

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

changed dramatically over the years. Since the 1930's, the assessor has been a service office, not assessing property, but helping residents, businesses and public agencies better understand property matters, taxation and assisting with appeals.

Since 1996, to improve operational efficiencies while providing broader services, the Township has entered into partnerships with other governments and private agencies to coordinate and expand its youth, senior and mental health programs. Intergovernmental agreements exist between the Township and all the other 10 governmental units in Oak Park and River Forest—villages; parks; libraries; schools and the River Forest Township.

From its humble beginnings serving Oak Park's population of 3,000 residents in 1903, one hundred years later Oak Park Township has evolved into a fullservice unit of local government serving Oak Park's 53,000 residents in 2003. I congratulate Oak Park Township on their 100th birthday and know that they will continue to identify and address unmet needs in their community.

**BILL TO FACILITATE ACQUISITION
OF MINERAL RIGHTS AT ROCKY
FLATS**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to facilitate the acquisition by the Federal Government of mineral rights or other non-Federal interests in lands that are located within the boundaries of the Rocky Flats site in Colorado.

In the 1950's, the Federal Government bought land at Rocky Flats for the use as a production facility for nuclear-weapon components. However, the purchase did not include all the mineral rights, some of which remained in private ownership.

Production at Rocky Flats ended more than a decade ago. Since then, the Department of Energy, through its contractors, has been working to have the site cleaned up and closed.

In 2001, Congress passed legislation I sponsored with Senator Wayne Allard to guide the future of Rocky Flats. Under that legislation—the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act Of 2001—once the cleanup and closure are accomplished, most of the land at Rocky Flats will be transferred from the Department of Energy to the Department of the Interior and will be managed as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The refuge act includes some provisions related to the non-Federal minerals—primarily sand and gravel—at Rocky Flats. It says “nothing in this [law] limits any valid, existing . . . mineral right” except for “such reasonable conditions on access . . . as are appropriate for the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats and for the management of the refuge.” And it says that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOE and Interior is to “address the impacts” mineral rights “may have on the management of the refuge, and provide strategies for resolving or mitigating these impacts.”

These provisions were included in the refuge act in order to make clear that while these

mineral rights are to be respected as private property, future development of the minerals could have adverse effects on the land, wildlife habitat, and other values of the future wildlife refuge. That is why Congress directed the agencies to consider these potential future effects and work to find ways to mitigate those impacts.

So far, however, the Energy and Interior Departments have not been able to agree on what to do about the minerals, and the MOU has not been completed.

I think the best way to handle this would be for the Federal Government to acquire the minerals. However, neither the DOE nor Interior has made this a priority, and the current budgetary situation places constraints on such acquisitions.

My bill is intended to make it more feasible for the Interior Department to acquire some or all of the minerals. It would do that by giving the Secretary of the Interior two additional methods (either instead of or in addition to purchase for cash) for completing such acquisitions—

(1) by giving “credits” that could be used instead of cash to pay for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

(2) by allowing federal lands or minerals anywhere in the country to be exchanged for the Rocky Flats minerals (under current law, such exchanges can only occur within the same state—Colorado lands/minerals for other Colorado lands/minerals).

The bill has no compulsory provisions. It does not require that any of the non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats be acquired by the government, and it does not require anyone to accept anything other than cash for any interests that the government may acquire. It would merely provide the Interior Department with new tools—in addition to those it already has—for such acquisitions.

In developing the bill, I sought and obtained technical assistance from the Interior Department. I also have given careful consideration to comments from local governments and others in Colorado, and have made revisions to earlier drafts of the legislation in response to points raised in those comments.

Mr. Speaker, this bill—the “Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act”—is narrow in scope. However, I think it can assist in successful implementation of something that is very important for all Coloradans—the establishment of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. I think it deserves the support of every Member of the House.

For the information of our colleagues, here is a short outline of the bill:

**OUTLINE OF ROCKY FLATS MINERALS
ACQUISITION BILL**

BACKGROUND

When the ongoing cleanup of the Rocky Flats site is completed, it will be closed and most of the site will be transferred to the Interior Department for management as a National Wildlife Refuge. Within the site's boundaries there are some privately-owned mineral rights (primarily sand and gravel). Federal acquisition of at least some of these mineral rights would further sound management of the site as a wildlife refuge. However, the current budgetary situation makes it difficult to complete such acquisition.

The purpose of the bill is to provide the Interior Department with two additional tools to assist in the acquisition of minerals rights or other non-Federal property at Rocky Flats:

(1) Authority to provide “credits” (instead of or in addition to cash) that could be used for bonus bids or royalties for mineral leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

(2) Authority to provide eligible BLM lands (or interests) anywhere in the country in exchange for the interests acquired at Rocky Flats (waiving the current requirement that exchanges must be within the same state).

SECTION-BY-SECTION OUTLINE

Section 1—

(1) provides a short title: “Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act.”

(2) includes findings regarding the status of Rocky Flats and the desirability of federal acquisition of mineral interests within its boundaries

(3) states the bill's purpose as being to facilitate acquisition of non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats by authorizing the Interior Department to use credits or interests in certain public lands, instead of or in addition to cash.

Section 2—

(1) authorizes the Interior Department to use appropriated funds, credits, exchanged lands or interests therein, or any combination of these, to acquire mineral interests or other non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats;

(2) defines “credits,” making clear that they can only be issued with agreement of recipient, can only be used for bonus bids or royalty payments for oil or gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf and must be used within 10 years of their issuance;

(3) specifies that while exchanges can involve BLM lands or interests in any State, only lands or interests identified as suitable for disposal under current law can be transferred to private ownership through such an exchange;

(4) provides that interests acquired by the United States under the bill will be managed as part of the wildlife refuge and cannot be developed or transferred out of Federal ownership; and specifies that the bill adds to the Interior Department's existing authority and does not reduce any authority the Department already has.

**PAYING TRIBUTE ELVA
MARTINEZ-DRYER**

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 a phenomenal athlete from my district. Elva Martinez-Dyer, a former student-athlete from Western State College, will soon be inducted into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. Her exploits on the track are legendary and I would like to recognize the hard work and determination she gave the sport.

Elva helped the track team at Western State earn nation-wide recognition, personally achieving All-American status 16 times and winning five national championships. Elva became a dominant force in the sport; she did not lose a race during her final two years at school. She was awarded the “NCAA—II Track and Field Athlete of the Year Award,” for her accomplishments and was inducted into the Colorado Sportswomen's Hall of Fame. Elva currently holds three records in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, as well as four conference championships.

All of Elva's hard work and dedication paid off, as she earned a spot on the 2000 Olympic