

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLMES RUN ACRES

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community in Fairfax County, Holmes Run Acres, on its 50th Anniversary. This neighborhood has been providing families with the best Falls Church, Virginia has to offer for many years and is well-positioned to continue to do so in the future.

Holmes Run Acres was designed with unique contemporary architecture to save trees and blend into the Virginia countryside. When the neighborhood was in its early stages, Fairfax County was a rural area. In 1951, the county was impacted by the post-World War II development. The residents of Holmes Run Acres decided this was time to form a Civic Association, and a year later they published "The Holmes Runner," a community newsletter.

Today, they still rely on their Civic Association meetings and publications, but, in keeping with technology trends, they have their information posted on the World Wide Web. These factors promote unifying, community-wide communications network.

Holmes Run Acres built the first community swimming pool in Fairfax County. Volunteers from the neighborhood worked with the Fairfax County Park Authority to turn an old dump site into the first neighborhood park in the County. The Civic Association encourages its residents to initiate and participate in activities that bring the community together, such as house and garden tours, art shows, classes and family gatherings.

The residents of Holmes Run Acres are always available to lend a hand with many community activities, including those events that are county-wide. During the 1960s their well-established Civic Association helped create an association for a newly formed neighboring community. During the holidays, Holmes Run's children run a gift drive for needy children outside of their immediate area.

The recent publication of the third installment of "Holmes Run Acres: The Story of a Community" proves that this community is going strong year after year. The publication provides background on the community's history and residents, as well as local history and plans for future improvements.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank Holmes Run Acres for all it has provided to the community. They will be celebrating on Saturday, October 6, 2001, and they will also have another event in the spring. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating them on 50 years of service and wishing them the best in the years to come.

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will correct a great injustice being endured by many widows and

widowers throughout this Nation. Current Social Security law requires that those who have lost spouses surrender their survivor benefits when entering into a new marriage. Many of those who have lost spouses count these benefits as their only source of income and rely upon them for continuing their daily lives. To force these men and women to abandon survivor funds simply because they enter into a marriage after their spouse's death is outrageous.

This measure would be of very modest expense to the government, and the costs incurred are certainly justified by the positive results derived from the correction of this oversight. Senior citizens, a sector of our society often plagued by low incomes and tight budgets, would be the primary beneficiaries of this legislation, and we owe it to these citizens to provide them with every possible avenue to enjoy a proper standard of living.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would ensure that those who enter into a new, long-lasting marriage are not punished simply for finding another loving spouse. It is fiscally sound and morally correct. I thank you and urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MISSOURI AIR GUARD'S 139TH AIRLIFT WING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Missouri Air Guard's 139th Airlift Wing for its work and sacrifice in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seek to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of organizations like the 139th Airlift Wing signify the commitment and concern of Americans everywhere. Our nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, the 139th Airlift Wing flew to McGuire Air Force base in New Jersey to bring back Missouri's Task Force One whose 65 volunteers had spent more than a week at Ground Zero in an effort to support the search and rescue effort. The patriotism and persistence of the 139th Airlift Wing is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and do what they can to assist the nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousands of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the

line each and every day so that we may be free, it is important that the American people are vigilant in their efforts to overcome this evil. Though our nation has witnessed unspeakable horror, America's virtues, determination, and faith continues to shine brightly on the world.

I am confident that the United States will seek out those that harbor hatred, terror, and depravity in their hearts; and we will defeat them. This is a war that we must, can, and will win. May God bless the families and children grieving across this great nation and may God bless America.

COMMENDATION OF COAST GUARD

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the men and women of the United States Coast Guard who have come to the rescue of South Texas communities of South Padre Island, Port Isabel and Brownsville.

Very early Saturday morning, Sept 15th, the Queen Isabella Causeway, the bridge that connects South Padre Island to the mainland was hit by a barge, resulting in sections of the bridge falling into the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Nine cars crashed into the water of the Laguna Madre, rocking the community with the fear that terrorists had struck in South Texas since it occurred the weekend following the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks.

The Coast Guard Group of Corpus Christi, South Padre Island and the Marine Safety Office arrived at once and worked tirelessly—around the clock—to recover the victims, and retrieve the vehicles and debris from the water in the canal so commercial traffic could move again through the canal.

No one was surprised by the instant response from our Coasties. They are amazing people. They began as soon as the tragedy was reported and worked with our local and state officials in providing further protection and emergency assistance for citizens in the area. They worked tirelessly around the clock.

They brought assets to the Valley from the Coast Guard, Corpus Christi Group to help with search and recovery. They were focused on recovering victims. They are well-trained and ready to perform brilliantly in a time of crisis like the bridge collapse.

The Coast Guard provided tremendous support to the local and state officials, which was a huge logistical chore. They helped ensure the re-opening of the canal so the Rio Grande Valley would receive fuel supplies, food and other necessities, which arrive via the Intra-coastal canal, closed to such traffic while the recovery is in progress.

One of the most satisfying things about watching these men and women do the work that they do is understanding the love they have for their job. They simply love what they do, and they are very good at it.

While we always appreciate the good work of the Coast Guard in South Texas and around our nation, we particularly want to thank them today for the hard work they did when they came to the rescue when our community needed them.

