. Viewing stands have been constructed in each restaurant to enable children to watch pizzas being made. Additionally, Dion's offers tours to children and other youth groups; approximately 12,000 children tour Dion's restaurants each year. The company is also involved in a host of charitable events in which its contributions make a powerful impact on the surrounding community.

I had the opportunity to tour a Dion's in 2000. I was impressed with the quality of employees, many of them high school students starting their first careers, and the ambience that encompasses each Dion's. This company has many employees that have stayed on for years, if not decades, out of loyalty. In an industry that has a high turnover rate, Dion's is obviously doing something right. The company has always paid above minimum wage, and raises are frequent for doing a job well done.

As Dion's continues to grow and expand, there will undoubtedly be changes. Over the years, the employee uniforms have changed, as has the list of items on the menu. Jon and Bill are not afraid to be innovative and are always searching for improvements. Dion's has had a number of offers to be bought and be expanded nationally. Today there could be a Dion's on nearly every street corner in America, but instead, Jon and Bill have stayed to protect a creation they both care deeply about.

Mr. Speaker, we spent much time in the 107th Congress focusing on a variety of corporate scandals that seriously shook the faith of Americans everywhere. At that time, I tried to stress that there are honest companies out there, and we must not let those isolated cases of gross misconduct spoil our view of average businesses. I believe that Dion's Pizza is an exceptional example of a business that has succeeded because of the devotion of its owners and employees.

As this special restaurant celebrates its 25th anniversary, it remains one of a kind. It is unique amongst its peers throughout the country for its philosophy and principles, but, most of all, because it is the product of so many remarkable people and ideas. It is truly part of the communities it serves, and New Mexicans are proud to call Dion's their own. I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Dion's for its success.

AN EAGLE SCOUT SPEAKS OUT
AGAINST ANTI-GAY DISCRIMINATION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Boy Scouts of America are

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

being profoundly unfair to many young people by refusing admission to their program to gay teenagers and adults. It should be emphasized that the Boy Scouts make no claim that this is based on the need to protect scouts from sexual abuse. Every organization dealing with young people ought to have very strict policies, with rigorous enforcement, to protect young people against any adult engaging in inappropriate sexual activity with them. But the Boy Scout policy is based not on this fear, but on their explicit view that being gay is inconsistent with being "morally straight" and being "clean in word and deed." In other words, the Scout's policy is simply a condemnation of the character and integrity of all gay men.

This official policy by the national organization puts a number of people of good will in a difficult situation. There are a large number of men—and women as well—who participate in and are supportive of the Boy Scouts because the organization does do a great deal of good work. But they quite correctly abhor the cruel, discriminatory policy of the Scouts. Some have responded by ending their affiliation. Others have taken an equally honorable course—staying for now within the organization but fighting explicitly and openly against its discriminatory policy. I admire the willingness of people to do this. At some point it may become clear that the Boy Scout organization is irrevocably committed to this biased policy, but there have been encouraging signs of dissent in many parts of the country and I am hoping that those courageous people who are making this fight within the Boy Scouts will at some point succeed.

I am particularly impressed when young people take this position, because it is especially hard for teenagers to stand up against authority in this way, and indeed to risk the disagreement of their peers. One very impressive scout—an Eagle Scout in fact—who has articulated the courageous moral position of those within the Boy Scout movement who disagree sharply with the organization's discriminatory policy is Michael Peiser. I first came into contact with Mr. Peiser when I was asked to write a letter to congratulate him on his becoming an Eagle Scout. As is my practice, I wrote to him and congratulated him, but simultaneously wrote to the Boy Scout organization that had solicited my letter noting that as a gay man, I did find it odd that they would simultaneously, as an organization, characterize me in such a negative fashion and ask me to congratulate one of the young people. I do not think that the young people themselves should be further victimized, so I write these letters to them of congratulations, but also remind the adult sponsoring entities of my strong disagreement with their policy.

In the case of Mr. Peiser, the Scout leaders to whom I had written shared my letter with him, and he was gracious enough to let me know of his agreement with my position. In fact, he shared with me an essay he had written for his college admissions application, which is a very powerful statement of opposition to the Boy Scout policy. I admire very much Michael Peiser's stance of fighting from within the organization to change this policy, and I ask that his essay be printed here as an example of moral leadership by a young man.

