

the Mancos Public Library more user friendly. He also insured the addition of six patron computers in order to allow library patrons vital internet access.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Terry Marsden before you today for his commitment to his country. Terry embodies the spirit of public service and altruism that makes our communities strong. I congratulate Terry for his positive impact upon the Mancos community and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE HONORING ATLANTA'S
FIRST BLACK MAYOR, MAYNARD
H. JACKSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE-JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE-JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I pay tribute to the memory of a profoundly historical gentleman from Atlanta, Mayor Maynard H. Jackson. I would like to extend my greatest sympathy to the Jackson Family by taking a moment to reflect upon his rich life.

Although Mayor Jackson was born in Dallas, Texas, he grew up in Atlanta and finished high school at 14 years of age. He graduated from Morehouse College with honors at 18, and later, successfully pursued a law degree from North Carolina Central University.

Maynard Jackson reshaped Atlanta's power structure and made history, at age 35, when he was first elected Atlanta's first black mayor from 1974 through 1982. In 1990 he was re-elected with 80 percent of the vote and took office several months before the 1990 announcement that Atlanta had been chosen as host of the Summer Olympics. He's been widely acknowledged by his statement: "It is fitting and proper that Atlanta, not perfect but the best city in America, was chosen to host the Olympic Games."

Mayor Jackson's initial eight-year tenure in City Hall will be remembered most for his impact on the black business community. He was a champion of black business, evidenced by the affirmative action programs he implemented which increased the number of city contracts awarded to blacks and other under-represented groups by more than 30 percent. After he left his 1989 mayoral term, Jackson entered the business sector by forming Jackson Securities, an investment firm which now has offices in Atlanta, Houston, Miami, Orlando, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Chicago.

His family was active in early voting rights efforts. His grandfather, John Wesley Dobbs, was co-chairman of the Atlanta Negro Voters League, and his father, the Rev. Maynard H. Jackson Sr., was the first black to seek public office in Dallas, the former pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, and founded the Georgia Voters League. Maynard Jackson will be missed, but never forgotten for his enthusiasm, his vision and dedication towards leaving a legacy for a world of true cohesive diversity, and contributions to the City of Atlanta, Georgia.

THE BUDGET STILL DOES NOT
KEEP OUR PROMISE TO VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to remind my colleagues that the proposed budget for our veterans is still woefully inadequate!

Flat-line budgeting for several years prevented the Veterans Health Administration from keeping up with inflation and increased demand. Enrollees in the VA health care system (VHA) have increased by almost 120 percent since 1996, going from 2.4 million to more than a projected 7 million in the coming fiscal year. During that same period, VHA per capita expenditures have decreased by 30 percent.

Had the level of funding kept up with the demand in inflation, the current VHA budget would be around \$36 billion rather than the \$25.3 billion requested by the Administration. Had adequate funding been in place, VA Secretary Anthony Principi would not have had to temporarily suspend enrollment for VA health care for many of our nation's veterans.

Veterans did not hesitate when called to service. I urge my colleagues to keep our promise to our nation's veterans when voting on the budget.

PAYING TRIBUTE JOE VIGIL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to Joe Vigil, a nationally known Cross Country/Track and Field coach. Joe helped to make Adams State College a powerhouse in track and he will soon be inducted into the Rock Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame for his accomplishments. His hard work and dedication have influenced the lives of many college students and I am proud to recognize his accomplishments here today.

For 27 years, Joe led the Adams State teams to 18 National Championships and 89 individual championships. He coached 425 All-American runners, many of whom ended up competing on the national level. Recognized as one of the best coaches in the country, he is currently training some of the United States best runners for competition in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

Joe's impact on student-athletes went beyond the track, however, as his runner's graduated at a rate of 96 percent. A quality college education will always be more important than any National title, a lesson Joe passed on to his teams.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today and recognize the accomplishments of Coach Joe Vigil. I am happy knowing that Joe has made an impressive impact on some of today's youth and I hope that he continues his important role in young athletes lives. Thank you, Joe, for the contributions you have made to Adams State and the surrounding community.

I wish you the best of luck on your future endeavors.

OAK PARK TOWNSHIP CENTEN-
NIAL—1903–2003 "100 YEARS OF
SERVING PEOPLE"

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Oak Parkers have always been independent thinkers. So it's not surprising that the earliest residents of Oak Park opted for an independent government that gave them a greater voice in decisions that affected their lives and their community.

In the late 19th century, Oak Park was still a part of the Township of Cicero. However, after residents of the Austin neighborhood successfully broke away from the Cicero Township in 1899 choosing to annex to the city of Chicago, Oak Parkers began to petition once again for their own village. In 1901, citizens formally seceded from Cicero Township to establish their own municipal government. The first village elections were held in 1902 and Oak Park celebrated its new status as a united, self-contained community.

Because the separation from Cicero Township left Oak Park in a legal limbo as regards certain delegated township functions, Oak Park citizens voted in 1903 to establish Oak Park Township. The first elected officials were supervisor, assessor, collector, clerk, two justices of the peace and two constables.

The first social service program began in 1936 with Poor Relief, a Great Depression program to aid financially struggling residents. This was the start of the General Assistance program, which has provided financial assistance to thousands of Oak Park citizens over the years.

The growing population of youth and elderly in the 1960's and 1970's ushered in Youth Services and Senior Services. Guided by volunteer citizen committees, the services are key components in Oak Park's quality of life.

In 1971, the Senior Citizens Committee was formed and the Meals-at-Home program was established. In 1973, the Township established by popular vote the volunteer Community Mental Health Board to assess need and help fund mental health programs. In that same year, the Advisory Committee on Childcare was formed. Also in the 70's came a transportation program for seniors and people with disabilities, as well as the Senior Citizen Information and Referral Service, the Energy Assistance program and the Income Tax Assistance program.

Within the last ten years, Oak Park Township has continued to meet the growing needs of its constituency. A youth Advocacy Council was established to give a voice to the teenage population. Additionally, the Townships of Oak Park and River Forest initiated a collaborative youth services program. In 1993, the Township's Youth and Senior Services programs won three state awards and one year later the Community Mental Health Board became the only one in the state to be Medicaid certified for its case management services.

The Township's assessor and collector functions, in accordance with the Township's overall vision of service and accessibility, has