

were injured, and they took up the rifles of those who had fallen.

In World War I, women were, for the first time, allowed to enlist. More than 30,000 did so, a third of them served overseas. Since then, women of all generations have served in wars and conflicts far from their homes and families.

Discrimination in the military is an insult to the memory of those women who died in service to their country and a grave injury to those who currently serve. These women, who have helped foster freedom in nations on whose soil their blood has been shed, are owed the certainty that the military does not see them for their gender but rather for their courage and commitment to the ideals embraced by all of its military personnel.

During the Gulf War, helicopter pilot Major Marie Rossi, now buried in Section 8 of Arlington National Cemetery, offered her thoughts on the work of women in the military, "It's our jobs, you know. There was nothing peculiar about us being women. We're just the people called upon to do it."

The more than 300,000 women currently serving in our military would tell you the same. The House of Representatives should have seized the opportunity to tell our military women that we agree: their contributions and sacrifices are deeply appreciated by their nation. The military must not treat them as second-class citizens.

IN HONOR OF VIVIAN BECKER

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Vivian Becker on the occasion of her retirement from the Pratt Area Community Council (PACC).

In 1989, Vivian Becker was appointed Executive Director of PACC—then a 25-year-old three-employee community organization dedicated to improving the community. Today, under Vivian's leadership PACC now stands out as a leading community-based organization with a revenue stream of \$3 million a year as well as a full-time staff of more than thirty people and a host of community volunteers and interns. PACC has not just grown; it has flourished through Vivian's hard work, dedication, and fine leadership.

Vivian saw the tremendous potential in PACC and in the community and has done an outstanding job in using both to their mutual advantage. Through tenant and community organizing, Vivian and PACC have helped residents in the traditionally low and moderate-income communities of Fort-Greene, Clinton Hill, and Bedford Stuyvesant to achieve self-sufficiency, develop a sense of community, and attain overall neighborhood revitalization. They have also overseen the development of more than 50 buildings, which created more than 500 units of affordable housing for families in need.

Moreover, under Vivian's leadership, PACC has addressed community issues by solving community problems. Vacant lots were turned into community gardens, blocks that were not organized, were organized and the problem of homelessness became a top priority. In addition,

PACC has offered tenant and homeowner services as well as community economic development assistance.

Mr. Speaker, Vivian Becker has spent the past thirteen years turning a small community organization into a powerful force that has improved the quality of life for everyone within their catchment area. She is a hard-working dedicated leader who has left an extraordinary legacy in Brooklyn. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving this recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly outstanding community builder.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS CHESTNUT,  
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
ARIZONA BUSINESS PERSON  
OF THE YEAR

### HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Thomas Chestnut, a resident of Tucson, Arizona. Recently, Tom was named Small Business Person of the Year for the State of Arizona by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Tom formed Chestnut Construction in 1990, starting with three employees. That year, the company had \$886,000 in revenue. Today, Chestnut Construction is one of the largest and most respected general commercial contracting firms in southern Arizona, with 44 employees and more than \$55 million in revenue.

Tom believes in commitment and loyalty to his staff, clients, subcontractors, and vendors. The majority of Tom's employees hired in the first few years of business are with the company today. His first contracted client is still one of Tom's most valuable customers.

As his company has profited, Tom has added more benefits for his employees. Today, Chestnut Construction provides its employees with healthcare, life and disability insurance, profit sharing, vacation, and bonuses that are uncommon in the construction industry or many other small businesses. Benefits even include the free use of a company-owned cabin.

Beyond treating its own employees very well, Chestnut Construction gets top marks for a hands-on approach in the performance of construction projects. Outsiders see that the company has a team attitude in their accomplishments.

Tom's philosophy is to work with the subcontractors and vendors, treat them well, pay them on time and build loyalty. It has resulted in a reputation of being fair and equitable in all aspects of his business. About 85 percent of Chestnut's work comes from repeat clients, and almost all advertising is word of mouth.

The concept of building a better community has double meaning for this construction company. Tom strongly urges employees to get involved in the community. Last year, donations to charitable organizations in cash, in-kind contributions and donated labor were above \$60,000.

Since 1996, Chestnut Construction has won 10 awards in southern Arizona, including such categories as general contractor of the year, community service, and best place to work. Tom's philosophy has resulted in his being

elected the founding chairman of the Arizona Builders' Alliance and the only general contractor ever honored with three Cornerstone Awards, which signify teamwork, quality of product, on-time delivery and dedication to the community.

I congratulate Thomas Chestnut on his Small Business Person of the Year award, and I applaud his hard work, his steadfast dedication to his profession and commitment to his community.

### YUCCA MOUNTAIN REPOSITORY SITE APPROVAL ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2002*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, nuclear power has a role to play in our nation's energy policy. Our government must fulfill its obligation to store radioactive waste. The transportation and security concerns associated with Yucca Mountain can be overcome. However, by allowing this project to proceed, we do nothing to address the ongoing production of more nuclear waste.

I cannot support this resolution without a national policy to reduce additional nuclear waste. Forty years of nuclear power production in the United States has left a disturbing legacy—45,000 tons of radioactive waste stored in more than 70 communities. While this resolution recognizes the need for Yucca Mountain to store old waste, it does nothing to address the new waste currently being produced. With new waste being produced every day, Yucca Mountain will be full even before it opens. Today's debate should be about the future of nuclear energy and how we deal with its toxic debris.

Congress and the nuclear power industry must join together in an effort to reduce, recycle and minimize nuclear waste production. Unless our nation accepts the very real environmental and economic costs of nuclear energy, coal and oil, we will continue to perpetuate our addiction to unsustainable sources of energy. My constituents have expressed their frustration at our collective failure to take responsibility for our nation's nuclear energy policy. My vote is their voice on this issue. We must look comprehensively at our future energy policy and develop long-term, sustainable energy sources.

### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORT WORDEN

### HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend we are celebrating the Centennial of Fort Worden in Port Townsend, Washington, and I would like to take this opportunity to mark this occasion here in the House of Representatives. Fort Worden is a wonderful piece of our nation's history, first established on May 14, 1902 as part of a series of installations designed to provide protection along Puget