MICHAEL PEISER'S ESSAY

Two years ago, I attended my high school's first Gay/Straight Alliance meeting. As soon as the meeting began, the topic of my in-

volvement in the Boy Scouts of America, which openly discriminates gays, became the focus of the discussion. Suddenly I was being harangued by the other four people at the meeting. The hypocrisy of my being an active member of my local Boy Scout troop, while also being an ardent liberal and supporter of gay rights, had never occurred to me. The official position statement (BSA 1991) is as follows: "We believe that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the requirement in the Scout Oath that a Scout be morally straight and in the Scout Law that a Scout be clean in word and deed, and that homosexuals do not provide a desirable role model for Scouts."

The two halves of my scouting experience, the first in a culturally diverse troop in Los Angeles and the latter in an affluent northeastern suburban troop, have been quite skewed on the issue of gay scouts. My troop and many other troops with liberal attitudes approach this controversy with a "don't ask don't tell" policy. However, I cannot hide from the fact that this evasion does not address the quandary in any manner. The Boy Scout Organization teaches its members not to hate or to discriminate; yet, having a policy that discriminates against certain individuals inevitably feeds hate.

Last year, at one of my meetings, I was teaching backpacking skills to a group of sixth graders. During the session one of the scouts started to make "gay jokes" toward another scout. The rest of the kids began to make denigrating remarks about homosexuals in scouting. I interjected and asked them why they were making fun of homosexuals and also what they knew about the Scouts' actual policy on homosexuality. The seven scouts in my group unanimously argued that "being gay was not natural and, therefore, should not be allowed in scouting." These notions, which are probably developed outside of the Boy Scouts as well as in my troop, only teach young kids to be closed-minded.

What disturbs me the most about this issue is that Scouting was formed to be a safe haven for all youth. Scouting is supposed to be a place where those who are fortunate and less fortunate can experience what their communities and world have to offer them. Scouting offers so much leadership, friendship, and guidance, that it pains me to see so many different people and organizations, ranging from synagogues to companies like Levi Strauss, completely cut off all support for the Boy Scouts. While I understand the rationale for choosing to do so, I do not feel this helps scouting in any way. I firmly believe that Scouting needs to change its anti-gay policy. Boycotting the organization only makes change more difficult.

Change can only occur from within Scouting. When people ask me how I believe this can be achieved, I tell them the following: when I see discrimination either happening or being talked about among the scouts, I sit down with them and have an open discussion. I believe that, if individual scouts learn to be open and accepting, then, with time, these discriminating policies will change. Today, when people question my support of the Boy Scouts, I tell them exactly what I disagree with, and how I plan to change it.

HONORING WILLIAM BURNS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William "Bill" Burns,

who is being honored on the occasion of his retirement as the District Representative of the Operating Engineers in Eureka, California.

Bill Burns, who was born in Richmond, California, has dedicated his life to the labor movement in our country. He joined Operating Engineers, Local 3 in 1964 as a heavy-duty repair apprentice. After graduating from the apprenticeship program, he began his career as a mechanic and foreman, gaining experience and expertise on Northern California job sites. He was elected the conductor for Local 3 in 1982, a position he has been re-elected to in every election thereafter. Bill was named Business Representative in 1982 in Santa Rosa, California and in 1986 became District Representative in Eureka.

As a recognized community leader, Bill Burns has served on the Board of Directors of United Way; Board Member, Private Industry Council; Member, Citizens for Port Development; Secretary-Treasurer, Central Labor Council; Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Humboldt-Del Norte Building and Construction Trades Council and as a member of the Eureka City Schools Closure Committee. He also coached youth soccer for 10 years.

An active member of the Democratic Party, Bill serves as Vice-Chair and Executive Board member of the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee. In 1992 he was a Clinton delegate to the Democratic Convention and serves as an Executive Board Member of the California Democratic Party. In 1998, Bill Burns was named Humboldt County Democrat of the Year.

Bill Burns has lived his life with a conscientious and sincere commitment to working people and our democratic traditions. Raising the standard of living for those whose daily labor sustains our nation has been his life's work.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Bill Burns for his contributions and service to the people of our country.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR. LAUREL CLARK, "COLUMBIA" ASTRONAUT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to express my sorrow over the loss the seven astronauts on board the shuttle *Columbia*. At a time when there seemed to be more than enough tragic news to go around, we woke up on a Saturday morning to news reports about a missing space shuttle, and then images of a disintegrating, burning spacecraft streaking across the sky. The memories of the *Challenger* accident were brought back for all of us, with the same sense of shared sadness.

