

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO THE BROOKLYN TABERNACLE CHOIR

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir.

The internationally renowned Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir was founded in 1973. As part of the ministry of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in Brooklyn, New York, the 250-voice choir is recognized worldwide for the magnitude of its sound and the soul-filled inspiration of its music. Since its formation three decades ago, the choir has emerged as a major influence within the Christian/gospel music industry.

With a multi-ethnic and economically diverse membership, the choir truly represents the best of New York and America. Some members have been singing with the choir for more than 25 years. Despite their differing backgrounds, the entire choir operates like a close knit family. This level of cooperation is possible because of the individual commitment of the members and the inspired leadership of its director, Carol Cymbala. I want to commend the choir on its ability to apply the harmony of music to the ministry of life.

On February 23, 2003, the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir won a Grammy Award for Best Gospel Choir or Chorus for its album "Be Glad". With this most recent recognition, the group has become one of a few choirs which has attained the acknowledgment of both the popular music business and the Christian music industry. As a five-time winner of the Grammy Award and two-time winner of the Dove Award, the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir has performed in some of the most celebrated venues in New York City, including Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, and the Paramount Theater. In a rare testament to the power of its music, the choir has played to a sold-out audience at Madison Square Garden. With New York City and Brooklyn as its home, the choir continues to greatly impact the local community, including my district, the 10th Congressional District of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend this choir not only on its most recent Grammy Award but on its 30 years of dedicated music ministry. In these difficult and uncertain times, I sincerely hope that the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir continues to use music to bring a message of good news and hope to Brooklyn and the world.

### A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING KEVIN H. BARNETT

#### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Kevin H. Barnett has devoted himself to serving others

through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Kevin H. Barnett has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Kevin H. Barnett has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Kevin H. Barnett must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award; and

Therefore, I join with Troop 141, the residents of Carrollton, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Kevin H. Barnett as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

### SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (SHRM)

#### HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the members of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) to Washington, D.C. for their 20th Annual Employment Law and Legislative Conference. Today, more than 200 SHRM members will visit Capitol Hill to share their views and experiences with issues such as the Fair Labor Standards Act, health care reform, and pension reform.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. Representing more than 170,000 individual members, the Society serves the needs of human resource (HR) professionals by providing the most essential and comprehensive set of resources available. As an influential voice, SHRM also seeks to advance the HR profession by ensuring that HR is an essential and effective partner in developing and executing organizational strategy.

As a legislator, I want to congratulate the members of SHRM for recognizing the important role individuals can play in affecting the legislative process. HR professionals maintain demanding schedules and are crucial to the successful operation of our nation's organizations. Most importantly they understand the positive impact of meeting with their Senators and Representatives to discuss recent workplace trends, their policy implications, and suggested remedies. Citizen participation is a crucial component of the legislative process, allowing legislators and their staff the opportunity to hear constituents explain personal experiences as they live and work within our nation's laws. Finally, legislators gain critical knowledge through these conversations, resulting in legislation that's clearly applicable to the workplace and effective for employees and employers.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank the members of SHRM for their commitment to provide

value to employees and employers across the United States while contributing an essential component to the political process—practical real world experience.

### ARTICLE BY RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

#### HON. EDWARD L. SCHROCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share the following article written by a constituent, Rabbi Israel Zoberman. His article is timely and informative with respect to the current political situation in Israel.

With a heavy heart I bade shalom's farewell to elderly parents who are Holocaust survivors, and to Israel where I grew up, on the eve of the unknown. I left a country calmly readying itself for a probable American attack on Iraq in freedom's name, and possible ramifications for the Jewish state that already experienced a limited taste of Saddam Hussein's Scud missiles during the 1991 Gulf War. As then, which I witnessed as well, the Israeli public receives updated gas masks, and urged to prepare a sealed shelter with essential food items. There is less concern now though it can quickly change.

I visited Israel with fellow rabbis immediately following the general elections there which serve as a barometer for the citizens' mindset, particularly after enduring over two years of the bloody Second Intifada presenting Israel with its greatest crisis since its 1948 inception. The resulting shrinking economy and the growing gap between the haves and the have-nots have added pressure, but also fortified the Israeli resolve to withstand the Palestinian assault of unprecedented suicide-homicide bombings, reflected in the elections' outcome. Free elections are not to be taken for granted in that part of the world, and Israel's vibrant example is the only such sign of democratic life! Israel is worried that only 69 percent of eligible voters participated this time, that should only happen in our own great democracy.

Prime Minister Sharon and the political Right were assured a major victory though the message was primarily aimed at Chairman Arafat along with punishing Israel's Left for providing him through the Oslo Accords with the means to terrorize through short of submission to his agenda. Thus Arafat's plan boomeranged to gain through violence beyond what former Prime Minister Barak so trustfully offered him. He lost his gamble, with the Palestinians miscalculating once more and continuing to hurt their own welfare. This time Arafat succeeded to convince Israel and the U.S., both victims of terrorism and allies in combating it, that he is a critical obstacle to peace. I was fortunate to participate in a helicopter ride along the seam line separating the Israelis and Palestinians, watching from above the complexity of erecting the separation fence and Israel's disconcerting narrow waistline.

The sharpening conflict has also adversely impacted European Jewry as

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

we studied the precipitous rise in anti-Semitism in France during our initial stop there, mindful of the contributing presence of millions of Arab Muslims though the French authorities are not indifferent to the Jewish plight. We were warmly greeted and candidly briefed by Howard Leach, the American Ambassador to France in his official residence. Israel's ambassador, Nissin Zvilli, was gracious as well. Both ambassadors pointed at the linkage between the events in the Middle East and the French scene. Our moving meeting with the legendary Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld reminded us that the Holocaust's ghosts are not altogether expunged. This sense was reinforced at the Drancy Memorial on the outskirts of Paris, where French Jews were herded into the surrounding building complex before deportation to death.

