

I am pleased to rise today to honor six heroic and dedicated men and women who responded to this call of greatness. These six individuals have dedicated their lives to helping others in need by working in the emergency medical and ambulance services profession.

Whenever we face a medical emergency, whether it is a family member, a friend or co-worker, the first thing we do is call for an ambulance. According to some estimates, there are almost 960 million ambulance trips made each year in the United States.

And the first people to respond to these emergencies are the millions of emergency medical professionals whose skills and training significantly improve the survival of the patient. As a result of their selfless acts, these courageous and devoted men and women save the lives of thousands of Americans each year. While these professionals do not expect to receive recognition for their work, they deserve our sincere gratitude.

I am fortunate to have met with a number of medics from Oregon and have heard firsthand accounts of their tireless efforts to serve their communities on a daily basis. They are truly America's health care safety net.

For the past nine years, the American Ambulance Association (AAA) has recognized those emergency, medical and ambulance service professionals who exemplify what is best about their field, and bestow upon them the Stars of Life award. These appropriately designated Stars of Life have been selected by their peers to represent them in Washington, DC as part of pre-National EMS Week activities. The highlight of their visit to our Nation's capital is an awards banquet where they are presented with this prestigious award. The American Ambulance Association is honoring 113 Stars of Life this year.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that, of these 113 Stars of Life, 6 are from my congressional district in Oregon.

They are: Victor Hoffer, Randy Johnson, Dawn Poetter, Candy Schneider, Frank Wallender, and Bill Wildman.

Our Nation is blessed by people like Victor, Dawn, Randy, Candy, Frank, and Bill who made a decision to devote their lives to helping other people and serving their communities.

I am immensely proud of all of their accomplishments. I hope that they are also beaming with pride in what they have achieved. Oregon is privileged to be protected by such devoted and courageous men and women.

Dr. King reminded us that everyone can be great. These six individuals have lived it.

TRIBUTE TO BRONX COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I rise today to once again pay tribute to Bronx Community College, which will hold its 24th Anniversary Hall of Fame 10K Run on Saturday, May 11, 2002. This year the theme of the race will be "Running Against Asthma."

The Hall of Fame 10K Run was founded in 1978 by Bronx Community College's third president, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown and today

continues to be an event of great significance. This year, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr. proudly proclaimed May 11, 2002 as "Bronx Community College Hall of Fame 10K Race Day." Each year, amateur and professional runners alike from all five of New York's boroughs and the entire tri-state area come together to run the Bronx. Participants include teams from municipal agencies along with faculty, staff and students of Bronx Community College and other nearby schools.

It is indeed one of the Bronx's most anticipated yearly events and has contributed to a strong sense of community within the Bronx. The race also places an emphasis of physical fitness and achieving athletic goals. Historically, its mission has been to highlight the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, a national institution dedicated to those who have helped make America great. This year, along with upholding that mission, the race will take on another important function, The 2002 race's theme, "Running Against Asthma" is particularly important to South Bronx residents where the rate of asthma among children is twice the national average. It is wonderful that Bronx Community College is focusing on this important issue and raising awareness.

The 10K race tradition continues under the stewardship of Dr. Carolyn G. Williams. Dr. Williams has endorsed the race since her inauguration and has not only continued the tradition started by Dr. Brown to promote physical fitness and highlight higher education, but has added the raising of awareness of important community issues.

I can recall the high level of energy and community involvement when I ran the Hall of Fame 10K race. The race has attracted well over 400 runners each year and I'm sure this year will see an even larger number of participants. People of all ages and physical ability will be able to take part in the Bronx Community College events on May 11, 2002. Along with the 10K race, there will be a Hall of Fame Excalibur One Mile Boys and Girls Youth Challenge and a 2 Mile Fitness Walk.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are making the Bronx Community College's 24th Annual Hall of Fame 10K run possible.

HONORING HERRMANN SPETZLER,
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Herrmann Spetzler, Executive Director of Open Door Community Health Centers in Arcata, California, and honor him for his 25 years of service to the health care needs of the people of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

Herrmann Spetzler has provided extraordinary leadership in directing the growth of Open Door Community Health Centers. The clinic has grown from a part time clinic staffed by volunteers to a system of eight licensed facilities and medical mobile programs serving more than 35,000 individuals throughout the two counties and specifically in the communities of Crescent City, Smith River, McKinleyville, Arcata and Eureka.

Mr. Spetzler also has provided vision and leadership in the development of collaborations that support the health of rural communities at the local, state and national levels, including the California State Rural Health Association, Community Health Alliance, California Primary Care Association and North Coast Clinics Network.

Mr. Spetzler has earned distinction as President of the Humboldt Child Care Council and founder of the Northern California Rural Round Table for Health Care Providers. He is highly esteemed for his successful efforts to develop high quality facilities to meet community health care needs with a focus on health education, access to care and prevention.

Mr. Spetzler has also served the people of California as Statewide Chair of the Expanded Access to Primary Care Committee. He is a member of the Statewide Primary Care Advisory Group to the State Health Director and a member of the Rural Health Care Forum Advisory Group to the Office of Statewide Health Planning. He is a member of the Advisory Task Force for State Facilities Financing Authority and a Board Member of the California Human Service Organization. Mr. Spetzler is esteemed by his colleagues as a leader and innovator in the field of health care.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Herrmann Spetzler for his vision, leadership and commitment to healthier communities and for his extraordinary record of public service to the people of the North Coast of California.

BBC EXPOSES MILITANT HINDU
VHP

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the British Broadcasting Company recently ran an expose of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), a fundamentalist, militant Hindu nationalist organization. The VHP is an organization, which operates under the umbrella of the pro-Facist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS). The RSS is the parent organization of the ruling BJP.

The BBC notes that the VHP has promoted Hindu supremacy and has engaged in violent acts against minorities. These acts include the murder of missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons while they slept in their jeep.

The report states that the VHP, which it identifies as "a hardline Hindu outfit," rarely makes a "distinction between fellow (Muslim) citizens of the present and (Muslim 'marauders' of the past." It further reports that "the ambition of establishing a resurgent Hinduism by inculcating what some historians call a carefully constructed common 'Hindu spirit' is very much central to the VHP." Moreover, it exposes the VHP's support for a militant Hindus' project to build a Hindu temple on the site of the most revered mosque in India, which was destroyed by the BJP.

Since the BJP is also part of the RSS umbrella, it is critical to help ensure the rights of minorities in India. Tens of thousands of Sikhs and other minorities have been held in illegal custody as political prisoners for many years. Tens of thousands of minorities have been