PAYING TRIBUTE TO DALE SHERFEY
HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual from Penrose, Colorado. Over the years, Dale Sherfey has distinguished himself as a businessman, a community leader, and a vital participant in maintaining civic responsibilities throughout the region. Dale’s achievements are impressive, and it is my honor to recognize several of those accomplishments today. Dale is a generous soul whose good deeds and actions certainly deserve the recognition he has recently received.

Dale is the owner and operator of a local feed store in Penrose, a successful business he has run for many years. He has carried on a long tradition of quality guidance and service to his many clients in the area, resulting in an operation dedicated to remaining true to high standards of honesty and integrity. His success in the industry has led to several honors including a recent tribute presented by the Colorado House of Representatives. Throughout his success, Dale and wife Kathy, have remained active in their community. They have actively volunteered their time and energies to many local community organizations and Dale is frequently seen about the area lecturing to 4-H groups and farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Dale Sherfey’s achievements have also recently been rewarded by his community through the Penrose Chamber. The chamber named Dale the Penrose Chamber Distinguished Citizen of the Year, an award given to Dale and well deserving of the recognition. Dale’s good deeds and actions certainly deserve the recognition he has recently received.

Today, girls who once shared a few outdated books and a handful of pens and note-books now have access to some of the 40,000 stationary kits, 10,000 School-in-a-Box kits, 7.8 million, textbooks and 18,000 chalkboards provided by the UNICEF Back-to-School Campaign.

Today, women and girls who once hid their instruments of learning under their shawls as they cautiously made their way home after a lesson can now carry books through the streets without fear.

Prior to the military campaign in Afghanistan, women in Afghanistan, and especially the capital of Kabul, were highly educated and employed. Seventy percent of school teachers, 50 percent of civilian government workers and 40 percent of doctors in Kabul were women. And at Kabul University, females comprised half of the student body and 60 percent of the faculty.

In fact, the Afghan Constitution, which was ratified in 1964, had an equal rights provision for women contained within it. It is clear that in order for women in Afghanistan to regain a position of equality, quality education programs must be made available to the girls in Afghanistan.

I commend UNICEF and the Interim Afghan Government for the Back-to-School effort and look forward to seeing more than 1.5 million children on the school-house steps on Saturday.

CELEBRATING AS AFGHAN GIRLS RETURN TO SCHOOL
HON. HILDA L SOLIS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the end of a five-year ban on girls attending school in Afghanistan.

On Saturday, for the first time since the oppressive Taliban regime usurped control of Afghanistan, young women will finally be able to return to schools. The assessment of learning without fear of punishment, violence or even death.

It is fitting that we celebrate this new beginning today—March 21st, New Year’s Day in Afghanistan—for today is truly a new day for this desert nation in central Asia.

A woman’s property of the people of the United States.

Conscription helps promote an effective military, then why did General Vladisova Putin, Chief of the Russian General Staff, react to plans to end the military draft in Russia, by saying “This is the great dream of all servicemen, when our army will become completely professional.”

Instead of reinstating a military draft, Congress should make military service attractive by finally living up to its responsibility to provide good benefits and pay to members of the military and their families. It is an outrage that American military personnel and veterans are given a lower priority in the federal budget than spending to benefit politically powerful special interests. Until this is changed, we will never have a military which reflects our nation’s highest ideals and values.

Mr. Speaker, the most important reason to oppose reinstatement of a military draft is that conscription violates the very principles upon which this country was founded. The basic premise underlying conscription is that the individual belongs to the state, and therefore, individual rights are granted by the state, and therefore politicians can abridge individual rights at will. In contrast, the philosophy which inspired America’s founders, expressed in the Declaration of Independence, is that individual liberties are natural, God-given rights which cannot be abridged by the government. Forcing people into military service against their will thus directly contradicts the philosophy of the Founding Fathers. A military draft also appears to contradict the constitutional prohibition of involuntary servitude.

During the War of 1812, Daniel Webster eloquently made the case that a military draft was unconstitutional: “Where is it written in the Constitution, in what article or section is it contained that you might take children from their parents, and parents from their children, and compel them to fight the battles of any war, in which the folly or the wickedness of Government may engage it? Under what concealment has this power lain hidden, which now for the first time is set forth, with a tremendous and baleful aspect, to trample down and destroy the dearest rights of personal liberty? Sir, I almost disdain to go to quotations and references to prove that such an abominable doctrine had no foundation in the Constitution of the country; enough is known that the instrument was intended as the basis of a free government, and that the power contended for is incompatible with any notion of personal liberty. An attempt to maintain this doctrine upon the provisions of the Constitution is an exercise of perverse ingenuity to extract slavery from the substance of a free government. It is an attempt to show, by proof and argument, that we ourselves are subjects of despotism, and that we have a right to chains and bondage, firmly secured to us and to our children, by the provisions of our government."

Another eloquent opponent of the draft was former President Ronald Reagan who in a 1979 column on conscription said: “... it is my understanding that, if this high-tech military is really the instrument of the people’s defense, as its advocates claim, then it is only the property of the people of the United States. The Nazis thought it was a great idea.”

President Reagan and Daniel Webster are not the only prominent Americans to oppose