

to as the "Gateway to the San Gabriel Valley." The site on which the city now rests was first included in a 1771 land grant that led to the establishment of the nearby San Gabriel Mission.

While Alhambra's history and origins retain a heavy Spanish influence, the City's current population of 85,804 consists of a wide range of ethnic groups and many businesses in and around Alhambra have ties to international commerce. The dramatic population growth in Alhambra over the past two decades has been largely attributable to well-educated and highly skilled immigrants, who have brought both material wealth and cultural resources to the City of Alhambra.

Alhambra is first and foremost a residential community, characterized by its charming, well-manicured residential neighborhoods. It lies within the "Sixty Mile Circle" that centers on Los Angeles, putting it at the heart of a dynamic concentration of population, employment, business, industry, and finance; two-thirds of the state's 100 largest corporations are headquartered within this circle. High quality educational, medical and transportation services abound and Alhambra has some of the region's strongest retail centers, drawing sales from auto dealerships and shopping districts. Numerous boutiques and restaurants line the downtown landscape, providing an attractive destination for persons to shop, dine and be entertained locally. Numerous recreational and sporting venues are also available.

In recent years, Alhambra has been an economic powerhouse as well, aggressively seeking to bring new business to the city, leading to more than 30 new businesses in the downtown area alone. The renaissance of Downtown Main Street has been a top priority. According to a national survey, Alhambra ranks first among 15 surrounding cities in terms of cost of doing business and level of development. Its largest venture, a \$30 million entertainment complex—the Alhambra Renaissance Cineplex opened in November 2002.

In the last century, the City of Alhambra has come to be one that exemplifies everything that we expect our communities to be. It is one that we can look to for an example for other communities to follow, and one that will continue to enrich the San Gabriel Valley's cultural diversity for years to come. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in recognizing the City of Alhambra on its centennial.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
ROXANA CAPPER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Roxana Capper has devoted herself to serving others through her membership in the Girl Scouts; and

Whereas, Roxana has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

Whereas, Roxana Capper has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Roxana Capper must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award;

Therefore, I join with the Girl Scouts, the residents of Granville and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Roxana Capper as she receives the Girl Scout Gold Award.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT R.
SNASHALL

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and an outstanding public servant.

There's no doubt that in my home state of New York, there remain to this day many unsung heroes who provided aid, comfort and support to the victims of September 11th's vicious and cowardly attacks on New York. Ordinary people rose to extraordinary challenges and through their service, helped both in the rescue and recovery of a great city.

One of those unsung heroes is the man I rise to honor today, Robert R. Snashall, Chairman of the state's Workers' Compensation Board. First appointed to that post by Governor George Pataki in 1995, Chairman Snashall will soon retire from that post.

And perhaps the defining moment of Mr. Snashall's tenure at the Workers' Compensation Board was in his handling of the crisis arising from the September 11th terror attacks in New York City.

The attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 created unprecedented challenges for the Workers' Compensation Board. In a single day, New York suffered 5 years' worth of workers' compensation death claims. In fast response, Chairman Snashall and the Workers' Compensation Board established new regulations to accelerate the processing of claims and created a special World Trade Center adjudication team to process claims emanating from the terror attacks while enabling the Board to maintain a focus on other claims from across the state.

Chairman Snashall acted quickly to contact and in some cases visit various insurers, legislators, claimant organizations and employer associations to discuss the challenges facing the workers' compensation system as a result of the attacks. In doing so, he was successful in impressing upon the various parties of interest the urgency of providing assistance to the families in need. As a result the Board has, to date, fully resolved 92 percent of death claims, 80 percent of injury claims and has conducted more than 7,000 hearings to resolve WTC claims.

Since 1995, the Workers' Compensation Board has undergone the most sweeping reforms in the history of the Board including the landmark 1996 reforms, which have led to unprecedented reductions in workers' compensation costs. In addition, since 1996, under the leadership of Chairman Snashall, the Board has reformed its administrative processes and become more accessible to the people of New York State.

Through Bob Snashall's leadership, New York State's Workers' Compensation Board has become a nationwide model, and I ask that this Congress join me in saluting his commitment, leadership and hard work; and that

this Honorable Body further extend to him our thanks for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF MARINE CPL.
KEMAPHOOM A. CHANAWONGSE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention the tragic death of a young man from my home state of Connecticut, Marine Cpl. Kemaphoom Chanawongse, known as "Ahn." On March 23, 2003, Marine Cpl. Chanawongse came under fire during a heroic attempt to secure a bridge over the Euphrates River near An Nasiriyah and was killed when the vehicle he commanded took a direct hit. "Ahn" was just 22 years old when he sacrificed his life for his new country.

Ahn's family immigrated to the United States from Thailand when he was 9 years old. He was an excellent student and skilled artist, and developed a keen interest in law enforcement. Following the steps of his grandfather who was a Group Commander in the Royal Thai Air Force, Marine Corporal Chanawongse was dedicated to his mission and proud of being a U.S. Marine. Both his grandfather and his brother, who is a student and teaches English in Thailand, have traveled here for the funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery.

Nicknamed "Chuckles" for his sense of humor, Ahn was highly respected and well-liked by his fellow marines. He served the United States in the 2nd Assault Amphibious Battalion, 2nd Marine Division of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

News of Marine Corporal Chanawongse's death reached his family and friends after three painful weeks of waiting while he was listed as missing in action. The Town of Waterford, Connecticut quickly rallied in support in many ways, including the establishment of a memorial fund and a scholarship fund at Waterford High School for students with high aspirations like Ahn's.

In honor of Ahn, Connecticut Governor John Rowland ordered the state and national flags to fly at half-staff from Wednesday, April 16 until sunset tomorrow, April 30, when Ahn will be buried at Arlington. Today, a traditional Thai merit-making ceremony is being held in his memory at the Thai Buddhist temple "Wat Thai Washington D.C." after which his remains will be cremated.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Marine Cpl. Kemaphoom A. Chanawongse, who sacrificed his life for the just causes of our war on terrorism. Let us wish for him, according to the Thai sentiment, "kor joang pai su sukah-ti tert.

IN COMMEMORATION OF YOM
HASHOAH, HOLOCAUST REMEM-
BRANCE DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with millions throughout the