

commanding officer of the North County Jail in Oakland. From January 1993, until his appointment as Undersheriff, he served as the Administrative Captain to the Sheriff. On April 8, 1993, he was appointed to the position of Undersheriff for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

Undersheriff Watson received his BA degree in management from Saint Mary's College in Moraga, CA. He is currently a member of the California State Sheriff's Association, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives and is a member of the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame Planning Committee.

We join the friends and colleagues of Undersheriff Watson in expressing congratulations as he is honored by the Hayward South Alameda County NAACP. We thank him for continued service to Alameda County.

ON THE BRAVERY OF ARLINGTON  
CEMETERY SOLDIERS DURING  
HURRICANE ISABEL

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as Hurricane Isabel's winds swept over Arlington National Cemetery, the soldiers who guard the Tomb of the Unknowns were given—for the first time in history—permission to abandon their posts and seek shelter.

But that wasn't what was going to happen, and Sergeant Christopher Holmes knew it. He and other valiant members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment stood vigil on overnight duty.

"That's never an option for us. It went in one ear and right out the other," Holmes said.

The monument was established in 1921 with the interment of an unknown World War I soldier, and a sentry has been posted there continuously since 1930. Cemetery Superintendent John Metzler didn't want to put the guards in jeopardy unnecessarily with the fierce storm bearing down Thursday night, so cemetery officials decided to let the guards move indoors if they felt they were in danger.

Holmes' group was on duty for 24 hours, from 6 a.m. Thursday until 6 a.m. Friday. They took turns patrolling the tomb in hourly shifts, never leaving their post.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these brave men and women, who do whatever they must to guard the Unknowns. They cherish their post, and consider it the greatest honor to go out and guard this symbol of every man and woman who has fought and died for this great nation. Their patriotism is admired by all Americans.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF  
W. RONALD COALE AND MARY  
ELLEN FISKE

**HON. RICHARD W. POMBO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the 50th wedding anniversary of my friends, W. Ronald Coale, and his wife Mary

Ellen Fiske. It is not often that two people so perfectly compatible find each other. Fifty years of happy marriage is a remarkable achievement, and for this I congratulate them.

It was 50 years ago today that Ron wed Mary, his girl from, appropriately, Angel's Camp. These last 50 years have witnessed many happy times in their lives, including the births of their two sons, W. Ronald Jr. and Michael, and their five grandchildren.

Ron and Mary have been dedicated and distinguished members of the Stockton, California community. Ron has served as a commissioner with the Port of Stockton since 1991. Before that he served on the City Council and as Vice Mayor. Both Ron and Mary have long been active in the California Republican Party.

It gives me great pleasure to commemorate these two fine Americans on this special day.

SUPPORT FOR DISCOVERY  
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

**HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Committee on Science, I am an avid supporter of programs that encourage the youth of America to push the limits of innovation and originality in science. One such program is the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge.

Created in 1999, Discovery Communications, Inc., designed the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge as part of the solution to America's chronic underachievement in science and math. The annual national contest responds to evidence that academic performance and interest in science among American students declines dramatically as students become older. This is particularly evident during the middle school years.

For these reasons, the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge identifies and honors America's top middle school student who demonstrates the best skills in leadership, teamwork, and scientific problem solving. More than 6,000 middle school students have entered the challenge since its inception in order to compete for the title of "America's Top Young Scientist of the Year." Since 1999, scholarship awards for the students have totaled more than \$400,000 and challenge winners have participated in science-related trips to far-off places, including the Roslin Institute in Midlothian, Scotland, and the El Yunque rain forest in Puerto Rico.

On September 17, 2003, Discovery Communications, Inc., announced the 40 middle school students who have advanced to the finals of the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge. Selected from more than 1,700 entrants, the "Final Forty" represent an elite group of young Americans who demonstrated exceptional creativity and communications skills in original science research projects. To commemorate the centennial of the Wright Brothers' first flight, this year's finalists will compete in a multitude of experiments involving the science of flight. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on October 22, 2003.

