

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JAMES CHARLES REITER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of James Charles Reiter.

The city of St. Paul, Minnesota lost a dear friend on October 7, 2003.

Jim Reiter was elected in 1998 to represent Ward 5 on St. Paul's City Council, but he always saw himself as just an "Average Joe." In my eyes, he was much more than average.

Council Member Reiter's service to St. Paul's North End went well beyond his career as an elected official. He worked hard to help provide for his family. Throughout his life, he was committed to his city and to improving the quality of life for his neighbors, friends and family. He brought dignity, hard work and humor to everything he did.

Jim Reiter went to great lengths to protect and serve his community to the best of his ability. Perhaps the best example was his insistence on patrolling North End neighborhoods in a surplus St. Paul Police car. While some joked about his actions, Reiter truly believed in strong community partnerships with the police.

Above all else, Jim Reiter was a committed husband and father. He worked tirelessly, sometimes two jobs at a time, to send his children to school. His family will miss a wonderful, loving family man.

Council Member Reiter's friends and neighbors in St. Paul will miss his leadership and charisma.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering James Charles Reiter, a devoted public servant.

My thoughts and prayers are with Darlene, his loving wife of 46 years; their five children: Deborah, Linda, Jean, James Jr., and Kristine; as well as four grandchildren: Michelle, Danielle, Michael and Kristine.

RECOGNIZING KANAWHA SCALES & SYSTEMS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kanawha Scales & Systems in Pocahontas, West Virginia to recognize their receiving the 2003 Governor's Award for Excellence in Exporting, and for the tremendous impact they have had on West Virginia's economy.

Over the years Kanawha Scales & Systems has steadily evolved from a weighing equipment service company into a fully integrated corporation, providing engineering solutions for a wide variety of systems. Kanawha Scales and Systems has grown to over 200 employees with branch offices and subsidiary compa-

nies in twelve different cities throughout the United States.

As the company has grown and prospered, a focus on exporting has developed. The company's growth has extended to include custom solutions on an international basis with successful installations in Canada, South America, The People's Republic of China and Australia. Because of the emphasis on exporting and the benefits this brings to West Virginia, Kanawha Scales & Systems has been selected to receive the 2003 Governor's Award for Excellence in Exporting.

The awards were established in 1983 and are presented by the Governor and the Export Council of West Virginia to honor companies and business professionals for their leadership and success in the state's exporting efforts.

I commend Kanawha Scales & Systems for their commitment to economic growth for West Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Kanawha Scales & Systems.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL STONE, SAND, AND GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 280, "Recognizing the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association for 100 years of service." I was pleased to cosponsor this resolution because over the past 100 years the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA) has made valuable and lasting contributions to our nation's infrastructure and economy, and improved the quality of life for all of our citizens.

As a developer and member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I know first-hand how important this industry is to the continued growth of our nation. Aggregates are an integral building material used in a variety of construction projects from roads, airport runways, railroad beds, and sidewalks to homes and skyscrapers. It is one of the oldest and most versatile building materials on earth and its numerous benefits include high energy efficiency and durability against natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and extreme winds.

In addition to its contributions to quality growth, the aggregates industry has helped to enhance our nation's economy through the creation of jobs and wealth. For every new dollar of output in the aggregates industry, an additional \$1.58 is generated in the U.S. economy. The industry contributes \$37.6 billion to America's Gross Domestic Product and supports 284,090 jobs in all sectors of the economy with personal earnings totaling \$10.74 bil-

lion. In 2001 alone, over three billion tons of aggregates were produced at a value of over \$14.5 billion—a significant contribution by all accounts.

Companies responsible for the production of aggregates also make important contributions to the communities in which they operate. Currently, there is a quarry or sand and gravel pit in almost every county in the United States. Their proximity near a community significantly reduces costs for residential, commercial and industrial buildings and street, road and highway construction projects. When the mines and quarries have utilized the resources available to them, the operation sites can easily be reclaimed by the local community and converted into residential, commercial or industrial properties, parks, recreation areas, storm water management facilities or farmland.

Aggregates could not have become the nation's construction material of choice without the significant contributions of NSSGA. NSSGA is depended upon by many organizations, including agencies of the federal government, for crucial work in standards development for aggregate design, construction, and repair. Without all NSSGA has achieved over the past century, our nation would surely be disadvantaged structurally and economically.

I appreciate the continued commitment and service NSSGA has contributed to our nation over the past 100 years and look forward to working with them further as we seek to build a better America in the 21st century.

HONORING BROTHER ANSELM ALLEN FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brother Anselm Allen, of Subiaco, AR, for his exceptional volunteer service and lifetime of dedication as a weather observer. The National Weather Service is presenting Brother Allen with the esteemed John Campanius Holm Award.

Since 1965, Brother Anselm has been collecting weather observations at the New Subiaco Abbey as the official Cooperative Weather Observer at Subiaco, AR. Established in 1897, the New Subiaco Abbey has provided weather data for well over 100 years, and received an award in 1997 for 100 years of service. Boasting the longest tenure of any observer at the New Subiaco Abbey, Brother Anselm was awarded the 40 Year Length of Service Award in August of 2001 by the National Weather Service.

No stranger to awards, Brother Anselm is being presented with the John Campanius Holm Award. This award aims to single out terrific volunteer service as a weather observer and honor extraordinary dedication to the National Weather Service. In total, there

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

are 11,000 weather observers in the United States, and only 25 people per year receive this high honor.

Brother Anselm's daily weather reports are known for their precision and timeliness and are very much appreciated. Data collected by Brother Anselm is sent on a monthly basis to the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, NC. The information is then published in NOAA's Climatological Data, where it becomes a permanent record of the world's weather.

Additionally, Brother Anselm uses his amateur radio skills to deliver information to the National Weather Service when severe weather threatens the area.

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to properly recognize Brother Anselm Allen before the United States Congress for his outstanding example of dedication and volunteer efforts to the National Weather Service. Please join me in congratulating Brother Anselm on his receipt of the John Campanius Holm Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 4, I was in Kentucky, tending to official business, and was not present for rollcall votes No. 602 and 603. The votes were on House Concurrent Resolutions 176 and 94, respectively. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during today's rollcall votes on H. Con. Res. 176, supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Planning Week, and H. Con. Res. 94, the Direct Support Professional Recognition Resolution. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both resolutions.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2691, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that I will be voting for H.R. 2691, the fiscal year 2003 Interior Appropriations Conference Report, but doing so with some reluctance. This report includes a provision that keeps the Department of Interior from performing its legal responsibility to conduct a complete accounting of the individual Indian trust. I voted to strike a similar provision in the

FY 2003 Interior Appropriations bill, which was stripped from the House-passed bill, and I am disappointed that it has reemerged in the conference report.

I understand the Committee's concern for the Cobell v. Norton class action lawsuit, which has been stalled for years with no satisfactory end in sight. We should certainly take aggressive steps to ensure that this case moves forward. However, I do not believe that Congress should circumvent due process by attaching this rider to the Interior Appropriations bill.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that this provision sends a terrible message to Indian country that the Federal Government is not committed to working in close consultation with the tribes on issues such as trust reform, or for that matter, ensuring that they have their day in court.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall numbers 602 and 603. I was unavoidably detained and was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall numbers 602 and 603.

TRIBUTE TO PFC JAMES AARON BOOZER

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private First Class James Aaron Boozer of Denham Springs, Louisiana. PFC Boozer serves in the 82nd Airborne, 173 Brigade. While serving in Iraq, PFC Boozer suffered grave injuries, and is under the care of the staff at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC.

It is because of people such as PFC Boozer that we continue to live safe and secure. America's men and women who answer the call of service and wear our Nation's uniform deserve respect and recognition for the enormous burden that they willingly bear. Because of these folks, our Nation remains free and strong in the face of danger.

On behalf of the people of Louisiana, I would like to thank PFC Boozer for his service to our country and I wish him a full and speedy recovery.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, due to an unexpected illness, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 590 to 599. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

On rollcall vote 590, agreeing to the journal, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 591, the motion to recommit the conference report on H.R. 2115, the FAA Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 592, agreeing to the conference report on H.R. 2115, the FAA Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote 593, H. Res. 409, repudiating anti-Semitic remarks expressed by Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 594, the motion to recommit the conference report on H.R. 2691, the Interior Appropriations Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 595, agreeing to the conference report on H.R. 2691, the Interior Appropriations Act, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote 596, H. Con. Res. 302, expressing the sense of Congress in welcoming President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan to the United States, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 597, H. Res. 421, the martial law rule for same day consideration of the conference report of H.R. 3289, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of FY2004, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote 598, the Johnson motion to instruct conferees on the conference report of H.R. 6, the Energy and Water Appropriations Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 599, the Davis motion to instruct conferees on the conference report of H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug Act, I would have voted "aye."

I ask for unanimous consent that this be inserted into the RECORD.

HONORING SPENCER VENEER LLC

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Spencer Veneer LLC of Spencer, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, Spencer Veneer LLC has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Spencer Veneer LLC.

GOVERNOR SID McMATH, A MAN OF HONOR

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to acknowledge the life and legacy of former Arkansas Governor Sid McMath, a statesman, a leader, a veteran, and a true gentleman who

passed away recently in Arkansas at the age of 91. I was honored to have known Governor McMath—a man who, in deed and action, distinguished himself as someone who changed Arkansas for the better.

Governor McMath was a man dedicated to public service. Born in 1912, just outside of Magnolia, Arkansas, in Columbia County, Governor McMath knew he wanted to do great things from an early age. His life of service began in school with student council positions, which led him to be an organizer and the second president of Young Democrats of Arkansas from 1946 to 1947. In 1947, Governor McMath was elected as prosecuting attorney for Garland and Montgomery counties.

Elected as our State's 34th Governor, Governor McMath worked from 1949 to 1953 to improve Arkansas. His leadership left us with an enhanced public education system, a new teaching hospital, improved welfare-assistance programs for elderly Arkansans, dams, and new highways and roads. During a time when African Americans struggled for civil rights, Governor McMath ensured equal facilities and educational opportunities for African Americans in Arkansas. He provided Arkansas' only historically black college, AM & N, now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, with sufficient resources to become accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

After serving two terms as Governor, Governor McMath built an impressive law practice as one of the State's leading attorneys. For more than five decades, Governor McMath became known as the "people's lawyer," continuing to fight for the causes so important to him and to the people of our great state.

His service went far beyond civilian life, Governor McMath also served in the United States Marine Corps in World War II. He served our Nation eagerly and rose to the rank of Major General before he retired.

Arkansas will be forever grateful that such a visionary leader came along, at the time he did, to lead us into a new era. Those who had the honor to know Governor McMath would describe him as a great orator and one of the most intelligent and genuine people they had ever met; he was truly an asset to our State.

While Governor Sid McMath may no longer be with us, his spirit and his legacy live on by the way he improved the quality of life for all Arkansans. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Betty Dorth Russell McMath, sons Phillip, Sandy and Bruce; and daughters Patricia and Melissa, and all of his family and friends.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN CONCRETE INSTITUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 394, "Recognizing the American Concrete Institute for 100 years of service." I was pleased to author this resolution because over the past 100 years the American Concrete Institute (ACI) has made valuable and lasting contributions to our nation's infrastructure and econ-

omy, and improved the quality of life for all of our citizens.

As a former developer and a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I know first-hand the vital role concrete plays in the construction of our country. Everything from the roads we drive on to the very foundation of the homes we live in are dependent on this industry.

Concrete is an integral building material used in a variety of construction projects from roads, bridges, parking lots, and sidewalks to homes and skyscrapers. It is one of the oldest and most versatile building materials on earth and its numerous benefits include high energy efficiency and durability against natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and extreme winds. The entire family of concrete products, such as ready mixed concrete, concrete block and cast-in-place, are used in all of our nation's communities. Major concrete operations continually function in every congressional district, creating well-paying jobs and boosting local economies. Overall, the concrete industry has an impact on the Gross Domestic Product of more than \$200 million annually—a significant contribution by all accounts.

Concrete could not have become the nation's construction material of choice without the significant contributions of ACI. ACI, a premiere technical society of the concrete industry, is depended upon by many organizations, including agencies of the federal government, for crucial work in standards development for concrete design, construction, and repair. ACI's resources include an 18,000-member network of public and private sector volunteers committed to advancing the technology of concrete for educational and scientific purposes, increasing the knowledge and understanding of concrete materials, and supporting programs that improve concrete design and construction. Without all ACI has achieved over the past century, our nation would surely be significantly disadvantaged structurally and economically.

I appreciate the commitment and service ACI has contributed to our nation over the past 100 years and look forward to working with them further as we seek to build a better America in the 21st century.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for votes on Tuesday, November 4, 2003. Had I been present, I would have cast my votes as follows:

Rollcall No. 602 (H. Con. Res. 176): "aye."
Rollcall No. 603 (H. Con. Res. 94): "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on November 4, 2003, I was in Connecticut participating in our local elections and, therefore, missed two recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted yes on recorded vote 602 and yes on recorded vote 603.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the 30th Anniversary of the Korean Central Presbyterian Church.

