

I hope all my colleagues join me in supporting our nation's teachers and other professional educators by cosponsoring the Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act.

RECOGNIZING AMELIA M. ORTIZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, on January 13, 2003, a woman whom I was personally very close to, Amelia Martinez Ortiz passed away, leaving behind a legacy of service to the community. I rise today to honor the impressive contributions Amelia Martinez Ortiz made to her community and to this nation.

Amelia M. Ortiz was born in Mason City, Arizona, on February 9, 1929. She lived for over 48 years at the same house on Shadydale Avenue in the City of La Puente, in the San Gabriel Valley of California.

With the passing of her beloved husband, Jesus Ortiz, 27 years ago, Amelia became the sole provider for her family. Armed with only a second grade education, she was able to provide for her children—Martha, Andres, Diana, and Gloria—through her gift with the needle and thread. As a seamstress, Amelia created many wonderful designs, bringing joy to her clients, including myself. She helped them prepare for some of the most important days of their lives, like their weddings and quinceañeras. With her tenacity and talent, Amelia's success as an entrepreneur helped open doors for other Latinas throughout the community during a time when very few role models existed.

In addition, Amelia was a long-standing, dedicated parishioner of the St. Louis of France Catholic Church in La Puente. She was a member of the Legion of Mary, participating and organizing events that recognized the contributions of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Amelia also helped the parish raise funds for community events and assisted in organizing the traveling Virgin Mary for all in the community to enjoy.

Although Amelia has passed, her spirit remains in my heart and in many others. Through her dedication, hard work, and commitment to overcoming overwhelming obstacles in the hopes of providing for her family and community, Amelia Ortiz exemplified all that is possible in our country. A wife, a mother to four, a grandmother to 13, a great-grandmother to one, a friend to many, and my madrina (godmother), Amelia M. Ortiz will be greatly missed.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF
JOHN EBERLY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize John Eberly of La Junta, Colorado. Mr. Eberly has been the Sheriff of Otero County for the past 31 years, where he has served his fellow citizens with the honesty, courage, and integrity

that Coloradans have come to expect from their law enforcement officers. Sheriff Eberly has recently retired, so I would like to reflect upon his extraordinary career and accomplishments.

Growing up in La Junta offered Sheriff Eberly the opportunity to know and understand the community in which he served. Throughout his eight terms in office, Sheriff Eberly has received broad support from the residents of Otero County who have reelected him repeatedly since 1970. Over the years, Sheriff Eberly has gained a reputation as a working sheriff who holds himself to the same standards as his deputies, never asking anything of anyone that he wouldn't ask of himself. Eberly has always led by example and has worked hard to protect his fellow citizens.

As a former law enforcement officer, I am well aware of the dangers and hazards our police officers face today. These individuals work long hours, weekends, and holidays to guarantee the safety of their fellow citizens. They work tirelessly, with great sacrifice to their personal and family lives, to ensure our freedoms remain strong in our homes and communities. Their service and dedication deserve the recognition and thanks of this body of Congress, and that is why I bring the name of Sheriff John Eberly to light today.

Mr. Speaker, it is with earnest respect that I recognize Sheriff John Eberly before this body of Congress and this nation. Sheriff Eberly has served his constituents with honor and integrity, qualities that will be his legacy. I commend John for his service and dedication, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

GUEST CHAPLAIN FROM 19TH
DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome as Guest Chaplain on the floor of the House of Representatives an outstanding constituent and religious leader in my 19th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. The Reverend Sara "Sally" Gausmann. "Pastor Sally," joined by her husband, Reverend Paul Gausmann, represent a thriving religious community, Saint Paul Lutheran Church in York, Pennsylvania. Together, pastor Sally and Pastor Paul successfully aid in the needs of their congregation and I am pleased to thank them for their exemplary status as role models in my district.

Pastor Sally received her bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1981, before attending the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 1991. She then served at several churches including Grade Lutheran Church in Rochester, Pennsylvania from 1991–1993 and Faith Lutheran Church in Shell Rock, Iowa from 1993–1999 before serving as co-pastor of Saint Paul Lutheran Church. During her time at the Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Pastor Sally was the chaplain at the Pennsylvania State Sheriff's Convention in 2001 and is currently a member of the Global Mission Task Force for the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. As a husband

and wife team, Sally and Paul Gausmann offer a united approach to their religious teachings that has flourished within this congregation. They have two children, a son, William, who is age 17 and a daughter, Laura, who is age 15.

I am pleased to welcome Pastor Sally to the House Floor and would like to thank her for the inspirational prayer she presented this afternoon that reinforces the importance that our great nation exists as one "under God."

INTRODUCING THE COMMERCIAL
AIRLINE MISSILE DEFENSE ACT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will correct a glaring vulnerability in our homeland defense. The "Commercial Airline Missile Defense Act" will fully fund the addition of electronic surface-to-air missile defense systems on all commercially scheduled flights on United States aircrafts.

Protecting American lives is the most fundamental job of the Federal Government. We must therefore eliminate every weakness that we see in our country's homeland defense. The vulnerability of our commercial air fleet to terrorist missile attack is not a hysterical hypothetical. It is a real and present danger.

Last November there was attempted missile attack on an Israeli airliner taking off from an airport in Kenya. Two surface-to-air missiles, also known SAMs, which can bring down large airplanes—commercial as well as military—from up to 30 miles from an airport were launched against an Israeli chartered jet airliner. It was only profound good luck—likely a flawed missile batch—that saved the plane and its hundreds of innocent passengers. Thankfully, last November's attack on the Israeli jetliner failed. We need to keep in mind, however, that the missile used in the Israeli attack one of the least sophisticated of the several types of SAMs that exist in the world today. It was a Soviet-era SA7, which was been sold globally since the end of the cold war. The other types of SAMs are much more advanced and much more effective.

SAMs were designed to be highly portable and are easily disassembled. As such, they are relatively easy to transport and smuggle. Terrorist could launch this five-foot long missile from near an airport and flee before anyone can detect them. Airplanes taking off with full and highly combustible fuel tanks are the most likely and deadly targets. The U.S. government must equip all its aircrafts with a defense system to protect and defend against this threat.

The United States provided Stingers—a type of SAM—to the Mujahadeen in the 1980s in Afghanistan. They were used with devastating affect against the Soviets. The Mujahadeen, who subsequently splintered into the Taliban and Al Qaeda, possessed at least a thousand Stingers that were never accounted for after the war ended in 1989. Soviet shoulder armed missiles, like the ones used in Kenya against the Israeli jetliner, are even far more abundant.

Tens of thousands of these missiles are out there. Although most are in state arsenals, thousands—including U.S. Stingers and Russian SA7s—are unaccounted for and feared to be in the hands of terrorists.