

dedicated veterans across our nation. I wish him and his wife, Marie, many enjoyable and healthy years in the mountains of Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT G. GARD, JR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of California's Central Coast. Dr. Robert G. Gard, Jr. began a lifetime commitment to public service with a distinguished military career and went on to become a leading advocate for one of Central California's most prized institutions, the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Bob will retire January 30, and he will be deeply missed.

Lt. Gen. Gard served in the U.S. Army not only at the Department of Defense, but in Germany, Korea and Vietnam as well. As commanding general, he oversaw Fort Ord's transition from an Army training center to a light infantry division in the 1970s. Following that success he was brought back to Washington once again, where his expertise led him to become the commanding general of the Military Personnel Center and president of the National Defense University.

After retiring in 1982, Dr. Gard put his international experience to use in the civilian world. Following his service with American and Johns Hopkins universities, the Monterey Institute of International Studies was both savvy and fortunate enough to land Dr. Gard as its President, a post he has filled superbly for over a decade.

Located in California's beautiful Monterey, the Language Capital of the World, the institute provides training in 24 languages and comprises one-fourth of the nation's advanced foreign language training. During Dr. Gard's tenure, the institute has seen a 62 percent increase in student enrollment, a tripling of its endowment and a broadening of its academic and graduate programs like never before.

Under his leadership, MIIS' Center for Non-Proliferation Studies has developed a worldwide reputation as the source of information on the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and is used as a resource by national policy-makers in Congress, the CIA and other federal agencies.

Dr. Gard is a vocal advocate for such humanitarian causes as the elimination of anti-personnel landmines. He has openly pointed to the weapons' military insignificance and the need to prevent further needless destruction of innocent human life by banning them from all future use.

MIIS is a better institution under Dr. Gard's leadership. While Bob's contributions will remain forever, we will surely miss him. On behalf of the constituents of the 17th district, I offer our heartfelt thanks and our best retirement wishes to a true American hero.

FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, on January 29, 1998, Dr. Benjamin Major, M.D., M.P.H., will be honored for over 40 years of volunteer service to Bay Area communities. A specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Major has over thirty-five years of experience in practice, with service in not only the United States, but in Africa as well. Dr. Major also possesses a widely varied background in working with private and international agencies providing such services as health planning, project management and manpower development.

From 1941-1943, Dr. Major attended Fisk University in Tennessee, to begin his pre-medical education. He then went on to Meharry Medical College in 1946, also located in Tennessee. From 1946-1951, Dr. Major entered into an internship and residency program in obstetrics and gynecology in the City Hospital System in St. Louis, Missouri. He then completed a Master of Public Health Degree in Health/Family Planning at the California School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley.

Over his distinguished career, Dr. Major has utilized his knowledge of many different areas of medicine in behalf of the community. These experiences include work as an Instructor and Lecturer in Behavioral and Biomedical Aspects of Family Planning; an Instructor in International Health Programs; an Instructor in Health Education (Sex and Family Life), and; by providing clinical training in MCH/FP for African midwives as part of an ongoing project that was started at Meharry College in Tennessee. Dr. Major has generously donated his time and skills to many organizations and hospitals. A principle beneficiary of Dr. Major's expertise has been Planned Parenthood, where he has volunteered for many years with such duties as comprehensive family planning, public health, pre-natal care, infant care and abortion education.

Dr. Major has greatly contributed to the health and well-being of many communities, not only at home but abroad as well. Dr. Major is also to be commended on his many years of accomplishments, and his commitment to teaching others less fortunate.

I congratulate him and thank him for his many years of valuable service, and commend his service to the attention of my colleagues.

SHREWD ADVICE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, one of our former colleagues, Mike Barnes of Maryland, has recently published an essay in the Baltimore Sun in which he describes two recent trips to South Korea—the first in October, before the worst of the financial crisis took hold in Korea, the second two months later, after it had become apparent how severely hit South Korea would be by the economic turmoil that has rocked Asia in recent months.

Mr. Barnes argues that it is very much in America's interest to help South Korea through the current financial crisis. Moreover, he insists, all the fundamentals are present in Korea for a full recovery.

Mr. Speaker, because of our own stake in the Asian crisis, and because we have an immense interest in seeing South Korea weather its current problems, I ask that Mr. Barnes' essay be reprinted in the RECORD.

