

Mancos, Colorado. Jack Ott has devoted the majority of his life to preserving our nation's forests. His enthusiasm spirals throughout the community, as he encourages others to respect their environment. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Jack's tremendous service to the Mancos community.

Jack has recently been recognized by the San Juan Chapter of the Society of American Foresters for his fifty year membership in the organization. After graduating from Michigan State University in 1952, he joined the U.S. Forest Service, spending thirty years in the Rocky Mountain Region. Jack began his service to this nation in the Korean War and today is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and National Rifle Association. He is also an active member of the community, serving as the Treasurer of the Mancos Masonic Lodge and a dynamic member of the Mancos United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Ott is a dedicated individual who uses his talent to enrich the lives of members of his Mancos community. Jack has demonstrated a love for forestry that resonates in his compassionate and selfless service to his town. Jack's enthusiasm and commitment to this nation certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE NURSES OF MONTGOMERY HOSPITAL ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the hard-working nurses of Montgomery Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania in anticipation of the upcoming National Nurses Week from May 6–12, 2004.

Though National Nurses Week gives us an opportunity to celebrate all nurses in this country, particularly those serving in the armed forces, I want to specially recognize the nursing staff and nursing leadership of Montgomery Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania. Their tireless commitment to providing quality care is exemplary and I want to say "thank you" on behalf of the people of the Norristown area and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Outside of Philadelphia, Montgomery Hospital is the oldest general hospital in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The original hospital was located in a vacant school at Powell and Basin Streets in Norristown. Originally named "Charity Hospital of Montgomery County," the Hospital opened its doors on January 1, 1891 with a staff of just six. Today, Montgomery Hospital Medical Center occupies two city blocks in the heart of Norristown. It is Norristown's largest private sector employer with over 1,300 individuals on staff. The entire staff at Montgomery Hospital, including its nurses, remains committed to providing the highest quality of care to all their patients.

As Montgomery Hospital has changed, so has the nursing profession. Nurses today require more and more training and education. Their jobs are also much more specialized. In fact, 49 states now allow advanced practice

nurses to prescribe medications. In the future, as our healthcare systems continue to evolve, I am certain the nursing profession will as well. One thing is clear, nurses will play a vital role in the future of healthcare in America.

Today, there are nearly 2.7 million registered nurses in the United States. These nurses are working every day to save lives and maintain the health of millions of Americans. As a profession, they are one of the most respected and admired for their hard work and commitment to their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, National Nurses Week is an appropriate way to honor the work of all our nation's nurses and I urge my colleagues to join me in this regard. And to the dedicated nurses at Montgomery Hospital, I say thank you for your efforts.

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY 2004

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge today, April 22, as Earth Day 2004. It is a day for Americans to recognize our responsibility to protect our environment and enhance our quality of life. Our air, water, land and other natural resources sustain human life, and it is our duty as stewards of this planet to safeguard these resources for us and for future generations.

With the growth of eco-tourism, environmental protection and economic growth can both advance together. Protecting sensitive land not only preserves our natural heritage but enhances the value of surrounding areas and our quality of life. In South Texas I have helped protect numerous natural resources that grace this region. I secured funding to expand the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Texas World Birding Center in Roma, Texas, and I continue to lead and support efforts to complete the Missions Trail in San Antonio and the Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail. In addition, I have supported legislation such as the Yellowstone Protection Act and the National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act to protect our precious national lands. Protecting these valuable resources is important, contributes to a healthy ecosystem, and provides enjoyment and recreation to hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

I encourage every Texan to take a moment today to appreciate the natural beauty of our state and also to consider taking actions that can decrease pollution. Simple actions such as recycling, car-pooling, and turning off the television when no one is watching can contribute to large pollution reductions. Working with the entire community, individuals can help reduce pollution in Texas. Decreasing pollution levels can improve the lives of Texans and all Americans by reducing the number of pollution induced illnesses, such as asthma and cancer. Put simply, lowering pollution saves lives and increases economic productivity.