On November 4, 2003, Rev. Yoon and several initiate members founded the Korean Central Presbyterian Church (KCPC). Since then, the congregation steadily has increased from a dedicated few to 4,666 registered households. To meet the needs of this growing congregation, the KCPC, having previously shared a facility with the Lewinsville United Presbyterian Church, moved into its own church in Vienna, Virginia.

Over the years, the KCPC has had many successes, including the establishment of the Central Missionary Foundation, a Children's Ministry, an Educational Building, a Senior Center, a D.C. Community Center, and the Culpepper Prayer House. The church has been well served by three pastors: founder Rev. Yoon, and senior pastors Rev. Won Sang Lee, and Rev. Chang Soo Ro.

Members of the KCPC congregation also have made significant accomplishments. Many have been ordained as deacons and elders. Twelve members of the KCPC have become missionaries, dedicating their lives to serving their community and God.

For the past thirty years, the founders, leaders, and congregation of the KCPC have demonstrated great commitment to their church and community. This dedication has enabled the church to emerge from humble beginnings to become the thriving religious, learning, and service center it is today.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Korean Central Presbyterian Church on this special occasion. I commend them on 30 years of success and wish them continued success in the future. I call upon my colleagues to applaud their achievement.

BURMA

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I cosponsored the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 with my good friend, Congressman TOM LANTOS, ranking member of the International Relations Committee. That legislation passed the House by a vote of 418–2, providing a strong mandate for the U.S. State Department to rally international support for Burma's struggle for freedom. I am proud of the support the House of Representatives has given to the 1991

Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Aung San Suu Kyi, and her struggle for freedom in Burma.

Over the past 2 weeks, Burma's military regime has again launched a brutal crackdown against dissent. When 900 Buddhist monks marched on the streets of Mandalay, the country's second largest city, the regime reacted violently, opening fire on the crowd and killing at least one monk and placing several more in intensive care.

At the same time, this regime instigated violence against the country's Muslim population, resulting in the torching of several homes and the murder of innocent civilians.

I am concerned that the international community has remained too silent. We need to take a serious look at the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General's special envoy to Burma, Razali Ismael. Are his efforts hampering or helping the struggle for freedom in Burma? Burma's exports of narcotics and refugees, ongoing human rights abuses present a serious threat to regional security yet this has never been addressed by the United Nations Security Council. Maybe it is time that a new envoy and a new approach by the United Nations will breathe new life into a failed process.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS J. SCHWARZ ON HIS INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT OF PURCHASE COLLEGE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Thomas J. Schwarz, who will be sworn in on November 12 as the fifth President of Purchase College State University of New York.

Founded in 1967, Purchase College combines professional conservatory programs in the performing and visual arts with rigorous studies in liberal arts and science. Its 4,100 students are drawn from 47 States and 67 countries.

Graduates of Purchase College have excelled in the arts. Alumni include winners of the Oscar, Emmy, and Tony Awards, as well as the Pulitzer Prize, just to name a few.

Purchase College graduates have also contributed a great deal to a variety of academic fields. According to a recent National Science Survey, Purchase College ranks second in the nation in the production of Ph.Ds as a percentage of all students.

From its founding, Purchase College has opened its campus to the community. The Performing Arts Center, one of the finest of its kind on the East Coast, presents more than 100 performances, and hundreds of other public events, annually.

Prior to coming to Purchase, Thomas Schwarz had a distinguished career as a partner at the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, where he was the founding partner of the firm's Committee on Diversity.

He also worked in public service, as mayor of Ocean Beach, NY, and as Special Counsel to the New York State Commission on Government Integrity, among other positions.

As a member of the American Bar Association, Mr. Schwarz served on the Election Law Committee and was a special advisor on election reform. In addition, the Legal Aid Society presented him with its Pro Bono Award in 1998.

Mr. Schwarz has also served on the Board of Trustees of his alma mater, Hamilton College. As chairman of the Hamilton Planning Committee, he oversaw the completion of the first long-term plan in the college's 200-year history. This record of accomplishment paved his way to becoming Acting President of Hamilton in 1999.

Since coming to Purchase College as interim President in January of 2002, Mr. Schwarz has worked tirelessly to increase the academic excellence and selectivity of the school, as well as to improve administrative leadership and attract new resources to the institution.

I am confident that Mr. Schwarz will continue to excel in his new role, adding to the proud tradition of higher learning and academic achievement at Purchase.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUDY VARGAS, TALENTED ARTIST

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a local artist, Rudy Vargas, to the community of the great Central Valley of California.

Mr. Vargas was born in 1959 to Rudy and Mary Vargas and was raised on the south side of Hanford, California. His talent as an artist was recognized at a very early age by his second grade teacher, Mrs. Gump.

Through his school years, he was encouraged by many to enter various art competitions. Twice his artwork even made it to the state capitol to be displayed for a length of time.

Mr. Vargas graduated from high school at the age of 17. He then enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. In just 2 short years he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. While in the military, he continued to paint in his spare time.

When his tour with the Corps was over, he moved back home and began taking art and history classes at College of the Sequoias in Visalia, California. There, he met his wife, Diana.

In 1984, because of Mr. Vargas' training in the military, he decided to pursue a career with the police department. He promised his wife that at the age of 40, he'd turn in his badge and begin painting again, his real passion in life.

Staying true to his promise, in 1999 he quit working as a police officer for the Visalia Police Department. After 15½ years of being a cop, he went back to art.

His artwork is displayed all over the United States in many military, police, and fire department offices and buildings.

Today, I am paying tribute to Rudy Vargas for his many years of beautiful artwork. On

this Veterans' Day in 2003, we are honoring Mr. Vargas for his beautiful mural that he painted in Visalia, California.

Please join me in extending congratulations to Mr. Vargas.

HONORING BAKER, MANOCK & JENSEN FOR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Baker, Manock & Jensen for a century of practicing law. The celebration of this event took place on October 23, 2003, in Fresno, California.

In 1903, Henry E. Barbour and William A. Sutherland established two separate law practices in Fresno, starting a 100-year tradition. The two practices formed into a partnership in 1906 and split off seven years later into two branches: the Barbour branch and the Sutherland branch. Mr. Barbour served seven terms as Congressman for the 7th District of California while he maintained his practice. He passed away in 1945 from illness but the Barbour branch sustained with partners William C. Meux and John J. Gallagher. The Sutherland branch remained active until 1920 when Mr. Sutherland entered the banking business. His break from law didn't last long since he resumed his practice with a new partner, Milton M. Dearing, in 1926. Four years later, the firm added another name to its title when Gilbert H. Jertberg joined. Mr. Sutherland died in 1935, but the branch continued and eventually became Jertberg & Avery.

The firm's continuity, despite changes in partnership, was unshakable. In 1955, Mr. Jertberg started a 20-year career in the federal courts. He was nominated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth District in 1958. After Mr. Dearing went into semiretirement, Mr. Avery, of the Sutherland branch, invited Meux & Gallagher—the Barbour branch—to partner with him on the sixth floor of the Security Bank Building. The Sutherland and Barbour lines were brought together again. In the mid 1970s, John H. Baker, Kendall L. Manock, and Douglas B. Jensen were partnered. The three names have comprised the firm's title since. The strength of the firm can be attributed to the many influential lawyers, as well as former and current shareholders that have been dedicated to the adherence to our laws.

Today, the firm is one of the largest law firms in Central California and utilizes 38 full-time lawyers and 10 paralegals to meet the needs of its clients. Until the 1960s, lawyers usually practiced general law, but now they have become much more specialized. Baker, Manock & Jensen has attorneys recognized for their expertise in areas such as reclamation law, environmental law, employment law, and medical malpractice defense.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Baker, Manock & Jensen for 100 years of law practice. Recognizing the importance and uniqueness of our constitution and court system, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Baker, Manock & Jensen for its dedication to its clientele and the law.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 2620, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003, which would authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

In these modern times, it is hard for Americans to believe that the problem of human slavery still exists. Not only do these crimes against humanity still occur, they are increasing in frequency all across the globe.

To further investigate the topic of human slavery and trafficking in persons, I held a hearing before the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Human Rights & Wellness on October 29, 2003, entitled, "The Ongoing Tragedy of International Slavery and Human Trafficking: An Overview," to examine the worldwide effects of these illicit practices, and to discuss how United States policies and programs are beginning to have a positive effect in combating these crimes against humanity.

Our investigation found that over 27,000,000 people are currently enslaved in some form around the world, and it is estimated that up to 4,000,000 men, women, and children are forced or coerced into slavery every year, which represents the highest concentration of slaves alive at one time ever in world history.

Thankfully, the U.S. Government has been working tirelessly to eliminate the practices of slavery and trafficking in persons around the globe. This is mainly due to the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, authored by my dear friend and our esteemed colleague, Representative CHRIS SMITH. This law has assisted victims by authorizing grants to shelters and rehabilitation programs to help victims of trafficking, and by establishing programs to prevent trafficking through the enhancement of economic opportunities for potential victims. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act promotes public awareness of the dangers of human slavery, and provides stringent penalties for persons who facilitate these crimes.

H.R. 2620 not only reauthorizes, but builds upon the successes of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 by (1) requiring that U.S. Government contracts relating to international affairs contain clauses authorizing termination by the United States if the contractor engages in human trafficking, or procures commercial sexual services while the contract is in force; (2) promoting innovative trafficking prevention initiatives, such as border interdiction programs; and (3) requiring airlines to inform passengers about U.S. laws against sex tourism, among other enhanced protections for current victims of trafficking.

Before the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, victims had no hope that they would be rescued from the horrid conditions into which they had been forced to live. The enactment of this law has not only put forth initiatives to prevent further human abuses, but has also given victims of slavery a real chance for liberty, and we as Members

of Congress should do all that we can to promote their freedom.

Mr. Speaker, reauthorizing H.R. 2620 will continue to protect and liberate people who are currently enslaved against their will in these modern times, and I strongly urge my colleagues to continue to support this most important legislation.

HONORING WALKER MACHINERY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Walker Machinery of Belle, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, Walker Machinery has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, Walker Machinery has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud Walker Machinery for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Walker Machinery, and I offer them as an example to small and medium sized enterprises everywhere.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state for the record how I would have voted on the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act, H.R. 1720. Regrettably, I was unavoidably detained and absent from the House floor on October 29, 2003.

I take great pride in representing our military personnel and the veterans of our great nation. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards." The United States owes our veterans a debt which can never be fully repaid.

For these reasons, had I been present for rollcall No. 576, I would have voted "aye" for H.R. 1720.

THE KAY REPORT: RECOGNIZING AN EVER-PRESENT THREAT

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, in recent days, Dr. David Kay, head of the Iraq Survey Group, has visited Washington to provide an interim report detailing what he has thus far uncovered regarding Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. Dr. Kay's initial findings make it clear that Saddam Hussein maintained a large, undeclared WMD infrastructure, much of which has escaped the attention of UN arms inspectors. So far, Dr. Kay's teams have uncovered dozens of WMD-related activity programs, a series of clandestine chemical/biological weapons labs, huge amounts of laboratory equipment suitable for WMD research and productions, and secret UAV production lines tailored for WMD delivery. As a recent editorial in the Omaha World-Herald correctly noted, "the larger picture of these findings shows that Saddam Hussein was a threat to his neighbors, to his own people (just ask the Kurds) and potentially to anyone else on the planet whom he viewed as his enemies."

Mr. Speaker, this Member would ask to place into the RECORD an editorial entitled "An ever-present threat" from the October 11, 2003, edition of the Omaha World-Herald. This Member commends these insightful remarks to his colleagues.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Oct. 11, 2003]

AN EVER-PRESENT THREAT

WITH OR WITHOUT WMD, IRAQ UNDER SADDAM WAS VIOLATING U.N. SANCTIONS LEFT AND RIGHT

Much attention in recent days has been given—appropriately—to the fact that arms inspector David Kay and his Iraq Survey Group thus far have uncovered no weapons of mass destruction in that country. But that finding shouldn't be allowed to obscure the fact that the team found abundant evidence of obfuscation, concealment and destruction of evidence.

The Kay report (which, it should be remembered, is an interim document) strongly suggests a scenario that transcends the question of present-day existence of the weapons. Perhaps the Saddam Hussein regime didn't have WMD by the time liberation forces fought their way into the country. But there's ample evidence that it was poised and eager to buy or make such weapons, as soon as it felt the international spotlight had turned away.

Finding WMD, if they existed, was by no means the Kay team's sole mission.

It was equally tasked with determining whether the Saddam regime was in violation of U.N. limitations imposed after the Persian Gulf War and more particularly in violation of U.N. Resolution 1441, passed last November. (That was Saddam's supposed last chance to comply with inspection demands.)

Here, the answer is an emphatic "yes."

