

His son was the roommate of Rudy Ruettiger, whose drive to play football for Notre Dame resulted in the movie, "Rudy."

"I knew Rudy really well, in fact he still visits Bo a lot and stays at our house in Los Angeles when he's down there," Potter said.

Still, to many in North Idaho, Bob Potter is Mr. Job Plus.

The two seem synonymous.

But a parting might not be far off.

Potter says he can't continue forever in the \$60,000-a-year-job—the same as when he started in 1987.

"I am 74 years old. Sooner or later, the Jobs Plus board of directors is going to have to face up to the fact that we're going to have to take Jobs Plus into the next phase."

That phase will lead to Jobs Plus II.

"We've been doing this with mirrors. Our costs are stable and low. I don't need a medical plan (he has one already). I've never taken a raise. Jobs Plus II isn't going to be that fortunate. Those days are going to be over, probably in the next transition. It's going to cost us more to run Jobs Plus in the future than it is now."

So Potter, as usual, has a plan.

He'll make a presentation to Kootenai County Commissioners Tuesday that the county should—like the cities of Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, Rathdrum and Post Falls and about 100 other businesses—support Jobs Plus, which operates on a modest budget of \$200,000.

That, Potter said, is far less than what similar organizations in other areas work with.

"The county hasn't had to invest in to produce the millions of dollars that we've created in property tax. We feel that Jobs Plus is an investment and we can prove it because we've got the numbers."

Potter was born in Utah. He graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in political science.

For 35 years, he worked his way up the corporate ladder with the Bell system, AT&T, eventually becoming vice president of sales for the western region.

When Potter quit and moved to North Idaho and bought a home on Hayden Lake, the economy was struggling.

Community business leaders including Jacklin Land Company, then Washington Water Power, Dennis Wheeler from Coeur d'Alene Mines, and Duane Hagadone, at the time were in the midst of raising \$1 million for a four-year program that would focus on expanding the area's economy and employment base.

After interviewing hundreds of candidates from across the nation, they found no one they believed right for the job.

Then, a headhunter suggested the person they were looking for was in their own backyard.

He was.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TINA SANDOVAL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a truly dedicated teacher from Pueblo, Colorado, Ms. Tina Sandoval. Tina has spent countless hours helping others understand and succeed in their academic endeavors at Pueblo Community College. She has gone far beyond what is expected in the classroom and

touched the lives of many of her students in such a profound way that she was recently named Pueblo Community College Teacher of the Year.

Although Tina has always been passionate about teaching mathematics, her real love is working with people. Originally from Walsenburg, Colorado, Tina was drawn to teaching after seeing the impact teachers had on students' lives. Tina set out to obtain her education and went on to receive both her Bachelors and Masters Degree from Regis College. After a brief career in accounting, Tina found that she missed working with people and decided to become a teacher. Her dedication and commitment paid off and today she is responsible for touching the lives of many who have passed through her classroom.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Tina for her service to her community and especially to the students whose lives she has changed. The diligence and commitment demonstrated by Tina certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress, and this nation. Tina's achievements as a teacher serve as a symbol to other teachers throughout Colorado. The honor of the Teacher of the Year is proof that hard work and persistence can lead to success in achieving your goals. It is people like Tina Sandoval that ensure our future generations are guaranteed the opportunity to improve their lives through a quality education. Congratulations Tina, and thank you for all of your hard work!

COMMENDING THE DELIVERY OF MEDICINE AND ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN BY THE HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION—AMERICARES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, last week, the humanitarian and relief organization, AmeriCares, delivered a cargo plane's worth of medicine and food to the very needy people of Afghanistan. Some 79,400 pounds of donated medical supplies and food was delivered for the sick and starving men, women and children in Afghanistan.

The supplies range from basic antibiotics, analgesics and bandages to nutritional supplements, flour and cooking oil.

So many have suffered in Afghanistan. A staggering number are dying or have contracted disease because of malnutrition. AmeriCares' shipment of food and medical supplies will help save thousands of lives.

Under the leadership of founder Bob Macauley, AmeriCares provides immediate response to emergency medical needs—and supports long-term health care programs—for all people around the world, irrespective of race, creed or political persuasion.

AmeriCares solicits donations of medicines, medical supplies and other relief materials from U.S. and international manufacturers and delivers them quickly and efficiently to indigenous health care and welfare professionals in 137 countries. Since its inception in 1982, AmeriCares has delivered more than \$2.9 billion worth of life-saving supplies to those in need.

