

TRIBUTE TO DR. KENNETH MAURICE MATCHETT, JR.—A GREAT AMERICAN AND FRIEND

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to ask that we pause for a moment in honor of one of the finest people that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Dr. Kenneth Matchett, Jr. was a dedicated family man, a hard working physician and a model American. He gave selflessly to provide for his family and to help his community. Tragically, Ken died in a horse riding accident while competing in Phoenix, Arizona.

After graduating from Stanford with a degree in Biochemistry in 1963, he attended Cornell Medical College. There he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha, the medical honorary society. It was not long until he realized his true passion, Internal Medicine. During 1967–1972, he completed his residency in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at Duke University. Soon after that he returned to his hometown of Grand Junction, Colorado, where he set up his own practice.

In addition to working tirelessly in his practice, he also maintained an active role in Saint Mary's Hospital. There Ken served as President of the Medical Staff and as a member of the Board of Directors. As if these accolades are not enough, he also went on to found the Oncology Unit for the care of cancer patients at Saint Mary's Hospital. The fine Doctor had a special reassuring warmth with his patients.

Ken is survived by his wife Sally, their three daughters, Nancy Jean, Sarah Mary and Emily Ruth, three sons-in-law and two grandchildren. His family was precious to him.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I pay tribute to the life of Ken Matchett. I wish that everyone could have had the pleasure of knowing this man. He was a great American and a friend of many.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SURESH KWATRA

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, before the first session of the 106th Congress adjourns, I want to pay tribute to Mr. Suresh Kwatra, a dedicated 25-year career employee of the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, who died unexpectedly on June 21, 1999.

Mr. Kwatra was indeed an inspiring individual. He was an accounting graduate of Delhi University. He immigrated to the United States from his native India in 1969 and served in the United States Army during the Vietnam conflict, shortly after gaining his American citizenship.

Mr. Kwatra began his career with the former Veterans Administration in 1974. He served as a veterans benefits counselor, strategic planner with VA's national cemetery system, and statistician and analyst in the Office of VA's Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning. Because of his exceptional initiative and pro-

fessionalism, the Congressional Veterans' Claims and Adjudication Commission selected Mr. Kwatra to be an analyst and project manager. In my role as chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have read his insightful analysis in the commission's report.

Mr. Speaker, Suresh Kwatra came to America, served proudly and honorably in our military, and then committed his life to serving fellow veterans for a quarter of a century. To Suresh's former co-workers, members of his church and community, his wife of 25 years Shoba, and sons Sameer and Naveen, I say that Suresh Kwatra was more than an inspiring individual, indeed he was an American hero.

HISTORIC ENCOUNTER BETWEEN
SAN JUAN PUEBLO AND SPAIN

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on October 31, 1999, the headline of the Sunday Journal North edition of the Albuquerque Journal read: "Pueblos, Spain Forging Ties." That headline and the accompanying article recognized ground-breaking events whose importance extends beyond the Third Congressional District of New Mexico. Events that are living proof that centuries-old wounds to the dignity of our Native American communities, particularly our New Mexico Indian Pueblos, can be healed through good will on the parts of the leaders of those Pueblos and the government involved. In this case, that government is the government of Spain.

Students of American history know that four and a half centuries ago our American Southwest was explored by the government of Spain, which eventually led to Spanish settlement there four centuries ago. Those 1598 Spanish colonists led by Don Juan de Oñate did not find themselves alone: they settled in the midst of Indian Pueblos that had been thriving, vital established communities since time immemorial.

The relationship between the Spanish settlers and the original Pueblo Indian inhabitants were filled with conflict and occasional violence. Through it all, the Pueblo Indian communities, including the Pueblo of San Juan where Juan de Oñate established the first Spanish capitol of New Mexico, struggled endured and held on to their culture, their traditions and even their internal government.

On April 3, 1998, acting on behalf of the 19 Indian Pueblos that comprise the All Indian Pueblo Council of New Mexico, San Juan Pueblo Governor Earl N. Salazar became the first tribal official in the history of New Mexico and the United States to invite an official representative of the Government of Spain, its Vice President Francisco Alvarez-Cascos, to visit San Juan Pueblo in commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the permanent meeting of the two cultures. That invitation was made because in the view of the San Juan Tribal Council after four hundred years, reconciliation and healing were important. In the words of one San Juan Pueblo spiritual leader, "It was not right to teach our children to hate." What an incredible and brave statement that was!

