

other soldiers began to make their way ashore.

Fen disembarked from an invasion landing craft on Omaha Beach on D-day plus three. Though they were supposed to make their beach landing one day earlier, the Ranger Infantrymen who were fighting for a foothold on the designated beach landing zone, had met intense firepower from the reinforced concrete German Pillboxes which delayed their arrival. Under strict blackout instructions, they moved to their rendezvous point in a completely unfamiliar place in the pitch dark, finding refuge in a nearby shelter only to awaken amid chickens and manure and the realization that they had slept in a cattle barn.

This was the first of seven battle campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge, that Fen participated in as a member of the Ninth Air Force. In addition to the six battle stars that decorate his European Theatre ribbon, Fen was honored with the ribbon for Meritorious Service and Belgium's royal "Fourragere d'Honneur" for his service with the 70th Fighter Wing. However, it is not the honors, commendations, or medals that led Fen to take down his thoughts and memories of his extensive World War II experiences. It was, as he wrote, "because all Officers and Soldiers felt that World War II was a 'just' war . . . that had to be fought in order to defend civilization and to preserve our treasured American way of life."

As he concluded, Fen wrote: "Younger people particularly have little to no curiosity concerning World War II or the fact that the Normandy Invasion marked the turning point for the defeat of the Nazi Empire. I sadly suspect that most of the younger generation do not even recognize the significance of Pearl Harbor." It is my sincere hope that the young people of our nation and future generations remember the tremendous efforts that were made to preserve the freedoms we hold so dear. As the daughter of a veteran and a Member of this great body, I take pride in paying tribute to the veterans of World War II for their outstanding contributions to our great nation. They changed the course of history and for that we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

Today, I stand to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Fenmore Seton for his outstanding service to our country and for bringing this remarkable story to light. It is veterans, like Fen, whose stories will never allow future generations to forget one of the free world's greatest victories.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, on July 18, 2001, my vote on final passage of H.R. 2500, the "Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002" was not recorded. I support the bill and intended to vote "yes."

I support this bill because it is fair and bipartisan, and appropriately funds many important programs and agencies in the government. This bill appropriates \$41.5 billion, which is 4 percent more than the current level and 2 percent more than requested by the president.

I am pleased that this bill adequately funds many important programs that have not received appropriate funding in the past. Specifically, H.R. 2500 provides \$1.01 billion for the Community Oriented Policing Services, a program that I strongly support and that contributes to the safety of our neighborhood streets. It also provides \$844 million for international peacekeeping efforts, including \$2 million to conduct programs that monitor and combat human trafficking. \$440 million is included for conservation programs to clean oceans and waterways. Additionally, the bill appropriates \$329 million for the Legal Services Corporation which provides legal assistance to lower-income Americans.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my grave concerns with the bill before us today. I have seen firsthand and know well the vital role that churches, mosques, synagogues and other religious institutions play in our communities. I believe, however, that both H.R. 7 and the Democratic substitute offer us a false choice and fail to protect our constitutional rights.

For more than 200 years, the U.S. Constitution has protected religious freedom by upholding each American's right to free exercise of religion and maintaining a separation between church and state. H.R. 7 would break down that historic wall.

Although the bill specifically states that government funds should not be used for worship or proselytization, meaningful safeguards to prevent such action are not included in the provisions. Indeed, as this bill is written, safeguards would be impossible. For example, if the purpose of a program is to end addiction by the adoption of a specific faith, it is impossible to separate the government service (drug and alcohol counseling) from the message of faith (proselytization). Even an "opt-out," which provides for a secular alternative to the services, does not change the fact that this bill provides government funding for religious activities.

Furthermore, both H.R. 7 and the Democratic substitute would provide direct funding to houses of worship. H.R. 7 gives federal agencies, at the discretion of the Secretary, the ability to take all the funding for a program and convert it into vouchers to religious organizations. This alarming provision takes \$47 billion in federal funds away from the oversight of elected representatives in Congress. Furthermore, the bill expressly permits federal funding of worship and proselytization with these "indirect funds." The Democratic substitute, although it attempts to close the voucher loophole, does not alleviate my concerns with direct government funding of religion.

I am also deeply concerned that efforts to make religious organizations dependent on federal funds will cause them to lose their independence, autonomy and unique voice in our society. With public funding comes public scrutiny and accountability. Also, the provi-

sions of H.R. 7 will inevitably put the federal government in the position of choosing one religion over another in awarding federal grants and contracts. Despite the fact that the bill assures us that the awarding of charitable choice funds would not constitute an "endorsement" of a certain religion, it takes little to imagine what will happen when a federal agency is forced to choose between two equally meritorious grants from different religious groups. Even worse will be the consequences when a cabinet secretary, by fiat, turns the program into a "voucher." A more egregious violation of the Establishment Clause can hardly be imagined.

