

Her years of dedicated service have made a significant improvement in our schools and our community.

While working full time at the Good Samaritan Credit Union, Mrs. Bonilla also managed to be involved in schools such as Valleydale Elementary, Ellington Elementary, Center Middle School, Foothill Middle School and Gladstone High School. For the past two years, Mrs. Bonilla has served as Azusa Council Parent Teacher Association (PTA) President and the past 6 years at First District PTA. Mrs. Bonilla has also contributed her time to the Girl Scouts, Little League, Helping Hand, and Azusa Youth Programs. Her years of hard work and dedication earned her the prestigious PTA Golden Oak Award and Lifetime Achievement Award.

In addition to working with the city's youth, Mrs. Bonilla has contributed her time to local community and senior organizations like the Azusa Golden Days Activities, UMAPA, Healthy Start Families, and Azusa Citizens' Congress. Mrs. Bonilla has also served as a religious education teacher, financial council secretary and Eucharistic minister for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church since it opened its doors 35 years ago.

Mrs. Bonilla and her husband Joseph have four grown daughters, Carol, Sandra, Annette and Terri, who have gone through the Azusa Unified School District. Mrs. Bonilla is a role model to many children, including her own. Her youngest daughter, Terri, currently dedicates numerous hours to our schools and community.

Mrs. Bonilla is a woman who has served our community with her heart, mind and soul. Countless families have benefited from her kindness and generosity. I am thankful to Mrs. Bonilla for her commitment to our community and would like to honor her today.

EXPLAINING SEPTEMBER 11TH TO FUTURE 4TH GRADERS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following letter to you and all of our colleagues. Nicole Jean-Marie Bansen read this letter at the Lindenhurst Memorial Day Ceremony on May 27, 2002. An elementary school student from Long Island, Nicole directed the letter to future 4th graders so that they might better understand September 11 based on her own experience. Like Nicole, I believe that we must help preserve the memory of that tragic day by sharing our stories with future generations.

DEAR FUTURE FOURTH GRADER, September 11, 2001 was a tragic day. I'm writing this letter to tell you what really happened. I was in school when it happened. That was the day that jet planes hit the Twin Towers, and soon both collapsed. Tower One was hit first. Within the next hour, Tower Two was also hit. Time seemed to freeze. Everyone just stopped what they were doing to see what happened in disbelief. It was like a nightmare coming true!

When I found out what had happened, my heart felt like it was shattered, just like the Twin Towers. After school, my brother and Mom told me to watch the news. I turned on

the television and saw both planes crashing into the Twin Towers. A friend of our family's worked on the 72nd floor of Tower One, I was afraid that he might be killed, like so many others. He made it out of the building in minutes before it collapsed!

I was affected by this tragedy in a sad way because I will not see the Twin Towers anymore, and so many innocent people died. In the future, people should never forget this day, and always remember all the people who died. I believe parents should tell their children the truth about what happened when they are old enough to understand, so they aren't frightened. Your friends and you will learn about this day in your Social Studies class in school, if your parents didn't already tell you about it.

I hope this terrorist act never happens again. Hopefully you will never know the "evil" word, terrorism. But, if something like this does happen again, I am sure that everyone will be very sad. I am so glad to be an American, because of our freedom and people staying united through difficult times.

Sincerely,

NICOLE JEAN-MARIE BANSEN.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MOUNTAIN STATES LEGAL FOUNDATION

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Mountain States Legal Foundation, an organization that has selflessly led efforts to sustain and improve the interests of the community. I applaud the efforts of each and every individual that made it possible to build the new foundation's headquarters.

The Legal Foundation celebrates its 25th anniversary by dedicating its new headquarters on June 6, 2002. The vision and determination of MSLF, has produced a state of the art, professional building, located in the suburbs of Denver, Colorado. MSLF was established to advocate the quest for free enterprise and maintain the country's laws established and preserved by the Constitution. On June 6th, their 25th birthday, I pay tribute to MSLF's accomplishments and relocation to their new location.

MSLF extends its outreach to the communities and businesses seeking assistance. Many of MSLF's activities include conservation and preservation of our natural resources and environment. MSLF has assisted in the fight to preserve and protect our wetlands and national forests. MSLF has defended our rights and liberties within the judiciary system. It is because of foundations and organizations like MSLF, that we are able to live in this nation of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride I honor such an outstanding organization before this body of Congress and this nation. The Mountain States Legal Foundation contributes so much to our nation and community, it is fitting they celebrate 25 wonderful years. Thank you to all individuals who worked hard and diligently to reach these outstanding achievements.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JOSE M. LOPEZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a special South Texan, Sergeant Jose M. Lopez, recipient of a World War II Congressional Medal of Honor. For his courageous and selfless actions on the battlefield, this man is truly a great American patriot.

In response to the call of duty, Sergeant Lopez almost single handedly engineered his company's successful withdrawal under heavy enemy small arms fire near Krinkelt, Belgium on December 17, 1944. On his own initiative, he repeatedly repositioned his heavy machine gun to critical points along his company line, which led to over one hundred enemy deaths and saved the lives of numerous American soldiers. For these efforts, Sergeant Lopez deserves the admiration and gratitude of the American people.

It is especially appropriate that we honor this soldier today on America's Independence Day. Although the American colonists were victorious in the revolutionary war two hundred nineteen years ago, the American pursuit of liberty did not end there. Throughout the past two centuries, young Americans like Sergeant Lopez have fought to preserve our country's values both inside and outside its borders. In this struggle, one of our most valuable resources has been our soldiers and their dedication to upholding American ideals.

This July 4th, as we celebrate the birth of our beloved nation and all it means to us in the 21st century, we must acknowledge the brave and selfless actions of dedicated American soldiers like Sergeant Lopez. Through his courageous military service, Sergeant Lopez has done his part to ensure that America may celebrate its independence year after year.

This year, we will honor Sergeant Lopez with a statue in front of the Veterans Memorial Bridge in Brownsville, Texas, to commemorate his contribution to American military history. Thanks to brave soldiers like Sergeant Lopez, we retain our freedom and we protect democracy around the world. I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending Sergeant Lopez's sacrifice for our nation.

HONORING STAN ROGER ARTERBERRY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize Stan Roger Arterberry who is resigning as Superintendent-President of Solano Community College after eight years of distinguished service to the community.

Mr. Arterberry began his career with the California Community Colleges in 1974 as an