

sound judgment, and total dedication to duty, he has served well this body, the United States Marine Corps and our Nation. Please join me in wishing Master Gunnery Sergeant Fletcher, his wife, Barbara, and their sons, Joel and Gary, all the best as he begins this new chapter in life.

TRIBUTE TO THE 13-COUNTY MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH ALABAMA

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the North Alabama 13-County Emergency Management/Civil Defense Mutual Assistance Association as it celebrates over three decades of dedicated service to the North Alabama community. The association, which dates as far back as 1971, consists of the Emergency Management officials in Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan and Winston Counties across North Alabama. This organization has tirelessly protected countless lives in Alabama over the last thirty years, and I rise on behalf of my constituents in North Alabama to express my sincere appreciation to these EMAs.

Formally organized in December 1978, the association was established with a purpose of working together among the thirteen counties across North Alabama to help each other protect lives and property in a coordinated, efficient, reliable and effective way during times of emergencies that exceed the capabilities of any single affected local government. The association works closely with the State of Alabama Emergency Management Agency to better facilitate effective response to critical situations.

The EMAs from these thirteen counties had the foresight over three decades ago to recognize a concept that is today strongly advocated by all levels of government, that being, just how critical it is to cooperate across artificial jurisdictional boundaries in order to respond to emergencies. And now, when securing our homeland and preparing for emergency response is of utmost importance, the rest of the country has begun to realize the value of this kind of cross-district cooperation by strongly promoting and requiring mutual aid and regional response capabilities, I want to commend the North Alabama EMAs in the 13-County Mutual Assistance Association who have worked so hard to protect the livelihood of North Alabama citizens.

The 13-County Mutual Assistance Association serves as a standard for EMAs across our nation. In today's uncertain world, our first responders have to be ready to react quickly and effectively to large-scale emergency situations that cross city and county lines. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of North Alabama, I am pleased to recognize and thank the 13-County Mutual Assistance Association of North Alabama for leading the nation with their innovative outlook on cooperative emergency response developed over thirty years ago.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WARREN BYSTEDT

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual from Grand Junction, Colorado. Over the years, Warren Bystedt has grown to love cross-country running and he continues to run competitively today at the age 72. It is a great pleasure today, to honor Warren Bystedt for his numerous achievements and accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Earlier in Warren's life when he was an amateur boxer, he trained consistently, but avoided running because he disliked that element of conditioning. Today the Grand Junction resident has a different view, and can be seen pounding the pavement diligently every morning. Warren's passion for running has motivated him to train everyday for fifty or so yearly races. Gus said, "If I didn't start my morning with that, (run) I wouldn't know what to do." Warren provides the same determination and thoroughness to his daily activities and events.

Warren consistently finishes among the top in the sixty or seventy and older of age divisions in races throughout the country. His competitive nature comes from his earlier days as an amateur boxer when he lost only seven of seventy bouts fighting in the flyweight division. A long time educator and administrator in Minnesota, Illinois, and Iowa, he took up running after taking a hard look at his family history noting that his brothers and father all died of heart attacks and not wanting to suffer the same fate, he began running around his neighborhood in Davenport, Iowa, in 1979. Grand Junction, Colorado, has given Warren the optimum climate in which to run on a year-round basis and he is an active member the Mesa Monument Striders.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the work and contributions of Warren Bystedt, a distinguished citizen and role model for his community. His achievements are impressive, and it is my honor to recognize his accomplishments today. Best wishes to Warren, and good luck on all your future races.

HONORING ANDREA FOX

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrea Fox of San Rafael, California, a talented professional planner, community volunteer, athlete, and breast cancer activist and an inspiration to many.

Andrea Fox lost her tenacious battle against breast cancer on July 2, at the age of 35, leaving a legacy of extraordinary courage and compassion.

A beautiful young woman with incredible grace and dignity, "Annie" Fox was dedicated to finding a cure for breast cancer. Diagnosed with a particularly aggressive cancer in 1998, the former triathlete, who ate organically and

exercised regularly, had none of the traditional risk factors for cancer. Undergoing a lumpectomy, she continued her athletic training and the stage IV cancer seemed to disappear. But, in April 2000, cancer came back and, pursuing every treatment she could find, including non-western, untraditional methods, Annie appeared to have beaten it back again.

Andrea focused her considerable energies on increasing public awareness and getting national attention for the serious epidemic of breast cancer in Marin County, joining the board of Marin Breast Cancer Watch. "Annie was our angel," said Board President Roni Peskin Mentzer.

Whether lobbying in Sacramento for breast cancer research or educating the community about the dangerously high rates of cancer in Marin, Annie made a difference, she made history. Never daunted, she participated in athletic events such as the renowned Dipsea Race and the Human Race, and was organizing new events, like the July 20, 2002 foot race from Mill Valley to the Mountain Theater on Mt. Tamalpais to increase public knowledge and raise much needed funds for research.

In October 2001, only two months after her engagement to longtime partner and soul mate, Chris Stewart, the cancer reappeared and Annie mounted still another heroic campaign. Not one to seek sympathy, she was driven to passionately lead the fight for all women to find a cause to this insidious disease. Despite increasing pain, she continued her work at the Marin Civic Center. "Annie was a special person . . .", Stewart said, "bringing a wonderful happiness to all those who knew her. . . . She was passionate about her work and about preserving the environment."

A woman of uncommon positive spirit, Andrea Fox lost her courageous battle with breast cancer surrounded by friends and family, leaving her devoted fiancé, mother, brother, and a grieving community.

We are all more fortunate to have been graced by the presence of Andrea Fox, her beauty, wisdom and strength. Her love, resolve and remarkable will are the cornerstones of the legacy of courage she has left so that we might continue the fight. While Annie is gone, the spirit of this "angel" of our community will forever be with us.

STATEMENT ON THE ELI HOME CARIÑO WALK-IN CENTER

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Eli Home Cariño Walk-In Center in Anaheim which opened its doors on July 13 to families throughout my district.

Many families in my district do not have a place to go to get support, find information, or just ask questions. The Center will help these families, many of whom are dealing with economic crises and other stress creating situations.

The Eli Home is dedicated to providing free, bilingual services to Spanish-speaking families. The center offers parenting classes, weekly forums, case management, counseling, and child-abuse prevention.