SOUTH KOREAN 'TIGER' IS IN OUR BEST INTEREST

Recently, the Center for National Policy has sponsored trips to two very different countries in Asia. Each time, the destination was South Korea.

In October, we visited a dynamic Asian "tiger" with a booming stock market, huge multinational corporations and a population of 70 million looking forward to 1998 with expectations of improved economic performance.

Late last month, we visited a country in deep emotional depression brought on by the sudden collapse of banks, securities firms, major construction and manufacturing conglomerates and the stock market. Almost overnight, South Korea's currency—the won—lost more than 60 percent of its value. The government was forced to seek emergency assistance from the International Monetary Fund to stave off national bankruptcy. Now, massive job layoffs are inevitable in a society that once regarded them as unthinkable.

Signs of the new economic reality were everywhere. Seoul's infamous traffic jams have virtually disappeared. Stores, buses, airplanes were all half-empty at the height of the holiday season. Prices have skyrocketed for anything that must be imported, such as heating fuel, which has doubled in cost at the beginning of a tough Korean winter. The news media gave wide coverage to tragic stories such as that of the woman who leaped to her death from an apartment window to avoid another argument with her husband over the family's financial difficulties.

Equally dramatic is the change in Korea's politics. The Dec. 18 election of longtime opposition leader and democratic activist Kim Dae Jung as president can only be compared with that of Vaclav Havel in the Czech Republic, Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti or Nelson Mandela in South Africa. In October, we were told it was impossible for Kim to win because he could never appeal to voters outside his rural home province of North Cholla. But he won a narrow victory over two candidates from the ruling party by carrying urban districts, including the capital city of Seoul.

The election of Kim to South Korea's "Blue House" is extraordinary by any measure. When I last met him in 1985, I was a congressman from Maryland serving on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and he was in exile in the United States from a repressive military regime that repeatedly attempted to assassinate him. When they kidnapped him in Japan, only an intense international outcry prevented his murder at the hands of his captors. His ultimate return to Korea was highlighted by an attack of government thugs at the airport and his immediate arrest.

Since his election, Kim has been making the right moves to give Koreans and the world confidence that the economic and political future will be better. He has recognized the need for restructuring Korea's economy in accordance with IMF mandates, called for direct dialogue with North Korea and reached out to domestic political opponents by allowing lame duck President Kim Young Sam to pardon two former military dictators (those responsible for his own persecution). The president-elect has successfully urged the Korean National Assembly to

pass key financial reform bills that give the Central Bank more independence in monetary policy, unifies financial sector regulatory bodies and improves the openness of corporate finances by forcing companies to issue consolidated financial accounts. He also has called for reform of labor laws that will permit layoffs for the first time in Korea, despite the strong support he received from labor unions in his campaign.

Kim's chief of staff, Congressman Yoo Jae Gun, told us that the president-elect's team was surprised at the extent of the economic disaster they were inheriting from the outgoing administration. Nonetheless, they are ready, he said, to take the steps necessary to turn around the economy as quickly as possible.

The Korean economic crisis might have hit with surprising suddenness, but it was many years in formation. In essence, Korean corporate giants financed their global expansion by borrowing from international investors eager to ride the success of the "Korean Miracle." Virtually all of the Korean corporate families, or "chaebols," had accumulated large debts as they circled the world finding new markets for Korean products and manufacturing facilities.

When the "Asian economic flu" began to spread from Thailand through Indonesia to South Korea, foreign lenders, principally New York banks, became nervous and began to demand repayment of loans. When the value of the won dropped precipitously, timely repayment became impossible for many Korean companies. Initially, the Korean government sought to bolster the economy through infusions of new capital, but national reserves of foreign currency were much lower than anyone had expected. As this became apparent to domestic and international observers, a panic ensued that caused the collapse of the Korean stock market and further devaluation of the won. Even the announcement by the IMF of a \$57 billion bailout of South Korea was not enough to stem the panic for more than a couple of days.

The international community recently responded with new commitments to roll over and extend loans to Korean borrowers. International banks have committed new funds that soon will be available to Korean companies. It is hoped that these steps will be sufficient to renew confidence in the Korean economy as the country prepares for Kim's inauguration Feb. 25.

South Korea's success is important to the United States, as Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin has demonstrated by helping marshal international support for Seoul's markets. Not only is Korea a key trading partner, but we have 37,000 troops guarding the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. Weakness in the south might be misinterpreted in the north as an opportunity to threaten the security of the peninsula.