I commend the staff of AmeriCares for their hard work in bringing much needed food and medical supplies to the suffering people of Afghanistan.

CARE 21

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to restore our Nation's historic commitment to insuring lifetime health care for retired coal miners. Joining me in introducing this bill is the distinguished gentleman from Ohio, BOB NEY.

Enactment this year of CARE 21, the "Coal Accountability and Retired Employee Act for the 21st Century," is necessary if we are to avoid seeing a curtailment in health care coverage for thousands of retired coal miners and their widows. Indeed, this would not be the first time that Congress has acted in this matter. In 1992, in what is known as the "Coal Act" enacted as part of the Energy Policy Act, Congress established the UMWA Combined Benefit Fund (CBF) combining the union's 1950 and 1974 benefit plans. This action came in response to changes in the coal industry which created a large class of "orphaned" miners whose benefits were no longer being paid by an active coal company. A key feature of the Coal Act was the financing of orphaned miner health care costs through an annual transfer of a portion of the interest which accrues to the unappropriated balance in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

Simply put, in restoring abandoned coal mine lands we must not abandon the retired coal miner.

The Coal Act was working well, health care for retirees whose former employers could be identified would be financed by premiums paid by those companies while providing for a transfer of reclamation fund interest to finance orphaned miner care.

However, a barrage of litigation and adverse court decisions once again is threatening the financial integrity of the program. Among them, what is known as the "Chater" decision which overturned the Social Security Administration's premium determination reducing premiums by 10 percent. Another court decision ordered the CBF to refund about \$40 million in contributions. And the Supreme Court has rendered two especially harsh decisions; in the Eastern Enterprise case adding some 8,000 retirees to the orphaned miner rolls and just last week ruling that successor companies to signatories of the national wage agreement are not responsible to continue paying premiums for former employees. The result: Without a new source of funds, the CBF will face a cash shortage most likely beginning at the end of this year which could force curtailments in health care coverage for some 50,000 retirees and widows whose average age is 78.

CARE 21 takes a relatively simple and straightforward approach to addressing this impending crisis: It would lift the restriction in current law that reclamation fund interest can only be used for orphaned miner health care. Rather, it would allow AML interest transfers to be made for the purpose of offsetting any deficit in net assets in the CBF.

I would note that interest accrues to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund at a rate of, for example, \$103 million last fiscal year. Meanwhile, there is a \$1.8 billion unappropriated balance in the Fund. CARE 21 in no way adversely affects the abandoned mine reclamation program. The principal remains intact for that effort, and is fueled by annual reclamation fees assessed on every ton of mined coal which finances the program.

As such, one of the key features of CARE 21 is that the general taxpayer is not being called upon to pay for retired coal miner health care, but rather, the coal industry itself would provide for this coverage through the interest which accrues to the fees it pays into the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I noted earlier there is a historical commitment to providing health care for retired coal miners. This is a unique situation in that what would normally be a matter solely for the private sector is not in this instance. The genesis for this situation dates back to 1946 in an agreement between then-UMW President John L. Lewis and the Federal Government to resolve a long-running labor dispute. At the time, President Truman had ordered the Interior Secretary to take possession of all bituminous coal mines in the country in an effort to break a United Mine Workers of America strike. Eventually, Lewis and Secretary Julius Krug reached an agreement that included an industry-wide, miner controlled health plan.

In fact, the 1992 Coal Act itself was formulated partly on the basis of recommendations from the Coal Commission, established by former Labor Secretary Libby Dole, which in 1990 recommended a statutory obligation to help finance the UMWA's Health Benefit Funds.

Mr. Speaker, the people covered by this health care program spent their careers producing the energy which powered this Nation to greatness. We must not forsake them. We must not cast them adrift in their later years, robbed of the health care they so desperately need.

THE RETIREMENT OF RIO RANCHO MAYOR JOHN JENNINGS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, we all know of those local elected leaders from our states who, because of their tenure in office, accomplishments, dedication, and hard work, seem to define the term 'public servant.' These are the ones who do not seek headlines, but whose satisfaction comes from doing good things for their communities. I know of no other leader who fits this definition and style of public service more aptly than Rio Rancho Mayor John Jennings. Mayor Jennings will be leaving his post in March, after an exciting term in the history of this special city. He deserves immense credit for the success and growth of New Mexico's fastest-growing city.