The finalists for the 2003 Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge are: Jeffrey Luttrell

of Tempe, Arizona; Tyler Kirkland of Tucson, Arizona; David Edwards V of Tucson, Arizona; Bobby Fisher of Laguna Niguel, California; Jacob Rucker of Del Mar, California; Dana Feeny of Woodside, California; John Reid of Redlands, California; Samantha Bates of San Carlos, California; Patrick Saris of Newbury Park, California; Justin Koh of Bakersfield, California; Taylor Simpkins of Costa Mesa, California; Scott Presbrey of Fort Myers, Florida; Peter Borden of Fort Myers, Florida; Bran Yancey of Miami, Florida; Sravya Keremane of Gainesville, Florida; Sarah Gerin of West Palm Beach, Florida; Joseph Stunzi of Watkinville, Georgia; Bryce Melton of Terre Haute, Indiana; Anthony Burnett of Derwood, Maryland; Ethan Roth of Kansas City, Missouri; Elena Ovaite of Weston, Missouri; Austin Minor of Lee's Summit, Missouri; Rachel Clements of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Leah Crowder of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Michael Klein of Atlantic Beach, New York; Ryan Lee of Hamilton, Ohio; Bogna Brzezinska of Upper Arlington, Ohio; Lorren Kezmoh of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Katie Sloop of El Paso, Texas; Daniel Steck of San Antonio, Texas; Aron Trevino of San Antonio, Texas; Luis Lafer-Sousa of San Antonio, Texas; Elizabeth Monier of Boerne, Texas; Ian Cummings of Clearfield, Utah; Spencer Larson of Springville, Utah; Ryker Watts of Alpine, Utah; Zachary Hopkins of Highland, Utah; Jennifer Gutman of Wheeling, West Virginia; and Erica David of Pinedale, Wyoming.

At a time when science and technology plays such an enormous role in our lives, I believe it is imperative that we continue to support and nurture the next generation of young scientists. I would like to congratulate these students for their dedication and hard work in the name of science and wish them all good luck during the 2003 Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA VROOM

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the life and memory of a great citizen. Linda Vroom, who lived for many years in Aspen, Colorado, recently passed away. As her family and friends mourn Linda's passing, I would like to pay tribute to her memory here today.

Linda had a noble spirit and was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. While in Mexico City during the earthquake of 1985, Linda rescued an infant by jumping out of the third story of an apartment building. She was a talented artist who loved to sing and play the flute. Linda was also an avid biker, though her great passion was for fine wine and good food. Linda was known for helping countless people to educate themselves on these topics at both the Aspen Wine & Spirit and the Cooking School of Aspen. For the past two years, Linda pursued her love of wine by studying to become a sommelier.

Mr. Speaker, Linda Vroom had a great passion for life, and she loved to share that passion with others. While Linda has passed on, her legacy will continue to live. I am honored

to join with my colleagues in honoring Linda here today.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL LEGGIERO

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Leggiero for his leadership and dedication to the North Hudson Community Action Corporation. Mr. Leggiero was honored with the Louis T. Scialli Memorial Award by the United Way of Hudson County on September 16, 2003, at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, New Jersey.

As President and CEO of the North Hudson Community Action Corporation, Mr. Leggiero's vision and leadership has helped make the organization the largest and one of the most highly regarded community organizations in Hudson County. The North Hudson Community Action Corporation is currently the largest provider of health and social services in the county and serves as a model for the quality of services it provides the community.

Mr. Leggiero first came to the North Hudson Community Action Corporation in 1971. Through his hard work and communal spirit, Mr. Leggiero assumed directorship in 1978. At that time, the North Hudson Community Action Corporation administered seven programs, which served 5,000 residents per year. After 25 years under Mr. Leggiero's leadership, the North Hudson Community Action Corporation now runs 20 programs that serve over 55,000 Hudson County residents each year.

Mr. Leggiero's foresight and understanding of the community issues has been a great asset to the North Hudson Community Action Corporation. Mr. Leggiero helped create a state-of-the-art community health center, which now provides care and assistance to over 2,000 patients each week. In 1996, Mr. Leggiero spearheaded the production of 49 new affordable housing units and just recently completed a similar venture, which provided the North Hudson community with 37 new housing units.

Michael Leggiero is a lifetime resident of Union City, where he lives with his wife Lois. An active member of his church, Mr. Leggiero is known for his love and dedication to his congregation, with whom he shares a commitment to giving back to the community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Michael Leggiero for his outstanding leadership and service to the people of Hudson County.

TRIBUTE TO THE INSTITUTE FOR THE PUERTO RICAN/HISPANIC ELDERLY, INC.

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Inc., an organization dedicated to improving the lives of low income minority seniors and their families in the city of New York. This in-

valuable organization will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Friday, October 3, 2003.

The Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Inc., was founded in 1978 to remove communication and other service barriers that separated Puerto Rican and Hispanic seniors from their rights and entitlements under the law. Today, the Institute is the premier Hispanic non-profit organization serving New York City's ethnic minority seniors and their families, with the mission to improve their quality of life.

