

We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. These Kansas seniors joined over 1200 students from across the United States to compete in Washington, DC. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy. I commend each of these students for their hard work and success.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Sue Boldra, for helping prepare these young students. Ms. Boldra's commitment and dedication to nurture and encourage our youth shines through the accomplishments of her students. The First Congressional district has been proud to be represented by Hays High for the past four years on the national level in this prestigious competition. I commend Ms. Boldra for her excellent job promoting education and patriotism among the youth of Kansas.

I also applaud Professor Richard Heil at Fort Hays State University for his three years of service as a judge at the We the People national finals. Dr. Heil's commitment to this program has helped students from across the United States take a strong interest in the principles that govern our nation.

It is an honor to recognize such a meritorious group.

HONORING ELMA MANKIN, HERNDON ROTARY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a friend of Northern Virginia, Ms. Elma Mankin, who is being recognized by the Herndon Rotary Club as Citizen of the Year at a ceremony on April 25, 2001 in Herndon, Virginia.

Ms. Mankin has dedicated herself to making our community a better place. As an active philanthropist, she spends countless hours volunteering in Herndon's many historical sites. She is involved with the Herndon Historical Society, the Herndon Women's Club, Reston Hospital, Herndon United Methodist Church, the Council for the Arts in Herndon, and other local organizations.

A lifelong member of Herndon, Ms. Mankin has seen it grow from a one-stop-light town to the booming technological corridor it is today. She began her career as a secretary at Herndon High School and eventually moved to the Herndon Elementary School. She retired when she gave birth to her two daughters. After the last of her children grew up, she looked for ways to remain active in the community.

She went to Northern Virginia Community College to receive her associate's degree in fine arts. Her works became well-known, but she decided to keep art as a hobby. Ms. Mankin continues to enjoy art, but her real joy is her love of volunteering. She became involved in over ten organizations after finishing her degree.

Ms. Mankin continues her volunteer efforts, visiting Reston Hospital once a week to assist in the rehabilitation center. She also partici-

pates in a social group for local women called "Lunch and Fun Bunch." She serves as a trustee on the Herndon School Board, a lifetime member of the Historical Society, and has served as a town election official for 22 years. Her countless hours of service make our district proud to have such a fine citizen.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish the very best to Ms. Elma Mankin as she is recognized as the Citizen of the Year. She certainly has earned this recognition, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding this remarkable achievement.

HONORING PAUL BESSELIEVRE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor Paul Besselievre, the recently retired C.E.O./Owner of Valley Trane, who was recently featured in an Executive Profile for the Fresno Business Journal newspaper. The question and answer Executive Profile, printed in the Fresno Business Journal on February 26, 2001, reads as follows:

Q. What is the best thing about your job?

A. Dealing with professionals within the company and the community.

Q. What is the worst thing about your job?

A. Those 7 a.m. meetings.

Q. What is your best professional accomplishment?

A. Training many young engineers and other professionals to be successful in the industry, and hopefully, in life.

Q. If you could effect any change in the business community, what would it be?

A. To get back to doing business with a handshake, where a man's word is his bond, and lawyers are used mostly to write your will.

Q. What is your best personal accomplishment?

A. My wife of 39 years is still my sweetheart. Every Friday is date night. And we still make out.

Q. What is a good yardstick of success?

A. Good friends and a family that loves you.

Q. Best decision?

A. I asked Carol Poljansek to marry me.

Q. Worst decision?

A. To skate across Bear Butte Lake before the ice was thick enough. This should stimulate thought.

Q. What is the community service project or event closest to your heart?

A. I belong to too many organizations to pick one. Each has a special place in my heart, or I wouldn't be a part of it. I couldn't pick a favorite child. Any organization or project that improves the livability of my community is close to my heart.

Q. Best advice you've ever received?

A. One night in 1965 while working late, Earl Nightengale came on the radio and asked a simple question. What do you say when someone asks, "Will you do me a favor?" Most people ask what it is. He encouraged them to just say "sure." It's an attitude. Expect the best of people. If they ask for something unreasonable, you can always recant. What you learn when you expect the best of people is that you usually get it. This change in attitude becomes a way of life. That 10-minute broadcast had a profound impact on me. Life as an optimist is a lot more enjoyable.

Q. Favorite book?

A. The Children's Stories of the Bible. My parents read it to my sister and me, and Carol and I read it to our children.

Q. Favorite recreational activities?

A. Camping, skiing, fishing, cooking. Any activity outdoors, especially in the mountains.

Q. Where did you spend your most recent vacation?

A. A trip to Kansas City to spend Thanksgiving with my children, grandchildren, mother, sister, niece, nephew, and friends who are also family.

Q. What type of car do you drive?

A. A 1983 Buick Riviera convertible.

Q. What is your favorite restaurant?

A. Every ethnic restaurant. We will never run out of favorites. This area is rich with them. Indian, Thai, Chinese, Japanese, Basque, Italian, Mexican, Cajun, Vietnamese, Armenian, etc.

Q. What was your first job?

A. Emptying wastebaskets in an office building after school in Lemmon, South Dakota when I was 10 years old. Moved on to a lawn mowing and snow shoveling business when I was 12.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend Paul Besselievre for his years of dedicated and distinguished service to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Besselievre a pleasant retirement and many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained in Hawaii on official business during which two rollcall votes were taken. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 85, Motion to Instruct Conferees on the FY 2002 Budget Resolution, "Yes".

Rollcall No. 86, Motion to Suspend the Rules on HR 428 concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization, "Yes".

COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 86th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, in hopes that we will work to ensure that our country's foreign policy reflects a respect for human rights, and renounces ethnic cleansing and genocide. This Special Order brings forth an opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians that lost their lives as a result of this tragic event.

As we arrive at this anniversary once again, the United States should now more than ever promote healing with Turkey and the Armenian community in this nation and abroad. By acknowledging the great tragedy of the Armenian Genocide, we would be doing something