The report unambiguously shows that Iraq was trying to extend the range of its ballistic missiles beyond limits set by the United Nations; was trying to hide evidence of past and potential weapons programs (burned files, destroyed computer disk drives, meticulously scrubbed lab equipment); had organisms hidden in a scientist's home. And more: Kay's congressional statement about the report may be found on the Internet at www.cia.gov/.

In short, Saddam Hussein was preserving his options. And it makes no sense to believe that his intentions were any less malevolent than they had been throughout his sordid history.

Perhaps inspection teams will not find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. First, as we have noted before, it's a big and complex place. Second, perhaps there really was nothing there to find. If that's the case, clearly there was an intelligence debacle—so big that President Bush ought to get to the bottom of it and act to forestall a recurrence.

But even in that case, the larger picture of these findings shows that Saddam Hussein was a threat to his neighbors, to his own people (just ask the Kurds) and potentially to anyone on the planet whom he viewed as his enemies. He was a human time bomb, always poised to start ticking again when he believed the time was right.

Even if the effort to rebuild and stabilize Iraq is not proceeding as tidily as had been hoped, the United States and its allies removed a clear and terrible danger from the world scene. About that, the world should have no second thoughts.

MS. SHARON SCHUCHERT

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Sharon Schuchert of Stanislaus County who is being awarded the Department of Health and Human Services Adoption Excellence Award. It is truly an honor to recognize all of her achievements as a dedicated social worker in our community.

Ms. Schuchert is the recipient of the 2003 award of Adoption Excellence Award, for her outstanding accomplishments in achieving permanency for America's children waiting in foster care.

In 1969, Ms. Schuchert began her public service career as a social worker for Stanislaus County Community Services Agency and in 2001, in collaboration with other community leaders, she founded Camp A Life With Adoption Yields Success (A.L.W.A.Y.S.). Camp A.L.W.A.Y.S. mission statement is to provide every member of an adoptive family with a supportive environment. At Camp A.L.W.A.Y.S. adoptive families spend time in Pine Crest, California learning about the unique challenges facing adoptive families in a positive family oriented setting. For many families who attend Camp A.L.W.A.Y.S. this is one of the few times they are surrounded by others with similar family structures.

Ms. Schuchert's award is especially relevant as November is National Adoption Month. There are roughly 130,000 children ranging from toddlers to teenagers who are currently in foster care waiting to be placed in a safe, permanent home. Recognizing their plight on a national level is an important first step to permanency. By providing children in need with the opportunity to grow and succeed through adoption, we can help them on their journey to becoming confident and successful members of society.

Mr. Speaker, the county of Stanislaus, and the 18th Congressional District of California have been greatly strengthened by the efforts of Ms. Schuchert and Camp A.L.W.A.Y.S.

America's children must not be forgotten and through the leadership of individuals like Ms. Schuchert we can continue to fight on their behalf.

I ask my colleagues to help honor Ms. Sharon Schuchert today for her service to this great nation.

COMMENDING JOHN WILLIAMS

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and thank John Williams, Mayor of Bedford, Indiana, for completing 24 years of service to the great people of Indiana. I wish John, Jean and their family well in his retirement.

Public service often brings great satisfaction in the ability to help people. During the last three decades, John has worked hard to better the lives of those in southern Indiana. At the same time, those who serve cannot do so alone. John's wife, Jean, too, has been a valuable member of the community in public service and, has given her support, even as she had her own personal health battles.

Mr. Speaker, Indiana has benefitted from the service of these two fine Hoosiers and I am proud to call both John and Jean Williams my friend.

Tonight, I rise to recognize a unique man who has left a positive mark. By my count, Mayor Williams will have served some 8,760 days in office spanning 24 years. During his unprecedented tenure, the city's landscape has undergone a remarkable change for the better as vacant stores acquired tenants and empty lots sprouted new homes and businesses. City pride has swelled and Bedford's reputation of sound government and livability has spread throughout the State of Indiana.

When Mayor Williams entered office he inherited a city with a decaying downtown business district and an outdated and malfunctioning infrastructure. To be successful, he realized that community action and involvement were needed. He established a citizens' committee to lead efforts to rejuvenate downtown and at the same time worked with state officials to improve transportation and utility services.

Mr. Speaker, today that same "citizens' committee" still operates and has evolved into the present-day Bedford Revitalization, Inc. As with many smaller communities, the courthouse square, once a bastion of activity had slowed. In recent years, the community behind the leadership of Mayor Williams, focused upon the development of the Courthouse Square business district and they succeeded in redeveloping it into the center of the community as it once stood. Moreover, they have succeeded in having the district included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Bedford, Indiana, located approximately 76 miles south of Indianapolis, had many of the same challenges regarding transportation and infrastructure of other cities its size. In the early 1980s, Mayor Williams used his creativity to solve the transportation problem for local residents. He worked with state and federal agencies and created the Transit Authority of the Stone City (TASC). In the 1990s, he

built upon that effort and initiated a point-to-point, or door-to-door, pickup service that streamlined the operation. This success prompted state transportation officials to cite TASC as a model program for other small to medium-sized Hoosier cities to emulate. Today, the buses record about 80,000 passenger trips a year, providing mobility and independence for many of our citizens.

Mayor Williams' transportation successes, and his efforts to expand and develop opportunities for local businesses and individuals to compete in the marketplace, resulted in a four-lane east-west street connecting Indiana State Road 37 and Lincoln Avenue that is now named after the Mayor. Doing so, opened hundreds of acres for industrial and business development. The process took ten years from inception to completion, but, today, John A. Williams Boulevard is a main artery in the city.

Mr. Speaker, furthering recreation has been a continuing program in Mayor Williams' administration. Today, Bedford has seven city parks and an 18-hole golf course, which has been called one of the best municipal courses in Indiana.

Mayor Williams may be retiring but he still has a lot to give to Indiana and Indiana owes a lot to him. I am pleased to join with the citizens of Bedford and salute my friend, Mayor John Williams, on a lifetime of public service and a job well done. God speed!

PATENT AMENDMENT

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this summer I introduced an amendment that provides congressional support for the current federal policy against patenting humans. It was approved by the House of Representatives without objection on July 22, 2003 as Sec. 801 of the Commerce/Justice/State appropriations bill.

Since that time, the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) has launched a lobbying campaign against the amendment, and has now enlisted the political aid of the broader "Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research" (CAMR), an umbrella organization of groups supporting human cloning for research purposes.

BIO and CAMR claim to support the current policy of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) against patenting human beings. However, they oppose this amendment, saying it would have a far broader scope—potentially prohibiting patents on stem cell lines, procedures for creating human embryos, prosthetic devices, and in short almost any drug or product that might be used in or for human beings.

The absurdity of these claims is apparent when one compares the language of the amendment with the language of the current USPTO policy that these groups claim to support.

The House-approved amendment reads:

"None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to issue patents on claims directed to or encompassing a human organism."

The current USPTO policy is set forth in two internal documents:

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, "Notice: Animals—Patentability," 1077 Official Gazette U.S. Pat. and Trademark Off. 8 (April 21, 1987):

"The Patent and Trademark Office now considers non-naturally occurring non-human multicellular living organisms, including animals, to be patentable subject matter within the scope of 35 U.S.C. 101. . . . A claim directed to or including within its scope a human being will not be considered patentable subject matter under 35 U.S.C 101. The grant of a limited, but exclusive property right in a human being is prohibited by the Constitution. Accordingly, it is suggested that any claim directed to a non-plant multicellular organism which would include a human being within its scope include the limitation 'non-human' to avoid this ground of rejection."

(This notice responded to the Supreme Court's 1980 decision in *Chakrabarty* concluding that a modified "microorganism," a bacterium, could be patented, and a subsequent decision by the USPTO's own Board of Appeals in *Ex parte Allen* that a multicellular organism such as a modified oyster is therefore patentable as well. The USPTO sought to ensure that these policy conclusions would not be misconstrued as allowing a patent on a human organism.)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (Revised February 2003), Sec. 2105: "Patentable Subject Matter—Living Subject Matter":

"If the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claimed invention as a whole encompasses a human being, then a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 must be made indicating that the claimed invention is directed to nonstatutory subject matter."

In other words, the USPTO clearly distinguishes between organisms that are nonhuman and therefore are patentable and those organisms that are human and therefore not patentable subject matter.

As a USPTO official testified recently to the President's Council on Bioethics:

"When a patent claim includes or covers a human being, the USPTO rejects the claim on the grounds that it is directed to non-statutory subject matter. When examining a patent application, a patent examiner must construe the claim presented as broadly as is reasonable in light of the application's specification. If the examiner determines that a claim is directed to a human being at any stage of development as a product, the examiner rejects the claims on the grounds that it includes non-statutory subject matter and provides the applicant with an explanation. The examiner will typically advise the applicant that a claim amendment adding the qualifier, non-human, is needed, pursuant to the instructions of MPEP 2105. The MPEP does not expressly address claims directed to a human embryo. In practice, examiners treat such claims as directed to a human being and reject the claims as directed to non-statutory subject matter." (Testimony of Karen Hauda on behalf of USPTO to the President's Council on Bioethics, June 20, 2002, <http://bioethicsprint.bioethics.gov/transcripts/jun02/june21 session5.html>)

Current USPTO policy, then, is that any claim that can reasonably be interpreted as "directed to" or "encompassing" a human being, and any claim reaching beyond "nonhuman" organisms to cover human organisms (including human embryos), must be re-

jected. My amendment simply restates this policy, providing congressional support so that federal courts will not invalidate the USPTO policy as going beyond the policy of Congress (as they invalidated the earlier USPTO policy against patenting living organisms in general).

Literally the only difference between my amendment and some of these USPTO documents is that the amendment uses the term "human organism," while the USPTO usually speaks of the non-patentability of (anything that can be broadly construed as) a "human being." But "human organism" is more politically neutral and more precise, having a long history of clear interpretation in federal law.

Since 1996, Congress has annually approved a rider to the Labor/HHS appropriations bill that prohibits federal funding of research in which human embryos are created or destroyed—and this rider defines a human embryo as a "human organism" not already protected by older federal regulations on fetal research. In December 1998 testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education, a wide array of expert witnesses—including NIH Director Harold Varmus and the head of a leading company in BIO—testified that this rider does not forbid funding research on embryonic stem cells, because a human embryo is an "organism" but a stem cell clearly is not (see S. Hrg. 105-939, December 2, 1998). That same conclusion was later reached by HHS general counsel Harriet Rabb, in arguing that the Clinton administration's guidelines on stem cell research were in accord with statutory law; this same legal opinion was accepted by the Bush administration when it issued its more limited guidelines for funding stem cell research (Legal memorandum of HHS general counsel Harriet S. Rabb, "Federal Funding for Research Involving Human Pluripotent Stem Cells," January 15, 1999). To argue now that a ban on patenting "human organisms" somehow bans patenting of stem cells or stem cell lines would run counter to five years of legal history, and would undermine the legal validity of any federal funding for embryonic stem cell research.

BIO also claims that the amendment raises new and difficult questions about "mixing" animal and human species. What about an animal that is modified to include a few human genes so it can produce a human protein or antibody? What about a human/animal "chimera" (an embryo that is half human, half animal)? The fact is, these questions are not new. The USPTO has already granted patents on the former (see U.S. patent nos. 5,625,126 and 5,602,306). It has also thus far rejected patents on the latter, the half-human embryo (see Biotechnology Law Report, July-August 1998, p. 256), because the latter can broadly but reasonably be construed as a human organism. The Weldon amendment does nothing to change this, but leaves the USPTO free to address new or borderline issues on the same case-by-case basis as it already does.

In short, my amendment has exactly the same scope as the current USPTO policy, and cannot be charged with the radical expansions of policy that BIO and its allies claim. In reality, BIO opposes this amendment because it opposes the current USPTO policy as well, and has a better chance of nullifying this policy in court (or having courts reinterpret it into uselessness) if it lacks explicit support in statutory law.

This goal is apparent from BIO's own "fact sheet" opposing the amendment (see www.bio.org/ip/cloningfactsheet.asp). There BIO argues that human beings should be patentable, if they arise from anything other than "conventional reproduction" or have any "physical characteristics resulting from human intervention." In other words, humans should be seen as "inventions" and thus be patentable on exactly the same grounds as animals are now.

The logic of this argument reaches beyond the human embryo, because an embryo who resulted from reproductive technology or received any physical or genetic modification presumably remains just as invented throughout his or her existence, no matter what stage of development he or she reaches.

BIO's stated support for reducing members of the human species to patentable commodities makes the passage of my amendment more urgently necessary than ever.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHARLES
E. KRUSE, DISTINGUISHED
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that my good friend, Charles E. (Charlie) Kruse, President of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, has been named as the next recipient of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. As an Eagle Scout myself, let me take this means to pay tribute to Charlie for reaching this important milestone.