I cannot state strongly enough my belief that religious organizations are an important part of our social fabric and provide absolutely vital services to people in need. Those services already can be provided by religious organizations in a way that is constitutionally sound. I encourage my colleagues to take this bill back to the drawing board and build on that record of service.

HONORING OTELLO AND CAROLYN MASSONI ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to two outstanding community members and my good friends, Otello and Carolyn Massoni, as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Married for a half a century, they are a wonderful couple who have both done much for their community in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Perhaps best known for their incredible working relationship, Otello and Carolyn are a true inspiration for any couple. They have worked on a variety of projects—always together—though their most popular are their beautiful reproductions of Faberge Eggs and fabulous dollhouses.

Their dollhouse hobby began when Otello was recuperating from a surgical procedure. Working from a kit, Otello has built a number of breathtaking buildings in a wide variety of architectural styles. Carolyn took on the responsibility of decorating the houses. From hand-made curtains trimmed with lace to the smallest details on a miniature reproduction of a Sears catalog, no detail has been overlooked. Victorian, Gothic, Colonial and Tudor styles, as well as some cottages, a gazebo, and even a brick outhouse, Otello and Carolyn's collection is truly impressive.

Intricate detail, unparalleled patience, love and care—characteristics similar to the traditional ingredients thought to be included in marriage—have gone into each of the delicate reproductions of Faberge Eggs that decorate the Massoni's home. This remarkable hobby has drawn much attention to Otello and Carolyn's creative talents. With each taking on a different task, they are not only creating beautiful ornaments, but cherished memories. Featured in local newspapers on a variety of occasions, Otello and Carolyn's work has sparked the imaginations of many in area communities.

In addition to their creative hobbies, Otello and Carolyn have always been active in the Wallingford political arena. Their outstanding work with the Democratic Town Committee has benefitted many local elected officials, including myself. Their tireless efforts have gone a long way in bringing a strong voice to local residents and their interests.

Enjoying their retirement years together, Otello and Carolyn have found what may be the key to a successful marriage—teamwork. Whether with their hobbies or in the community, it is a rare moment not to see these two working together. It is with great pride that I rise today to join family and friends in congratulating my dear friends Otello and Carolyn Massoni as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. My very best wishes to them for many more years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR
REGIS GROFF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man considered, after twenty years of service to be the "Conscience of the Colorado Senate." As a State Senator Regis Groff was a man who never backed down from a fight and always stood up for what he believed in. Although he often stood alone, he never hesitated to do what he believed was right.

As an African-American political leader from West, Regis was often pitted against the forces of discrimination, a battle in which he was consistently outnumbered. He pushed for Colorado to divest itself from business relationships with the apartheid regime of South Africa, and was a strong voice for enhancing voter registration. When it wasn't popular, he was also a voice for rational gun control. He was responsible for carrying Senate legislation in Colorado designating the birthday of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. as a state holiday.

Regis Groff's convictions earned him respect from both sides of the aisle. One former colleague remarked, "there would be a hush when Regis went to the microphone." The former Colorado Senate President, a member of the opposing party, said, "Regis was the most fun and challenging person to debate at the microphone of anyone I served with in the legislature."

I would ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a great and dedicated public servant. I am including an article from a recent edition of the Denver Post that recognizes the significant contributions of Regis Groff to the people of Colorado.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ... REGIS GROFF?:
FORMER "CONSCIENCE OF COLORADO"
SPEAKS FROM SIDELINES

(By James B. Meadow)

The former "Conscience of the Colorado Senate," the man who spent 20 years fighting—and mostly losing—the good fight is staring out the window of the clubhouse of the Park Hill Golf Course sympathetically watching grown men flail at a little white ball.

"Most retirees assume their golf game will be much, much better, but it doesn't happen

that way," says Regis Groff. He flashes his trademark megawatt smile as he adds, "At least it didn't happen to me. But then I only play one-third as much golf as I want to."

Not that he's complaining, because these days life is better than just OK for Groff. For one, he looks a decade younger than his 66 years, almost too youthful to be the grandfather of four. For another, he takes a winter hiatus in Las Vegas every year.

He also indulges his passion for baseball by taking advantage of his Colorado Rockies season tickets. True, they're not his beloved Chicago Cubs, but few know better than Groff that life is riddled with compromise.

For two decades, he was the impassioned, eloquent spokesman for liberal causes in the Colorado Senate, a man whose flights of oratory were legendary.