The Coast Guard has a wide range of responsibilities . . . in peacetime, they are law

enforcement; in times of war, they are soldiers. Right now they are working extended hours to carry out a host of responsibilities: search and rescue, enforcing our fisheries regulations, enforcing boating regulations, drug interdiction and other national security missions.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending these great Americans for their dedicated service to South Texas and our nation.

RECOGNITION OF MRS. SALLY
FULTON RESTON'S DEATH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the death of a notable civil rights leader and an extraordinary person.

Mrs. Sally Fulton Reston made numerous contributions to our community and led an exemplary life. As a civil rights advocate, she dedicated much of her efforts towards seeking equality for disenfranchised communities. She served as a Board Member for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, MALDEF, for seven years and also served as the second Vice Chair for the Board for a year. MALDEF protects and promotes the civil rights of Latinos living in the United States through sound public policies, laws and programs. Mrs. Reston's efforts and contributions earned her MALDEF's highest award, The Valerie Kantor Award. The Valerie Kantor Award is the highest honor presented to those who have served MALDEF and the Latino community.

Mrs. Sally Reston was also a renowned journalist. From 1968 to 1988, she was the co-publisher of the Vineyard Gazette. Furthermore, she also worked for The Junior League Magazine, Mademoiselle Magazine, Readers Digest in London, as well as the New York Times. Ms. Reston also enjoyed the simple things of life. She enjoyed photography, developing and printing her own work and had a great affection for the piano.

I am saddened by the loss of such a fine member of our community. I extend my sincerest condolences to the Reston family, as we all mourn the loss of a true civil rights leader and an exceptional person.

HONORING VIOLA S. MARTINEZ

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Viola S. Martinez of Laredo, Texas on the occasion of her 70th birthday on October 4, 2001. Viola has been an outstanding member of my team since I ran for Congress in 1992.

While her family is native to Texas, Viola was born in Dearborn, Michigan in 1931. Viola returned to Laredo as a young girl and received her education there. Family plays a large role in Viola's life. Viola and her husband recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. Viola

and Ernesto are also proud parents of three children, Ernesto J. Martinez Jr., Sara Martinez Tucker and Rosie Stevens.

Viola is the heart and soul of Laredo. Folks in this booming border city know that if you need something done, go to Viola. Whether it is assisting a veteran with benefits or helping a young family find the proper tax form, Viola goes the extra mile for each constituent.

Viola is one of those rare people who can successfully accomplish many work-related tasks while still finding time to volunteer in professional and community groups. Viola's dedicated service to the Laredo community reminds us of all that is good in America. Viola is truly a shining example for all citizens.

It has been a great pleasure to work with Viola for these nine years and I look forward to many more to come. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Viola Martinez a very Happy Birthday!

ALBANY FIRST CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albany First Christian Church for its work and sacrifice in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seek to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of churches like Albany First Christian Church signify the commitment and concern of Americans everywhere. Our nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, the Albany First Christian Church has collected relief supplies from the congregation and community to assist grieving families and rescue workers. The patriotism and persistence of the Albany First Christian Church is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and do what they can to assist the nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousand of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day so that we may be free, it is important that the American people are vigilant in their efforts to overcome this evil. Though our nation has witnesses unspeakable horror. America's virtues, determination, and faith continues to shine brightly on the world.

I am confident that the United States will seek out those that harbor hatred, terror, and

depravity in their hearts; and we will defeat them. This is a war that we must, can, and will win. May God bless the families and children grieving across this great nation and may God bless America.

OREGON AND CONSERVATION
EASEMENTS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Oregon has a system unique to the nation in protecting its farmland. Other states have utilized conservation easements to preserve farmland. Oregon has used a comprehensive land use system though with a record of stunning success. According to Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development, the state has 16 million acres zoned for Exclusive Farm Use (EFU). This is in stark contrast to the 800,000 acres protected acres nationwide. That number is less than what we protect in the northern Willamette Valley alone, which is also our most populous area.

Conservation easements—the purchase of development rights—are what other states use to protect farmland rather than the zoning approach that Oregon uses. However, leaders in protecting Oregon's farmland are in agreement that no one tool alone does the job of protecting farmland. In addition to the state's zoning system, conservation easements would be appropriate in Oregon in selected locations. They would serve as a complement to, not a replacement for, the zoning administered by the Land Conservation and Development Commission.

The primary reason Oregon has not used federal Farmland Protection Program (FPP) monies in the past is that our state was initially ineligible, but given recent changes to the program we now have the opportunity to participate. Another reason was that within our state it was thought that our land use system already served the need. However, there is increased awareness that zoning needs to be supplemented with voluntary incentives for land conservation.

This awareness has been increased by the passage last fall of Oregon ballot initiative, Measure 7. It amends Oregon's Constitution to provide that any property owner whose real property is reduced in value by government regulation must be paid compensation by the government for the lost value. While this measure is still in litigation, if it goes into effect, landowners could begin to make claims for compensation. Access to federal FPP funds would provide Oregon farmers the flexibility to accept conservation payments in lieu of other forms of compensation.

I very much appreciate the assurances that Natural Resources Conservation Services have provided me of their willingness to work with Oregon, as they are with any other state that has a unique situation, in utilizing the Farmland Protection Program. Oregon is eager to be a full participant in FPP. Increasing federal funding for this program and ensuring its accessibility for a variety of land conservation uses is key to its success in Oregon and other states.