

good about journalism, Santa Cruz County and for all who ply their trade just trying to get a story in the paper without the copy desk screwing it up. He's funny, appropriately disrespectful and—perhaps the greatest praise of all—never boring to have around.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Lee Quamstrom has been the most memorable Santa Cruz resident ever and thus shall be allowed to dismantle the Santa Cruz lighthouse, brick by brick, and take it to the real Surf City, Huntington Beach in Orange County, Calif. As his buddy and former fellow columnist, James Trotter, put it:

"He might as well take the lighthouse because without Lee Quamstrom, Santa Cruz will never be the same place again."

HONORING BILL AND JULIE ESREY

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents from Kansas City who recently have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to their community.

William T. Esrey, Chairman and CEO of Sprint Corporation, and his wife Julie Esrey have been awarded the 2001 Star Award by the Kansas City Starlight Theater. The Starlight Theater is Kansas City's largest and oldest performing arts organization and is the second largest theatre of its kind in the United States. Founded in 1950, the Starlight Theatre is now in its 51st season.

This distinguished Star Award was presented the Esreys, who are Honorary Co-Chairs for the 15th Annual Starlight Theatre Benefit Gala on Saturday, May 19, 2001. The Star Award is given to honor those individuals who have made outstanding contributions and dedicated long-time service to Kansas City, making a difference in the community. The Esreys are honored with this award through countless hours worked in the community to help benefit an extensive list of community service organizations.

Under Bill Esrey's leadership, the Sprint Foundation has been a major benefactor of The Starlight Theater. Additionally over the past five years alone, Sprint has donated more than \$17 million in Sprint Foundation contributions and matching grants to organizations in greater Kansas City. Mr. Esrey also spearheaded the drive that raised millions of dollars for the rehabilitation of Union Station and the development of Science City, including \$9 million in Sprint contributions since 1991.

Julie Esrey has worked both for Exxon and as an international economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, as well as serving on the boards of Bank IV (Kansas), Duke University and Brown Shoe. In Kansas City, she has served as honorary Chairman, American Cancer Society Gala; Honorary Chairman, Lyric Opera Ball; Chairman, Children's Mercy Golf Classic; Chairman, March of Dimes Gourmet Gala; and Honorary Chairman, KCPT Speaking of Women's Health for 2001, as well as serving on the Central Governing Board of Children's Mercy Hospital from 1989 through 1995.

During Bill Esrey's tenure as CEO, Sprint has grown into a \$23 billion worldwide communications force and was named the most admired communications company in Fortune Magazine's survey of corporate reputation. Business Week named Esrey as one of the "Top 25" business executives in the world in 1997. Bill Esrey joined Sprint, then known as United Telecommunications, Inc., in 1980 as Executive Vice President of Corporate Planning. In 1984, Esrey led the effort to fundamentally reposition the company by entering the long distance market and building the nation's first all-digital fiber optic network. Today Sprint is a leader in the communications industry, which has emerged as one of the growth engines for the overall U.S. economy. Currently, Bill Esrey serves on the boards of Exxon-Mobil Corporation, Duke Energy Corporation and General Mills, Inc. He also is chairman of the Business Council and a member of The Business Roundtable.

In addition to their dedication to the community and their careers, Bill and Julie are dedicated to each other and their family. Married since 1964, they have two grown children, Bill Jr. and John, who have participated in many local activities and follow in their parent's footsteps in giving back to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Bill and Julie Esrey on receiving the 2001 Star Award. Their dedication to the Kansas City community and their family is an example to all of us of the difference individuals can achieve who have dedicated their lives to making the world a better place. Thank you Bill and Julie.

FERS REDEPOSIT ACT

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, there is no debate over whether the federal government is facing a crisis—it is. Reports indicate that about 30 percent of the government's 1.6 million full-time employees will be eligible to retire within five years, and an additional 20 percent could seek early retirement. Furthermore, 65 percent of the Senior Executive Service will be eligible for retirement by 2004.

One hearing has been held and numerous editorials have been written about the impending workforce shortage, but very few specific policy changes have been suggested. Today I am introducing legislation that takes a step in the right direction. The FERS Redeposit Act would allow individuals who left the federal government and received a refund of their Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) contributions to reenter government service without losing their accrued annuity. Instead of forfeiting credit earned during their prior service, returning employees would be able to redeposit their cashed out annuity upon reentrance. This benefit is already available to federal employees who are registered under the older Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).

Retiring federal employees represent the institutional knowledge and expertise needed to run the government, and we must pro-actively address this drain on our human capital. Creating incentives for federal employees who left

for the private sector to return to government service is one way to address this problem. Studies indicate that a key trait of younger workers, who are covered by FERS, is their increased professional mobility. FERS's design implicitly acknowledges this fact by incorporating a portable private sector-style Thrift Savings Plan and 401(K) plan. It is ironic that those federal workers who are in CSRS—most of whom have worked their entire careers in the federal government—have a redeposit option while the younger FERS employees do not.

As more and more FERS employees leave the federal government and later wish to reenter federal service, a redeposit option would provide the incentive needed to bring these individuals back to the government.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to make federal service more attractive by co-sponsoring this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the value of agriculture research and the contribution it makes to the lives of U.S. producers and consumers.

Over the past few months, American livestock producers have closely followed the latest international news. We have watched nervously as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) has ravaged the United Kingdom's livestock community, and as it has marched into the European mainland, the Middle East, Asia and South America.

To date, around 1,560 sites in Britain have been hit by the highly contagious virus. Now, Brazil is the latest country suspected of hosting the disease. Moreover, FMD has cost the world's cattle, hog and sheep industries billions of dollars. Britain's meat industry estimates the highly-contagious disease has cost it \$12 million a week in lost sales leaving the UK with a bill of more than \$4.3 billion just to halt and destroy the disease.

All of this begs the question: How do we best protect American livestock from animal ailments such as FMD and mad cow disease?

In the new global market, it is only a matter of time before the rest of the world's diseases come knocking on America's door. Considering my district—Colorado's Fourth District—is a leader in livestock sales, and that the U.S. livestock industry generates \$55 billion a year, we must be able to defend our livestock from threats like FMD by means of science and technology, instead of relying only on border checks, federal agents and good luck.

Nor is new legislation the answer for the long term. The real key to prevention lies in agricultural research and development. It makes sense to take a proactive approach in protecting and improving America's livestock. Such research leads to the discovery of new uses for ag products, which in turn boosts demand.

I was surprised to learn that even though agriculture receives less than two percent of the federal research budget, productivity in the