The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA) was established in 1969. It is granted to Eagle Scouts who received the Eagle Scout rank 25 or more years ago and who have distinguished themselves in their professional life and in their communities on a voluntary basis. The award is granted by the National Eagle Scout Association upon nomination by a local council and selection by a committee of nationally prominent DESA recipients.

In his personal and professional life, Charlie Kruse has established himself as a true role model for patriotic Americans. His life work has far exceeded the guidelines established for receiving this respected award. He has served the American people and the residents of Missouri in the military, as a member of the Governor's cabinet, on the Missouri University Board of Curators, and on many national commissions and boards. He has also worked to enhance the prosperity of his community through church and volunteer activities.

Charlie currently serves as President of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation. In his role, he represents over 100,000 Missourians and provides Members of Congress from the Show-Me State with useful information about what farmers and ranchers are saying about U.S. agricultural policy. Farm Bureau's advice is critical to shaping a national agricultural agenda in a way that benefits Missourians, and I appreciate hearing from Charlie and all Farm Bureau members.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all my House colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Charlie Kruse as he receives the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. He truly deserves this recognition.

COMMENDING CAPTAIN FRANCIS EDWARD SABLAN, JR., ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Captain Francis Edward Sablan, Jr., for nearly 25 years of service to his country in the United States Navy. Our Nation appreciates his courage and commitment to ensuring our security, and I want to express my personal gratitude to Captain Sablan as family and friends gather to honor his achievements on the occasion of his retirement.

Born in Hagåtña, Captain Sablan has proudly followed in the footsteps of his father in serving in the United States Navy. His father, Francis Edward Sablan of Yigo served as a Chief Warrant Officer in the U.S. Navy. Captain Sablan credits his father with encouraging him to pursue a career in the military. His mother, Maria San Nicolas Sablan, of Sinajana also provided many years of valuable support services to our Nation's men and women in uniform while working for the Department of the Navy, Naval Air Station Agaña.

Captain Sablan was commissioned as an Ensign on May 30, 1979, at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He, along with fellow classmates and graduates Benny Fergurgur, Pedro Leon Guerrero, Frank Leon Guerrero and Francis Cruz, proudly represented Guam together at the U.S. Naval Academy. Their hard work and dedication has exemplified the patriotism and leadership qualities of the citizens of Guam and helped pave the way for future generations of talented young Chamorros to study at Annapolis.

Congratulations Captain Sablan on reaching this tremendous milestone. You have served your Nation and the people of Guam with dignity and courage. As you make the transition from active duty to civilian life, know that your contributions and legacy in the U.S. Navy will not be forgotten.

THE "DEBT TAX" THREATENS AMERICA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Budget Committee and as a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, I have grown increasingly concerned over the impact that rapidly increasing federal government payments on our national debt have had upon our country's economy and upon the economic condition of individual citizens. A recent column in the Boston Globe discusses these concerns in a thoughtful and focused way; I commend to you and to my colleagues the analysis of Byron Auguste, a partner at a global management consulting firm, and Mark Strama, a technology executive and the former director of programs at Rock the Vote. They are directors of the Hope Street Group, a nonprofit organization of young business professionals.

[From the Boston Globe, Nov. 3, 2003]

THE BIGGEST "TAX" IS DEBT

(By Byron Auguste and Mark Strama)

In recent years, much has been made over the repeal of the estate tax—or "death tax." Much less attention has been paid to a far more pernicious tax—the "debt tax"—which is bigger than the estate tax, capital gains tax, and so-called "marriage tax" combined.

When the Democratic presidential candidates convene here on Tuesday to engage a skeptical generation of younger voters at the Rock the Vote debate, we ask them to address the debt tax as the most important issue affecting young Americans today. American taxpayers paid \$332.5 billion in interest last year on the national debt. This huge payment, equal to 11 percent of the total federal budget, does not improve education, enhance homeland security, or rebuild Iraq. It merely services the \$6.6 trillion (and growing) national debt. These interest payments are a "debt tax"—a tax that drains income without producing any material benefits for taxpayers.

Today's average American household pays an astounding \$3,153 in taxes annually just to service the debt—about enough to lease a car for a year. These debt tax payments are required because of the fiscal irresponsibility of previous federal budgets.

A government running a large national debt is like an individual running a big balance on a credit card. Most American households use credit cards, and more than half of cardholders carry over credit card debt from one month to the next. But few would go as far as the federal government currently does; today's national debt is the equivalent of a whopping \$62,000 on each family's credit card. And each month, the debt is rolled over, with no plans to pay down the principal.

The debt tax is likely to grow in the coming years, placing an enormous burden on tomorrow's taxpayers. Even if the national debt does not increase, projected increases in interest rates will increase the cost of borrowing money—increasing the debt tax.

But the national debt is increasing, because the government is spending beyond its means. In the past three years, federal spending has increased by 13.5 percent. Only half of this increase is attributable to the war on terrorism. And this figure does not even include the \$87 billion recently requested for our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 are projected to reduce revenues by \$1.35 trillion. Even if interest rates remain constant, this year's budget alone will add approximately \$22 billion to annual interest payments—\$22 billion in debt taxes. "Tax relief" for today's taxpayers is, plain and simple, a tax increase for tomorrow's taxpayers.

As a result these factors—rising interest rates, growing spending, and massive tax cuts—the debt tax burden will continue to mushroom. The administration's own projections show the debt growing by half through 2008. This means that in five years, the average family could be paying between \$4,500 and \$6,000 or more each year in debt tax alone.

The problem is compounded by the impending retirement of the baby boomers, whose tax contributions will decline at precisely the same time entitlement spending to support them will explode. For younger voters, this is like watching a train wreck in slow motion. We see the impact that is about to occur, and we are the ones who are going to get crushed.

It's not too late to avoid disaster, but doing so will require sustained, rigorous focus by our leaders. While many Democrats

and Republicans have criticized current fiscal policies, none has introduced a plan that will solve the debt tax. The time has come for our leaders to step up to the plate.

Americans understand this problem and are willing to help solve it. A recent Gallup poll revealed that by a 53 to 41 percent margin, Americans say they would rather hold down the federal deficit than lower their taxes.

Each generation of Americans has had the opportunity to determine our nation's priorities. In the middle of the 20th century, our grandparents expanded higher education and homeownership. Over the past 35 years, our parents invested in fighting communism abroad and poverty at home. Will our generation have similar opportunities, or will our only choice be to service the debts of our predecessors?

The debt tax is a problem with grave consequences for our future. It is a problem that won't be solved until we start talking about it. For the sake of our generation of voters, we hope the presidential candidates will start the discussion this week.

STOP TREATING VETERANS LIKE A LINE IN THE BUDGET

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to remind my colleagues that our nation made a solemn pledge to our veterans that needs to be fulfilled.

Since the birth of our nation, patriots—citizen soldiers—have risked their lives to defend our freedom. They committed their lives to our defense and in exchange for that service we, the United States of America, committed to care for them and their families.

Our veterans have kept their promise. For over two centuries the men and women in our military have served us well. They've carried a heavy burden and sacrificed selflessly to ensure that our country remains a stronghold for liberty and freedom for all.

Unfortunately, we haven't done so well by them. While we have praised our troops in times of danger, we all too quickly turn our backs when we are safe. Using justifications like a tight economy or higher priorities, veterans programs have repeatedly been short-changed and neglected. For over a century disabled veterans have been subjected to unfair taxation and worst of all, America has come to regard our veterans as just another number in the federal budget.

In these days of bottom lines and more-bang-for-the-buck we seem to have forgotten the truth behind those numbers. Every single veteran is a man or woman who has served our country and earned their benefits. I represent over fifty thousand veterans; that's not a number; that's fifty thousand individual patriots who have sacrificed for us and who are now due what we promised them.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for the United States to stop treating our veterans like a line in the budget. We must pay what we owe those brave men and women for the service they've given. It's a small price to pay for the freedom we enjoy.

CPL CHARLES W. LINDBERG

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true American hero, Cpl Charles W. Lindberg. Like so many of our veterans, he put his life on the line so that we might live in peace, free from tyranny and oppression. On the morning of February 23, 1945, six brave young Marines—Jim Michels, Hank Hansen, Louis Charlo, Boots Thomas, Harold Schrier, and Charles Lindberg—trudged up the steep slopes of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima, dodging grenades and machine gun fire, to destroy an enemy outpost. There they planted the first American flag on Iwo Jima, marking the first plot of native Japanese soil captured by Americans in World War II. This historic event paved the way for the raising of the second American flag, immortalized in Joe Rosenthal's Pulitzer Prize winning photograph as one of our greatest symbols of freedom, triumph and courage. Sadly, Cpl Charles W. Lindberg is the sole remaining survivor of this fearless group. However, Cpl Lindberg's selfless devotion to his country did not end on the battlefield. Cpl Lindberg worked hard to improve our country and the lives of our soldiers. Today, he continues to devote himself to veterans, veterans organizations, and his community. I salute Cpl Charles W. Lindberg for his ever-lasting spirit of patriotism, bravery, dedication, and service to his community and country.

LT COL ROBERT HAGEN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, Lt. Col. Robert Hagen.

Col. Hagen is a career Army officer with 24 years of service. He has served in the Guard, Reserves and Active Duty—and he is currently a Reservist on his 16th tour in 7 years.

Col. Hagen was in Saudi Arabia for a temporary tour of duty during the September 11 attacks on the base just outside of Riyadh and he was responsible for keeping the soldiers on the base informed. I'm sure all Americans abroad at that time—particularly those in uniform—would have preferred being closer to home and protecting those on the home front in harm's way. This was especially true for soldiers like Col. Hagen who knew many working at the Pentagon and lost six friends that fateful day. But through that terrible time in our Nation's history, so many like Col. Hagen remained abroad, steadfast in protecting American democratic principles throughout the world.

Col. Hagen returned to Washington in December 2001 on assignment to the Pentagon as deputy chief of Army Communications in the office of the chief of Public Affairs. In this position, Col. Hagen oversaw the public affairs duties at Baltimore-Washington International Airport for troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan on the Rest & Recuperation pro-

gram. It was in this capacity that I had the great fortune to first meet the Colonel.

Always calm and assured speaking simultaneously into a cell phone, making decisions, answering questions and enthusiastically welcoming troops home as they disembark from planes, Col. Hagen has been an incredible force at BWI during this historic R&R program that brought troops stateside for the first time in DoD history. Always committed to doing what is best for the soldiers, I am grateful to Col. Hagen for his work and his efforts each day.

I am also grateful for his support for Operation Hero Miles, a program coordinated through my office to correct a great injustice. For soldiers coming home on R&R and facing the incredibly unfair financial burden of paying for last minute flights home from BWI, Operation Hero Miles collects frequent flier miles to give soldiers in need free tickets home. Col. Hagen was on board with this program from the start and helped us to understand what was needed to make it work. Again, this is just another example of his commitment to do what is best for the soldiers.

Col. Hagen's last day on this Washington assignment is November 14, 2003 and then he will begin home for his 29th cross-country drive back to the west coast. As he does so, I wish to thank him for his dedication to this Nation and to the service men and women who so bravely protect it. I thank his wife Sharon Hagen for her support when Col. Hagen's work took him so far away from home so often.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Col. Hagen for his service and for his work on behalf of America's service men and women and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the 26 votes I missed during the period October 29th through October 31st due to my participation in an official Congressional delegation to Iraq approved by you. Although I regret these missed votes, there is no question that that trip was indispensable to a more complete understanding of our intervention in Iraq.

I wish to state for the RECORD how I would have voted on these 26 votes.

On rollcall votes 580, 584, 585, 588, 589, and 590, motions to adjourn, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote 581, approval of the journal, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 576, passage of H.R. 1720, the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 577, passage of H.R. 1516, the National Cemetery Expansion Act of 2003, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 578, passage of H.R. 3365, the Fallen Patriots Tax Relief Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 579, passage of H. Res. 414, to encourage the People's Republic of China to fulfill its commitments under international trade agreements, support the United

States manufacturing sector, and establish monetary and financial market reforms, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 582, passage of H. Con. Res. 291, expressing deep gratitude for the valor and commitment of the members of the United States Armed Forces who were deployed in Operation Restore Hope to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia in 1993, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 583, passage of H.J. Res. 75, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 584, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 422, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2115, FAA Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote 587, on passage of H. Res. 422, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2115, FAA Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote 591, motion to recommit the conference report to accompany H.R. 2115, FAA Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 592, passage of H.R. 2115, FAA Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 593, passage of H. Res. 409, repudiating anti-Semitic remarks expressed by Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 594, motion to recommit the conference report to accompany H.R. 2691, the FY2004 Department of Interior Appropriations Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 595, passage of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2691, the FY2004 Department of Interior Appropriations Act, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 596, passage of H. Con. Res. 302, expressing a sense of Congress welcoming President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan to the United States on October 31, 2003, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 597, on agreeing to H. Res. 421, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (martial law for consideration of H.R. 3289, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations), I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote 598, the Johnson motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 599, the Davis motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 600, motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 3289, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for FY2004, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote 601, agreeing to the conference report to accompany H.R. 3289, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense and Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to confirm my position on these important votes during my necessary absence.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER
DODSON FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Dodson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chris has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Chris has been involved with scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Chaplain's Aide, Librarian, Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Chris is also a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow and a Tom-tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Chris served on staff at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation during the summer of 2003, and has earned a total of 33 merit badges.