"There would be a hush when Regis went to the microphone," says former Sen. Mike Feeley, calling the Democrat "the finest public speaker ever to grace the floor of the state Senate."

Even those at the opposite end of the political spectrum were Groff fans.

"Regis was the most fun and challenging person to debate at the microphone of anyone I served with in the legislature," says Tom Norton, former Senate president. "I don't know that he ever passed a whole bunch of bills. But he always made sure the point of view he represented was adequately considered."

Norton isn't exaggerating in his remarks about Groff not passing a whole bunch of bills.

"Oh, it was thorough frustration to have zero influence, no power," says Groff of his 20 years in the minority party; years of futilely fighting to ban capital punishment, have the state divest itself from business relationships with the apartheid regime of South Africa, enhance voter registration and establish gun control.

"But you have to raise issues that aren't popular," says Groff. "You try to raise issues that touch the conscience of each human being."

Although Groff dismisses Sen. Jana Mendez's claim that he was the conscience of the Senate as "overspeak," he doesn't deny that he was loath to back down from an issue.

That's why in April 1993, only months after Coloradans passed Amendment 2—largely seen as a slap at homosexual rights—Groff tried to get the Senate to put it back on the ballot to let voters "revisit" the measure.

That same session, he was blunt about his feelings for Douglas Bruce, author of Amendment 1, which limited the state's ability to raise taxes and spend money.

On the Senate floor, Groff said that Bruce, a California transplant, "slithered into Colorado and hoodwinked the state."

Standing alone was second nature to Groff: He was the Senate's only black. And political ostracism was nothing new for a guy who knew all about racial discrimination.

When he first arrived in Denver in 1963, to begin what would be a lengthy career as an educator, he and his wife were repeatedly denied rental homes in Park Hill because, as landlords told him, "We don't rent to coloreds."

Growing up the son of a potter in Monmouth, Ill., a small rural community, Groff wasn't allowed in the YMCA pool.

Racial intolerance was still an emphatic given when he was attending Western Illinois University. Along with a group of other black students, Groff led a successful push to force a local barbershop to serve black students.

His proudest moment as a legislator came in 1984, when he persuaded the Senate to pass a bill making Martin Luther King's birthday a state holiday.

He recalls that debate over the bill almost caused a fist fight with another senator. "I told him, 'I should kick your ass!,' and he said, 'C'mon!' but others stepped between us," laughs Groff.

Groff left the Senate in 1994 to head the state's Youth Offender System, a multi-million-dollar rehabilitation facility for violent juveniles. He quit in 1998 and then headed the Metro Denver Black Church Initiative.

These days, he says, "I have no gainful employment," content to be a grandfather, serve on boards, travel, golf, watch baseball, adjust to life as a divorced male after 33 years of marriage and basically do what he pleases.

Would he ever again consider elective office?

"No, no, no!" he says, recoiling in mock horror. "If 20 years of politics doesn't fill you appetite, then that appetite is so insatiable as to be dangerous."

Still, he does confess to more than a trace of envy now that Democrats control the Senate.

"You bet I'm jealous. I'd like to know how it feels to be in the majority," he says.

But then you'd expect a frank answer. After all, anything less from the Senate's former conscience would be, well, unconscionable.

HONORING THE LATE GLADYS
"SKEETER" WERNER WALKER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember the accomplished and unforgettable life of Gladys "Skeeter" Werner Walker. She was truly a kind person and an outstanding athlete. As family and friends mourn her passing, I would like to pay tribute to this longtime resident of Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Skeeter was born in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, with the rest of her family, and was the oldest of three siblings who grew up to ski in the Olympics. She and her two brothers, Buddy and Loris, trained locally on Howelsen Hill and traveled later to ski in the Alps. The Werner family's prominence in the skiing world flourished to such an extent that the name of the ski mountain in Steamboat Springs was changed from Storm Mountain to Mount Werner in their honor.

Skeeter began skiing at age one and entering competitions by the age of five. Perhaps one of her greatest achievements was being selected as the youngest member of the U.S. Alpine World Championship Team in 1954, at the age of 21. At the downhill event in Sweden, Skeeter placed 10th. Her triumph was awarded when she graced the cover of Sports Illustrated and became recognized as one of America's great Olympians. When Skeeter again returned to the Olympics in 1956 in Italy, she again garnered a 10th place finish in the downhill race.

Skiing was not Skeeter's only career. After retiring from skiing in 1958, she relocated to New York where she was a model and a fashion designer. The Yampa Valley drew Skeeter back in 1962, and along with her brother Buddy and his wife Vanda, they opened two ski shops in Steamboat and Skeeter initiated