I painfully watched in disbelief on Israeli TV the shattering dream, so close to realization though so far, of Israel's first astronaut on his maiden voyage. Ilan Ramon's call from outer space to remember that we are all one human family on a precious but fragile planet Earth will long echo. His radiating and captivating optimism is so sorely missing and needed at this trying time. He, whose mother survived Auschwitz, along with his inspiring American colleagues aboard the Columbia, taught us how vulnerable are our most noble human aspirations and that the road to accomplishing them is strewn with broken pieces of a reality we are yet pledged to redeem through shalom's persistent promise of peace.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, is a member of the Rabbinic Cabinet of United Jewish Communities.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM C. WRIGHT

##### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of William C. Wright of Pueblo, Colorado. Bill was a hero who saved the lives of five people and was a constant contributor to his community. Today, I stand before this body of Congress and this nation to honor the heroism of William C. Wright, and commemorate his recent passing.

In a span of less than ten years, Mr. Wright's selflessness and quick thinking saved the lives of five people. In June of 1964, while working on a construction site, Bill saved an 18-month-old girl who had stepped in front of a moving truck. Bill risked his own life by jumping in front of the truck and cushioning the girl's fall with his own body. Then, a few weeks later, Bill stopped his car at an accident on La Veta Pass. Seeing a man pinned beneath the overturned car, Bill lifted the car, freeing the man to crawl to safety. Always humble, Mr. Wright said he doubted his own physical strength. The strength of his resolve saved the trapped man's life.

Less than a year later, Bill saved a young girl in a busy intersection in Gunnison, Colorado. Then, while traveling to Golden, Bill again paused to check on a vehicle stopped in the middle of the road. He saw a five-year-old boy brush against the gearshift, sending the car down a steep incline. Bill dashed after the car and, after breaking the window with his

shoulder, stopped the car, saving the boy inside it. Finally, during a trip to Las Vegas, Bill saved another young girl, though he himself suffered a fractured elbow and a broken wrist. Mr. Wright's quick actions and selfless thinking saved the lives of five individuals, making him a true hero who will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Mr. William Wright. He saved many lives, and was a hero for Pueblo and all of Colorado. As we mourn Bill's passing, our thoughts are with those who knew him, and we are sure that his memory will live on in the lives of all those he touched, and especially those he saved.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INTERSTATE WORLDWIDE RELOCATION

##### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to recognize the 60th anniversary of Interstate Worldwide Relocation, headquartered in northern Virginia, a worldwide relocation and transportation management company specializing in household goods moving and storage.

A sterling example of the American dream fulfilled, Arthur E. Morrisette started the company on March 15, 1943, with a used truck worth \$450, a dolly and a few furniture pads. His first move was billed at \$12.50, and in the winter of that year he sold bundles of firewood just to keep the business going. Today, Interstate is a multi-million dollar enterprise, operating a fleet of approximately 300 vehicles, employing more than 300 people in northern Virginia and consisting of over 500 representatives worldwide.

Interstate, ranked in the nation's top twenty for relocation and transportation management companies, is committed to its motto of providing "Top Hat Service." The company has been recognized by both industry and community organizations for its outstanding customer service and safety efforts. To mention a few, American Moving and Storage Association honored Interstate in 2001 with a first place Safety Initiative Award and Fleet Safety Award. Fairfax County Economic Development Authority awarded its 2001 Blue Diamond Quality First Award to Interstate distinguishing the company as a business that provides high quality customer service above and beyond industry standards.

In addition, Interstate was awarded the 2001 National Capital Ethics Award by the Greater Washington and Northern Virginia Chapter of the Society of Financial Services Professionals as a business that exemplifies a strong commitment to business excellence and to the highest standards of civic and social responsibility, integrity and ethical conduct.

Interstate also has become the U.S. Department of Defense's second-largest mover, and has provided a superior level of service to military families moving domestically, and internationally.

The company also has a long standing commitment to serving the needs of the community, both locally and across the Commonwealth. Interstate's dedication to the support of education from the elementary school level

through and including endowed scholarships at universities in the Commonwealth is commendable.

It is an honor to present Interstate Worldwide Relocation as an example of the business values America holds dear and as an example of an outstanding corporate citizen. On behalf of the northern Virginia community, we wish the entire Interstate family of management and employees another 60 years of "Top Hat Service."

#### A TRIBUTE TO YOLANDA J. MARTIN

##### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Yolanda J. Martin in recognition of her dedication to helping those in need.

Yolanda was born in the town of Puerto Armuelles in the Republic of Panama. However, she spent her formative years of elementary and high school in the city of Colon.

She immigrated to the United States in 1981 and has been a resident of Brooklyn ever since that time. Yolanda has a strong desire to improve her community by assisting the less fortunate. She believes that we must provide children and adults with the necessary resources to become educated and gain financial independence. Through education and financial development, she feels communities can empower themselves. She has shown a consistent dedication to these ideals through both her professional and personal life.

At fourteen, Yolanda joined the Boy Scouts Explorer unit where she was exposed to Emergency Medical rescue trainings. This experience cultivated her fascination with the medical field. Yolanda has become a State certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Nurses Assistant, C.P.R. and First Aid Instructor, and HIV/AIDS Educational Instructor. As a way of giving back to the community, she worked as an EMT from 1990 to 1995, responding to 911 calls with a volunteer ambulance service. She volunteered an average of 20 to 30 hours a week.

Yolanda began her professional career in the United States working with mentally disabled people for the State of New York State from 1982 to 1985. For the next three years, she worked at the New York State Division for Youth. Yolanda followed this experience by working for the Board of Education as a bilingual Paraprofessional in Special Education.

More recently, she has founded three childcare services: Parents United for a Better Society Inc., child care center number one and child care center number two, and Minnie's Family Group Day Care, where she serves as the Executive Director and CEO.

The center offers the community 95 slots for day care, after school programs, summer programs, and universal pre-kindergarten for children up to 13 years old. Adult training and parenting classes are provided to the parents and others in the community as well. Yolanda is presently working on creating an additional day care center that will provide 178 childcare

slots and a senior citizen day care program in the East New York area of Brooklyn.

Yolanda participates in a wide array of community activities. She helps distribute food to disadvantaged families in the community and assists undocumented residents with referrals to the appropriate agencies that can address their needs. Yolanda is the President and founder of a women's support group called Innovation and serves on the Board of Directors for the New York Lions Club. She is also a member of the Panamanian Black Chambers of Commerce, the Prospect Park Alliance group, the Interfaith Medical Center Auxiliary, and the PNM group of North America.

