

SENTRI to work, we must provide them with the tools and resources they need to succeed. This is why I am re-introducing the Secure and Fast Entry at the Border Act or SAFE Border Act.

The SAFE Border Act recognizes the contribution of SENTRI to border security and the agents who administer the program. My bill ensures the continuity of SENTRI as the Immigration and Naturalization Service and Customs Department transition into the Department of Homeland Security, and reinforces recent agency action by permanently extending the SENTRI renewal period from 1 to 2 years—enabling border agents to process new applicants and reduce the current enrollment wait. SAFE Border also recommends the appointment of dedicated SENTRI staff to expedite application processing, encourages the creation of a dedicated commuter lane for prescreened, low-risk pedestrian crossers, and promotes the integration of technology at SENTRI sites for increased access at participating ports of entry.

Our agents at the border shoulder an enormous responsibility every day. I believe we owe them the appropriate resources and support they need to carry out their duties. The SAFE Border Act, as a result, increases security by enabling more people to be prescreened and allowing border agents to focus more attention on other border crossers.

Our nation's economic and overall security is heavily linked to smooth and secure border crossings. The SAFE Border Act provides a way for trusted travelers to cross the border securely and quickly.

I urge my colleagues in Congress to act quickly in passing the SAFE Border Act into law.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WALLACE
CONERLY

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to my home state of Mississippi are exceptional.

Dr. A. Wallace Conerly has devoted his career to public service. A native of Tylertown, Mississippi, Dr. Conerly graduated from Millsaps College in 1957, and went on to receive his M.D. from Tulane University in 1960. He served six years in the United States Air Force until his honorable discharge with the rank of Major. Since 1973, Wally has dedicated his time to the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

He held the title of Assistant Vice Chancellor for 13 years until obtaining the title of Chief Executive Officer in 1994. As the CEO of the state's only academic health sciences center, he leads an institution of 7200 employees with an annual budget of more than \$610,000,000.

Dr. Conerly has directed a \$335 million building program, the largest in the history of higher education in Mississippi, including a new children's hospital, a new women and infant's hospital, a new 256 bed adult hospital and a critical care hospital, along with a host of new facilities for the School of Nursing, the

School of Health Related Professions and the Medical Center complex.

He created a campus-wide Office of Research in 1998 to further enhance the Medical Center's research mission. Since that time, grant and contracts awarded to the Medical Center have more than tripled—from approximately \$12 million to more than \$40 Million annually. He spearheaded the Medical Center's efforts to get national Heart, Lung and Blood Institute funding for the Jackson Heat Study, the project that will follow cardiovascular risk factors in African-Americans for decades.

Wally Conerly has worked hard to make the Medical Center a more diverse environment. He has expanded the institution's efforts to recruit and retain minority students. He was successful in securing funding for 12 full scholarships designated for African-American students in the School of Medicine. The scholarships, worth approximately \$25,000 annually to the student, also have helped keep these promising young students in Mississippi—where they are now more likely to practice. Wally also has worked to increase the Medical Center's number of minority employees at the professional level through aggressive recruitment efforts. Currently, 35 percent of UMC's employees in that category are minorities; approximately 45 percent of the Medical Center's total work force is minority. In 2001, Minority Access, Inc. recognized the Medical Center as a "National Role Model Institution" for these achievements. Dr. Conerly has enriched the lives of Mississippians and enhanced the national prominence of the Medical Center resulting in better health care for our citizens.

In August 2002, Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson appointed Dr. Conerly to a four-year term on the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine. He is the first Mississippi an to serve on the prestigious body. Dr. Conerly has served on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross, Mississippi Chapter and the Capital Area United Way. He is past president of the Rotary Club of Jackson and past chairman of the Board of Governors of the University Club. He is on the boards of the Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, the Jackson Medical Education District, the Community Bank and it's a member of the Community Advisory Council of the Junior League of Jackson. In 2001, the Mississippi Division of the Multiple Sclerosis Society honored Dr. Conerly with the Hope Award. He also received Millsaps College's "Alumnus of the Year" award in 2002, and he and his wife Frances Bryan Conerly were recognized as the 2002 People of Vision by Preserve Sight Mississippi. Wally and Frances are the proud parents of two sons, Al and Charlie.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend this extraordinary man and my dear friend for his superior service and thank him for his strong commitment to helping the citizens of Mississippi.

IN HONOR OF LENNIE ROBERTS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and a most distin-

guished Californian, Lenore (Lennie) Roberts, as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Ms. Roberts has been named to the Hall of Fame for her success in protecting "much of the open space that makes the San Francisco Peninsula a uniquely beautiful place to live and work."

I founded the Women's Hall of Fame in 1984 to honor women who have made major contributions to our community and our country. Lennie Roberts is the personification of those we honor; she is intelligent, fair, effective, trusted, and articulate. The Peninsula would not be the place it is today without Lennie and her extraordinary work.

Lennie Roberts has a unique vision which extends beyond the limits of San Mateo County. In addition to her work with the Committee for Green Foothills, she serves as a member of the Yosemite Association Board of Trustees and helped form the Yosemite Fund Council of Directors, and is a member of the Citizens Advisory Commission for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Among Lennie Roberts' many achievements were the passage of Measure A which protects San Mateo County's rural coastal area from urban sprawl and her successful fight to prevent a giant freeway from being built on the coastside.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great and good woman. Lennie Roberts is one of the most exceptional, effective and respected leaders in our community and through her commitment and professionalism, she has made our communities and our country a better place for all.

TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
OF NORWOOD-REDVALE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize the men and women of the Norwood-Redvale Volunteer Fire Department of Norwood, Colorado. Their heroic efforts are responsible for saving the lives and homes of many in my state, and it is my honor to pay tribute to their efforts today.

On the night of December 29, 2002, there was a fire in a home south of Norwood. Although the home is occupied, there was no one present when the blaze started. The quick actions of the Norwood-Redvale Volunteer Fire Department saved the house, which sustained only minimal smoke damage. Almost the entire fire department responded, including four engines and the ambulance crew, adding up to more than fifteen VFD members on the scene who spent more than three long hours battling the flames.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the Norwood-Redvale Volunteer Fire Department before this body of Congress and this nation. Their selfless and capable service is a credit to themselves and their families, and their dedication to community is a great asset to their neighbors and countrymen. I personally thank them for their efforts.