The six American astronauts, together with their Israeli colleague, represented much of the best that our world has to offer. To the honor roll of those who died advancing human knowledge, we add Rick Husband, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, William McCool, David Brown, Laurel Clark and Ilan Ramon.

President Bush, in his moving tribute to the dead of the *Columbia*, asserted strongly, and wisely, that space exploration must not end: "The cause in which they died will continue.

Mankind is led into the darkness beyond our world by the inspiration of discovery and the longing to understand. Our journey into space will go on."

Of these seven brave men and women that we lost, I want to pay special tribute to Dr. Laurel Clark, who spent time as a child in New Mexico, where her father, Robert Salton, still resides. In reading interviews that Laurel gave, both before and during her mission on *Columbia*, a portrait emerges of an intelligent, determined woman, who managed a successful career, while at the same time being a devoted daughter, wife and mother. She helped open the door further for more women interested in science and space exploration careers.

In closing, I want to share a observation that Laurel gave from space in describing what it was like to view a sunset from above the Earth. "There's a flash—the whole payload bay turns this rosy pink. It only lasts 15 seconds and then it's gone. It's very ethereal and extremely beautiful."

I believe that Laurel's comment helps all of us have a better sense of who Laurel was. I want to express my deep sympathy to all of Laurel's family and friends. Those who knew her personally will never forget her, and her legacy will live on.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following article, which appeared in Sunday's *Albuquerque Journal*, be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

[From the *Albuquerque Journal*]

ALBUQUERQUE FATHER RECALLS "A FINE LADY"

(By Leanne Potts)

Robert Salton had gone into the back yard of his Albuquerque home at dawn Saturday to look for his oldest child in the western sky.

His daughter, Laurel Clark, was an astronaut aboard the space shuttle *Columbia*. It was her first mission, and her daddy had just heard on CNN that people in New Mexico should be able to see the shuttle's trail as it flew over the state en route to its landing in Florida.

"I saw one long contrail in the sky going from west to east," Salton said. "I'm pretty sure that was it. That was her."

Less than 20 minutes later Salton and his wife, Harriet, heard the news on television: NASA had lost contact with the shuttle.

"Then that TV reporter in Dallas had the footage that showed the breakup," Salton said. "And we knew what had happened."

The oldest of Salton's four children—the daughter who had made A's in school, gone to medical school on a full Navy scholarship and made the space program while she was five months pregnant—was dead.

"She was just a fine lady," Salton said. "I was proud of her accomplishments, of course, but she was a good person, too."

Behind him, on a table in his home in a middle-class neighborhood near University Boulevard and Indian School Road, were photos reminding the retired 69-year-old carpenter of the accomplishments of his golden child.

There was Clark and her brother, Jon Salton, an engineer at Sandia National Laboratories, grinning together in a training plane that produces weightlessness. Clark is floating upside down, wearing her blue astronaut jumpsuit; her eyes sparkle like someone who knows her dream is in reach.

There was Salton's grandson—Laurel's 8-year-old son, Iain Clark—holding a feather and a bone in some Southwestern canyon.

There was a color 8-by-10 of Laurel's official NASA photo, the one where her smile

shows her dimples, the one Americans have seen dozens of times since news broke that the space shuttle *Columbia* blew up 207,000 feet in the air over Texas.

On the photo, Laurel had written: "To a wonderful father—I wouldn't be where I am without your guidance, support and love."

The word love was underlined.

RINGING PHONES

By 1 p.m. Saturday, the Saltons had turned off their TV. They couldn't watch any more news reports about debris raining from the Texas sky.

Their phone rang nonstop. Family called. Friends called. Reporters called. Powerful people called.

"The governor called and left a message," Harriet Salton said. "We heard from that congressman from the southern part of the state, too."

The phone rang again. "It's Heather," Harriet called to her husband. Robert took the call, but was off the phone in about two minutes.

"Wrong Heather," he said. "I thought it was Heather Salton (his niece) but it was Heather Wilson. I wouldn't have picked up the phone for a congressman."

The phone rang a few minutes later; Harriet looked at the Caller ID. "It's Dan Rathner again," she said.

They let the answering machine take it.

VERY TOUGH LADY

Clark, 41, was born in Iowa. The Saltons moved a lot, and Clark lived here in Albuquerque two years in 1970s.