When Yolanda is not working with others in the community, she spends time with her children and family. She has three children, Ronald, Kendra, and Courtney. Yolanda is known for her excellent cooking as well as her interior decorating ability. She also enjoys the performing arts, horseback riding, and grooming horses.

Mr. Speaker, Yolanda is devoted to improving her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
JOHN ALEXANDER GRECO

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, John Alexander Greco has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, John Alexander Greco has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, John Alexander Greco has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, John Alexander Greco must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 150, the residents of Minerva, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating John Alexander Greco as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD LEE KRIZ

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of Donald Lee Kriz and thank him for his contributions to the community of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Donald passed away recently, and will be truly missed in his community.

Donald was born in Nebraska in 1929 and later moved to Greeley, Colorado, after having served in the U.S. Navy. While in the Navy, Donald was stationed in the Philippines for 13 months. After arriving in Greeley in the early

1950s, Donald worked for a farm equipment company. Then in 1965, he and his brother started Mountain Mobil Mix, a ready-mix concrete company in Frisco. The business boomed, and eventually expanded to cover over eight Western Slope counties. After having become a leader in concrete technology, Mr. Kriz sold the business in 1982. Once retired, Donald divided his time between his beloved Colorado and Arizona.

Donald was a leader in the business community, but his influence did not stop there—he was also an avid philanthropist. Donald was well known as a generous soul. He helped many young people with their college tuitions, their first homes and even with starting a business. Mr. Kriz was not only generous with his money, but also with his time. He helped to raise money for Garfield Youth Service through the annual "Kiss-a-Pig" fundraiser for many years. Donald was a gracious and giving man, whose community benefited significantly from his knowledge, time and efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I remember the life of Donald Lee Kriz. The many people he impacted deeply value his dedication and generosity. My thoughts and prayers are with Donald's family and friends during this difficult time.

HELP MORE FULL-TIME WORKERS  
BRING HOME A DECENT PAY-  
CHECK

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Federal Living Wage Responsibility Act of 2003," legislation to mandate a livable wage for employees under Federal contracts and subcontracts. Forty-eight representatives currently cosponsor this important legislation.

Nearly a third of the members of the U.S. labor force work full-time, year-round and still do not earn enough to sustain a family above the poverty threshold of \$18,400 per year for a family of four. Employees who work hard at full-time jobs should be paid a wage that assures they will not live in poverty.

To address this problem, this Act requires that:

Employees of Federal contracts or subcontracts of more than \$10,000 be paid the greater of \$8.85 per hour or the hourly wage necessary to reach the poverty level.

Individuals hired by the United States government also receive a living wage, helping thousands of more workers to stay above the poverty level.

Employees of Federal contracts or subcontracts and individuals hired by the United States government receive benefits such as medical or hospital care, vacation and holiday pay, disability and sickness insurance, life insurance and pensions.

Although Congress passed laws such as the Davis-Bacon Act and the Service Contract Act to help ensure that employees of Federal contractors earn a decent wage, thousands of federal workers and federally-contracted workers still do not earn enough to support themselves or their families.

This legislation will allow hard-working Americans to earn quality wages and to increase their savings for such essential needs as their retirement and their children's education. We believe the Federal government must take responsible, workable steps to reward working Americans and to help keep them out of poverty. This bill represents a practical step toward that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DEREK GRAY

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for the resolution offered by my colleague from Rhode Island. This resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to the need for improved fire safety in nonresidential buildings in the aftermath of the tragic fire on February 20, 2003, at a nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, and expresses the condolences of Congress to the families and friends of the people who died in that horrible fire.

I was deeply saddened to learn of the tragic deaths of the 99 people who were killed and more than 180 others who were injured in the fire, including the death of Derek Gray. Derek was a Dracut, Massachusetts resident and only 22 years old when he died as a result of the nightclub fire. I want to express my deep condolences to Derek's family, as well as to the families and friends of all of the people who died or were injured as a result of the fire.

The Station nightclub fire was a massive tragedy—one in which nearly 100 people lost their lives. What we know about that horrible event is that the people who perished that night were the victims of a lack of protections—or enforcement of existing protections—to ensure the safety of club-goers. Last month, numerous others lost their lives in a Chicago nightclub stampede for the same reason.

We in Congress have a duty to the people who lost their lives and their families to work to ensure that these events never occur again. We need to dramatically increase safety protections at entertainment facilities across this country, and we need to do it now.

A TRIBUTE TO EVELYN MEDORA  
MOSS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Evelyn Medora Moss in recognition of her commitment to her community.

Born in the Republic of Panama to George Leopole and the late Imogene Elisa Ashley, Evelyn came to the United States in the early 1960s. She is truly one of Panama's and America's success stories. Realizing early on that education was a key for a successful future, Evelyn attended the University of Panama and received a degree in Home Economics in 1959. After graduating, she took a job

as a home economics teacher for Christ Church Episcopal School in Colon, Republic of Panama.

In the early 1960s, when she moved to the United States, Evelyn used her aptitude for numbers to start a new career. In 1962, she obtained a job as an Assistant Bookkeeper for White Mark Stores in New York City. She continued there until 1968 when she took a job at Ebasco Services where she worked for the next 25 years. She began as a Lead Accounting Clerk and would work her way up to Corporate Manager of Accounts Payable. In 1994 Evelyn joined Raytheon Engineers and Constructors as an Accounting Supervisor. Currently, she works for Washington Infrastructure Services as an Assistant Accountant. Never losing sight of the importance of education, Evelyn attended Brooklyn College during this time, receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Economics in 1977 and her Bachelor of Science in Accounting in 1978. Later, she completed courses at the Businesswomen's Training Institute, focusing on leadership issues. She also participated in the Institute's Advanced Studies' program.

Evelyn has also become a member of several professional organizations including the National Association of Black Accountants, the National Association of Female Executives, the National Association of University Women (NAUW), Harry S. Truman New Way Democratic Club in Brooklyn, the National Political Congress of Black Women, Brooklyn College Alumni Association, and the Women's Empowerment Movement.