As a result of Governor Salazar's invitation, on April 26, 1998, the Governors of New Mexico's 19 Pueblos, led by this remarkable young man, Governor Salazar, met with Vice President Alvarez-Cascos and Antonio Oyarzabal, Spanish Ambassador to the United States. The meeting was also attended by many of New Mexico's state and local government dignitaries. At that meeting, Governor Salazar reflected: "Today is a historical day for all of us because for the first time since that contact at Oke Oweingeh four hundred years ago, we, the descendants of our respective peoples and nations, are meeting to reflect upon the past and present, and together chart a new course of the relationship of our children and their future." Speaking for the Spanish delegation, Vice President Alvarez-Cascos stated "It is in the future history, the one we need and want to write together, that we will find reconciliation, fruit of a new will for two cultures who have learned to overcome the pain and suffering of the past, two people who want to know each other better, who want to build a new friendship."

Subsequently, Governor Salazar, his wife Rebecca, Governor Gary Johnson of New Mexico and First Lady Dee Johnson were extended an official invitation to visit Spain. The objective of the visit was to build on the foundation established during the April 26, 1998 meeting hosted by Governor Salazar and the nineteen New Mexican Indian Pueblos. The official visit to Spain, which became known as "Re-encuentro de Tres Culturas" or the "Re-encounter of Three Cultures"—referring to the Indian, Spanish and American cultures—took place on November 18 through 23, 1998. The United States Ambassador to Spain, Ed Romero, a descendant of those first Spanish colonists in New Mexico, also took part in the meetings and events. At the official reception, Governor Salazar, whose mother Maria Ana Salazar is full blooded San Juan Tewa Indian and whose father is State Representative Nick L. Salazar, a Hispanic elected official in New Mexico, delivered a blessing in Tewa. The essence of that blessing was "Now it is time for all of us to sit down and establish a framework for how we will work with each other to establish an enduring relationship based on honor, trust, mutual respect, love and compassion."

During the Re-encuentro de Tres Culturas, the Prince of the Asturias, His Royal Majesty, Felipe Bourbon, made a special visit to meet Governor Salazar, Governor Johnson and the rest of the New Mexico delegation which included State Representative Nick L. Salazar, Española Mayor Richard Lucero and Rio Arriba County Commissioner Alfredo Montoya. The King, along with other high-ranking Spanish Officials, witnessed the performance of the Sacred Buffalo Dance performed by Pueblo Indian members of the delegation from New Mexico. In appreciation for his courageous leadership, His Majesty presented Governor Salazar with a medal making him a member of the Order of Isabel De la Catolica, grade of encomienda. The medal is awarded to individuals whose "Pure Loyalty" by deeds and actions have helped to foster better relations between Spain and America. Governor Salazar is the first Indian Governor upon whom this honor has bestowed.

As noted in the October 31, 1999 Albuquerque Journal article, the courage of Governor Salazar and the rest of the New Mexico's Pueblo Indian leaders is beginning to

bear fruit beyond the reconciliation of these traditional peoples of the United States and Spain. The New Mexican Pueblos and Spanish government representatives have now entered into an agreement creating an exchange program for teachers and students. The agreement, in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding, was signed by the Indian Pueblo governors, the Spanish Ministry of Culture, Spanish Vice President Alvarez-Cascos, the New Mexico Office of Indian Affairs and the Santa Fe Indian School. As Governor Salazar indicated, Pueblo Indian history is tied to Spain. As a consequence, the Pueblos "decided to renew * * * and develop a relationship that has long-term interests for both sides." He also noted that the Memorandum of Understanding is a first step toward forming more agreements with Spain in the future, such as trade and commerce pacts.

Governor Salazar's efforts deserve recognition because they have now become an important part of the history of New Mexico and our country. And because they demonstrate that, as Elizabeth Kubler-Ross once said, "there is nothing that cannot be healed." All it takes is people with courage and a commitment to justice and reconciliation. Governor Salazar never planned for all of this to happen. He simply followed the path of his spirit in an effort to work for the people of his Indian Pueblo and for his Hispanic citizens in the surrounding Española Valley. As someone else has said, "there is no holier place than that where an ancient hatred has yielded to forgiveness." For creating such a place in the heart of our American Southwest, he deserves our thanks and deepest appreciation.

LEWIS AND CLARK HISTORIC
TRAIL TECHNICAL CORRECTNESS
ACT OF 1999

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation that will correct a long-standing historical inaccuracy dealing with the Lewis and Clark National Trail System. Currently, the Lewis and Clark National Trail designation reads that the expedition traveled "from Wood River, Illinois to the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon." My colleagues, unfortunately, this does not tell the whole story. My legislation would amend the designation to include Washington State along with Oregon as the end point of this important journey in American history.