For his Eagle Scout project, Chris lead a group of Boy Scouts on a work project at the New Hope Retreat Center in Holt, Missouri. For the project, they built two fences around dumpsters, cleared land around the entrance to the camp, leveled out the area, and replanted flowers and shrubs.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Dodson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

UNWELCOME TRUTHS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about the current human rights situation in North Korea and that nation's pursuit of a nuclear weapons program. The leadership of the North Korean government has proven to be volatile and unpredictable with a tight rein on a very closed, repressed society.

Thousands of American soldiers are stationed in South Korea to ease the tensions between North and South Korea.

The North Korean government is one of the worst abusers of human rights in the world, and 1.5 million North Koreans have already died of starvation. The international community must pressure North Korea to reach an agreement to end its quest for nuclear weapons. A country that suppresses its people and poses a threat to its neighbors cannot be allowed to possess nuclear weapons.

I submit for the RECORD a recent Wall Street Journal article detailing a proposal from Hwang Jang Yop, North Korea's highest-ranking defector. Hwang's proposal for peace and security focuses on regime change and a larger international focus on the human rights situation.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 28, 2003]

UNWELCOME TRUTHS

(By Melanie Kirkpatrick)

SEOUL—North Korea's highest-ranking defector arrived safely in Washington yester-

day despite North Korea's threat to "shoot his plane out of the sky" if he dared to visit the U.S.

This is the first trip to the U.S. for Hwang Jang Yop, the former head of North Korea's Workers Party and president of Kim Il Sung University who defected to the South in 1997. He brings with him a two-prong proposal for what he calls the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula: regime change and greater international focus on the human-rights abuses of the North. In an interview here on the eve of his departure, Mr. Hwang said: "I want to emphasize the importance of eliminating the Kim Jong Il regime." How to do that? "The U.S. should put the issue of human rights at the top of its agenda in its dialogue" with North Korea.

Mr. Hwang is an unlikely champion of human rights in North Korea. Now 80 years old, he spent his career in the service of the brutal regime he now denounces. He was the North's ideologue-in-chief—founder and leading proponent of the "juche" ideology of self-reliance that Kim Il Sung, father of current leader Kim Jong Il, used to justify his totalitarian rule. The old Stalinist now says both Kims distorted his philosophy, which is really about "democracy."

One would think that the one place in the world where the campaign to free the North Korean people would be taken most seriously would be South Korea, where Mr. Hwang lived under virtual house arrest until recently. Think again.

Most Koreans are well informed about the brutal realities of life in the North but prefer to look the other way. It's much pleasanter to contemplate reunification fantasies such as the one portrayed in a recent hit movie about a cross-border romance between a South Korean woman and a North Korean soldier. Last week's chilling report on the North Korean gulags made it into some South Korean papers but wasn't front-page news. Students demonstrated against Mr. Hwang's U.S. visit last week, protesting his anti-North Korea message.

If the South Korean people seem indifferent to the plight of their brothers and sisters in the North, it's in large part because their political leaders remain silent. President Roh Moo Hyun was a human-rights lawyer before taking office earlier this year but human rights north of the DMZ is way down on his priority list. To his credit, Mr. Roh is allowing Mr. Hwang to visit the U.S.—something his predecessor, Kim Dae Jung (another human-rights activist who lost his voice when it came to the human-rights horrors in the North) refused to permit for fear of angering Kim Jong Il.

The official refusal to speak out about the human-rights abuses of Kim Jong Il's regime was on full display last week during an interview with the South's minister of unification, whom I met on the day the gulag report was released. For North Koreans, Minister Jeong Se Hyun said, "political freedom is a luxury, like pearls for a pig. The improvement of economic conditions for the North Korean people is the most important issue right now."

"Once the economic situation is improved," he said, then North Korea can focus on human rights. As for linking any deal with the North to progress on human rights: "I don't think it would be wise or effective if we try to negotiate the human rights condition or to pursue our policies with human rights as a condition," Mr. Jeong said. In other words: Whatever you do, don't annoy Kim Jong Il.

South Korea's constitution requires it to welcome any North Korean who wants to come to the South. Yet in the 50 years since the end of the Korean War, the South has accepted fewer than 3,000 refugees. Most have

come in the past two years, thanks in large part to the efforts of several private groups dedicated to helping North Koreans find refuge in the South.

The rescuers, many of whom are Christian, differ among themselves over how best to help. One faction prefers to work out of the public eye. Another faction pursues high-profile tactics such as helping asylum-seekers flood embassies in China. Its aim is to draw international attention to the plight of the quarter-million or more North Korean refugees hiding in China.

There's another aspect too—money. "I don't mean to sound mercenary," says Tim Peters, an American missionary here. "But in some respects running into a consulate in China is cost effective." Smuggling a refugee out through Mongolia or Vietnam costs \$1,000 to \$3,000 per person, he says. Mr. Peters adds that money also talks in North Korea's gulags. "It's easier to spring someone from a North Korean prison than from a Chinese prison," he says.

The high-profile tactics are taking their toll on rescuers' ability to help the North Korean refugees in China. Police security around embassies and consulates is tighter than ever. In the past five or six months, the highly effective Chinese intelligence service appears to have replaced provincial police in tracking down refugees. This is one reason, rescuers believe, for the failure of a plan earlier this year to smuggle out two boatloads of refugees from a northern Chinese port.

It is also becoming more treacherous along China's border with North Korea, where two million ethnic Koreans have long helped feed, house and hide those fleeing North Korea. Last month China sent 150,000 soldiers to replace the border guards, a measure viewed in the rescuer community as a crackdown on border crossings.

The four or five South Koreans in jail in China for helping refugees have received little help from their government. In contrast, Japan aggressively sought—and got—the release of two of its citizens arrested in China for helping refugees. It's a powerful deterrent for South Koreans who want to help to realize that their government won't come to their aid if they are arrested.

In Seoul, a few opposition politicians are finally beginning to turn their attention to human rights in the North. Park Jin, spokesman of the Grand National Party, which holds a majority in the National Assembly, faults the Roh government for "avoiding the issue." His party urges the government to do two things: press China to let the United Nations have access to the refugees and prepare South Korea for a possible flood of refugees. "We have an obligation to help," he says.

Another eloquent voice is Kim Suk Woo, former vice minister of unification and now in the powerful post of chief of staff to the speaker of the National Assembly. "As Koreans, we have a duty to support the refugees. As human beings we have a duty to support them," says Mr. Kim. "This kind of exodus could be a catalyst for the collapse of Kim Jong Il's regime."

The Roh administration "is careful not to provoke North Korea," he says. He is particularly scornful of Seoul's refusal last April to support a U.N. resolution condemning the North's human-rights abuses. And he criticizes the decision by the government of Kim Dae Jung—continued by the Roh government—to halt the South's air drops of radios into the North. All radios in North Korea must be registered with the authorities and permanently tuned to government stations. A South Korean radio is a listening post on freedom.

There's a debate in Seoul over Mr. Hwang's motives in calling attention to the North's

human-rights abuses. Some believe him to be sincere; others say he is looking for publicity. But still others suggest the defector could be driven by guilt over what happened after he left Pyongyang. Information doesn't readily make its way out of North Korea. But when it's useful to his purposes, Kim Jong Il makes sure certain news is delivered.

And so the word has filtered back to Mr. Hwang in Seoul about the fate of the family he had left behind. His wife committed suicide. So too, the reports say, did one of his daughters. She is said to have jumped off a bridge to her death while being taken to a prison camp. Two other daughters and a son are lost in the gulag.

This is the reality of life in North Korea—and the truth that Mr. Hwang will be telling in Washington this week.

BURMA

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the continuing and deeply troubling situation in Burma. Last week over 900 Buddhist monks marched through the streets of Mandalay. The military thugs ruling Burma responded by shooting, beating, and smoke bombing the demonstrators.

Unfortunately, news of this latest affront to peace and democracy has not reached a wide audience. With limited exception, the plight of the people of Burma and its duly elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi are never reported in the press.

There is no doubt as to the ruthlessness and brutality of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). The evil dictators continue to rape, enslave, imprison, and murder innocent civilians from every ethnic group. Despite talk about democracy and road maps toward peace and civilian rule, we have seen no tangible and positive steps in that direction. Their actions betray their real motives and goals.

For the past few years, the United Nations has undertaken a process of trying to convince Burma's military regime to engage in a dialogue with the legitimate leaders of Burma. We must recognize that the United Nations process, as it has played out, has failed. The efforts at gently persuading the Burmese regime to move in a positive direction while simultaneously warding off international pressure have been fruitless.

The United Nations must re-evaluate its policies and Burmese strategy. U.N. pronouncements on Burma have not told the world of the full situation in Burma. They have not condemned the military for its actions. We need to find a new U.N. envoy to Burma and give this person the authority to rally international pressure against Burma's military regime.

Although the United States and a number of other nations have increased the pressure on the SPDC, we must encourage other nations, particularly Burma's neighbors, to end their support of the current regime.

India must be made aware that \$57 million lines of credit to the regime and doubling Indo-Burmese trade do not help promote democracy and human rights in Burma.

Thailand must be told that increasing cross border contacts with the Burmese government

will not bring democracy to Burma, stem the flow of refugees across the border, nor end the trade in illegal narcotics currently being supported by the Burmese military.

Freedom will come to Burma. The United States must assist the Burmese forces for freedom and democracy. We must do so sooner, not later.

FINANCIAL PLANNING WEEK RESOLUTION

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 176 to reaffirm the value of sound financial planning in achieving life's goals and to recognize the dedication of American families and financial planning professionals for their adherence to the financial planning process.

Across our Nation, financial planning helps American families manage higher education costs, purchase homes for the first time, and achieve short and long-term financial objectives. Sound financial planning empowers American workers and their families to successfully overcome unexpected financial challenges, preserve personal wealth, and to improve their overall quality of life. As my colleagues and I debate national economic policy in the United States Congress, it is equally important to emphasize the benefits of sound financial planning to the American family.

I would like to commend the Financial Planning Association and its members in South Central Pennsylvania and across our Nation for their work in increasing public awareness about the importance of sound financial planning.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting the financial planning profession and all American families striving to realize the American dream by passing this important resolution and promoting the week of October 6, 2003 as Financial Planning Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on November 4, I was not able to vote on rollcall votes Nos. 602 and 603. I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 602 and "aye" on rollcall 603.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ETHEL RICE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 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. Ethel Rice of Gunnison, Colorado has

provided years of selfless and committed service to Western State College. For her dedication and tremendous generosity, I am honored to pay tribute to Ethel's accomplishments here today.

Ethel served as Western State's librarian for thirty-six years, and helped to ensure that the library ran smoothly. She aided the students, faculty, and guests of Western State in getting the information they needed. In addition to being a librarian, Ethel is a self-made millionaire and philanthropist who has invested her money for years to accumulate a sizable savings. Several years ago, an anonymous donor gave \$1 million to the college. Ethel only recently, and reluctantly, announced that she was the one responsible for this extremely charitable donation. Ethel's tremendous generosity has created two scholarships and helped many Western State students with their education. Her altruistic spirit has even inspired others to make similar donations to the college.

Mr. Speaker, Ethel Rice's generosity and commitment to her community are an inspiration to us all. She has given more than money; she has given hope for generations to come. While Ethel has retired from her position at Western State College, she remains active in the community, and her influence is sure to be felt for many years to come. I am honored to join with my colleagues in recognizing the generosity of Ethel Rice here today.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PARKS AMERICA TOUR VOLUNTEER DAY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the volunteers and organizers of the National Park America Tour. This outstanding event is bringing together community leaders and volunteers to clean and improve our Nation's parks and natural treasures. In my own community, the National Parks America Tour will work to improve Lake Mead on November 8, 2003. Lake Mead is one of the foremost recreational sites in our country, as well as the primary source of water and power for Southern Nevada and much of the Southwestern United States. I am proud to represent Lake Mead and bring attention to its unique value and needs. I salute all of the participants in the National Parks America Tour and its sponsors, Wal-Mart and Unilever. Working together, we can preserve and enhance Lake Mead for the community, tourists, and for future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 602 and 603 on November 4, 2003. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

"Yea" on H. Con. Res. 176—Supporting Financial Planning Week.

"Yea" on H. Con. Res. 94—Direct Support Professional Recognition.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a fine organization, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) which provides public transportation in the Denver metropolitan area. RTD provides a reliable and efficient service to the citizens of Colorado, and was recently recognized with the American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Public Transportation System Award. For its years of excellence and reliability, and its ongoing efforts to improve its service, I am honored to pay tribute to RTD and its employees here today.