Mayor Jennings came to office in 1998 from a career in banking, serving Sunwest Bank for 23 years. He also served as a president of the Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce. He used

this experience to begin the demanding task of governing.

Mayor Jennings has served at a time of amazing expansion for the City of Vision. Building a city that can sustain such rapid growth has required patience, careful planning and effort, but those who live there feel they have finally created a community with its own identity, one that will continue to grow and thrive. Mayor Jennings has done a remarkable job in this regard.

A number of challenging issues face the City of Vision. Whether it be water, planning, revenue, or any issue that looms before our nation's mayors, John has capably acted on behalf of his city to address them. His leadership has been effective, and he leaves the city better than he found it.

As the U.S. Representative for the Third Congressional District, I hear from a number of the elected officials that I represent. However, Mayor Jennings has always made sure that I was aware of the matters that affected our dual constituents.

Mayor Jennings leaves office with a number of important accomplishments that will aid Rio Rancho for years to come. He fought to attract new industry to the city, which is critical to expanding the city's tax base. He worked on a number of transportation and infrastructure issues. He was also a major voice in the Vision 2020 Integrated Comprehensive Plan, which is a blueprint for dealing with growth-associated problems. In addition, Rio Rancho is the second safest city in New Mexico and has one of the best school systems.

However, I believe that the true legacy of Mayor Jennings is the emphasis he placed on the quality of life in Rio Rancho. He told a reporter once that he wanted children in Rio Rancho to have the same things he had growing up in Roswell: good libraries, free schooling, a safe environment. Therefore, many of his priorities were not surprising: adding park space and open space, correcting infrastructure deficiencies, such as adding sewer lines, repairing and upgrading roads, and adding to libraries; and maintaining the Department of Public Safety at its current level to keep its excellent safety record. Without a doubt, he has succeeded in many of these initiatives.

Mayor Jennings is from a family in New Mexico devoted to public service. From Rio Rancho to Roswell, the Jennings family has left a legacy of making government work for our citizens. His brother Tom is a former mayor of Roswell, and his brother Tim serves in the New Mexico State Senate. I am pleased that John has chosen to follow his family in this endeavor and he has done a remarkable job. More important than all of that is the indelible mark he continues to make on our minds as a man of true integrity, character, and kindness, a true gentleman who never speaks ill of a soul and one whose friendship is of the highest quality and value.

I hope that Mayor Jennings leaves his post with fond memories of his mayoral tenure and a sense of accomplishment for his efforts. Knowing John, upon his retirement, he is going to pursue endeavors that will be interesting and challenging; and no matter what he undertakes, I am sure that he will enjoy great success.

On behalf of Rio Rancho, the state of New Mexico, and this nation, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mayor John Jennings for his service.

HONORING THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER ASSOCIATION'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, today, the Northern California Water Association is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Since 1992, NCWA has provided a strong regional voice on California water policy for Northern California's water suppliers, farmers, and landowners.

NCWA is a prominent and well-respected organization in Northern California water issues. The organization represents 70 agricultural water suppliers and individual farmers who rely upon the waters of the American, Feather, Sacramento, and Yuba Rivers, smaller tributaries and groundwater to irrigate over 870,000 acres of Northern California farmland, extending from the Coast Range to the Sierra Nevada foothills, and from Redding to Sacramento.

For the past 10 years, NCWA has been a leader in protecting Northern California water rights, developing the Sacramento Valley Water Management Agreement, promoting the construction of new surface water storage in Northern California including Sites Reservoir, protecting Northern California groundwater resources, developing and implementing constructive solutions to Bay-Delta water supply and environmental problems, and developing and constructing fish passage improvements including fish screens and siphons.

It has been my great honor and pleasure to represent this region and to work closely with NCWA to protect the region's water supplies. Again, I would like to congratulate NCWA as the organization celebrates 10 years representing Northern California water interests.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, in the first week of February, I remained in Florida all week to attend to my wife, Emilie, who had to undergo surgery. I am pleased to report that she is doing well, and thank my colleagues for their expressions of kindness and support for her. While away from Washington on personal family medical leave, I was not present to record my vote on Roll Call Votes #6 through #14. I ask unanimous consent that the Congressional Record reflect, in the appropriate place, that had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" in each instance, for recorded votes number 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH A. WUTKOWSKI

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph A. Wutkowski, the youngest