As a nation, we are moving in the right direction. Pollution levels have greatly decreased since the first Earth Day in 1970, and we continue to achieve greater pollution control. I will continue fighting to reduce pollution and to protect our natural resources while

building for a bright economic future. I believe that environmentalists and businesses can unite to develop strategies that can respect our health, ecosystem, and promote economic growth, and I look forward to achieving that goal.

TRIBUTE TO BUSTER AGLIANO

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Buster Agliano, an Ybor City icon, who recently lost his battle with cancer.

Buster was a well loved fixture in the Ybor community. His family-owned seafood market, S. Agliano and Sons Fish Co., remained open for business long after other shops had abandoned the Latin Quarter to make way for bars and nightclubs. The market, founded in 1915 by Buster's grandfather, had since turned its focus to wholesale business, but Buster always kept the front case stocked for his loyal customers, and he will be fondly remembered for offering his seafood on credit to those facing hard times. Buster could have sold his business for a hefty profit long ago, but Buster would never have sold out his customers and community to cash in for himself.

Buster's fish market was equally well known for the political debates that played out in the front of the shop. Everyone who was anyone in Tampa's political scene would join in Buster's informal gatherings to talk shop. In Tampa's political world, Buster was enormously respected as a source of advice and counsel, and as a result, local politicians always sought his support.

Buster was easy to love and easy to respect. His warmth always shone through his generosity, his love of family, his dedication to serving his community and his persistent positive attitude. I am honored to have called Buster my friend.

On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I extend my deepest sympathies to Buster's family. Buster's legacy in Ybor City and in our hearts will not be forgotten. He was one of a kind, and everyone who called Buster his or her friend is a better person for having known him.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY THOMAS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Gary Thomas on his recent retirement from the Daily Sentinel in Grand Junction, Colorado after nearly forty years of service as a prepress worker. His behind the scenes efforts have helped to ensure the high quality that Grand Junction residents have come to expect from their newspaper, and it is my privilege to pay tribute to his outstanding career today.

During his career, which began in the days when operating a press was truly dangerous work, Gary has seen many changes, including

four different publishers. Gary's dedication to the paper was most prevalent when the Sentinel burned down in 1974. To ensure the paper was still delivered on time he drove daily to Glenwood Springs to print the paper between shifts clearing the rubble from the fire. After 14 years as a pressman, Gary moved to the camera department, preparing photos for printing. His hard work and skills helped establish the Sentinel's reputation for superb color photography.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring the career of Gary Thomas to the attention of this body of Congress and this Nation. I would like to congratulate him on an outstanding career. His tireless work has been crucial in ensuring the quality of the Daily Sentinel, and I would like to wish him the best in his retirement.

CYPRUS SETTLEMENT

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for a just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement on Cyprus that protects the rights of Turkish and Greek Cypriots alike.

As the people of Cyprus head to the polls on April 24th to vote on the settlement plan put forth by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, I am concerned that numerous provisions in the proposal fail to uphold the fundamental rights of the Greek Cypriot community.

Since Turkey's invasion and illegal occupation of northern Cyprus in 1974, the government of Cyprus has vigorously pursued efforts to reunify the island through an equitable and viable settlement. While the Turkish Cypriot government under the leadership of Rauf Denktash has repeatedly stonewalled negotiations, the commitment of Greek-Cypriots to a unified Cyprus has been unwavering.

The Annan plan, which was originally drafted by the Secretary General in November of 2002, has undergone five major revisions to accommodate the demands of Mr. Denktash. I'm concerned that the proposal sacrifices too many of the Greek Cypriots' needs in return for Mr. Denktash's acquiescence.

The Annan plan would authorize Turkish troops to remain in Cyprus indefinitely, threatening the security and stability of the island. While the number of troops would gradually decrease to 650 over a period of 14 years, their continuing presence and intervention rights would prevent Cyprus from achieving full sovereignty.

I am also concerned that the Annan plan would continue to allow Turkish settlers to illegally occupy northern Cyprus. Numerous U.N. Security Council resolutions have called for the withdrawal of all Turkish settlers from Cyprus, yet the Annan plan would permit 45,000 settlers to receive automatic citizenship rights within the United Cyprus Republic and additional settlers to remain on the island as permanent residents.