Over the years, RTD has worked hard to serve the citizens of Denver, and continues to expand throughout the metropolitan area, serving more and more people each day. Even more impressive than its growth is RTD's commitment to safety and dependability. The administration has pursued an aggressive campaign to improve the safety of the public transportation system with stellar success: the accident rate has been cut in half and is at an all-time low. RTD is also dedicated to making public transportation available to all citizens, installing wheelchair lifts on their whole fleet and providing curb-to-curb service to people unable to use lift-equipped buses.

Mr. Speaker, the Regional Transportation District is committed to providing the people of Denver with safe and reliable public transportation. The employees of RTD continue to work hard to improve the system and to meet the needs of the Denver community. I am honored to join my colleagues here today in recognizing these worthy accomplishments.

BURMA

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to express my frustration with the ongoing situation in Burma. For the past three years, the United Nations, with the full support of the United States, has attempted to spur talks between 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi's political party the National League for Democracy, Burma's ruling military regime, and the country's ethnic groups.

Let me be blunt—that effort and the effort of the U.N. envoy designated to carry it out has failed. It has failed mainly because the regime refuses to participate in the talks. While the regime promises, as it has for the past fifteen years, to make a transition to democracy, there is absolutely zero evidence to suggest that this is true.

To make matters worse, the regime has been attacking and killing the very people they are supposed to be talking to. In May of this

year, the regime attacked and killed scores of Aung San Suu Kyi's supporters. Just last month, the regime attacked and killed members of the Karen ethnic group. And, just a few days ago, the regime opened fire on a demonstration of Buddhist monks, killing one and injuring many more.

We need to breathe new life into this United Nations process, and that will require a serious diplomatic effort. To start with, we need a new United Nations special envoy for Burma—the present envoy's efforts have failed and he as of late has done nothing more than provide political cover for the regime. Second, we need the United Nations Security Council to pass a resolution condemning Burma. Third, the State Department must unequivocally reject "roadmaps" that have been promised by the Burmese regime and their Thai counterparts.

I believe that democracy is possible in Burma, and we agree with Secretary Powell when he said that we need to rally international support to stand up to Burma's "thugs". We need to move quickly to ensure that these words are acted upon.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK W. BALLANCE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, due to a district commitment, I was not present for rollcall votes Nos. 597 through 601. Had I been present, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote no. 598, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote no. 599, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote no. 600, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote no. 601, I would have voted "yes."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHINICHI
KOBAYASHI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to an extraordinary man. Earlier this year Shinichi Kobayashi traveled from his native Japan to Montrose, Colorado. He did this for one reason: to promote friendship and understanding between the children of our two nations.

A veteran educator, Shinichi has taught junior high school in Tokyo for fifteen years. He comes to the United States as part of the International Internship Program, which attempts to organize cultural exchanges in order to promote international understanding. Currently, Mr. Kobayashi is sharing the Japanese culture with students from Cottonwood Elementary School. In addition to teaching, Mr. Kobayashi has become involved in after-school activities in his local community as well. In exchange, the children have taught Shinichi about American culture and the English language, lessons Shinichi will take back with him to Tokyo.

Mr. Speaker, Shinichi Kobayashi has dedicated his time and effort to promoting mutual

understanding and goodwill between Japan and the United States. As the result of this dedication, many of Colorado's young people have had the opportunity to experience Japanese culture firsthand. For his efforts to advance understanding and promote international cooperation, I am honored to join with my colleagues in recognizing Shinichi Kobayashi here today.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF MR.
JOSEPH SHEPP

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph Shepp, who has been awarded the AARP Andrus Award for Community Service in the State of Nevada for 2003. The Andrus Award honors the outstanding volunteering efforts of AARP volunteers and members in every state.

Mr. Shepp provides yet another example of service and volunteerism to the Southern Nevada community. He has demonstrated his service to the community through his service and commitment to organizations like Seniors and Law Enforcement Together and the Senior Assisted Living Project. We in Southern Nevada are fortunate to find yet another role model in Mr. Shepp. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and congratulate him on this well-deserved award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, during an absence yesterday, I regrettably missed rollcall votes 602 and 603. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall No. 602: "yea" and rollcall No. 603: "yea."

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN AUBREY
"FRANK" SPOONER, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 27, the Second Congressional District of Georgia and the entire U.S. House suffered an irreparable loss with the passing of Franklin Aubrey "Frank" Spooner, Jr., who served as a case worker in our Albany, Georgia office for the past six years.

Many people have served in this institution longer but no one could have possibly served with greater courage, commitment, or concern and compassion for the people we strive to help. Although he suffered from a life-threatening health condition when he joined our staff, and was eventually given a terminal diagnosis, Frank worked as often and as hard as he could to the end. Even when death was

near, he focused more on the needs of others than on his own, remaining the same soft spoken, good humored, down-to-earth, hard-working, bright and decent guy we had always known.

Frank was born in Macon, Georgia and raised in Fort Gaines, Georgia. He attended Mercer University in Macon. He was a newspaper reporter; managed retail businesses; operated his own small business when he turned his baseball card hobby into a profession; and served as a social worker and finally a Congressional case worker. He often said he was doing exactly what he wanted to do. For him, there was no higher calling than helping others, and he did it extraordinarily well.

At an early age, he was diagnosed with a congenital kidney problem that eventually led to a transplant at the age of 23. When the transplant failed some years later, he was sustained with regular kidney dialysis. Several years ago, he was found to have cancer. Eventually, his condition proved to be untreatable. He died at the age of 49 at the Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Della Spooner Bell of Albany; a brother, Robert A. McKay (Juline) of Bushnell, Florida; an uncle, R.S. Spooner of Donalsonville, Georgia, and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins. Our prayers go out to his family.

The Frank Spooner I have known would likely be embarrassed by all of the praise that has come his way in recent days from the many people who loved him, worked with him, and were helped by him. He would say he was not doing anything special—just doing his job as best he could.

Frank did his best—and left the world a better place because of it.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANCES
GRAY "PEGGY" RICHARDS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 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 an outstanding citizen from my district. Frances Gray "Peggy" Richards of Durango, Colorado recently passed away at the age of eighty-three. Peggy was very active in her community and cared deeply for her fellow Coloradans. As her family and friends mourn her passing, I am honored to pay tribute to Peggy here today.

Peggy was a powerhouse of community service, beginning in the mid-1950s when she served as the Pagosa Springs Town Clerk and Justice of the Peace. During the 1960s, she served simultaneously as an Archuleta County Judge and the Chief Judge of the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Council, while remaining active in numerous community groups. Over the years, Peggy worked as Executive Director of the Southern Ute Community Action Programs and Director of Program Operations for Up-land, Inc., promoting rural development in eleven Colorado counties and three American Indian reservations. In addition, Peggy was the Director of Economic Development for the Southern Ute Tribe, where she wrote the Tribal Comprehensive Plan and generated \$15

million in much needed funds through grants and loans.

Mr. Speaker, Peggy Richards dedicated her life to her community, and many of the successful development projects in southern Colorado can be traced back to Peggy's hard work. She was truly one in a million, and while Peggy has passed, her legacy is sure to live on. I am honored to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to the life and memory of Frances Gray "Peggy" Richards. My thoughts are with her family during this difficult time.

PIONEER OF THE YEAR

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. SHERMAN, all from California, rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and an outstanding citizen, Michael Eisner, who will be receiving the prestigious "Pioneer of the Year" award from the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation on December 4. As Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Walt Disney Company, Michael is exceptionally deserving of this recognition. His wise stewardship of this multi-national company has led to a prodigious enhancement of its influence, reputation and scope.

Born in Mt. Kisco, New York to Lester and Margaret E. Eisner, Michael was raised in a caring environment with two successful parents as role models. His father was a famous litigator and public servant who at one time administered the Department of Housing and Urban Development. His mother was co-founder of the American Safety Razor Company and president of a medical research institute. His parents required two hours of reading for every hour of television and strictly rationed their children's consumption of sitcoms and movies.

Michael enrolled in Denison University, initially as a pre-med student. He soon changed his major, however, to reflect his interest in English literature and the theater. A summer job as a page at NBC studios in New York gave him his first taste of the entertainment industry.

Michael's meteoric rise to prominence in the entertainment industry began at ABC, where he made his mark, initially as Director of Program Development for the East Coast, then as Vice President for Daytime Programming and by 1976, as Senior Vice President for Prime Time Production and Development. Under his guidance, the network rose from third to first place among the networks.

In 1977, he took the post of President and Chief Operating Officer of Paramount Pictures, where his leadership brought the studio to become number one in box office and profitability.

Michael cemented his status as a leader in the entertainment industry in September, 1984, when he left Paramount to become Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Walt Disney Company, the position he holds to this day. His business acumen and strong work ethic helped him lead Disney through di-

versification and aggressive, but intelligent management. Under Michael's guidance, Disney grew from \$1.7 billion in assets in 1984 to over \$10 billion just ten years later.

Eisner has strongly encouraged Disney and its employees to support local communities and in 1997, he committed to one million hours of community service, helping rebuild the burned First AME Zion church in South-Central Los Angeles, and establishing GOALS—a free youth hockey program for underprivileged youngsters in Orange County, Calif. Under his leadership, Disney has developed two major television events recognizing educators and students: Disney's American Teacher Awards brings together and recognizes 35 of the nation's finest teachers annually and Disney's Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra each year assembles young musicians from North America and Europe for a two-week music camp and an opportunity to perform at a major venue.

Not content to be a master of diversification in the corporate entertainment world, Michael also serves on a number of boards of charitable and civic organizations. He is a trustee of the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), the American Film Institute and Denison University, his alma mater. He is a Founding Member of the Points of Light Foundation. His success in the entertainment industry has earned him high acclaim and his work has been recognized with many awards and honors, including the International Radio and Television Society Gold Medal Award (1992) and his induction into the Academy of Achievement's Hall of Business (1994).

Michael and his wife Jane are the extremely proud parents of three sons, Breck, Eric and Anders. The family resides in Los Angeles where they are well known for their generous philanthropy. The Eisner Foundation, which they founded in 1996 with an initial \$89 million grant, funds children's organizations, public schools, medical and dental-care programs with a special emphasis on helping Southern Californians. The Eisner Foundation is headed by Jane Eisner.

We feel extremely fortunate to have a person like Michael Eisner in our community. Southern California is a better place because of his willingness to give back to his community.

Mr. Speaker, we invite our colleagues to join us in saluting Michael for his myriad accomplishments, and in congratulating him on being named the "Pioneer of the Year" by the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation. We wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HELENE
MONBERG

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise before this body of Congress to honor the memory of a great citizen. Helene Monberg recently passed away at the age of eighty-four. Helene was the respected and well-liked former Washington Correspondent for The Pueblo Chieftain and Star-Journal. As Colorado and the larger community mourn her passing, I would like to pay tribute to her memory here today.

Helene began her career as a reporter for the Leadville Record and, in 1942, took the pioneering step of being the first full-time female employee of the Washington Bureau of United Press International. Helene began reporting for the Chieftain in 1947, and extensively covered water and land issues in the West, as well as the education issues she cared for deeply in her heart. In 1965, she started Western Resources Wrap-Up, a newsletter designed to update people on issues related to natural resources. Helene also founded the Achievement Scholarship Program in 1973, and has donated to other scholarships to ensure underprivileged children can attend college.

Mr. Speaker, Helene Monberg was a woman of honesty and compassion. Through the years, she proved herself a dedicated journalist and a committed philanthropist. Helene was a great American, a great journalist, and most importantly, a great person. I join with my colleagues today in honoring her memory and her life here today. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote for rollcall vote No. 591 on October 30. Had I been able, I would have voted "nay."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an inventor and entrepreneur from my district. Russell Taylor of Grand Junction, Colorado saw a need in the community for cellular phones that everyone could afford, and created a phone to fit that need. For his innovation and ingenuity, I am honored to pay tribute to Russell here today.

Russell recently invented a disposable cellular phone, a phone that does not cost a fortune or require the user to sign a lengthy contract. He believes that many people shy away from cell phones because of the high costs, and intimidating contracts. Russell also feels that people who deny themselves a cell phone, may be denying themselves an essential tool in an emergency situation. His concern for his fellow citizens prompted him to create this disposable phone. Russell's invention provides security and peace-of-mind to many Coloradans, allowing them to stay in contact while driving through Colorado's mountains, and call for help if necessary. Russell's phone is becoming a popular commodity in the Grand Junction region, and many of his fellow Coloradans thank him for the convenience his creation has afforded them.

Mr. Speaker, Russell Taylor is an example of American ingenuity. He saw a need and

turned his attention to solving it. Because of Russell's hard work and determination, countless people will now have access to cell phones, a necessity in today's society. For his creativity and inventiveness, I am honored to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to Russell Taylor here today.