She has been honored with several awards and distinctions for her accomplishments. The list includes: NAUW's 1987 Women of the Year Award, Women's Empowerment Movement's 2001 Outstanding Member of the Year, and NAUW's 2002 Distinguished Member award. She has also been listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in Finance*, *Who's Who in the World*, and *Two Thousand Notable American Women*. Evelyn notes that her most important achievement is her son Marc Anthony.

The other important aspect of her life is her role as an active member of Trinity Church on Wall Street in New York City. She served for three years as Vice-President of the Congregation Council and is currently President. She has also performed several other functions including layperson, head usher, and congregation representative to the vestry.

Mr. Speaker, with her numerous awards and professional memberships, Evelyn Medora Moss has shown that she is clearly dedicated her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHIEF DARWIN HIBBS

##### **HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the service of Chief Darwin Hibbs of Salida, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. After thirty-seven years working for the people of Salida, Chief Hibbs can be confident that

his community is truly grateful for his years of dedicated service.

Darwin, who grew up in Salida, started working for the Police Force when he was only 25 years old. He started as a parking monitor, but through his hard work and dedication he moved through the ranks to become Salida's longest serving Police Chief. Under his guidance, the Police Force has nearly tripled in size from its original five officers. Chief Hibbs and his force have greatly improved the protection that the people of Salida receive. While acting as Police Chief, Darwin has created a strong and capable force that has been intricately involved in the capture of Colorado's largest cocaine ring, and various other high profile cases in the state. It is with great pride that I have the ability to honor Chief Hibbs today.

As a law enforcement officer, I am well aware of the dangers and hazards our peace officers face today. These individuals work long hours, weekends, and holidays to guarantee their fellow citizens' rights and protections. 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 our nation, and that is why I bring the name of officers like Police Chief Hibbs to light today.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before this distinguished body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the extraordinary service of Chief Darwin Hibbs. His strong leadership and dedication have improved the quality of policing for the people of Salida and the residents of the entire State of Colorado.

#### HONORING MAYOR DAVID W. SMITH FOR HIS 25 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CITY OF NEWARK, CA

##### **HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor David W. Smith for his years of dedicated service to the city of Newark, California. On March 13, 2003, Mayor Smith's colleagues will celebrate his 25 years of service at a reception in Newark.

Mayor Smith was elected to the Newark City Council in 1976, and two years later was elected mayor. He is currently serving his 12th consecutive term, making him the most senior mayor currently serving in California and the 7th most senior mayor in the country.

Mayor Smith's genuine love for the city of Newark shows in the intelligent, common-sense approach he brings to decision making, and colleagues point to his terrific sense of humor as one of his great attributes. Under Mayor Smith's leadership, Newark has evolved into an efficient and responsive government.

When he first came into office in 1978, Newark generated little tax revenue outside of property taxes. Throughout his tenure, Mayor Smith has led Newark's resurgence by working to attract top companies and building state-of-the-art educational and recreational facilities.

Under Mayor Smith's leadership, the NewPark Mall Regional Shopping Center and the Newark Hilton Hotel opened for business in the 1980s. In the last decade, he has worked to accelerate development of the Newark Auto Center, which now houses 13 auto dealerships. He was also instrumental in attracting a large Sun Microsystems complex to the city.

Recently, Mayor Smith provided leadership in planning a new community college and in developing and constructing the George M. Silliman Complex, a world-class recreation center that will include a large indoor aquatic park.

While leading Newark's growth, Mayor Smith has also maintained his position as Vice-President of the Oatey Company's Retail Division. He serves on the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Alameda County Conference of Mayors, and the Alameda County Transportation Authority, and on many local and national committees and boards. His many awards and honors include a Lifetime Membership in the U.S. Jaycees, and a listing in *Who's Who in the West*.

I am honored to join the colleagues of Newark Mayor David W. Smith in commending his exemplary leadership, which has enabled Newark to grow into a wonderful place to live and a successful commercial leader.

#### IN SUPPORT OF TITLE IX

##### **HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of a resolution in support of Title IX.

In 1972, about 30,000 women played college sports. Today, that number has increased by more than 500 percent.

In 1972, about 200,000 girls participated in high school athletics. Today, that number has increased by more than 800 percent.

Mr. Speaker, it is no coincidence that women and girls have more opportunity today than they did 30 years ago. It is not because they have more interest than they used to, and it is not because they have more ability than they used to. These increased opportunities are attributable to one law: Title IX.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is the Federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education. It states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." In essence, Title IX requires schools and colleges receiving Federal funds to give women and girls equal athletic opportunities, including athletic scholarships, equipment, coaching, and facilities, among other benefits.

Unfortunately, Title IX has come under assault. Those who favor changing Title IX argue mistakenly that it has led to the disappearance of athletic opportunities for male athletes. While both sides of the debate over Title IX athletics policies agree that they should allow for gender parity and overall fairness in sports,

the real question that begs to be answered is, "What constitutes fairness?"

For those who want to alter Title IX and how it has been implemented, fairness means that male athletes should have a monopoly over opportunities and resources for their programs, regardless of how under-funded or nonexistent similar programs for female athletes may be.

For these challengers to Title IX, it is fair that while more women than men attend college, only 42 percent of all college athletes are women.

For them, it is fair that females currently receive 1.1 million fewer (41 percent) opportunities at the high school level and 58,000 fewer (38 percent) opportunities at the college level than do their male counterparts.

This ill-conceived notion of fairness that opponents of Title IX put forth justifies the fact that men currently receive \$133 million (36 percent) more than women in athletic scholarships. Division 1—A colleges and universities allocate on average 71 percent of their scholarship money for men's athletics, and their recruiting dollars for male athletes double those spent on female athletes.

Not only do these opponents of Title IX feel that this is fair, but they oppose any efforts to salvage the progress that has been made. It bothers me deeply that opponents of Title IX say that male athletes are treated unfairly. Although 30 years of progress since Title IX have seen sports participation for males and females grow, female athletes are still not treated equitably.

This resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that changes to Title IX athletics policies contradict the spirit of athletic equality and gender parity and should not be implemented. Title IX has been the dam that holds back gender discrimination in educational programs for 30 years, allowing millions of young women the opportunity to pursue goals of which their predecessors could only dream.