As one who has closely observed Mexico's recovery from its own recent "peso crisis," I would expect that Korea can rebound even more rapidly. Korea has a strong industrial base, an educated and committed work force, one of the highest rates of saving in the world and a remarkable sense of national unity. Certainly the courage and determination of the new leadership has been proven during the decades of struggle to bring democracy to the country. It is very clearly in the United States' best interest to help them succeed.

OBITUARY FOR WILMA McCANN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the 1996 Monterey County Veteran of the year. Wilma McCann, a resident of Salinas, California has had a long established career in the military service department.

Ms. McCann began her profession in the Navy as part of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service program during World War II. She was active in local veterans affairs and served for two years as the President of "Sea Otter WAVES," a local chapter of WAVES international. She truly was a woman with pioneer spirit.

Moving to Salinas 7 years ago, Ms. McCann served as the vice president of the Monterey County United Veterans Council and on the Monterey County Veterans Advisory Commission. Working with the Women in Military Service for America, she was field representative and state chairperson for California donations.

Ms. McCann has lived her life with others in mind. My thoughts are with her husband, sons, and grandchildren.

RETIREMENT OF LEE G. MEYER

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, Lee G. Meyer, Deputy Director of the Phillips Laboratory, Propulsion Directorate at Edwards Air Force Base has retired. His departure means our nation will lose 30 years of exceptional experience and knowledge of rocket propulsion systems.

For those unfamiliar with the Directorate, it is a little-known but vital part of Edwards Air Force Base. Over two hundred military and civilian personnel work at remote facilities to make efficient, dependable rocket propulsion technologies available to our military and space programs. In fact, it would be hard for us to image the events of the last thirty years without the technologies these people helped make available. The giant rocket motor test standards operated by the Directorate, for example, tested both the Saturn V boosters that took Americans into space and ballistic missile technologies that were so critical to this nation's security during the Cold War. Lee Meyer was essential part of these efforts.

Lee's over three decades of work at the Laboratory have contributed greatly to the lab's and our nation's achievements. He started working at Edwards in 1963 as an Air Force officer and remained there for the rest of his career as a civilian Air Force employee. During that time, Lee Meyer worked on all kinds of innovative propulsion technologies and was selected to manage important projects such as the concept definition for the proposed Small ICBM as the Advanced Launch System program which will continue to explore the next generation of space launch technologies.

Lee Meyer's retirement will mean the loss of years of knowledge and experience to his col-

leagues and to the nation. Given the service he has performed for the United States, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking him for being an important part of our nation's defense.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ED STROTHER

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life time achievements of Granville County Commissioner Robert Ed Strother. Commissioner Strother died recently at the age of seventy-three. He touched countless lives in his community of Granville County as a devoted educator and public servant.

Commissioner Strother's extensive career as an educator included serving as a school principal, county superintendent, and holding several high-ranking positions in the Department of Public Instruction and the Division of Community Colleges. Throughout his many positions as an educator from Wilton High School basketball coach to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, one thing remained constant for Strother: maintaining children as the top priority. He always had time to listen to a child.

Since 1989, Commissioner Strother served as a Granville County Commissioner serving twice as Chairman of the Board. He represented his district well having the courage to fight on issues that were important to his community. His colleagues on the Board valued his ability to keep the Granville community informed on statewide issues. Commissioner Allgood recalls, "He loved walking the halls of the legislature better than anybody I've ever seen. He kept us all informed of what was going on in Raleigh and how it affected local government." Strother's thoughtful manner and quick wit opened doors for him throughout North Carolina and he incorporated his experiences through the state into his service to the community.

I first met Commissioner Strother while I served as Chairman of the North Carolina House of Representatives Appropriations Committee. He would walk the halls "button-holing" legislators almost weekly. Strother would stop in my office and remind me of the needs of his people in Granville County and of all the children in our public schools and community college system.

I commend Commissioner Strother contributions to Granville County and throughout North Carolina. I feel fortunate to have known Robert Ed Strother as a colleague in education and public service, and I am proud to have had him as a friend. Strother was a true patriot in every sense of the word. Commissioner Strother's legacy will live on in the lives of children he instructed and the members of the Granville community whose lives are richer for having known him. His legacy also lives on through many people who never knew him, but he made their lives better because he cared.