HONORING WAYNE TANAKA ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Wayne Tanaka on his appointment as the Honorary Consul General of Japan in Las Vegas, Nevada. Wayne has been a dedicated public servant throughout his career. I am proud that Wayne has been given this high honor by the Japanese government.

Wayne Tanaka started his career as an educator in the Clark County School District in 1972. He spent 28 years teaching in the fastest growing school district in the country, never losing his commitment to excellence or his desire to give every child an education that would give them the knowledge and character they need in later life. Wayne completed his career as principal of Clark High School in 2001.

Wayne is now serving as principal of the Andre Agassi Preparatory Academy, a charter school dedicated to giving inner-city children the resources and education they need to succeed in life. Wayne's own personal commitment to these goals have made the Academy a success, and an example to schools throughout the country.

As the new Honorary Consul for Japan, Wayne will be able to give his students, not only firsthand knowledge of Japan and the strong friendship and economic relationship between it and the United States, but also a visible sign of the rewards of leadership, dignity, and community commitment. I am proud to call Wayne Tanaka my friend and urge the House to join me in honoring him today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JACQUELYN SCHICK

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Jacquelyn Schick spent the last forty years acting for the betterment of the people of Pagosa Springs, Colorado. Recently, Jackie announced her retirement from her position as the Pagosa Springs Town Clerk. When news of the retirement reached the citizens of Pagosa Springs, there was an outpouring of gratitude for Jackie's years of service. Because of her selfless and caring nature, Jackie is truly a beloved member of her community, and it is my honor to call her contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

Jackie and her husband Gene moved to Pagosa Springs in 1955. After she volunteered in the Town Clerk's Office for two years, the Town Board asked Jackie to hold the Clerk position permanently. As Town Clerk, Jackie was compassionate, caring and dedicated. She always approached her job with the best interests of the citizens of Pagosa Springs in mind, and did a fine job in serving them.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege today to pay tribute to a woman who has spent her life serving her fellow Coloradans. Although the citizens of Pagosa Springs will miss having Jackie as their Town Clerk, she remains a tremendous asset to the Pagosa Springs community. Today I join the people of Pagosa Springs in thanking Jackie for her service.

REVEREND DR. AVERY ALDRIDGE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay homage to a very dear friend of mine, Reverend Dr. Avery Aldridge. Reverend Aldridge passed away in his sleep at his residence in Flint, Michigan on Saturday, November 1, 2003 at the age of 78. I am deeply saddened by this great loss, for Reverend Aldridge was an inspiring and positive force for Genesee County, the State and Nation. He was a true friend and advisor. I will miss him greatly.

Dr. Avery Aldridge was born on February 9, 1925 in Widener, Arkansas. He organized The Foss Avenue Baptist Church, located at 1159 E. Foss Avenue, Flint, Michigan on December 2, 1956. Under his leadership Foss Avenue Baptist Church has organized 50 auxiliaries and committees to carry out the work of the Lord. Dr. Aldridge also founded several enterprises to serve the membership and community. Those enterprises are the Foss Avenue Dairy Queen, Foss Avenue Free Clothing Center, Foss Avenue Federal Credit Union, Avery Aldridge Family Life Center, which was the first of its kind to be opened in Flint, and the Foss Avenue Christian School of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Church's current facilities and enterprises are valued at over \$3 million. Through Dr. Aldridge's leadership, Foss Avenue Baptist Church has grown to be a tremendously influential Church in Genesee County. One of the greatest blessings of being a father is to know that your children turn out well. Dr. Aldridge has that blessing. On February 10, 2002, Dr. Aldridge installed his son, Reverend Derek Aldridge, as the new Pastor of Foss Avenue Baptist Church.

Dr. Aldridge made his mark in history when he became involved in the civil rights movement of the 1960's. His no nonsense and non-violent approach helped to calm the tension in the City of Flint, after the 1967 rioting in Detroit. Dr. Aldridge was the voice of the community. He fought for better education and work opportunities, not only for the African Americans, but also for all people. Dr. Aldridge from that moment forward was revered as the Civil Rights Leader for Genesee County. In 1969, he founded the Concerned Pastors for Social Action (CPSA) to rid the community of local institutional racism, and to improve the relationship between the community and the police.

The CPSA has worked hard to ensure that the voice of the people is heard loud and clear among those wanting to hold public office. Because of the work of the CPSA, political candidates and elected officials have become more sensitive to the needs of the people. During the early 1980's, Dr. Aldridge led the petition to have Detroit Street, located in the inner city of Flint, renamed to Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Dr. Aldridge stated that the renamed Street would serve as "a role model for youngsters in the inner city." The change was approved by City Council in 1987. Dr. Aldridge remained President of the CPSA until 1999, when he had to resign due to illness.

Dr. Aldridge during his life held several leadership roles within the Church community. He served as President of the Wolverine State Congress of Christian Education and Convention Coordinator for the National Baptist Convention for 25 years. He was Vice President and Director General of the National Baptist Congress for 4 years, and he also served on the Board of Directors for the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and the Sunday School Publishing Board, Nashville, Tennessee. He was also a member of the Todd Philips Children's Home Board of Directors—Detroit, Mott Children's Health Center, Michigan National Bank, Flint Housing Commission Board of Directors, Advisory Board of the Flint Goodwill Industries, Professional Advisory Board Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors Girl Scout Council and of the Boy Scouts of America, and as a Commissioner on the National Holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Board. Dr. Aldridge also held the position of Instructor and Member of the Baptist Ministers Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Aldridge leaves to cherish and carry on his legacy his beautiful and devoted wife of 54 years, Dr. Mildred Aldridge, his son, Reverend Derek Aldridge, his daughter, Karen Aldridge-Eason, and nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in offering condolences to the family of Dr. Avery Aldridge, and in thanking them for sharing Dr. Aldridge with our community.

Mr. Speaker, my message to his congregation and all of our community is as follows.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble in heart." [Matthew 11:29]

It takes a strong person to be meek, a strong person to be in charge of his passions and emotions.

Reverend Avery Aldridge was such a person.

He was strong in his love of God.
He was strong in his love of the Church.
He was strong in his love of family.
He was strong in his pursuit of justice.
He was strong in his effort to eliminate injustice.

And all this deep strength, he exercised humbly, as an instrument of God's Holy Will. Because of Dr. Aldridge's strength, anchored in humility and meekness, this community is a better community.

This Church is a stronger representation of the Mystical Body of Christ.

All of us here in this Church are better people because of that strength of faith and action of Doctor Avery Aldridge.

The greatest tribute we can render to Dr. Avery Aldridge is to emulate
his love,
his dedication,

his humility, and
his Christ centered strength.

Dr. Aldridge, as a triumphant member of the Communion of Saints, please ask Almighty God to shower His Blessings upon us that we might use our strength to carry out God's Holy Will.

WARREN HEYER: PROFESSOR,
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, AND PUBLIC
ADVOCATE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Warren Heyer, one of my district's most persistent and effective community advocates.

As a young man, Heyer served in World War II, where he saw combat in General George S. Patton's 3rd Army and took part in the liberation of a Nazi concentration camp. After witnessing the horror of war and genocide, he became an ardent anti-war activist. And in the mid-1960s, his activism focused on his community.

After Heyer graduated from San Diego State College in 1950, he taught in a local elementary school—where he met his first wife, Roberta Calvert, who passed away in 1996. He continued his education, receiving a Master's degree in librarianship, and worked as a librarian at both San Diego High School and San Diego City College. In 1964, he was a founding faculty member of Mesa College, where he was instrumental in developing numerous important school policies. He was the elected chairman of the Library Department, a position he held until 1979, when he retired. Retirement did not stop his service to the college: he continued to serve as an adjunct librarian, training and assisting new employees and students.

He was also a central figure in the efforts to re-zone his community of Encanto. If it were not for Warren Heyer, the quiet and inviting character of Encanto would have been lost. He served as vice-chairman of the Southeast San Diego Development Committee and went door-to-door to gain support for his efforts, without which, I am convinced, the planning measure would not have passed.

Heyer suffered a stroke in Chichicastenango, Guatemala, where he was building a church on behalf of a humanitarian organization. He died as he lived: putting others before himself and working for the betterment of society.

My deepest condolences go to Heyer's family; his wife Patricia and his three children: Kathryn, Robin, and Andrew.

William Heyer was a model constituent and his legacy will continue to benefit my district for years and years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TRAVIS
THOMPSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary

talents of a dedicated young mandolin player from Pueblo, Colorado. Travis Thompson is the national champion of the prestigious Walnut Valley Festival. He provides enjoyment and inspiration to all who are fortunate enough to hear him play.

Travis is only the fifth Coloradan to receive this prestigious title since the addition of the mandolin competition to the festival in 1976. He began playing the instrument at age 11 after meeting his idol, Chris Thile of Nickel Creek, at a music festival. Several years later, Travis made his first of three attempts to reach the finals of the contest. His diligence and persistence have placed Travis on the path to eventually joining the ranks of bluegrass icons such as Alison Krause.

Travis hails from a family of musicians. His father, sister, and mother play the guitar, fiddle, and bass respectively in the performance group Second Wind. Not only does this young man pursue excellence in the entertainment field, but he also runs track and maintains a 3.6 grade-point average at Rye High School.

Mr. Speaker, Travis Thompson's gift motivates other citizens to follow their dreams. His devotion and enthusiasm certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. It is my privilege to pay tribute to Travis for his contributions to the Colorado community.

THINNING ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH
TO PROTECT HOMES FROM FOREST
FIRES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the Senate recently passed a revised version of H.R. 1904, the "Healthy Forests" bill and the administration has made plain its desire that action on this legislation be completed soon.

The bill deals with several other matters, but most attention has been focused on Title I, which deals with forest-thinning projects on federal lands.

I support well-designed thinning projects that are focused where they will do the most good—but I do not think such projects, alone, will be enough.

To illustrate what I have in mind, I want to bring to the attention of our colleagues a story from the Boulder, Colorado Daily Camera.

The story focuses on the efforts of homeowners in Boulder County to protect their homes and the way that their efforts paid off during wildfires. Such "defensible space" measures, based on common sense can be readily adopted by homeowners, and there are many available sources of assistance. For example, in our state the Colorado State Forest Service has a program to help private property owners assess their property for fire and develop a plan to help reduce risks. These and other programs—such as actions by local government to require the use of fire-resistant materials and other steps to reduce fire risks—can go a long way to help prevent and reduce the losses from wildfires. It would also be desirable for the nation's insurance industry to lend its assistance to encourage people whose insured property is in forested areas to take some responsible steps to make their homes more defensible from fire.

We cannot stop all fires—nor should we, because fire is a natural part of many forested ecosystems. But we can work together to reduce the risks to lives and property. We need to look beyond jurisdictional boundaries and help encourage all techniques—such as defensible space—that will make homes, communities and watersheds more resistant to the more catastrophic and damaging effects from fire when it inevitably does come.

[From the Daily Camera, Nov. 4, 2003]

FIRE PRECAUTIONS SAVE HOMES

FIRE-RESISTANT MATERIALS, THINNED TREES
CREDITED

(By Mary Butler)

All his neighbors told David Mitchell that they thought his house had burned in last week's Overland Fire outside of Jamestown. "But when I drove up to the place the next morning," he said, "about a 2-foot ring around the house wasn't burnt."

The 2,800-square-foot home on County Road 87, where several other homes burned to the ground, was unscathed.

Mitchell credits efforts made to create "defensible space," such as thinning trees, how his home was positioned and his driveway's alignment, for helping to spare the house from the fast-moving fire's path Wednesday.

Even if flames came close enough to lick the home's exterior, he said, fire-resistant materials such as Rastra concrete, Styrofoam blocks and steel roofing used to build the house would have delayed its ignition.

"The fire was so hot, if we had made the building from wood, it would have caught fire anyway," he said.

Since the early 1990s, Boulder County has required new homes and large additions to homes in unincorporated mountain communities to be built with wildfires in mind.

"When you build a new house, you're required to have a fire mitigation plan," said Eric Philips, county wildfire mitigation coordinator.

For instance, cedar shake shingles are banned from use on mountain homes. In some areas, "noncombustible" materials such as stucco, stone and cement siding are required. Tree thinning is also a must.

A site-by-site evaluation is made to determine what mitigation efforts ought to be made, Philips said.

Taking such precautions is thought to have saved at least one neighborhood in Southern California, where wildfires ravaged thousands of homes in recent weeks.

The New York Times on Sunday dedicated a front-page story to the Stevenson Ranch neighborhood. The story described the neighborhood's streets as wide, the homes' roofs as fire retardant, the landscaping as moist and the surrounding hillsides as irrigated and cleared of brush.

Some of the homes' features include double-glazed window panes that resist heat and breakage, stucco-sealed eaves to keep sparks from getting into attics and oversized address numbers for easy identification. Even some of the swimming pools are equipped with valves that allow firefighters to draw the water, the article said.

Whether homeowners' fire-prevention measures made a difference in the Overland Fire, Philips said, has yet to be assessed.

