

conducted by Nazis in the concentration camp. Nevertheless he has continued to appreciate and value the gift of life for which he so arduously fought in the Second World War.

Fifteen years ago Bill Basch retired from the business world, and this gave him the opportunity to reflect on his past, particularly his experience in the Holocaust. He began to wonder why he survived while so many others were murdered. Five years into retirement, Bill's ten-year old granddaughter, Heidi Basch, asked him to speak in the sixth grade class about his experience in the Holocaust. This began the next phase of Bill's life.

Mr. Speaker, Bill continues his commendable humanitarian work by dedicating his life to Holocaust education. He regularly gives lectures and interviews to students young and old in Southern California, where he still resides. He hopes to instill an obligation and trust in youth, which compels them to speak out against crimes against humanity, wherever they occur.

Bill's moving story of survival came to the attention of the Shoah Foundation, an organization created by Steven Spielberg after he made the movie *Shindler's List*. The Shoah foundation employs numerous individuals dedicated to the accumulation of testimonies of Holocaust survivors throughout the world, and one of the accounts they added to the archive was Bill Basch's personal history.

In 1997, Spielberg began researching survivors' testimonies for the *The Last Days*, the academy award winning documentary film which focused upon five Hungarian survivors whose stories intertwine through their connections with Raoul Wallenberg. Due to Mr. Basch's involvement in Wallenberg's heroic efforts to save thousands of Hungarian Jews, he was selected to take part in this film. My own personal story is also told in *The Last Days*, and it was in the making of that documentary that I came to know Bill Basch. I stand before you today to commend Bill both as an outstanding humanitarian and as my personal friend.

Mr. Speaker, since 1990 the University of Michigan has awarded its Wallenberg Medal to twelve individuals whose humanitarian actions exemplify those of Raoul Wallenberg. Medal recipients include Nobel Laureates Elie Wiesel, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and Miep Gies, the woman who supported Anne Frank and her family in hiding.

Mr. Speaker, this year, Bill joins the ranks of these remarkable human beings who have made incredible efforts to speak and act out against man's inhumanity to man. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Bill Basch, the Raoul Wallenberg Medal recipient of 2003.

MOTHER TERESA: A TRIBUTE TO
THE ANGEL OF MERCY

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, soft-spoken, demure, barely five feet tall, Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu changed the world with her selfless heart for the suffering. Known to all as Mother Teresa, this Roman Catholic nun of Albanian descent lived out her calling in the slums of

Calcutta, India, offering decency and self-respect to the inhabitants of the streets and gutters. The depth of her compassion for the unwanted and uncared for left an indelible impression on this world.

Her impact was most directly felt in Calcutta, where she established and directed her order, Missionaries of Charity. But the effect of her mercy reached far and wide, through a network of homes around the world for the poorest of the poor. Wielding the weapon of love, Mother Teresa combated hunger, disease, and death with a quiet spirituality that defied discouragement. She brought attention to the despair of those trampled underneath the weight of wealth and affluence, while underscoring their hope for dignity. The simplicity of her message, that there is nothing acceptable or noble about poverty, resonated well with the natives of her adopted country.

At the height of the siege in Beirut in the early 1980s, Mother Teresa persuaded the Palestinian guerillas and the Israeli army to stop fighting long enough for her to rescue 37 children with mental retardation from a hospital on the front lines. She was then 72 years old.

She pioneered one of the first homes for AIDS victims, established a leper colony called Shanti Nagar (Town of Peace), and created a home for the dying poor—the Nirmal Hriday, or "Pure Heart," Home for Dying Destitutes, where homeless people who could not receive care from other institutions were washed and fed by the sisters, and allowed to die with dignity.

Mother Teresa described her mission as caring for "not just the poor, but the poorest of the poor: those who are so dirty and full of germs that no one goes near them; those who do not go to pray because they are naked; those who do not eat because they do not have the strength, those who collapse on the sidewalks knowing they are about to die while the living walk by without even looking back; those who do not cry because they have no more tears left."

Upon her death, we were left with, in the words of French President Jacques Chirac, "less love, less compassion, less light in the world."

TRIBUTE TO PAULETTE
WAGGONER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Paulette Waggoner of Kim, Colorado selflessly dedicates her time and efforts to helping children experience the excitement of the rodeo, a longstanding western tradition. Her love and dedication to this unique western experience is truly inspirational, and I am honored to share Paulette's story here today.

Paulette has been involved with the Kids Rodeo for fifty-one years, beginning when she raced Shetland ponies as a young girl. She donates her time and energy to sharing her extensive knowledge of the rodeo with young Coloradans in my district. Whether it is helping with the Three Horse Relay, a race comprised

of three-rider teams, or working as a timer, Paulette is always there to lend a hand. Paulette and her husband Kent also lend horses to children who need them in order to compete. She has helped many children win All-Around titles.

Mr. Speaker, countless children have learned the joy and excitement of the rodeo because of the ceaseless work of Paulette Waggoner. Her dedication and hard work keep the tradition and heritage of the rodeo alive, and I am honored to join with my colleagues here today in extending my thanks to Paulette and wishing her the best of luck in the future. Thank you, Paulette, for your service to Colorado.

REMEMBERING THE LATE
SHANNON BYBEE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Shannon Bybee, executive director of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' International Gaming Institute and a pillar of our community, who passed away last week at the age of 65.

Shannon Bybee was born Aug. 29, 1938, in Tropic, Utah. Shannon Bybee graduated from the University of Utah College of Law in 1969 and clerked for Nevada Supreme Court Justice Jon Collins. He was appointed to the Nevada Gaming Control Board in 1971. Shannon went on from that position to run casinos in both New Jersey and Nevada.

After his successes in the gaming industry, Shannon joined UNLV in 1994, teaching classes at the school's College of Hotel Administration and the William S. Boyd School of Law, and directing UNLV's International Gaming Institute.

Shannon is survived by his wife Norma Reid Bybee, daughters Kelli Poll and Erin Belanger, and sons Sean Bybee, Brendan Bybee and Reid Bybee, as well as 12 grandchildren. He is also survived by sister, Molly Adams, and brothers Patrick Bybee and Evan Bybee.

People like Shannon Bybee helped make Las Vegas what it is today. Shannon always demonstrated, in his industry and educational careers, his commitment to the people and well-being of Las Vegas and Southern Nevada. My condolences are with his wife Norma and their family.

TRIBUTE TO BILL STEARMAN

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, in Indiana, high school basketball is a passion. My home state has produced thousands of first-rate players and coaches since the 1940s. And one such hero passed away on Tuesday at the age of 79.

Coach Bill Stearman's basketball acumen earned him legendary status throughout Indiana. His Columbus High and then Columbus North teams won 714 games, included among