Moreover, the Annan plan imposes tough restrictions on the right of displaced Greek-Cypriots to return to their homes. The agreement would prohibit Greek-Cypriots from accounting for more than eighteen percent of the

population of the Turkish Cypriot Constituent State for the first nineteen years, or until Turkey accedes to the European Union, even though it is their native soil. These Greek-Cypriots would not have the right to vote for representatives in the federal Senate, further denying fundamental rights to many citizens.

Finally, the Annan plan fails to adequately compensate displaced Greek-Cypriots for the loss of their property. According to the plan, 90 percent of the compensation from the federal State would be paid for by Greek-Cypriots, meaning that Greek-Cypriot taxpayers are forced to pay for the loss of their own property.

The Annan plan is a positive starting point on the path toward a negotiated settlement, but it is not an ending point. In order for a solution to the Cyprus problem to succeed, the rights of both parties must be equally guaranteed.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK J. EIDING

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to highlight the accomplishments of a Philadelphia labor legend, Mr. Patrick J. Eiding. Mr. Eiding is President of the Philadelphia Council of the AFL-CIO and a representative of the working man and woman. He has effectively and consistently fought for the rights of the great citizens of Philadelphia.

Mr. Eiding rose through the ranks of leadership throughout his career, holding positions such as President of the Asbestos Workers Middle Atlantic States Conference and President of the Mechanical Trades Council in Philadelphia and New Jersey. He currently serves as an official for both the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Building Trades Councils, as well as the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO.

Mr. Eiding represents the interests of working families through his involvement on numerous labor boards and commissions. He co-chairs the Philadelphia Area Labor Management and serves as Commissioner for the Philadelphia Housing Authority and the Philadelphia Planning Commission. He is a member of the Executive Committee for the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board and sits on the Board of Directors for organizations such as the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Since being elected President of the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO, Mr. Eiding has spread the message of the working family, co-hosting the weekly "Labor to Neighbor" radio show whose goal is to educate listeners on the issues affecting the current working family and to voice the needs and opinions of the community.

I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Patrick Eiding for his career of service and dedication to the working families of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHAWNA VALDEZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Shawna Valdez for her selfless dedication to the community of Dolores, Colorado, and congratulate her on being recognized by the Dolores Chamber of Commerce as their 2004 Citizen of the Year. The award is presented to an individual who has shown an outstanding commitment to the Dolores community, and Shawna could not be a more worthy recipient. It is a privilege to pay tribute to Shawna for her well-deserved award, and her ongoing efforts to better her community.

A lifelong resident of Dolores, Shawna participates in a vast array of civic functions in her community. A past president of the Dolores Chamber of Commerce, she currently serves as a member of their board of directors. She also serves on the board of the Community Center, the McPhee Lake Planning Committee, and is a member of the Dolores Library Board. Dolores is also an active member of the local Methodist Church and Dolores Rotary Club, and is a past member of the local school Accountability Committee and the Booster Club. Her enthusiasm for taking part in these organizations comes from the joy she receives in giving back to the community she loves.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of Shawna Valdez before this body of Congress and this Nation. Her efforts to strengthen her community are truly remarkable, and the recognition she received from the Dolores Chamber of Commerce as their 2004 Citizen of the Year is a well-deserved testament to her tireless efforts. I sincerely thank Shawna for her service, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE 89TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 89th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, in which 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children were brutally massacred by the Ottoman Turk regime. The Armenian Genocide was one of the darkest tragedies in human history, one that must never be forgotten.

On April 24, 1915, nearly three hundred Armenian intellectuals and political leaders were rounded up, deported and executed under the orders of the Ottoman Turk Regime, marking the beginning of the first genocide of the 20th century. Later that day, 5,000 more Armenians were slaughtered in their homes and on the streets. For 5 years, the brutal regime carried out the systematic destruction of the Armenian people through forced labor, concentration camps, and death marches, until millions were dead or exiled.