But many Lefthand Canyon-area homeowners, including Mitchell, say they did.

"Thinning trees gives us a fighting chance," said Nolan Farmer, whose Overland Road home was within 40 yards of the 3,500-acre blaze.

He credits tree thinning a team of Boulder County inmates did on his property seven

years ago for saving his property. The work was well worth the \$50 he paid then, Farmer said.

Farmer also built his house with a metal roof, sealed redwood siding and without decks in the event that flames might come up against his home of 12 years.

John and Susan Bernart's Overland Road home, which overlooks the hillside blackened in the blaze, wasn't directly threatened by the fire.

But John Bernart says he had peace of mind knowing that its straw-bale and stucco construction could hold its own against wildfire. Besides being energy efficient, the insulating materials are also extremely fire resistant.

"There are straw-bale houses that are 500 years old in Europe," Bernart said. Still, he said, "We're hopeful we won't have to face this kind of threat again. Our strike of lightning has come and gone."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL PORTER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. Recently, the Colorado Trappers Association recognized Bill Porter as "Trapper of the Year." Not only is Bill a talented and dedicated trapper, he is also an outstanding steward of wildlife, and I believe that it is important to pay tribute to his contributions here today.

Bill began trapping at the age of eleven in order to supplement his family's income. Over the last 25 years, he has refined his skills to become one of the best trappers in Colorado. Bill approaches trapping with the importance of preserving wildlife in mind. He focuses exclusively on capturing destructive and threatening animals.

Bill is good-natured and has a great sense of humor. He often uses these positive character traits when teaching students and young trappers the importance of legal and ethical trapping. Aside from technical knowledge and ethics, Bill also stresses the importance of working closely with the Division of Wildlife in a combined effort to assure the conservation of animals and their habitats.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation the accomplishments of Bill Porter. Bill is a man who has spent his life in harmony with nature. His dedication to his trade, and willingness to pass along his knowledge and morals to the next generation, is truly admirable. Congratulations, Bill.

**CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN
BURMA**

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to address the current state of affairs in Burma. For years, Burma's military rulers have retained control through the use of rape, murder, torture, and imprisonment. Many of my

colleagues and I co-sponsored the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, H.R. 2330, in an effort to sanction this regime for its egregious human rights violations and to shed light on the atrocities being committed.

Another action taken to help bring about change in Burma was the assignment of a United Nations envoy to this chaotic region. Unfortunately, many of my colleagues and I now feel that the United Nations process put in place to help bring about change in Burma is seriously flawed. The UN envoy to Burma has done more to diffuse international pressure on the junta than he has to improve human rights conditions there.

Conditions are not improving, they are worsening. Aung San Suu Kyi, 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner and leader of the country's true government, remains under house arrest while the people of Burma are being slaughtered. Just a few days ago, members of Burma's military regime shot at a crowd of demonstrating monks, killing at least one and injuring many more.

In addition, Thailand, Burma's neighbor, has become increasingly friendly with the SPDC, the regime responsible for this bloodshed. Thai authorities deport Burmese migrant workers and other refugees with little concern for their welfare, turning a blind eye to the oppression that awaits them and in violation of international law. The UN has done little to change the relationship between these two nations.

As we approach the next meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, we must be cognizant that the process has failed. We need to strengthen the authority of the UN envoy and replace him with someone capable of rallying international support for change. The present system is not working—let's fix it.

**IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT EU-
GENE RUARK'S RETIREMENT
FROM SOLANO COUNTY HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPART-
MENT, SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
BUREAU**

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Robert Ruark, whose retirement from his position as Chief Criminal Investigator of the Solano County Health and Social Services, Special Investigations Bureau will commence on Thursday, November 6, 2003. During his fourteen year career with the county, Chief Ruark has established himself as an extraordinary leader in law enforcement. At his retirement, his many accomplishments and hard work will be recognized within the community of his colleagues and friends.

Robert Eugene Ruark was born in Turlock, California on November 4, 1946. After graduating from Turlock High School in 1964, Robert went on to attend Modesto Community College where he earned an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. He then attended Chapman University in 1968 where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Sciences. Desiring to put his education to work, Mr. Ruark entered the U.S. Army as a Military Policeman and then served in the Republic of Vietnam as a Military Police Investigator. In 1969, Mr. Ruark graduated from the

U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Course which allowed him to serve as a CID Special Agent until his retirement as a Chief Warrant Officer Four (CW4) in 1989.

In April that same year, he received his appointment as the Criminal Investigator II for the Special Investigations Bureau, Solano Health and Social Services Department and became a member of the California Welfare Fraud Investigators Association. In four short years he was promoted to the position of Supervising Criminal Investigator. His current rank as Chief Criminal Investigator was received in August of 2000.

Robert's dedication to the community is not limited to his work in law enforcement. His desire to serve the community as a positive influence motivated his ordainment to the priesthood of the Orthodox Christian Church in 1996. Upon his retirement from law enforcement, he will continue to serve the community as the pastor of St. Timothy Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church, as he has done since January of 1997. Through his work as pastor he cooperates with a local area food bank to distribute food to many of the areas homeless and those living at or below the poverty level.

However, of all his accomplishments he is probably most proud of his successful 32 year relationship with his wife, Alida, and his two wonderful children: William and Stephanie. Stephanie's daughters, Mikayla and Brianna, have further enriched his personal life.

His fellow employees of the Solano County Health and Social Services, Special Investigation Bureau will forever remember Chief Ruark's extraordinary leadership and contributions to the community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN CENTA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a man from my district with a genuine zest for life. John Centa of Pueblo, Colorado recently turned one hundred years old. Throughout his century of life, John has spread joy to countless people whom he has met along the way. I am proud to call the attention of this body of Congress and this nation to the contributions that John has made to the Pueblo community.

As a child, John helped his father on his family's farm in Kansas. He then moved to Pueblo, where he was employed with Nuckolls Packing Company for twenty years. Next, John went to work with CF&I in Pueblo. Prior to retirement, John and his friend Don English went into business together as the co-owners of Pueblo's Hurricane Car Wash, which they successfully operated for more than two decades.

Each morning, John shares his boundless energy and ceaseless positive attitude in daily interactions with his many friends throughout Pueblo. One of John's favorite places to share his love of life is on the dance floor. A long time member of the Southern Colorado Family Polka Club, John is an immensely popular dance partner. Those who know him well attribute John's health to his great sense of humor, positive attitude, and ability to find joy in the simple things in life.

Mr. Speaker, John Centa has an uncanny ability to draw others into his daily celebration of life. All of those lucky enough to cross his path are better off for having met him. I am honored to pay tribute to him here today. Thanks John, and happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSO- CIATION

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 280, which recognizes the 100th anniversary of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association.

As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Subcommittee on Highways, Transit, and Pipelines, I believe it is important that we understand and appreciate the efforts of the Association to improve our Nation's quality of life, and the impact that their products make on our nation's infrastructure and economy.

The National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association is the largest mining trade association in the world.

Its members work tirelessly to provide our Nation with a strong and durable infrastructure. The association encourages and helps aggregate producers to meet and improve upon environmental, health, and safety standards.

We should not forget the importance of aggregates in our daily life: approximately 400 tons of aggregate is used on one home; it makes up 80% of concrete and 94% of asphalt.

We should not forget the importance of aggregates to our economy: every \$1 billion in additional investment in highways creates 47,500 additional jobs.

As we build new homes for American families, new roads and bridges to carry us across this great land, and new schools and hospitals to provide our towns with the best services available, we should remember that the National Stone, Sand & Gravel association and its members provide the foundation for our Nation's infrastructure.

For this, I am honored to join with my colleagues to show my appreciation for this great organization.

PROVIDING RELIABLE OFFICERS, TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION, COM- MUNITY PROSECUTORS, AND TRAINING IN OUR NEIGHBOR- HOODS ACT OF 2003

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a public safety bill for the second week in a row. My current bill would reauthorize the successful Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program that has used federal funds to help put more cops on the

streets and to fund community policing. Like a similar Senate bill sponsored by Sen. JOSEPH BIDEN, Jr. (D-DE) and almost 50 other Senators, my bill seeks to head off the shut down of the COPS program, as forecast by the President's 2004 fiscal year budget, which severely cut COPS and critical community policing projects. Last week, I introduced the Crime Victims Assistance Act of 2003 to provide enhanced rights and protections for victims of federal crimes. This bill also has been introduced in the Senate.

As a member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, I have watched police departments here and across the country pressed increasingly into protecting the homeland from potential terrorism. Our police need funding and support from the federal government now more than ever if they also are to continue to focus on the indispensable everyday duties of protecting their communities from street violence and other crime. My bill would provide funding to help police departments put more officers on the beat, purchase high-tech crime fighting tools and technology such as patrol car cameras, pay overtime devoted to community policing and homeland security, and reimburse officers for college or graduate school. Also, my bill would help the U.S. Attorney's office hire more community prosecutors who interact closely with the people they serve. The District of Columbia has been a pioneer in community prosecution, which links prosecutors to specific police districts and neighborhoods.

Recent studies show that COPS grants played a critical role in the crime drop of the nineties. Now with cities like the District experiencing alarming criminal activity, police departments need all the help they can get to find real solutions for handling the heavy double burden of balancing the securing of citizens from terrorism along with protecting them from violence and other crime in their neighborhoods.

Since it was created in the 1994 Crime bill, COPS has awarded more than \$8 billion to police departments to hire or re-deploy almost 120,000 community police officers across the country. In FY 2003, the COPS office awarded \$635 million in grants nationwide, and almost \$7.5 million to the District, \$3 million for Metropolitan Police Department homeland security overtime. In September, I announced a \$750,000 grant for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to hire 10 new Metro officers who will perform community policing and homeland security functions. Many other jurisdictions received similar grants.

My bill will fund the COPS program through 2009. A key change would authorize a new, permanent COPS Overtime Program.

I urge my colleagues to continue to reauthorize the COPS program.

HONORING RICHARD RODRIGUEZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a long time member of the United Farm Workers, Richard Rodriguez. Richard passed away this past Sunday, November 2, 2003.

Born on February 3, 1930, Richard was a life long resident of Los Angeles, California. He married his sweetheart, Esther Aguilar, on June 30, 1950. Together, they raised five children, nine grandchildren, and twelve great grandchildren.

A loyal supporter of the labor movement, Richard retired from Teamsters Local 357 in 1996. However, his commitment to improving the lives of working families did not cease. With his wife Esther at his side, Richard continued to actively participate as a proud mem-

ber of the United Farm Workers (UFW), participating in rallies in Watsonville, Sacramento, and Yuma, California. During pilgrimages, he took it upon himself to provide meals, motivation and leadership. Richard also displayed great talent in creating many banners and flags to spread Cesar Chavez's message of workers' rights. His public service went beyond the labor movement. He was a long time community activist who provided gift baskets each Christmas to the less fortunate of Mon-

terey Park and other surrounding communities.

Throughout his life, Richard wore his Teamsters jacket and carried his red UFW banner with enormous pride. He represented the very best that the labor movement and our community has to offer. We will forever remember his dedication to others. His death is a great loss, but we were so fortunate to have known this great citizen.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 2003 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 7

9:30 a.m.
 Joint Economic Committee
 To hold joint hearings to examine the current employment situation. SD-628

NOVEMBER 12

9:30 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold hearings to examine state use of tobacco settlement funds. SR-253

Environment and Public Works
 Business meeting to consider S. 1072, to authorize funds for Federal-aid high-

ways, highway safety programs, and transit programs. SD-406

Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the threat of agroterrorism. SD-342

10 a.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 To hold oversight hearings to examine the implementation of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program. SD-366

2 p.m.
 Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Scott J. Bloch, of Kansas, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel; to be immediately followed by a hearing on S. 1358, to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosure of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in non-disclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel. SD-342

Judiciary
 Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
 To hold oversight hearings to examine activities of the United States Sentencing Commission. SD-226

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 Securities and Investment Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine the Financial Accounting Standards Board and small business growth. SD-538

NOVEMBER 13

9:30 a.m.
 Armed Services
 To hold hearings to examine current Army issues. SH-216

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold hearings to examine GAO's report on cable rate increases. SR-253

2 p.m.
 Judiciary
 Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine state and local authority to enforce immigration law relating to terrorism. SD-226

2:30 p.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 Water and Power Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine S. 1085, to provide for a Bureau of Reclamation program to assist states and local communities in evaluating and developing rural and small community water supply systems, S. 1732, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a rural water supply program in the Reclamation States to provide a clean, safe, affordable, and reliable water supply to rural residents, S. 1211, to further the purposes of title XVI of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, the "Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act", by directing the Secretary of the Interior to undertake a demonstration program for water reclamation in the Tularosa Basin of New Mexico, S. 1727, to authorize additional appropriations for the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978, and S. 1791, to amend the Lease Lot Conveyance Act of 2002 to provide that the amounts received by the United States under that Act shall be deposited in the reclamation fund. SD-366