I am standing here to defend the integrity of this landmark civil rights law because it is the right thing to do, but I also rise in honor of my dear friend and beloved colleague, Patsy Mink. In 1972, Patsy helped to enact Title IX. I know that she would be standing right beside me were she alive today. She struggled for 30 years to protect educational equity for men and women, and it is in memory of the legacy she left behind that we must not give up on the fight to preserve equality for women.

Opponents of Title IX are trying to redefine what America sees as fair. As a consistent defender of gender equality and the protection of equal rights for all of our citizens, I am outraged by this particular brand of fairness. Patsy would have been outraged as well, and she would not have tolerated it. I hope all of my colleagues will join me, with our Republican and Democratic friends who support this legislation, as we all fight to preserve the integrity of this landmark law. Please cosponsor this resolution for the sake of Patsy Mink, for the sake of our Nation's girls, and for the sake of equality.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEONARD  
AND GEORGIANA KINDER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in order to recognize Leonard and Georgiana Kinder of Norwood, Colorado. The Kinders have been important members of their local community and the State of Colorado for many years.

The Kinders met in the early 1940s, when Leonard offered to give Georgiana a ride home. The two continued to grow closer when, in 1945, Leonard became a pilot in the United States Navy and was stationed in the South Pacific. After being transferred to a base in Oklahoma, Leonard sent Georgiana an engagement ring. A few years later, in 1948, the two moved to Redvale, Colorado. From 1959 until 1972, Leonard worked in the Union Carbide mines near Leadville, Colorado. During this same time, the Kinders built a school in Bullion Canyon, in which Georgiana taught first to eighth grade. The Kinders, along with a group of their friends, built and ran Ski Dallas, San Miguel County's first ski area and the forerunner of the now famous Telluride Ski Resort. Both Leonard and Georgiana have been extremely active in the Norwood area and have helped to build a strong sense of community.

Enjoying their retirement, the couple divides their time between their beloved Colorado and Arizona. Both Leonard and Georgiana are avid rock collectors and find joy in being outside with nature and perusing their hobby. Leonard is an excellent lapidary, creating polished stone spheres and globes. Georgiana is currently involved in the efforts to restore the Pioneer Day Stagecoach, the former school bus between Norwood and Telluride. The Kinders are exceedingly proud of their close-knit community, which they have supported for many years.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I recognize Mr. and Mrs. Kinder before this body of Congress and this nation. Their dedication to Colorado and our country is truly noteworthy. The Kinders' active involvement in their community has benefited not only those in San Miguel County, but in the entire State of Colorado as well.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF MICHIGAN AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME) COUNCIL 25

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michigan AFSCME Council 25 on their 25th Anniversary.

Michigan AFSCME Council 25 is one of the most dynamic unions in the Michigan AFL-CIO. The more than 60,000 members of Council 25 are comprised of state and local government workers committed to achieving dignity and improving their working conditions

through collective bargaining. Michigan AFSCME Council 25 was formed by a special convention held March of 1978. Five smaller Michigan AFSCME Councils combined forces to form Council 25, which became larger and stronger than the previous councils. The new Council 25 streamlined and enhanced services and realized economies of scale to benefit AFSCME members across Michigan.

Today, Mr. Speaker, Michigan AFSCME Council 25 has blossomed into more than 300 local unions, representing more than 600 bargaining units. The local unions have their own constitutions, elect their own officers and administer a wide variety of local affairs. For 25 years, Michigan AFSCME Council 25 has been committed to Michigan's communities, has provided effective political activism and years of advocacy for Michigan's working families.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the numerous employees of state, county and municipal governments, school districts, public hospitals and nonprofit agencies to name a few, for their tireless efforts on behalf of workers throughout Michigan. I also want to commend AFSCME Council 25 President, Albert Garrett, who is a good friend and a passionate advocate for the members of Council 25 and all of Michigan's working families. Additionally, Lawrence Roehrig, the Secretary-Treasurer of Council 25 deserves our appreciation for his commitment to community service and the values held dear to working people across this great Nation.

On the occasion of their 25th Anniversary, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting the Michigan AFSCME Council 25.

A TRIBUTE TO GLORIA MILLER

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Gloria Miller in recognition of her dedication to improving the health of her community and uplifting those in need.

Born in Jamaica, W.I., Gloria at the age of 16 traveled to London England to study and begin a career in nursing. Her commitment and strong desire, then as it is now, was to educate, inform, and help others in the community. She immigrated to the United States in March 1968 and began working at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York. While working at the hospital, Gloria attended Lincoln Hospital School in the Bronx. After graduating, she was elevated to the position of Head Nurse. She furthered her education at St. Francis College where she earned a degree in both a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science, graduating Summa Cum Laude. Next, Gloria took administrative courses in Long Term Care at the New York City Technical College in Brooklyn. Eventually, she received a Master of Public Administration from New York University with distinction. She accomplished all of this while working full time, caring for her two children, and planning numerous health fairs for St. Gabriel's Church.

In 1980, Gloria, now an Administrative Supervisor at Kings County Hospital, focused her energy on improving treatment for the drug

dependent community, instituting a program to closely monitor dosage of medication and evaluation of patient progress. As part of the program, she also upgraded the hospital's system for documenting or recording nurses' interventions or admissions notes. She also encouraged greater participation in the hospital's drug addiction classes by holding teaching sessions in the hospital's lobby. Special emphasis was placed on intervention for drug addicts and alcohol dependent clients who were pregnant.

In 1989, Gloria moved to Coney Island Hospital where she focused on the facility's "Drug Free Clientele Program." As a clinical therapist, she identified clients with drug and alcohol problems and referred them to an in-house drug free program. She shared her work with the March of Dimes Foundation, which used some of the information as part of a paper on birth defects. In the late 1990s when Gloria retired, her main focus became helping her daughter who is following in her mother's footsteps by working as a nurse at Coney Island Hospital.

