

El Dorado Furniture is a success by any standard. From its humble sales of \$18,251 its first year, it boasts sales of \$125 to \$130 million in 2002. Not many businesses can claim at least a 22 percent increase every year. Apart from El Dorado's business success, it has served as a source of family unity. All the family members continue to work in the business, including seven of the 19 grandchildren.

Passion for the furniture business has been in the Capo family's blood and can be traced back to Cuba. Pedro Capo's father describes him as a child "having an active imagination" and as a child who "loved to share his ideas with the whole family". In the last 10 years, Pedro Capo has been sharing his ideas as a member of National Home Furnishings Association, and in his new position as president, he will continue to share his ideas with National Home Furnishings Association members about getting the most out of their retailing businesses.

I urge all our colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the entire Capo family, and especially to Mr. Pedro Capo, a man that embodies the American dream. He serves as a shining example and reminder that anything is possible in the United States and that dreams can and do come true. A man who stands out as a light for all; whether newly arrived immigrant or multi-generational United States citizen.

WILDLIFE GRANTS PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today, Congress is failing to protect America's wildlife by short-changing the State Wildlife Grants program. As many know, I am a strong and consistent supporter of this program, which works to preserve wildlife and save endangered species. Last year, I joined 57 colleagues in recommending \$150 million in funding. Regrettably, the Fiscal Year 2003 omnibus legislation dramatically decreasing the spending level supported by the House last July.

Restoration of previous funding levels for the State Wildlife Grants program, translates into greater protection of endangered species. In particular, 78 species in New Hampshire are threatened, endangered or classified as a "species of concern." These include the Karner Blue butterfly, Piping Plover, and Blanding's turtle. Through the State Wildlife Grant program, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is able to monitor viability and health. States that monitor wildlife in a comprehensive manner are able to identify and heal declining species that, unchecked, would require "emergency room" care to avoid their extinction. Clearly, preventive measures save the wildlife and also taxpayer dollars eventually required for heroic measures.

In 2000, when 315 of my House colleagues and I passed the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, we did not foresee the dramatic cuts to the State Wildlife Grants program. Today, we can and should commit more resources for national conservation efforts.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH WILLIAMS BUCE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ruth Williams Buce who died on January 20, 2003, after a brief illness at the age of eighty-two.

Ruth Williams Buce was born in Alexander City, Alabama, and was the first woman in her family to earn a college degree. She was a member of the "greatest generation," the generation that secured democracy and built America in the 20th century.

Ruth made friends everywhere she went in her unending pursuit of continuing education and personal growth. She lived a life of volunteerism and gave generously to many causes. She helped her parents prepare food and deliver it to those in need; she rolled bandages in World War II, and worked as a hospital aide. Most recently she volunteered at the Methodist Country House Health Center. Ruth was an avid participant and a leader in the Friends of the Concord Pike Library, the AAUW Landmarks Group and St. Paul's United Methodist Women.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, William Austin Buce and her children, James A. Buce and his wife Judith, Robert E. Buce and his wife Barbara, and Janet Buce Cook. She also leaves two grandchildren, Julie and Brian Buce.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ruth Williams Buce for her lifetime of extraordinary service to her community and her country and extending our deepest sympathy to her entire family.

A TRIBUTE TO MISSION SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to offer my congratulations to the board of directors and employees of the Mission Springs Water District for 50 years of high quality service to the residents of Desert Hot Springs, California and the surrounding desert communities.

As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, water is one of the most important concerns to residents of a desert community. However, many of my colleagues from the watery East may not know that there are millions of gallons of some of the finest water to be found in the underground basins of the deserts of California.

Blessed with one such basin, the early residents of the community (later to become the city) of Desert Hot Springs established, by vote, a water district that was later to become Mission Springs Water District. That original district served one square mile when it was created in February 1953. Today, it covers 135 square miles of a rapidly growing desert area.

Since its inception, the district has committed itself to provide, protect and preserve

its high-quality drinking water. The district has gained widespread respect for its water conservation and attention to top quality materials in its distribution system.

Mr. Speaker, I know that it is common for members of Congress to speak proudly of the quality of their local products. But in this case, the product served by Mission Springs Water District has certified by experts as some of the best in the nation. The district has received one gold and two silver medals in the largest international water tasting competition held: the Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, International Water Tasting and Competition.

In 1998, the district sponsored state legislation to ensure protection of its award winning groundwater. The legislation amended Section 13281 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (the California Water Code), granting special protection to the Mission Creek and Desert Hot Springs Aquifers—the sources of the cities drinking water and world-renowned mineral water. The district has continued to support other legislation that protects water resources throughout California.