She went to the fifth grade at Hodgin Elementary around 1971 while Robert Salton worked on a doctorate in American Studies at the University of New Mexico. Clark's mother, Margory, was an RN.

The Saltons moved to New York but returned to Albuquerque a year or so later, where Clark attended Monroe Middle School for a year.

Her parents divorced, and Clark moved to Wisconsin with her mother. Clark went to high school in Racine, Wis., a city of 84,000 that, according to her official NASA biography, she considers to be her hometown.

She was an A-student at Horlick High. "The only B she ever made was in typing," Robert Salton said.

She got a Navy scholarship to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she got a bachelor's degree in zoology in 1983 and a doctorate in medicine in 1987.

Clark joined the Navy and was working as a flight surgeon, based in Pensacola, Fla., when she decided to try out for the space program. Clark didn't make the program the first tryout.

"Then she got pregnant, and I figured that was it for her being an astronaut," Robert Salton said.

But Clark tried out again in 1996 when she was five months pregnant with her son Iain. She got in.

"She is—she was—a very tough lady," Robert Salton said.

Clark lived in Houston with her husband, Jonathan Clark, and son, Iain. Her husband is also in the space program.

Clark's husband and son had gone to Florida to see the shuttle landing, as had Clark's sister, Lynne Salton of Kansas City, Mo. The rest of the family was watching on television, Salton said.

During the *Columbia*'s 16-day mission, Clark had been in contact with some of her siblings via e-mail.

"The kids have been forwarding me her e-mails this morning. She was real excited, talking about watching lightning storms over the Pacific."

Salton said he saw his daughter for the last time in December, when she came to Albuquerque for Christmas.

"She was pumped about the (shuttle) trip," Salton said. "She was so excited. It was something she had worked for for six or seven years."

The Saltons said Laurel was aware of the risks involved in space travel, but not worried about them. At least not enough to miss a chance to fly in the stars.

"She was doing what she loved to do," Harriet Salton said. "She fulfilled her dream. Not many of us get to do that."

HONORING ROBERT G. MONDAVI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert G. Mondavi on the occasion of his being distinguished as an Honorary Member of the Agricultural Leadership Alumni. The award will be bestowed upon Mr. Mondavi at the annual conference of this organization.

Selection for this distinction is "reserved for special individuals who have, over a period of time, demonstrated consistent commitment and uncommon excellence in the furtherance of education and leadership in California agriculture."

Robert was born in Virginia, Minnesota to parents who emigrated from the Marche region of Italy. He is a graduate of Stanford University with a degree in economics and business administration. Upon graduation, Robert joined his father at Sunnyhill Winery in St. Helena and later at Charles Krug, where he upgraded the technology of the family enterprise, determined to raise quality. Later Mr. Mondavi established the first post-Prohibition major winery built in the Napa Valley. Robert also pioneered many of the fine winemaking techniques in California, including cold fermentation, stainless steel tanks, and the use of French oak barrels.

Mr. Mondavi received the World Trade Club's "International Achievement Award" for being a leading pioneer in the exportation of Premium California wine and being among the first to have a publicly traded company. He has also been honored with the first-ever "California State Fair Lifetime Achievement Award," the Wine Spectator's first "Readers' Choice Award" as "The Person Who Has Done the Most to Enhance Wine's Image," and the "Business Leader of the Year" award from the Harvard Business School Association of Northern California. In 2002, Robert was honored by the California State Assembly as "the global emissary of American food and wine" for lifetime achievements on behalf of California wine, food, and arts.

Mr. Mondavi is recognized as the global emissary of American food and wine. His vision was to create wines in California that belong in the company of great wines of the world. Having successfully achieved this goal, his wisdom as founder and Chairman Emeritus of Robert Mondavi now guides his sons and daughter in their leadership of the Robert Mondavi family of wines.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert G. Mondavi as an Honorary Member of the Agricultural Leadership Alumni. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Robert Mondavi many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MISSOURI FARM
BUREAU

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to the Missouri Farm Bureau President Charlie Kruse and members of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, which was recently recognized as one of the nation's top state Farm Bureau organizations. The Missouri Farm Bureau was awarded the American Farm Bureau's most prestigious award, the President's Award, at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 84th Annual Meeting.

