TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS LUDWIG

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 22, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding civil servant from my district. After almost three decades of service, Phyllis Ludwig of Bayfield, Colorado recently announced her retirement from the Bayfield Post Office. As she prepares to begin a new phase in her life, I am honored to pay tribute to Phyllis and her many accomplishments.

Phyllis has been with the Bayfield Post Office for nearly twenty-eight years. She began as a part-time flexible worker, steadily working her way up the ranks. In 1983, Phyllis was appointed Postmaster. To her credit, in the twenty years that she has served as Postmaster, not a single grievance has been filed against her.

While Phyllis may be retiring from her professional life, she plans to remain active in the community. Phyllis will remain President of the Upper Pine River Fire Department Auxiliary and will continue to organize Operation Merry Christmas, a program to assist underprivileged children and families.

Mr. Speaker, Phyllis Ludwig is an active member of her community and dedicated civil servant. She has devoted nearly twenty-eight years to serving her friends and neighbors, and I am honored to join with my colleagues in recognition of her service today. Thank you, Phyllis, for your tireless work. I wish you all the best in retirement.

HONORING JAMES H. “JIMMY” RAINWATER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 22, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, if there has been a more dynamic or visionary leader in public service anywhere in the United States in recent years than James H. “Jimmy” Rainwater, I don’t know who it would be. In the words of the Valdosta Daily Times, he was “Valdosta’s voice, the city’s representative, its administrator, ambassador, negotiator, cheerleader and leader.”

Mayor Rainwater seemed to be everywhere at once. If there was a groundbreaking or ribbon cutting, he was there as a booster. If there was a new business or grant to secure, he was always in the thick of it. If a disaster struck, he was there to help and comfort those who suffered. As his city experienced an extraordinary acceleration of growth and development, he was there, leading the way. Valdosta emerged under his leadership as an officially designated metropolitan community. He played a leading role in the successful effort to save Moody Air Force Base, the community’s largest employer, when the base was threatened with closure. He promoted tourism, which generates $175 million annually for the Valdosta area. In such developments as the Wild Adventures Theme Park, the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center, the new Valdosta Regional Airport, the new industrial park, and many new hotels and restaurants. His support helped Valdosta State College become Valdosta State University. He pushed hard to strengthen the city’s infrastructure, and during his tenure the city built a water treatment plant, completed a citywide paving program, and organized a nationally accredited police department.

Mayor Rainwater was born and raised in another growing city within the Second Congressional District, Tifton, which I also have the privilege of representing. Citizens in Tifton remember him as one of the most outstanding students to ever come out of Tifton High, where he quarterbacked the football team, served as homecoming president, and was named to the Who’s Who list. He more than fulfilled that early promise. In addition to serving as Mayor of one of Georgia’s great cities longer than any other person in history, he was a successful businessman and was prominent in statewide municipal affairs as an active member and next year’s President-to-be of the Georgia Municipal Association.

When I learned of Jimmy Rainwater’s passing at the age of 62, my first thought was that I had lost a wonderful friend. So did everyone who lives in Valdosta and our area of Georgia. He will be missed.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF
HON. ANDER CRENshaw
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 17, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3299) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. CRENshaw. Mr. Chairman, it’s not always easy to do what is right. Doing what’s right sometimes means going against expectations. In regards to Iraq, the United States is doing the right thing; the reconstruction, granting the money, and building a relationship with a new Iraq is all part of staying committed to winning the war on terror. The price is high, the undertaking is huge, but we cannot afford to fail.

Winning the war means more than capturing terrorists, it means capturing the hearts and minds of Iraqis. During the U.S.-led invasion, Iraqis lost their homes, families, and their livelihoods. After the major combat, Iraqis saw the United States take a stance for stability and security. In the wake of recent deadly attacks, Iraqis see it is the U.S. rebuilding their schools and hospitals, not terrorists from neighboring countries whose only aim is to rip apart the beginnings of a democracy.

In Iraq, citizens know we invaded their country in pursuit of Saddam Hussein. They know we did it for oil or other profit. Upon that premise, we are building a foundation of trust. That foundation will breed civility not hate, understanding not undermining, and prosperity instead of chaos.

What Iraqis didn’t expect was a reassuring hand after the smoke cleared. What Iraqis won’t respect is an invader who forces them to sign loan papers.

We are getting something for our investment—an historic beginning to Middle East stability. In exchange for rebuilding their infrastructure, we are asking Iraqis to reject thirty years of an evil regime. We are asking that they consider democracy instead of anti-American hate. We are asking Iraqi citizens to hold structure over chaos and not become a breeding ground for terrorist training camps. We are not handing Iraqis money and a simple request. We are asking them to reject everything Saddam Hussein stood for, and build anew.

The sole reason we entered Iraq was to protect national security. We must continue on that course. More than 30 countries are working with the United States and Iraq and other countries to enable the Iraqi people to achieve self-governance. And just this week, the Japanese government committed $1.5 billion to Iraqi reconstruction.

The cost of reconstructing Iraq is high but we would pay a higher cost if we were to rebuild Iraq without the multibillion-dollar support our history shows us what a tyrant can do when a country is burdened by war debt. Repeating the mistakes of the past could open the door for another Saddam Hussein, or another Adolph Hitler.

REMEMBERING FAITH FANCHER

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of an extraordinary woman, Faith Fancher. Faith passed away in her home in Oakland, CA, on October 19, 2003, at the age of 53 after a long battle with breast cancer.