The district has also been a good corporate citizen. In 1999, the district created the Mission Springs Foundation, a 501(c)(3) dedicated to educating the community about water and human impact on water quality. It was instrumental in the formation of the Desert Hot Springs Groundwater Guardian Team in 1995. The Groundwater Guardian is committed to working in the community with the mission of "teaching the community to care for and about groundwater." In 2000, under the leadership of district and the Groundwater Guardian Team, the newly constructed Desert Hot Springs High School became the first Groundwater Guardian Campus in the Nation.

In 1995, the district sponsored the First Big Blood Drive on behalf of the Desert Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and the Coachella Valley Blood Bank. The drive set records for net pints donated in a single day drive in subsequent years.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that in its 50 years of existence, the Mission Springs Water District has not only provided the highest quality water in the nation to its customers, but has also served as an inspiration source of community pride for those who live in its service boundaries. Please join me in congratulating the board and employees, and wishing them well for the future.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA RUE, AS- SISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NAPA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AT THE TIME OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Virginia Rue, who is retiring after working for 27 years in the field of education. During the past nine years, Mrs. Rue has served as the Assistant Superintendent of the Napa Valley Unified School District.

Mrs. Rue has been dedicated to education throughout her life. Part of a new generation of women who refused to be denied a university education, she enrolled at Old Dominion

University, VA where she earned her Bachelors degree in American History. Even after completing her undergraduate education, Mrs. Rue's educational goals were not fulfilled. She continued studying and eventually earned her Doctoral degree in Educational Administration.

Mr. Speaker, it is most impressive that even with a doctorate in hand, Mrs. Rue felt that her educational goals could not be fulfilled without helping to educate others. As a high school teacher she motivated her History students to get involved in government and to appreciate our Nation's rich heritage. Later, as the Principal of Vintage High School in Napa, CA Mrs. Rue organized a dedicated staff, maintained a fiscally sound budget and spread an overall enthusiasm for education that was, quite simply, contagious.

During her time as Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Rue has supervised 21 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 2 comprehensive high schools, a technology school, one adult school and a continuation school. As Assistant Superintendent, she has also expanded services to Limited English Proficient students, incorporated a senior citizen tutoring program, secured substance abuse grants and implemented new reading programs. The improvements Mrs. Rue has made in the Napa Valley Unified School District have been enormous.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Rue is a shining example of dedication to education. The knowledge, concepts and programs that her students have benefited from during her tenure are a permanent reminder of how significant her educational contributions have been. For these reasons and countless others, it is most appropriate that we honor Mrs. Virginia Rue's educational career and extend our best wishes to her in her retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID
ALAN POWELL

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ of California. On November 30, 2002 David Alan Powell, a true hero and proud father was taken from us in the line-of-duty.

That night, an Artesia residence was fired on by armed gang members. A fleeing suspect forced his way into an occupied home. Deputy David Powell, doing one of the things he loved to do, risked his life to save the life of another. Within a matter of seconds, Deputy David Powell was taken from us. The lives, hopes and dreams of his family were changed forever.

David's heart was filled with love and his whole purpose in life was to make a difference. David entered the sheriffs academy, Class 221, on January 19, 1984. After graduating from the academy he was assigned to custody for three years where he worked both Men's Central Jail and Pitchess Detention Center. In 1987, he was assigned to Firestone Station. In 1988, he transferred to Lakewood Station, and he earned the reputation of being dedicated and hard working. In the communities where David worked, everyone knew him. Children would wave to him and call his name. He loved children and he loved helping people.

In November 2000, David was presented the Valor Award by the City of Lakewood for saving the life of an elderly male who was attempting suicide. In 2002, he was one of several law enforcement officers who tried to save the lives of three individuals that had crashed their car following a pursuit. As a result of the

crash, the car erupted into flames and for several long minutes, David fought back flames as he and others tried desperately to remove the critically injured passengers from the car. His heroic efforts resulted in his nomination for another valor award. Unfortunately, he won't be here to receive it.

David was a Christian and attended the Lawndale Christian Church his entire life. His love for his family and faith were evident everywhere. David applied his values to all that he did, and he believed in God's plan for him. David and his wife met at church and married in January 1990. Although Emma had three children from a previous marriage, David loved and cared for them as though he was their father. As their daughter Alicia shared, "He was my Daddy . . . the only dad I knew. He was the happiest man. He always had a smile on his face."

He also was a loyal man who loved his job. Just this past Thanksgiving, David shared with his family that with his seniority, he could easily ask to leave patrol and be assigned to a desk. However, he loved his car, Unit 134T1, so much so, he couldn't bear the thought of transferring inside and leaving the patrol car, and the job that brought him so much fulfillment and satisfaction in helping others.

Shortly after leaving the hospital on the day of her father's death, seven-year-old Brianna Powell wrote a note to her dad: "I love you dad. I know you will always be in my heart. I wish you were still down here with all my family. I will never forget you. I wish you were still alive."

I commend David Powell for his valor and service to his country.

Born: May 27, 1960.

Entered Department: January 18, 1994.

Killed in the Line of Duty: November 30, 2002.