The American Farm Bureau's President's Award is awarded to state Farm Bureaus that excel in the organization's 12 program categories. The categories include: membership; commodity and marketing information; young farmers and ranchers program; public relations; state and local governmental affairs; leadership and organization development; public policy implementation; special programs; political education programs; policy development; agriculture in the classroom; and agriculture promotion. In each of these categories, the Missouri Farm Bureau received a gold star for excellence, which is the highest possible recognition a state Farm Bureau can receive. This is the eighth year that the Missouri Farm Bureau has been able to claim the top award.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Kruse and the members of the Missouri Farm Bureau can be proud of the accomplishments. I know the Members of the House will join me in saluting the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation for receiving this well deserved award.

IN COMMEMORATION OF U.S.
CENTRAL CREDIT UNION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Central Credit Union (U.S. Central), located in my home state of Kansas, has worked to support corporate credit unions in serving their members through innovative and premier financial services for nearly 30 years. U.S. Central was chartered in 1974 to assist corporate credit unions in meeting the financial services needs of consumer credit unions throughout the country.

While providing financial products and services to corporate credit unions, and growing to become a \$33 billion financial institution, U.S. Central has never forgotten the hallmark of the credit union philosophy of "people helping people." Credit unions were created more than 100 years ago to allow people of ordinary means gain financial independence. U.S. Central strives to provide the best value in products and services for its corporate members, and this same guiding principle is passed on to the more than 80 million credit union member consumers that are living in our country today.

As a financial cooperative, U.S. Central strives to make decisions that are in the best

interest of its member owners—the nation's corporate credit unions. Its leaders have learned that this concept brings success to all of us, and that equitable service is of paramount importance.

U.S. Central should also be recognized for its compassion for its surrounding community. Because U.S. Central's membership is comprised of corporate credit unions, which serve consumer credit unions throughout the country, it has defined its community as both local and national in scope.

Nationally, U.S. Central supports organizations such as the National Credit Union Foundation, which helps credit union employees and their families in disaster-recovery situations, and assists credit unions in making affordable mortgages to people of modest means, among other activities. Another focus of U.S. Central's support is the World Council of Credit Unions, which promotes credit union development worldwide for the purpose of expanding affordable financial services to people all over the globe.

Locally, U.S. Central actively supports several community programs. Two key projects that fit well with the company's broad objective of helping to foster people's financial well-being are Kansas City Saves, a coalition encouraging urban residents to save and build wealth more effectively, and the Kansas JumpStart Coalition for Financial Literacy, which supports personal finance education for children in grades K-12.

Mr. Speaker, I commend U.S. Central Credit Union for its support, dedication and commitment to the credit unions across our nation, and I applaud them, as they prepare to dedicate their new corporate facility in Lenexa, Kansas, on February 5, 2003, and as they honor the architects of the credit union community that helped credit unions become an important financial resource for today's consumers.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE OF JUDGE GUY H.
MCMICHAEL III UPON HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM THE DEPART-
MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Guy H. McMichael III, who is retiring after a lifetime of public service, including more than 25 years at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Judge McMichael's career includes stints in the Army, as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and at the VA under five Administrators, four Secretaries and five different Presidents.

Judge McMichael graduated from Harvard University and received a law degree from the University of Michigan. He served in the Army for two years and later was in private practice for four years, while also serving as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the State of Indiana. In 1971, he became General Counsel for the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where he remained for six years until joining the VA following the election of President Carter.

When Judge McMichael first came to the VA with Administrator Max Cleland in 1977, he brought a healthy distrust of what people said and what they did. His discernment and skepticism was resented by some, but over the years, his ability to persuade others of the importance of being honest brought integrity to almost all parts of the VA that he touched. That a man who was the Administrator's right hand during the Carter years would stay on and perform such exemplary service for an additional 23 years is quite remarkable.

In 1981, Administrator Robert P. Nimmo appointed Guy McMichael to the VA Board of Appeals as an Administrative Judge. He was appointed Chairman and Chief Administrative Judge in 1990, and has remained in that position until his retirement this year. Over the past several years, Judge McMichael has also filled several important positions on a temporary basis, including Acting Chief of Staff, Chief Information Officer, and Acting Under Secretary for Benefits.

Mr. Speaker, Judge McMichael's legacy is that of a man who served his nation with compassion and distinction, and advanced the interests of veterans. Truly, he saw his work for veterans as a mission, one that he could devote the full talents God blessed him with. Veterans are better off because he served them as long as he did.