Serving more than 140,000 seniors annually, the institute's services are delivered in a citywide complex of offices, facilities, programs and senior centers. In addition, the Institute has four subsidiaries: El Cemi Houses, which provides affordable housing for homeless seniors; the Institute Home Care Services; the licensed Innovative Home Health Care Systems; and Clinica Nueva Esperanza, a mental health clinic for seniors.

The Institute also serves as an important resource for non-profits, government agencies and businesses, providing technical assistance and consultation in areas such as management training, culturally responsive service delivery, and access to minority communities.

Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of Suleika Cabrera Drinane, this fine institution has helped to provide essential and quality services to the low income minority seniors of New York City for a quarter of a century. Because of its pioneering and outstanding work, the Institute has received awards and recognitions from city, state, and federal agencies, as well as by other organizations in the community.

For their long standing commitment to the disadvantaged seniors of New York City, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Inc., on their 25th Anniversary.

IN MEMORY OF BILLIE LOU  
"PEACHES" PARKER BROOKSHIRE

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the citizens of Tyler, Texas, lost one of their dearest and most influential members, Billie Lou "Peaches" Parker Brookshire, who passed away at the age of 72 following a lengthy illness.

The Brookshire family has long been known in the Tyler area for their many contributions to East Texas—with Peaches being a central figure in their philanthropy. Peaches was actively involved in numerous worthy causes, including the Salvation Army Center of Hope, Junior League of Tyler, Tyler Junior Garden Club, American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, Green Acres Baptist Church, All Saints Episcopal School, Grace Community School and Hospice of East Texas. In all that she did and with all whom she met, she brought enthusiasm, compassion, a positive attitude and a legendary sense of humor. Peaches also was an accomplished artist. Several of her paintings were recently donated to the Tyler Cancer Center to encourage patients receiving treatment there.

Above all Peaches was a devoted wife to her husband and partner of 53 years, Bruce, whom she met while attending the University of Texas at Austin, and a loving and loyal mother and mother-in-law to Tim and Michelle and to Britt and Sunni. She was known endearingly as "honey" to her nine grandchildren: Amy, Clint, Garnett, Blake, Chad, Ross, Caroline, Emma and Bruce, Jr. Clint Brookshire ably served as my Congressional Assistant in Washington, D.C., and later as District Assistant in my Rockwall, TX, office, before pursuing another career in Dallas. He was a valued and well-liked member of my staff and remains my good friend. Peaches maintained a close relationship with Decie Brookshire, mother of Clint and the two other eldest grandchildren. She also leaves behind her two dear sisters and their husbands, Kay and Darold Cannon Jr. and Judy and Ray Clymer Jr. of Wichita Falls; her mother-in-law and lifelong friend, Mrs. Louise Brookshire of Tyler; numerous nieces and nephews; and caregivers Jeanell and Jesse Richardson of Tyler.

Peaches was the daughter of William Garnett Parker and Opal Louise Parker of Wichita Falls. She attended Midwestern State University and the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. Her grandfather, C.H. Parker, opened Parker Food Stores in Wichita Falls in the 1920s, the same time that her father-in-law, W.T. Brookshire, was opening his first Brookshire's Grocery Store in Tyler.

I have known Peaches and Bruce and their family for many years and have loved and admired them for their ability to so ably balance work, family and community commitments. They are one of the outstanding families in the Fourth Congressional District—and their efforts have helped so many in their community. In recognition of their many significant contributions, Peaches and Bruce were named the recipients of the 2002 Isadore Roosth Outstanding Philanthropist Award in Tyler.

Peaches was devoted to her family, her faith, and her community—and was a model of grace, goodness, and good humor. She was a friend and an inspiration to so many—and she will be fondly remembered by all those who knew her and loved her. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege today for me to pay tribute to an exemplary woman and outstanding citizen of East Texas who made an indelible impression on all those who met her—Peaches Parker Brookshire. She will be dearly missed.

HONORING REV. PAUL D.  
KENNEDY

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Reverend Paul D. Kennedy, pastor at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Worcester, Massachusetts and to recognize his achievement as the first ever recipient of the Children's Friends Inc. Ambassadors Award. I am proud of Rev. Kennedy's services.

The Children's Friend Inc. was established in 1849 by a group of concerned Worcester citizens to provide a "safe home" for the city's most vulnerable children: the orphaned, the abandoned, and the neglected children. The