

colleagues to join me in wishing him enjoyment in his new pursuits during his well-earned retirement!

#### HONORING THE FLORIDA MARLINS

### HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2003*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Florida Marlins on winning the 2003 National League Pennant. On October 15th, they dismantled the Chicago Cubs in Game 7 of the National League Championship Series, completing a thrilled comeback in a series they once trailed three games to one. Even when down to their last few outs, the Marlins came together and rallied back to earn the right to play on baseball's highest stage; the World Series.

It should be noted, Mr. Speaker, that at the beginning of the season the Florida Marlins were not expected to be a factor in the postseason. Underestimated, overlooked, and ignored, the Marlins proceeded through the dog days of summer and down the stretch with courage and grit, and finishing the season with the best record in Major League Baseball since May.

Led by 72-year-old manager Jack McKeon, who took over the team in May when it held a losing record, the Marlins have relied on their tenacious young pitching and powerful, fast-paced offense. Josh Beckett, 23, and Dontrelle Willis, 21, have battled with hitters all season and continue to dominate. The offense has been consistent all season with the speed of Juan Pierre, the power of Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez, the youth and enthusiasm of Miguel Cabrera, and the experience of baseball veterans Mike Lowell and Jeff Conine. This group of young players and journeymen has come together and created a powerful unit to be reckoned with in the World Series.

An expansion team in 1993, the Marlins won their first pennant in 1997, beating the perennial power, the Atlanta Braves. They went on to the World Series where they defeated the Cleveland Indians in seven games. This year the Marlins were once again the wild card team and are creating the same sort of magic as they did in 1997. It is my hope that the Marlins will continue their winning tradition next week against the New York Yankees.

Mr. Speaker, It is an honor for a team to represent their league in the World series. I am thrilled at the success of the Florida Marlins and I know that they will do their best to bring a second World Series title to South Florida.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ERSILIA CRUZ

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen

from my district. Ersilia Cruz of Pueblo, Colorado led the charge to revitalize her neighborhood after it had begun to deteriorate before her eyes. Her efforts have helped resuscitate the community and transform the area into a better place to live. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ersilia for her hard work and congratulate her on her success.

Having lived in the neighborhood for more than fifty years, Ersilia has seen a great deal of change take place in her community, much of which has occurred over the course of the past nine years. Old run-down homes have been scrapped and replaced with new ones, the local school has reopened and a community center has been erected, all due to the hard work of citizens like Ersilia committed to revitalizing their community.

In addition to Ersilia's role in the revitalization of her community, she is also the mother of eight. She is a dedicated servant with numerous community action organizations and serves as a member of the local PTA, president of the neighborhood association, and a member of the Community Development Block Grant committee. For her efforts, Ersilia was recently awarded the 2003 NeighborWorks Dorothy Richardson Award, one of only ten people throughout the U.S. to receive this recognition.

Thanks to Ersilia's determination to revive her neighborhood, the Hyde Park community is again a family friendly region. Not only did she receive a national award, the city of Pueblo also acknowledged her dedication by naming one of the streets in her community Cruz Circle in her honor. It is my pleasure to recount Ersilia's efforts here today, and I would also like to thank her for her tireless work. I wish her all the best.

#### HONORING OF ARLENE A. RAK

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Arlene Rak, upon her retirement as president of the UHHS Bedford Medical Center. Ms. Rak retired on August 31, 2003, after a long and successful career in health care administration.

Arlene Rak brought to the University Hospitals Health System a wealth of experience and a hands-on background in delivering health care. Her career began in nursing, but she quickly moved to administrative roles in both the non-profit and for profit sectors. She has worked in hospital administration as well as with organizations such as the Voluntary Hospitals of America and Johnson & Johnson. She also worked as an independent consultant for many years, and developed new business ventures, alternate delivery systems and helped others to focus on strategic networking.

In 1985, Ms. Rak was recruited from her private consulting practice to develop the Integrated Health Systems management center at University Hospitals. In 1992, UH persuaded Ms. Rak to return to their fold, first as a strategy consultant, then as a director of elder care and home care. Since February 2, 1996, Ms.

Rak has served as the President of the Bedford Medical Center. In this role, she has worked tirelessly to make the hospital a wonderful resource to the community it serves, and a key part of University Hospital's health care system.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Arlene Rak for her many years of service to the Bedford Medical Center and to University Hospitals. We wish her many blessings of peace, health and happiness throughout her retirement.

#### KEEPING WOMEN HEALTHY— BREAST CANCER SCREENING AND AWARENESS DAY

### HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2003*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this month the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) Campaign celebrates nineteen years of educating women about breast cancer, especially the importance of detecting the disease in its earliest stages through screening mammography. Since its inception, the number of women obtaining mammograms has more than doubled.

Today, October 17, 2003, is National Mammography Day. Mammograms are one of the most important prevention tools for breast cancer with the ability to find a cancerous growth an average of 1.7 years before a woman can feel the lump. Any breast cancer survivor can tell you that even days can make a difference.

Unfortunately, women who have limited access to care are less likely to receive mammograms. This is why I am proud to be participating, along with the Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation (ABCF), Atascosa County Ministerial Alliance, Atascosa Health Center, Atascosa Interagency Council, Greater Pleasanton Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and South Texas Regional Medical Center in Jourdanton, as an honorary sponsor of "Keeping Women Healthy," a breast cancer screening and awareness day in my district tomorrow, October 18, 2003.

I am proud of the efforts of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District and the ABCF to purchase a mammography van to take their message to our neighborhoods. Recently, their dreams were realized as the Avon Foundation awarded them a \$569,000 grant, which will allow them to purchase and operate a van throughout the greater San Antonio area. They are great advocates and work tirelessly to ensure that women in the San Antonio area have access to critical prevention and treatment services.

The fight against breast cancer is a long and hard one. In my home state of Texas, an estimated 13,700 cases of breast cancer will be detected in 2003. If breast cancer is detected early, however, a woman's chance of survival is improved by 95 percent. Nevertheless, together we have shown that we can make a difference. We must continue the fight against cancer. We only celebrate breast cancer prevention for one month, but by getting our voices heard and our message across, we can give millions a whole lifetime to celebrate.