However, Gloria continues to be an asset to her community through her volunteer work. She volunteers at Samuel J. Tilden High School, where she conducts conflict management intervention groups and sessions on alternative ways of dealing with angry students. She also helped establish a scholarship fund for two consecutive years for four students entering the health administration field of study from Tilden. Gloria's volunteer service also extends to several other community-based organizations such as the Caribbean Women United for Social and Political Action (CWUSPA) and the Caribbean Women's Association. Additionally, she has served as Secretary and Chairperson for the Social Service Committee on Community Board 17. Gloria holds the position of 1st Vice-President at Dr. Susan McKinney Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Auxiliary and has been the Chairperson of the Community Advisory Board for the past three years. As Chairperson, she served as a member of the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation Council of Community Advisory Board.

She is an active member of the St. Augustine's Episcopal Church and is one of the founding members and the first president of the Health Guild. During her presidency, she raised \$23,000 for the church. She also holds a certificate from the New York Theological Seminary for assisting her priest with his Doctorate of Divinity Degree. Currently, she assists the priest-in-charge in coordinating annual services to honor the 67th precinct with the goal of fostering a better relationship between the police and community.

Mr. Speaker, Gloria Miller has dedicated her life to helping her fellow community members. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

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THOMPSON CANCER SURVIVAL  
CENTER

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share with you and the House news

from my district that will offer life-saving technology to people across our Nation.

Thompson Cancer Survival Center in Knoxville, Tennessee, recently received state-of-the-art equipment that experts say will revolutionize cancer treatment. The \$2.9 million TomoTherapy unit allows doctors to deliver radiation treatments more accurately, and with far fewer side effects, than traditional treatment.

TomoTherapy is especially effective for cancers of the prostate, neck, head and spinal cord, and other cancers that are near sensitive organs or structures. Doctors at Thompson will begin treating patients with TomoTherapy this spring, making them the first in the Nation to benefit from this new technology.

Thompson's TomoTherapy unit is one of only nine in the world, and so far only six U.S. hospitals are slated to receive this life-saving equipment. This means people from across our Nation and around the world will look to East Tennessee for help in battling cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Thompson Cancer Survival Center for this latest victory in the fight against cancer.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO KYLEE  
SMITH

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Kylee Smith of Montrose, Colorado. Through Kylee's diligent efforts, numerous Cottonwood Elementary School students have developed a love for physical fitness that will allow the students to reap many benefits for the rest of their lives.

Kylee has created an innovative program called "Shape Up Across Colorado" to encourage her students to participate in physical activity. The program, which has been in place since 1991, uses 400 squares, each representing a square mile in a model of the State of Colorado. As children advance through numerous levels of activities, they are allowed to fill in corresponding squares. Using this program, the students are able to see their progress while they participate in activities they love, such as running outside, and playing in the playground. Kylee has really taught her students how to love physical exercise as well as being in the outdoors.

Earlier this year, Colorado Governor Bill Owens honored Mrs. Smith for her efforts to teach children about the benefits of physical education. She was presented with the "Shape Up Colorado Teacher of the Year" award from the Governor's Council for Physical Fitness and the Colorado Foundation for Physical Fitness. Kylee, who is proud to live in Colorado with its great outdoor resources, believes that programs like this one will help my state become the nation's leader in physical fitness.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand before you, this body of Congress, and this nation today to honor Kylee Smith. Mrs. Smith has inspired her students to participate in vital lifelong, and life sustaining, physical exercise. The children of Montrose are lucky to have such a wonderful resource helping

and guiding them to healthier lives. I applaud Kylee Smith for her efforts.

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A TRIBUTE TO ROXANNE PERSAUD

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Roxanne Persaud in recognition of her commitment to her community.

Roxanne was born in Georgetown, Guyana. The eldest child of Kenrick and Yvonne Persaud, she immigrated to the United States after graduating from high school. Upon arriving in the United States, she immediately enrolled in an adult after school program. Currently, she holds degrees in Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Education. Roxanne is in the process of completing her Master of Science Degree in Information Systems.

In August 1984, Roxanne began a part-time job at Pace University's Undergraduate Registrar's office. With no previous background in this area, she set out to learn all of the functions and task of the office. Today, she is the Senior Degree Audit Coordinator.

Roxanne is the Treasurer of the Organization for Social and Health Advancement in Guyana (OSHAG), a member of the 69th Precinct Community Council in Canarsie, Brooklyn, and an advisor for the Caribbean Students Association at Pace University, New York City campus. In addition, she is a member of the Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club.

In November 2002, Roxanne and members of OSHAG visited Guyana with a team of doctors representing Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn. Representatives from the American Cancer Society as well as HIV/AIDS specialists from representing Young Adult Institute were on the team. While in South America, the doctors conducted a medical workshop for Guyanese doctors on current cancer treatments and hosted a two-day conference for health care professionals, university students, and other members of the public. Throughout the trip, team members also provided other outreach services to the public as needed. Finally, the group cosponsored a cancer walk in collaboration with the Guyana Cancer Society. The team will be returning to Guyana again in 2003 to continue this mission.

On March 30, 2003, Roxanne and the members of OSHAG in collaboration with a Volunteer Youth Corp in Guyana will be launching a Big Brother/Big Sister mentoring initiative in Guyana. This will be the first of its kind in the South America region.

In addition to volunteering, Roxanne enjoys traveling and reading when she finds the time. She is thankful for her parents, siblings, colleagues, and Henry and Josephine Bolus' support, which has been essential in helping her accomplish so much.

Mr. Speaker, Roxanne Persaud is committed to community service and improving the lives of those in her own community and abroad. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2003 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of men and women in Northern Virginia. Several members of the Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff were honored at the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce's 25th Annual Valor Awards. Each year, the Chamber recognizes individuals who have courageously demonstrated selfless dedication to public safety. These outstanding men and women have played an intricate role in building a better community. This hard work and determination has earned several members of the Office of the Sheriff the highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials—The Valor Award.

There are several Valor Awards that a public safety officer can be given: Lifesaving Award, a Certificate of Valor, or a Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal of Valor. During the 25th Annual Awards Ceremony, 88 men and women from the Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department, and Police Department received one of the aforementioned honors for their bravery and heroism.

