

Colglazier who was recently selected an FFA Star by 1-800-COLLECT. Nicholas will attend either the International Future Farmers of America, or FFA, Washington Leadership Conference, or Leaders Shape next summer. His fine leadership abilities through the Holyoke FFA propelled him to these exceptional honors. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Nicholas Colglazier for his hard work, dedication and accomplishments. Through good efforts such as his, the youth of today will become the leadership of tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE LUIS
GONZALEZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and to pay tribute to Judge Luis Gonzalez, an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to public service. He was appointed this month Administrative Judge of Bronx Supreme Court and tomorrow, Saturday, December 19, he will be celebrating his appointment in the company of his family and friends.

Judge Gonzalez was born in Manati, Puerto Rico in 1945. His parents migrated to New York City in the 1950's. After graduating from Eastern Mennonite College in History and Social Sciences, he earned his Juris Doctor from Columbia University School of Law in 1975. I have known him personally for more than 25 years, and I am very familiar with his background, experience, character, and personality. He is a person of the highest personal and professional integrity.

Mr. Speaker, in 1985, Judge Gonzalez was appointed Housing Court Judge in New York City Civil Court. Two years later, he was elected Judge of the Civil Court in Bronx County where he served with distinction until 1992 when he was elected Justice of the Supreme Court in Bronx County. He presided over an Individual Assignment Part (IAS). This month Judge Gonzalez was appointed Administrative Judge of Bronx Supreme Court.

Being the first Latino Administrative Judge in New York State history, Judge Gonzalez is well known and highly respected by his peers and the different communities for this sensitivity, professionalism, integrity and sound judgement. On the other hand, his toughness, stubbornness when he feels that the law is being broken is also well known. "An iron hand in a velvet glove" as some would say. His confirmation brings to the Court an outstanding judge at the same time that it expands its ethnic composition.

This is the kind of issue that should be discussed in the classrooms. He is a role model for all Hispanics. Judge Gonzalez has set an example of how success is available for all of those who persevere to achieve their goals. He is an inspiration for many Puerto Ricans and for the people in the Bronx who are trying to break the cycle of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, in my 25 years of public service, 16 in the New York State Assembly and 9 in the U.S. House of Representatives, this occasion is one of my proudest moments. I am very proud of Judge Gonzalez' accomplishment.

Judge Gonzalez is the proud father of two daughters, Aida and Nydia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Judge Luis Gonzalez for his outstanding achievements and in wishing him continued success as Administrative Judge of Bronx Supreme Court.

DONALD H. GILMER, STATE REPRESENTATIVE, MICHIGAN, 63D DISTRICT

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment today to recognize the long and distinguished career of State Representative Donald "Don" H. Gilmer. Representative Gilmer, serving his 11th term, represents a large portion of Calhoun County, Michigan, in my district. Term limits require Representative Gilmer to end his remarkable contributions to Michigan public policy as a member of the State House.

Don graduated from Kellogg High School in Hickory Corners, Michigan. He attended Michigan State University and Western Michigan University. He was a Kellogg Fellow at Michigan State from 1968 to 1971.

Representative Gilmer was a member of the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners from 1973 to 1974, and served as Vice Chairman in 1974. He was elected to the Michigan Legislature in the 1974 election.

He most recently served as Minority Vice Chairman of the Michigan House of Representative's Appropriations Committee. On the Appropriations Committee he also served as Vice Chairman of the Higher Education and the Consumer and Industry Services Subcommittees.

Don has been a member of the Interstate Migrant Education Council since 1985. He also has been a member of the Department of Education's Michigan School Finance Commission, the House of Representative's Ad Hoc Special Committee on Property Tax and School Finance, and the House Republican Task Force on Property Tax and School Finance Reform. In April of 1993, Representative Gilmer was appointed to the Midwestern Higher Education Commission.

Representative Gilmer is a member of countless community groups, and is especially active with the Michigan Farm Bureau, the Michigan Association for Retarded Citizens, and Planned Parenthood. He was a gubernatorial appointee to the Michigan Agricultural Labor Commission.

Don has an outstanding reputation as a model legislator who has common sense solutions to complex problems.

Mr. Gilmer was born in Battle Creek, Michigan on November 29, 1945. Don married Lynn Weimeister November 19, 1988. Don is the father of three children and lives in Augusta, Michigan on his family's apple orchid, Hillcrest, which he formerly co-owned and operated.

The work of public service has many rewards. But it also requires many sacrifices. Throughout his tenure as representative. Don Gilmer never lost his warmth, generosity, and good humor. He is the very model of the type of legislator we should have in our state capitals.

On behalf of the people of Michigan, it is my privilege to honor and recognize Don Gilmer for his distinguished contributions to Michigan and its people.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY
CLAUDE GAY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects and honor a dedicated civic leader and fine American—Mrs. Mary Claude Gay of Flower Mound, Texas, who died August 5, 1998, at the age of 81.

Mrs. Gay was a prominent local business and civic leader who received many honors and recognition for her service and dedication to both her profession and community. She served on numerous committees and as an officer of the local, state and national associations of Realtors. She received many real estate awards including: 1983 Denton Women's Council of Realtors "Woman of the Year," 1976 Texas Chapter of the Women's Council of Realtors "Woman of the Year," 1975 "Peoples Choice" Award from the people of Denton and 1969 Realtor of the Year from the Denton Board of Realtors. She was well known as an expert on the Professional Standards of real estate and was a certified instructor for graduates of the Realtors Institute and "Train-the-Trainer".

As a civic leader she served as the district clerk of Denton County from 1953 to 1959 and on the Denton City Council in 1977. She served as Mayor-Pro-Tem in 1978. She was a founding member of the Denton Benefit League and served in various capacities with many charitable organizations. She received the Otis Fowler Award for being an outstanding citizen by the Denton Chamber of Commerce and served United Way for many years. Ever dedicated to her community, Mrs. Gay remained active in the Real Estate Community until her death. She is survived by her four sons.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this great American—the late Mary Claude Gay.

A TRIBUTE TO POUUDRE FIRE
AUTHORITY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the good men and women of the Poudre Fire Authority in Colorado. A competitive team of their top firefighters placed third in the world at the Firefighter Combat Challenge, a grueling test of physical strength, stamina, aptitude and teamwork. Dave Minchow, Tom Champlin, Chad Myers, Jim Pietrangelo, and Ross Reinking earned the best time of any team in the United States in their astounding third place finish. Mark Hettinger, Brandon Garcia, and Ryan Thomas of the Poudre Fire Authority also placed in the top 11 teams for the relay