

RECOGNIZING THE ARIZONA COALITION FOR NEW ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2002*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Arizona Coalition for New Energy Technologies. This coalition brings together over three dozen business and non-profit organizations from around Arizona to educate opinion leaders and other key stakeholders about the many benefits of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies.

Since its formation in January of this year, the Arizona Coalition for New Energy Technologies has achieved some important accomplishments. It helped four Arizona state legislators launch a bipartisan Renewables and Energy Efficiency Caucus in the state legislature, modeled on the U.S. House Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus of which I am a member. The mission of this state caucus, which has grown to 14 members of both parties, is to educate lawmakers about cutting-edge advances in new energy technologies to market in Arizona, the United States and the world. Under the auspices of this caucus, three member companies of the Arizona Coalition for New Energy Technologies presented a well-received informational briefing in February to state legislators and other interested parties at the state capitol in Phoenix.

Arizona is a national leader in promoting clean new energy technologies through state laws and policies, which is appropriate, given our state's wealth of solar and other renewable resources. I salute the Arizona Coalition for New Energy Technologies and congratulate the Coalition for its leadership in educating key stakeholders on the growing importance of new energy technologies to the energy security of our state and nation.

CONGRATULATING SARA MCKIERNAN

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2002*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, on January 29, 2002, President Bush called upon every American to volunteer two years to the service of our country. President Bush also called for the United States to renew our commitment to the Peace Corps by doubling the number of volunteers in five years.

This August, Sara McKiernan from Winnetka, Illinois, will return from her two year Peace Corps term in Mongolia. Sara's commitment to her country and compassion to the world is an example for us all. While in Mongolia, Sara taught both young children and adults the English language. But, more importantly, Sara's work was a vehicle in spreading the principles of democracy throughout the world.

As several members of this body know, the job of a Peace Corps volunteer is one of the most challenging in the world. I commend Sara and all the Peace Corps volunteers de-

ployed throughout the world. These past two years have been an even greater challenge being separated from family and loved ones, particularly during these traumatic times. But her work could not be more important. We appreciate Sara's work and dedication, welcome home.

INTRODUCTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND THE NATIONAL MOTTO

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2002*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would create a constitutional amendment to protect the Pledge of Allegiance and the National motto. Recently, a federal court in San Francisco ruled that the Pledge of Allegiance was unconstitutional and cannot be recited in schools.

This is the latest in a rash of stunning decisions that have come from our federal courts. It is an unfortunate assault on America's tradition of recognizing the role of God in our country's life and as the foundation of our liberties.

The order and decision by this court has been suspended, but it is a chilling fact that this decision was ever issued in a U.S. Federal court. An overwhelming majority of Americans were outraged with this decision and are hopeful that it will be overturned—but there is no guarantee. In fact, there have been reports of those wishing to challenge the use of "In God We Trust," the National motto, on our currency.

Unfortunately, there has been a trend in our courts that have sought to remove every vestige of God from our country, while child pornography is protected. The time for action has come. Today, I am introducing legislation that would provide for a constitutional amendment to protect the "Pledge of Allegiance" and the national motto "In God We Trust."

Amending the Constitution is never taken lightly, nor should it be. Yet Congress can no longer sit idly while the courts rewrite our nation's history and traditions. This amendment is very clean, clear, concise, and as unobtrusive as possible. However, it is very effective and the only way to ensure that the Pledge of Allegiance and the national motto are protected and preserved.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and hope that we can begin the process to move it forward.

RECOGNIZING MS. MEGHAN FOSTER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2002*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ms. Meghan Foster, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in national government.

Meghan is a senior psychology major at Texas Christian University and has distinguished herself as an intern in my Washington Office by serving the great people of the 6th District of Missouri. Meghan joined my staff for the 107th Congress as part of the House of Representatives intern program at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., a program designed to involve students in the legislative process through active participation. Through this program, Meghan has had the opportunity to observe firsthand the inner workings of national government and has gained valuable insight into the process by which laws are made.

During her time as an intern in my office, Meghan has successfully demonstrated her abilities in the performance of such duties as conducting research, helping with constituent services, and assuming various other responsibilities to make the office run as smoothly as possible. Meghan has earned recognition as a valuable asset to the entire U.S. House of Representatives and my office through the application of her knowledge and skills acquired prior to her tenure as an intern and through a variety of new skills she has acquired while serving the people of Missouri and our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ms. Meghan Foster for her many important contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives during the current session, as well as joining with me to extend to her our very best wishes for continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

OPERATION ADOPTED HEROES: THE STRENGTH OF A COMMUNITY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2002*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Operation Adopted Heroes. This project was started by members of the small community of DuBois, Pennsylvania with the objective of providing relief to the grieving New York firefighters of Engine Company 84 and Ladder Company 34 following the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center. The fire station, located in the Washington Heights section of my congressional district, lost seven current and former members in responding to the attack.

Firefighter Gregg Atlas, Captain Frank Callahan, Firefighter Dana Hannon, Lieutenant Tony Jovic, Firefighter Gerry Nevins, Lieutenant Glenn Perry, and Battalion Chief John Williamson died in the line of duty on September 11th.

Delores "Dee" Matthews, a caring and compassionate neighbor who has served as moderator of the New York Presbyterian Church and lives in the neighborhood of the fire station, wanted to do something to allay the grief of the firefighters. She reached out to her closest friends in her hometown of DuBois, Pennsylvania, Judy Hand and Pat Stewart with the idea of adopting these firefighters. Dozens of community members formed what is now known as Operation Adopted Heroes to organize appreciative events and raise money for the victims' families. With the help of the neighboring townships of Rockton, Union and Sandy Township represented by my colleague