THE INTRODUCTION OF SPIRIT
CORRIDOR LEGISLATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to introduce companion legislation to a bill being introduced by Senator BINGAMAN of New Mexico in the Senate. I am also very pleased that my colleagues Mr. JERRY MORAN of Kansas, Mr. FRANK LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. MAC THOMBERRY and Mr. SILVESTRE REYES both of Texas, and Mr. STEVE PEARCE, one of my colleagues in the New Mexico delegation, have joined me in introducing this legislation.

This important bill seeks to designate U.S. Highway 54 as a high priority corridor on the National Highway System. The corridor would be known as the Southwest Passage Initiative for Regional and Interstate Transportation Corridor, or the SPIRIT Corridor. U.S. 54 runs from the border with Mexico at El Paso, Texas, through New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma, to Wichita, Kansas. I am very hopeful that this legislation will help improve transportation infrastructure and stimulate economic development in the communities and states through which U.S. Highway 54 passes.

Mr. Speaker, those who live in the eastern United States know that communities are more compact and the commutes much shorter. For the intermountain west, on the other hand, it is not unheard of for people to have to commute 80 miles to work and 80 miles back home. That is just one of the reasons designating U.S. 54 as a high priority corridor is so important to improving the transportation infrastructure and promoting economic development. Safe and efficient highways are critical to all types of traffic, whether it be tourists visiting or goods being shipped from point to

point. Designating U.S. 54 as a High Priority Corridor will make it eligible for additional federal grants and transportation funds, which will, in turn, help upgrade the highway and improve its safety and efficiency.

As Congress prepares to reauthorize TEA-21, I strongly urge the House and Senate to support this bill and add the SPIRIT Corridor to the list of high priority corridors in our National Highway System.

ROBERT J. DOLE VA MEDICAL &
REGIONAL OFFICE CENTER DEDI-
CATION CEREMONY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD, remarks I gave at a dedication ceremony.

Thank you Senator DOLE, Secretary Principi, and distinguished guests, especially our veterans. I'm delighted to be here today on this very special occasion.

I had intended to be very brief, but I concluded that the sooner we get done, the sooner I will go home. The sooner I go home, the sooner I will see my wife, and if she sees the nightly news with me seated so closely to Cindy Close, our favorite KWCH broadcaster, I'll have some explaining to do. So I'm going to take a few moments.

This is an opportunity to pay a moment of tribute and, hopefully, a lifelong tribute, to a great Kansan. Before I do that, I would like to congratulate Senator-elect DOLE. Russell, Kansas, must be an amazing place because we have three individuals with significant ties to Russell, Kansas, who are past, present and future members of that exclusive club, the United States Senate: Senator Bob Dole, Senator ARLEN SPECTER, and now Senator-elect, ELIZABETH DOLE. We are delighted, as Kansans, to congratulate you on your success.

We're here to pay tribute not only to Senator Dole, but to what Tom Brokaw calls the greatest generation. His words are these: "They came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America, men and women whose everyday lives of duty, honor, achievement, and courage gave us the world we have today."

Bob Dole exemplifies the greatest generation. My purpose in introducing this legislation was not to recognize Bob Dole the Senator, the presidential candidate, or the majority leader. I learned today Bob Dole is the longest-serving majority leader. Senator Dole, I always thought you were the longest-serving Republican candidate for president.

But we recognize him today as that soldier from Russell, Kansas, serving in the mountains of Italy. We recognize him for the consequences of his service and for the course of action he took to rehabilitate his life, and in the process, to change the lives of others. So although we can say many good things about Senator Dole, presidential candidate Dole, and Majority Leader Dole, we are here today to pay tribute to Bob Dole, the soldier.

As you know, Bob Dole seeks no recognition. In 1969, during his first year in the United States Senate, he said, "Most veterans today

want no special recognition or attention. We did our duty, take pride in having served, and seek to live our lives as good and constructive citizens." That's Bob Dole. I have no doubt that he's uncomfortable being here today receiving this recognition.

He was also a product of rehabilitation through the VA. We are also here to pay tribute to the men and women who work for the Department of Veterans Affairs. We are here to pay tribute to the volunteers who help those employees take care of the veterans of the United States. What we do in Washington pales in comparison to what individuals do for our veterans who need health care and rehabilitation services. They also are the heroes.