The journey of Lewis and Clark is one of the most important events in American history. That is why it is imperative not only that the story of Lewis and Clark be told, but that their story be told with accuracy and historical correctness. Unfortunately, the current Lewis and Clark Historic Trail designation fails to recognize the important events that took place in Washington State during the expedition.

When President Thomas Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis, and William Clark on their now famous expedition, he sent them with many goals in mind. Over the next four years, the Corps of Discovery would travel thousands of miles, experiencing lands, rivers and peoples that no Americans ever had before. But

the single overriding imperative of the entire enterprise was to find a navigable water route to the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that the Corps of Discovery accomplished that objective on November 15, 1805—and they did so in one of the most scenic places on earth, Pacific County, Washington.

Theirs was not an easy journey; it took great skill, tremendous perseverance and immense dedication. There are hundreds of events that took place along the way that tested each of these attributes. One of the most important of these watershed events took place on the Washington State side of the Columbia River, on November 24, 1805.

With little food, rotting clothes, and winter soon approaching, the group huddled to decide where to camp for the winter. The pressing question: should they stay on the north side of the river in what would later become my home state of Washington, or should they risk a tricky river crossing to find a more sheltered spot on the south side of the river? Because there were these two differing ideas about where to spend the winter, Captain Lewis and Captain Clark allowed the entire party to vote on where to camp. What is important to remember is that among those who were allowed to vote was York, a African-American slave, and Sacajawea, a young Native-American woman.

This exercise of democracy took place more than 50 years before the abolition of slavery and the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, more than 100 years before the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment which gave women the right to vote, and nearly 160 years before the passage of the Voting Rights Act which extended these liberties to even more Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as I am sure you are aware, the bicentennial Lewis and Clark's famous journey is rapidly approaching. The bicentennial is going to be of great importance both culturally and economically to my home state, and those impacts will be felt in many small towns and big cities all along the Lewis and Clark trail.

Knowing the important part that Southwest Washington played almost 200 years ago in this journey, I want to make sure that the National Park Service documents are historically accurate and complete. My legislation will help ensure that outcome. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this simple legislation, the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail Technical Corrections Act of 1999.

SECOND GENERATION OF ENVI-
RONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with my colleagues, Mr. DOOLEY, Mr. BOEHLERT and Ms. TAUSCHER, the "Second Generation of Environmental Improvement Act of 1999." This bipartisan bill has two related purposes—to improve the information practices of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to encourage the EPA to experiment with more innovative approaches to protect the environment.

Our overall goal is to move our nation toward a performance-based system of environmental protection—a system that will do a better job of protecting the environment, while providing greater flexibility to companies and states to determine how to meet tough, clear environmental standards. Our watchword in writing this bill has been to provide greater flexibility in return for greater accountability.

In moving in this direction, we are following the recommendations of a variety of recent reports, including the Enterprise for the Environment, headed up by former EPA Administrator Bill Ruckelshaus; the President's Council on Sustainable Development, the Aspen Institute and the National Academy of Public Administration. We need to allow and encourage more experimentation to see if innovative approaches to regulation will produce the desired results. Our incremental bill will do just that.

Mr. Speaker, we are introducing this bill today to spark discussion on this approach to environmental policy, which we think should be at the heart of moderate environmental reform. But we still have much work to do. The bill still needs both technical and substantive work, and we do not intend to move it forward in its current form. Rather, we plan to introduce a refined version early in the next session after more meetings with experts on all sides of the environmental debate. But we think the bill in its current form does indicate the basic shape and principles of the bill that we will move forward.

This bill should be of interest to anyone who wants to ensure that we will continue to work to make our environmental protection system as effective and efficient as possible. We encourage anyone interested to comment on this version of the bill, so that we can take those concerns into consideration as we work on the version we will introduce next session.

TRIBUTE TO THE FOX CHAPEL
HIGH SCHOOL HONORING THEIR
RECOGNITION AS A 1999 NEW
AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL NA-
TIONAL SHOWCASE SITE

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fox Chapel Area High School as they have been selected by U.S. Department of Education and The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) as a 1999 New American High School (NAHS) national showcase site.

Fox Chapel Area High School is one of only 13 schools across the country that were recognized for setting a new standard of excellence for all students. They have earned this national recognition through the success of their school improvement efforts and the commitment of the school staff and community to high levels of student achievement.

Specifically, Fox Chapel Area High School has been recognized for the following: an attendance rate of 96 percent; an average Scholastic Aptitude Test score of 1091, which exceeds state and national averages; an enrollment of 47 percent of juniors and seniors in Advanced Placement classes; and an eligibility rate of 86 percent of those students who took