It is with great honor that I enter into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2003 Valor Award in the Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Deputy Charles Taggart; Certificate of Valor: Private First Class Michael Hammond, Private First Class Leslie Sheehan, Deputy Randall Naeve, Master Deputy Sheriff Amy Gaisor, Private First Class Sharon Fogle, Sergeant Kevin Timothy, and Deputy Charles Taggart.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this group of extraordinary citizens. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve the Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff. The events of September 11th served as a reminder of the sacrifices our emergency service workers make for us every day. Their constant efforts on behalf of Fairfax County citizens are paramount to preserving security, law and order throughout our neighborhoods, and their individual and collective acts of heroism deserve our highest praise.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALOYS AND WANDA SCHNEIDER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize "Moon" and Wanda Schneider of Montrose, Colorado. The Schneiders have been important members of their local community and the State of Colorado for many years, and I would like to pay tribute to their efforts before this body of Congress and this nation today.

The Schneiders have been married for fifty-six years and are the parents of eight children.

The couple began volunteering after Moon retired from the Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Service in 1978. Wanda had learned to play the piano, accordion and clarinet as a young girl in Canon City, so in 1983 the Schneiders started visiting nursing homes, where Wanda would play her keyboard and Moon would entertain the residents with his sharp sense of humor. When the new senior center opened in Montrose, the Schneiders put on their show once a week.

Eight years ago, Wanda volunteered to serve as the senior center's program chairman. Since then, she and Moon have helped with a variety of activities, including producing four plays. Moon himself has starred in three of them, most recently portraying the colorful actress Carmen Miranda. Moon has also served on the board of directors for the Golden Circle for six years, and the couple still finds time to pack and deliver Meals on Wheels.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I recognize Moon and Wanda Schneider for the countless hours they have contributed to the welfare of seniors in Montrose, Colorado. They have been a great asset to the senior center and to the people of the nursing homes they serve. Their active involvement in their community is a credit to Montrose County and the entire State of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO THE LOLA DE RODRIGUEZ DE TIO ACADEMY OF FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES AT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 162 FROM THE SOUTH BRONX

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to congratulate The Lola de Rodriguez de Tio Academy of Future Technologies at Intermediate School 162 from the South Bronx which, on Saturday, February 8, 2003, won the 2003 New York City FIRST Lego League Tournament. This is a highly competitive tournament that trains students to use Lego blocks and computers to solve challenges that urban planners face every day.

The New York City competition included 115 schools from the five boroughs, including Manhattan East, IS 72—The Rocco Laurle School, Brooklyn Tech, Hunter High School, IS 98K—Bay Academy, MS 51K, Satellite West Academy, IS 227Q—Louis Armstrong, MS 217 Q, IS 90M—Mirabel Sisters, IS 22—Mott Hall, IS 187—The Christa McAuliffe School in Brooklyn, among many others.

Despite being a rookie team they went on to win every category—including the robotics competition and the research competition. They also won the 2003 First Lego League Bronx Ryders Winner of the Top Prize Director's Award.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the members of the team. From the 8th Grade Team they are: Terrell Washington, Byron Flores, Durrell Washington, Hazel Rivera, Elyse Arroyo, Noel Pichardo, Valentine Dixon and Austin Leak. From the 7th Grade Team they are: Jose Verdejo, David Quiñones, Nikisha Romsaran, Nickolos Rivera, Joshua Rodríguez, Natholy Torella, Jose Matos and Alexis Herrera.

The team will be heading to Houston, Texas to compete in the National Tournament from April 10–April 13. Only 20 teams out of 2500 nationwide have been chosen to compete. We wish these amazing young people from the South Bronx the best of luck.

They have demonstrated that they have the ability and the desire to be assets and role models in our community. We are proud of their accomplishments and I hope they will continue to be successful. They are terrific examples for young men and women throughout our communities.

Again, I congratulate and I wish them the best of luck in their future enterprises. They are our Champions!

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and congratulating The Lola de Rodriguez de Tio Academy of Future Technologies at Intermediate School 162 from the South Bronx.

RECOGNIZING BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to the Bowie State University men's basketball team. On March 1, 2003, the Bowie State Bulldogs defeated Virginia Union to earn their first central intercollegiate athletic association men's title.

In their first appearance in the CIAA tournament in 30 years of play, the Bulldogs were down 41–32 at half-time against a 14-time league champion. Nevertheless, the team rallied back for a neck-and-neck second half. The winning basket was a heartstopper and came with less than a minute to go, giving the Bulldogs a 72–71 victory.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the great accomplishment of the Bowie State University men's basketball team and wish them the best of luck in their upcoming NCAA Division II tournament.

INTRODUCING THE MEDIKIDS HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2003

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I join with 34 colleagues to introduce the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2003, which will provide universal health care for our nation's children through a new Medicare-like national program with benefits tailored toward children.

Sen. JAY ROCKEFELLER is introducing a companion bill in the Senate. I am grateful to Senator ROCKEFELLER for his leadership and commitment to this issue. We are introducing the bill at this time in recognition of the national educational and awareness campaign that has named this week "Cover the Uninsured Week."

Despite Medicaid and the implementation of the S-CHIP program, more than 9 million children are still without health insurance in America today. Now, with states facing severe

budget crises, past expansions of Medicaid and S-CHIP are in real danger. In fact, with 35 states currently facing budget shortfalls that must be resolved this year, the number of uninsured children will grow. The outlook for the next fiscal year looks even more fiscally challenging for states. Programs like Medicaid and S-CHIP are the most vulnerable for eligibility and service provision reductions due to fiscal crisis.

The number of uninsured children is more than a statistic. It reflects the harsh reality experienced by many families—80% of whom are working families—who are forced to delay or do without needed medical care for their precious children. And, what does the research tell us about children brought up under these circumstances? Compared to those with health insurance, uninsured children have poorer health and higher mortality; they miss more school and have lower educational achievement; and they are less successful as adults in the workforce.

The MediKIDS Health Insurance Act is a real solution to the growing problem of children without health insurance. Our bill will guarantee health insurance for all children in the United States regardless of family income. Importantly, it would be a fully-federal program so that children's health care would not change from state to state as it does today.