The bill to designate the Wichita VA as the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center was widely supported. It was introduced in the House of Representatives and supported by our entire congressional delegation. Congressman TIAHRT and I concluded that this was a noble cause to undertake and introduced this bill in April of 2002. Our colleagues in both the House and Senate joined us. My subcommittee and committee passed it unanimously. The bill had 75 cosponsors, republicans and democrats, including the leadership of the House. This legislation was also cosponsored by a fellow Russell native, ARLEN SPECTER, who will be the new Chairman of the Senate Corp Committee on Veterans Affairs. It passed unanimously in both the House and Senate and was signed by President Bush on May 29th, 2002.

In order to get to this point, the legislation had the support of every veterans' service organization in Kansas. Before we started this effort, we made certain that our veterans' organizations were fully supportive of acknowledging Bob Dole in this manner. And, Senator Dole, every one of them said a resounding, yes, this is an appropriate honor for the soldier, Bob Dole. Many of their leaders are here today, and I thank our veterans' service organizations for their support of this legislation and for all that, they do for the veterans of Kansas.

Bob Dole is a role model and hero. He paid tribute, in his first year in the Senate, to one of his idols, his hero, another Kansan—General Dwight David Eisenhower. Bob Dole, talked about General Eisenhower, in 1969, upon General Eisenhower's death, about his dreams as a boy in Abilene, Kansas.

General Eisenhower could never have envisioned the heights he was to scale in his lifetime. The honesty and sincerity, so characteristic of General Eisenhower throughout his life, can be traced to his heritage of his ancestors and strong guidance of his mother. His broad grin and good humor that reflected these qualities made him a popular idol and were part of his magic. People reacted to the special qualities exuded by this man. The contributions made by General Eisenhower are legend. His success in time of war made him a great leader of men. Thereafter, his unparalleled success in politics underscored the respect and confidence he enjoyed by all Americans.

The words that Bob Dole spoke about his hero, his role model, Dwight David Eisenhower, can today be said about our hero and role model, Bob Dole of Kansas. I grew up within 20 miles of Bob Dole's hometown, and I know the dedication, commitment, love and respect that the people of Russell, Kansas, share for their hometown hero.

Let me conclude by quoting, Bob Dole's own words from Memorial Day 2002.

On the one hand, war represents the ultimate failure of mankind or at least of the politicians and diplomats entrusted with keeping the peace. Yet it also summons the greatest qualities of which human beings are capable—courage beyond measure, loyalty beyond words, sacrifice, and ingenuity and endurance beyond imagining.

Today, we pay tribute to Bob Dole's courage, his loyalty, his sacrifice, his ingenuity and his endurance. He is one of those veterans he pays tribute to.

God bless America, and God, thank you for our Bob Dole.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNI-
VERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
HUSKIES

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. I rise today here on the House floor to honor a college basketball team that has not lost a game since March 2001, the pride of eastern Connecticut, a model for our Nation's youth: the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team—the Lady Huskies.

On January 18 of this year, our Huskies won their 55th consecutive game, breaking a record that has held strong since 1982. No other NCAA Division I women's basketball team has won more games in a row. And none has recently shown the ability to put an unbeatable team on the court year after year. It is amazing to think that in two years, the Huskies are 123-4.

There have been bumps along the road. On the 15th of this month, the game against Seton Hall where they tied the streak, they shot under 30 percent and nearly lost in the final moments. But, as great teams do, they found a way to win. They rose to the occasion that day and made the shots that counted.

Coach Geno Auriemma said two days later, "Maybe I should say that I saw it coming. That's how legends are made. Isn't this the place where legends are born?"

It is the dedication of Coach Auriemma and his players—past and present—who make the court of Gampel Pavilion a place where records are set, role models emerge, and legends are indeed born. Thank you for giving us a piece of history.

Here's to 55 more consecutive wins.
U—C—O—N—N, UCONN, UCONN,
UCONN.

HONORING MR. FRED HARDY

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Fred Hardy, who is being presented with the Lifetime Achievement award, and will be bestowed the title of Labor Leader Emeritus by the Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Central Labor Council and the Building Trades Council. Mr. Hardy has served

in a leadership role with the Building Trades Council since 1958 and has set an example through his dedicated commitment to my community.

For more than 56 years Mr. Hardy has been involved with organized labor, both as a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and as the Business Manager for the IBEW Local 100. In addition to his work with IBEW, he has served as the Executive Secretary of the Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Building and Construction Trades Council. For all of his leadership efforts with organized labor, Mr. Fred Hardy was recognized by the Central Labor Council as the Labor Leader of the Year in 1981.

