

the years speaks truth to that assertion.) First, on my personal staff, Patrick Sheehan, my Counsel and Legislative Director, has been a dynamic and intelligent thinker and leader, who offered sage advice on immigration, military and veterans affairs; Greg Helman, my Senior Legislative Counsel kept pace with my many Judiciary and legislative demands, especially bankruptcy reform and appropriations (as I would expect from a Palmyra, PA native); Becky Smith, my office manager and health legislative assistant, kept my schedule and personal affairs humming along smoothly and ably managed my most favorite of projects, the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus of which I was founder and Co-Chairman; David Greineder, who did a multitude of duties as my talented systems manager, legislative correspondent and Legislative Assistant covering education and labor issues; Bill Tighe, another LC and Legislative Assistant whose insights into the Agriculture and Natural Resources needs of Pennsylvania and the district were more than invaluable, they were accurate; Mike Shields, my recent press secretary extraordinaire, who did an excellent job under difficult situations; and, of course, Allan Cagnoli, my long time Chief of Staff from Hershey, PA, a superb leader of the office and jack-of-all-trades who kept the office running and productive no matter what the crisis.

My Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims, of which I was Chairman, was ably staffed by George Fishman, Lora Ries, Art Arthur, Cynthia Blackston and Emily Sanders, as well as Brian Zimmer of the full Committee staff. They handled the extremely important legislation necessitated by the new domestic and international threats we now face. Their assistance to me during the challenges of this year is impossible to measure. The House of Representatives has much to look forward to with their continued work.

And last but not least, is the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, of which I was a member this last Congress but on which I served as Chairman from 1994–2000. On this subcommittee we dealt with the hundreds of regulator reform issues developed by the Republican Majority through the Contract With America and following initiatives. My major Bankruptcy Reform measure began with me in this subcommittee; Administrative Law Judges; Legal Services Reform; the Federal Agency Compliance Act; The Regulatory Fair Warning Act; Executive Orders; Internet Tax reform; the Federal Arbitration Act; Interstate Compacts; the Independent Counsel Act; and many, many other topics. While bankruptcy reform took center stage, there was no end to the amount of topics and work my staff and I pursued. For this I thank them, the current and former staffers of the subcommittee, for all their exceptional work: Chief Counsel Ray Smietanka, who has worked with me as my chief committee counsel since I came to the 98th Congress in 1983; Susan-Jensen Conklin, whose superb work on bankruptcy reform got us where we are today; Rob Tracci, formerly of the Subcommittee, was an invaluable source of assistance; and all the other members of the CAL staff who have helped this Member of Congress over the many productive years. I thank them all for their work to the Nation and me.

To all I have mentioned, and those who I have regrettably not, please accept my sincere

thanks for making my tenure in the United States House of Representatives a productive and pleasant one. Any current Member of Congress or Committee would be well served by the high-quality staff with whom it has been my pleasure to work over these many years.

HONORING JOHN KORREY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Korrey of Iliiff, CO, who recently received the 2002 World Champion Livestock Auctioneer title.

John is an extraordinary auctioneer, a skill that is highly admired in eastern Colorado. His talent helps ranchers earn top dollar for their stock. In fact, John has received other top accolades for his talent, including the Greater Midwest Champion Livestock Auctioneer in 2002 and International Champion Livestock Auctioneer in 1998. John is only one of four individuals globally to hold these three titles.

John Korrey is a native of Iliiff, CO. Raised as a family farmer and rancher, John now runs Korrey Auctions, his own business, and is partner in Premier Livestock Exchange. At home, John enjoys farming with his wife Janna and his daughters Heidi and Lacey.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate John Korrey and ask the House of Representatives to join me in wishing him success as World Champion Livestock Auctioneer.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. AL AKERS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Mr. Al Akers upon his retirement as President of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition on December 1, 2002.

Mr. Akers' resume and accomplishments speak for themselves. He holds masters degrees in both business administration and international relations, and he is a graduate of the Advanced Management Programs at the Claremont Graduate School and the University of Southern California. After retiring from the U.S. Army as a major general, Mr. Akers helped launch two companies and was the executive director of a non-profit organization.

Not only does Mr. Akers have an impeccable career on paper, he has had a great and tangible impact on his community. In 1993, he served as chairman of the Superintendent's Community Advisory Counsel for Fairfax County Public Schools. Then, in 1995, he was selected as Lord Fairfax for the Springfield District, and also became a member of the Task Force on Fairfax County Resources and Expenditures. Mr. Akers served as a member of the Lorton Task Force from 1995–1997 and as vice chairman of the Springfield District Council. In addition to serving as vice chairman of this council, Mr. Akers was, and remains a member.

Perhaps one of his most significant contributions has been his work with the Occoquan Watershed Coalition, an all-volunteer organization committed to the protection of "The Downzoned Occoquan Watershed" and drinking water it provides. Mr. Akers served as vice president of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition from 1994–1999, in addition to serving as the coalition's representative to the Fairfax County Federation of Citizen's Association since 1995.

It is his tenure as President of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition we recognize today.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is with great pleasure that I extend a wholehearted thank you to Mr. Al Akers. His contributions to Virginia and his community have been great. Virginia is proud to have such a distinguished citizen in its professional and social community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding him for all that he has done.

LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate, but not celebrate Lebanon's Independence Day. Fifty-nine years ago, Lebanon gained its independence from France. Yet, today, Lebanon is no longer a sovereign and independent country. With 25,000 Syrian troops occupying Lebanon, it remains firmly in the grip of Damascus, without the ability to conduct its own affairs without first seeking the approval of the Assad regime.

More than 2 years ago, Israel completely withdrew its armed forces from southern Lebanon. This withdrawal was certified by the United Nations. The time is long past due for Syria to leave, as well, and for the Lebanese to run Lebanon.

As the author of the Syria Accountability Act, I thank the 172 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the 45 members of the Senate who joined as cosponsors of our legislation. We have together shined a bright light on the injustice of the continuing Syrian occupation of Lebanon and have only added to the growing campaign to liberate Lebanon.

So, on this 59th anniversary of Lebanese independence, I stand with the Lebanese people who seek freedom and democracy for their beautiful country and peace for the entire region. It is my hope that some time soon, Lebanese Independence Day will not only be a commemoration, but will once again be a celebration.

HONORING PATTI REILLY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Patti Reilly upon her retirement as Mariposa County District I Supervisor. Patti Reilly has shown her dedication to the citizens of Mariposa and District I through years of active involvement and leadership.