Faith Fancher was a popular reporter with KTVU Television, Channel 2 and the recipient of numerous awards. Her plight was well-known to thousands of KTVU viewers after she disclosed that she was being treated for the disease. She hoped her story would teach others the benefits of early detection, so she allowed her friend, Elaine Corral Kendall and a camera crew to follow her treatment, which began in the Spring of 1997. “Faith’s Story” aired for three nights and won an award at the American Medical Association International Health and Medical Film Competition in 1997.

Faith was born in 1950 in Franklin, TN. She is the wife of Mr. William Drummond, professor of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley campus. They met in 1979, in Washington, DC, while both were working at National Public Radio. They were married on October 20, 1982. Faith leaves behind one
stepson Sean Drummond and one stepdaughter Tamberline Drummond of New Jersey.

Faith graduated valedictorian of her class from St Francis de Sales Boarding School for Girls in Powhatan, Virginia in 1967. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and English from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville summa cum laude in 1972 but her real education began with her broadcast career. Her first job was at WBR in Knoxville, TN. She was the first Black female journalist in Knoxville.

Faith Fancher was a remarkably strong human being. Her spirit-filled life inspired many to do good, to be humble, and to stay positive. Her smile, her diligent and dedicated work—in spite of the odds—kept hope alive for many. Faith's love for the human family transcended artificial barriers and truly united us. Faith touched the lives of many, and as we celebrate her life, let us re dedicate ourselves to her values and her vision for a better world. Faith lived a life filled with “faith, hope, and love.” For this, we are deeply grateful.

To Faith’s family, friends and fans, I extend my deepest sympathy.

H. CON. RES. 305, "IF YOU BUILD IT THEY WILL COME" BASEBALL FRIENDSHIP ACT

HON. BOB FILNER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution, H. Con. Res. 305, "If You Build It They Will Come" Baseball Friendship Act, expressing the sense of Congress that Major League Baseball should select Monterrey, Mexico, as a host for a quarter of the Montreal Expos games next season as a show of goodwill between the United States and Mexico.

In recent weeks, the United States Ambassador to Mexico Tony Garza has written to the Commissioner of Major League Baseball Bud Selig urging the League to play a quarter of their home games in Mexico.

The Montreal Expos were bought by the other 29 Major League Baseball franchises before the 2002 season, and to increase revenue, Major League Baseball relocated 22 Expos home games to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for the 2003 season. Under this proposal, the people of Puerto Rico can continue to enjoy Major League Baseball.

Major League Baseball officials have spent many months discussing a permanent move of the Montreal Expos franchise, despite baseball’s intention to decide by the end of the regular season. It appears a long-term site will be selected by the end of the regular season.

Monterrey, Mexico, is a metropolitan area of about 3 million people 130 miles south of Las- redo, TX, and is one of the safest cities in Latin America. Monterrey has played host to hundreds of current volunteers through its experience with the Peace Corps.

TRIBUTE TO NICK AND ROSE MARIE NEKOLA
HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this Nation today to pay tribute to two outstanding citizens from my district. Nick and Rose Marie Nekola of Pueblo, Colorado own and operate a valued Pueblo institution, Ianne’s Pizzeria. For years, they have worked to provide a quality product and diligent service to local residents. For their hard work and dedication, I am honored to pay tribute to Nick and Rose here today.

Ianne’s Pizzeria was opened by Rose’s parents in 1954, at a time when the word “pizza” was foreign to most Puebloans. Nick and Rose took control of the pizzeria 32 years ago and have operated it ever since. In addition to serving quality food, the Nekolas have created a warm and welcoming environment at Ianne’s. Many of their employees have been with the restaurant for over 20 years, and it is not unusual to meet a customer who has patronized the pizzeria for 32 years. Under the Nekolas’ guidance, Ianne’s has become a staple of downtown Pueblo.

Mr. Speaker, in today’s climate of transition and change, it is truly refreshing to encounter an establishment dedicated to tradition and quality. Nick and Rose Marie Nekola have worked hard to make Ianne’s Pizzeria an institution in the Pueblo community. For their hard work and integrity, I am honored to join with my colleagues in recognizing Nick and Rose Marie Nekola here today.

HONORING THE PRYOR FAMILY
HON. SANDFORD B. BISHOP, JR.
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, family reunions are one of America’s great traditions. This is especially true in my area of southwest Georgia, where some of the country’s oldest and biggest family reunions are held. One of these is the Pryor family reunion, which has convened in the community of Leslie every year for the past century, attracting hundreds of people from Georgia and other states. This year’s reunion was held on October 4. I would like to share an article about this year’s 100th anniversary reunion in the Cordele Dispatch written by Ms. Betsy Butler, a descendant and a writer and editor for the newspaper.

The year was 1903. Only 14 percent of the homes in the United States had a bathtub. Only 8 percent had a telephone. There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S. and only 344 miles of paved roads. The United States had 45 states. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska hadn’t been admitted to the Union yet. Today, 100 years later, we live in a world of airplanes and computers that connect people on opposite ends of the earth. Boy, how things change. But one thing has stayed the same—the Pryor family gathering.

Since 1903 the family has been coming to the small town of Leslie. What started as a gathering to mark the 50th wedding anniversary of Shepherd Green Pryor and Penelope Eudora Tyson Pryor on October 4, 1903, has continued to bring the family together for 100 years.

Shepherd and Penelope had seven living children, 32 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Most of these attended the celebration, which would become the first annual family reunion.

According to Frank Wilson, a descendant, the menu has stayed the same for 100 years— barbeque. Over the years, each generation has assumed the responsibility for being sure the reunion goes on. “The family has stuck together and done what needs to be done,” Wilson said. “We have never struggled to have a host.”

There is a lot of history to the family. With two published books about the family, a narrative history of the “Post of Honor,” being a collection of letters written between Shepherd and Penelope during...