Mr. Hardy has not only dedicated his time to organized labor efforts, he has also passionately served his community through a number of volunteer organizations. Mr. Hardy is a veteran of the United States Army and has served on numerous boards, including the Fresno City Police and Firemen's Pension Board, the Board of Directors for the Fresno County Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Valley Area Construction Opportunity Program. The people of the Central Valley have been fortunate to have such a passionate and dedicated servant for the community for so many years.

Mr. Hardy has contributed to the improvement of the community through his work in and out of organized labor. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Fred Hardy on his retirement and on his much-deserved Lifetime Achievement award.

THE 155TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF
GUADALUPE HIDALGO

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, Sunday February 2nd marked the 155th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. This is a treaty between Mexico and the United States guaranteed former Mexican citizens who remained in the United States certain property rights. One essential promise was to secure and protect the property rights of Mexican and Spanish citizens that had been given land grants from the Spanish and Mexican Governments.

In turn, the United States paid Mexico \$15,000,000, and among other things, agreed to recognize prior land grants issued by Spain and Mexico to individuals, communities, and

indigenous pueblo people. Thus, during the 50 years that followed the signing, numerous procedures were developed to evaluate and validate the land grants. However, the 1848 change in sovereignty brought together two different legal systems—the Spanish/Mexican and the Anglo-American. These competing legal systems resulted in the inability of the United States to properly recognize and honor the important role that custom played in preserving the lands and waters in accordance with Spanish and Mexican law.

My good friend, then-Representative, now New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson introduced legislation that would create a Presidential Commission to study the claims of the land grant heirs. In the 107th Congress, my predecessor, Mr. Redmond, introduced similar legislation in this body. With tremendous bipartisan support, the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Land Claims Act of 1998 passed overwhelmingly. Its supporters and co-sponsors included not only the current Speaker of the House, but former Speaker Gingrich and members of the leadership of both parties.

With the passage of this bill, the House of Representatives sent a clear message that it was time to undo 150 years of injustice. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the legislation never made it through the Senate.

During the 106th and 107th Congress I picked up the mantle that my predecessors carried in the House of Representatives to remedy the situation and to correct these injustices. I was pleased that I had the full support of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in this regard.

Senators PETE DOMENICI and JEFF BINGAMAN, along with myself, asked the GAO in 2001 to undertake a study of whether the United States fulfilled its obligations under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo with regard to land grants made by Spain and Mexico. Although I had intended to introduce this legislation again today to coincide with the 155th Anniversary, I am withholding this important legislation until the GAO study regarding the treaty is released.

Mr. Speaker, the issues that have evolved from the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo center on the concept of fairness and justice. Thus, I ask that all Americans acknowledge the 155th anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, by recognizing the many issues that remain to be properly addressed in order to assure a fair evaluation of the land grant claims.

Once the final GAO report is released and all stakeholders have had the opportunity to review and comment on the findings I look forward to working with the entire New Mexico Congressional Delegation and stakeholders in

starting the long process to resolve these disputes and to bring our government in line with its treaty obligations.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GREATER AWARENESS OF NEED FOR YOUTH MENTORS AND INCREASED INVOLVEMENT WITH YOUTH THROUGH MENTORING

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Mentoring Caucus, I am pleased to join my colleagues today in supporting House Resolution 25. This important resolution commends those who contribute their time and talents to mentoring programs and supports efforts to promote greater awareness of the need for mentors. As we recognize National Mentoring Month, we should all celebrate the positive effects that mentors make in assuring brighter futures for young people.

Children who have mentors have a better chance of succeeding and are more likely to make positive choices. Young girls who have supportive mentors can grow up to be confident and powerful women by learning to make healthy decisions at an early age. The GirlVenture program in my home state of Minnesota has successfully connected more than 500 youth and 100 girls and their mothers with mentors who help them prepare for the workforce, become financially competent and make healthy life choices. GirlVenture also offers classes to help parents, educators and youth workers instill future-focused values in finances, relationships and leadership.

GirlVenture is just one example of the countless mentoring programs that are making a difference in the lives of young people. Unfortunately, there are far too many at-risk children who are on waiting lists, hoping to soon be matched with a caring mentor. According to the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, there are an estimated 75,000 young people who want and need an adult mentor in Minneapolis and St. Paul alone.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to honor mentors and encourage others to give their time and guidance to a child. And I wish to commend those mentors who are currently helping to shape the lives of young people through mentoring.