The program is modeled after Medicare, but the benefits are tailored toward children. MediKIDS is financed like the Medicare Part B program with families paying a premium of 25% of the value of the program and the rest financed through general revenues. Premiums for MediKIDS would be collected each year when their parents' file their taxes. There is also a generous low-income subsidy for families phasing out at 300% of poverty.

MediKIDS would not override other forms of health insurance for children. Parents who have other coverage for their children—employer-sponsored insurance, individual policies, S-CHIP, Medicaid, or other policies—could maintain that coverage. But, if something happens and that coverage is no longer available, their children could always rely on MediKIDS for coverage. If the family moves, MediKIDS follows the children across state lines. And, no longer would kids get caught with no health insurance coverage if their parents are climbing out of welfare.

Enrollment in MediKIDS is simple with no complicated paperwork or re-determination hoops to jump through. When children are born or legally immigrate to this country, the parents are automatically given a MediKIDS insurance card and information on the benefits. For those children who are already born, the bill authorizes presumptive eligibility and enrollment at out-stationed sites such as Disproportionate Share Hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers to simplify outreach efforts. Once the program is fully phased in no outreach will be needed because enrollment into the program will be automatic.

Both children's advocates and the health care professionals who care for children support our legislation. Endorsing organizations include: the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's Defense Fund, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Nursing Association, FamiliesUSA, the March of Dimes, the National Association of Children's Hospitals, the National Association of Community Health

Centers, the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, the National Health Law Program, and NETWORK: a Catholic Social Justice Lobby. These providers and children's advocacy groups are united around the concept that children deserve access to continuous health insurance. MediKIDS meets that goal.

The successful future of our society rests in our ability to provide our children with the basic conditions to thrive and become healthy, educated and productive adults.

Guaranteeing continuous health care coverage is a necessary component for us to realize the potential of our future. This is not only a good investment; it is also a noble goal and obligation that we must fulfill. I look forward to working with my colleagues and with the many supporting organizations for the passage of the MediKIDS Health Insurance Act of 2003.

Below is a short summary of the bill.

#### SUMMARY OF THE MEDIKIDS HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2003

The MediKIDS Health Insurance Act provides health insurance for all children in the United States regardless of family income level by 2009. The program is modeled after Medicare, but the benefits are targeted toward children. Families below 150 percent of poverty pay no premium or copays, while those between 150 percent and 300 percent of poverty pay a graduated premium up to 5 percent of their income and receive a graduated refundable tax credit for cost sharing expenses.

The MediKIDS enrollment process is simple with no re-determination hoops to jump through because it is not means tested. MediKIDS follows children across state lines when fan-Lilies move, and covers them until their parents can enroll them in a new insurance program. Moreover, MediKIDS fills the gaps when families climbing out of poverty become ineligible for means-tested programs. It provides security for children until their parents can obtain reliable health insurance coverage.

#### ENROLLMENT

Every child born after 2004 is automatically enrolled in MediKIDS, and those children already born are enrolled over a 5-year phase-in as described below. Children who immigrate to this country are enrolled when they receive their immigration cards. Materials describing the program's benefits, along with a MediKIDS insurance card, are issued to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each child. Once enrolled, children remain enrolled in MediKIDS until they reach the age of 23.

Parents may choose to enroll their children in private plans or government programs such as Medicaid or S-CHIP. During periods of equivalent alternative coverage, the MediKIDS premium is waived. However, if a lapse in other insurance coverage occurs, MediKIDS automatically covers the children's health insurance needs (and a premium will be owed for those months).

#### PHASE-IN

Year 1 (2005) = the child has not attained age 6.  
 Year 2 (2006) = the child has not attained age 11.  
 Year 3 (2007) = the child has not attained age 16.  
 Year 4 (2008) = the child has not attained age 21.  
 Year 5 (2009) = the child has not attained age 23.

#### BENEFITS

The benefit package is based on Medicare and the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits for children, and includes prescription drugs. The benefits will be reviewed annually and updated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to reflect age-appropriate benefits as needed with input from the pediatric community.

#### PREMIUMS, DEDUCTIBLES, AND COPAYS

Families up to 150 percent of poverty pay no premiums or copays. Families between 150 percent and 300 percent of poverty pay a graduated premium up to 5 percent of their income and receive a graduated refundable tax credit for cost sharing expenses. Parents above 300 percent of poverty are responsible for a small premium equal to one fourth of the average annual cost per child. Premiums are collected at the time of income tax filing. There is no cost sharing for preventive and well child care for any children; all other cost sharing mimics Medicare.

#### FINANCING

Congress would need to determine initial funding. In future years, the Secretary of Treasury would develop a package of progressive, gradual tax changes to fund the program, as the numbers of enrollees grows.

#### STATES

Medicaid and S-CHIP are not altered by MediKIDS. These programs remain the safety net for children until MediKIDS is fully implemented and appropriately modified to best serve our nation's children. Once MediKIDS is fully operational, Congress can revisit the role of these programs in covering children.

To the extent that the states save money from the enrollment of children into MediKIDS, states are required to maintain those funding levels in other programs and services directed toward the Medicaid population. This can include expanding eligibility or offering additional services. For example, states could expand eligibility for parents and single individuals, increase payment rates to providers, or enhance quality initiatives in nursing homes.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO: GRAND RIVER HOSPITAL DISTRICT

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to honor the good people of the Grand River Hospital District of Rifle, Colorado. America's rural health facilities are in crisis and it is our duty to embrace them in these trying times. Fortunately, the success of the Grand River Hospital District offers other rural medical providers hope. It gives me great pleasure to recognize them before this Congress and this nation.

The people of the Grand River Hospital District are devoted servants, dedicated to improving the delivery of quality, cost-effective health care in their community. Their hard work has paid off, and on May 12, they will open the doors to their brand-new 16.5 million dollar Grand River Medical Center. This expansion is an amazing accomplishment at a time when so many rural medical providers are struggling to stay open. Like all success, it has taken smart and dedicated people who have given much of themselves in the pursuit of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress and this great nation to recognize the accomplishments of the Grand River Hospital District. They are a guiding light for all struggling medical providers in rural America. Their example offers hope, and I am grateful to them for their dedication and the quality service they provide for the people of my district.