

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES  
LATHAM

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Charles Latham of DeBeque, Colorado, who passed away recently at the age of sixty-two. Charles was a lifelong Coloradan and rancher, and a beloved friend and colleague to many in his DeBeque community. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community and state.

Born in Grand Junction, Charles graduated from DeBeque High School and attended Mesa Junior College before beginning his career as a rancher. An active member of the community, Charles served on the DeBeque School Board for seventeen years. His dedication to ranching in Colorado included membership in the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Bluestone Water Conservancy District Board, Garfield County 4-H, and the 4-H steering committee.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Charles Latham. He did much to better his DeBeque community, and I am deeply honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. My heart goes out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN DUBROW ON  
HER BIRTHDAY

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Evelyn Dubrow who is celebrating her birthday today—May 6. I am too much of a gentleman and Evy is too much of a lady for me to tell you exactly which birthday this is.

Evy has been a force for good within the American Labor movement for over sixty years, and a good deal of that time she has worked with the Congress. Her first four decades were with the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), where she worked with its renowned president David Dubinsky. For the last twenty years Evy has been with that union in its new organizational incarnation as UNITE (the Union of Needles Trades, Industrial and Textile Employees). Evy served as UNITE's Vice President and Legislative Director.

Mr. Speaker, Evy began her remarkable work on Capitol Hill in 1956 when she was one of the few women lobbyists in the halls of the Congress. She distinguished herself as a devoted and indefatigable champion of America's working women and men. She enlisted the support of then Senator John F. Kennedy in her fight against efforts to outlaw secondary boycotts, and she fought to increase the minimum wage to one dollar an hour.

Under the leadership of President Kennedy and President Lyndon Johnson, when the

Congress considered a series of critical bills that transformed our nation in the 1960s, Evy was a leader in the fight for civil rights and voting rights, the establishment of Medicare, pension protection, occupational safety and health rules, and a number of other causes that led to expanded social justice and economic opportunity.

Evy is forthright and frank; she tells it like it is. But she is honest in presenting her case. Her word can always be trusted, and she will do anything to promote one of her worthy causes. And she has a remarkable understanding of the members of the House and the Senate, knowledge which she is able to use most effectively. In recognition of her achievements and accomplishments, Evy has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor.

Mr. Speaker, as Evy marks another milestone today, I invite my colleagues to join me in extending our very dear friend best wishes for a very Happy Birthday, and for many, many more.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH BIRTHDAY  
OF SOUTHWEST GENERAL HOSPITAL

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the celebration of the 25th birthday of Southwest General Hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1979 medical professionals and businessmen came together and realized the need for a hospital to serve one of the city's neediest sectors. The result was Southwest General on San Antonio's southwest side. To this day, Southwest General is the only hospital located in this growing and changing quadrant of San Antonio.

A 319-bed facility, Southwest General Hospital offers all major hospital services including Perinatal/Women's Services, Psychiatric Services, Diabetic Education, and a Diabetes Wound Care Center. A recently completed Emergency Waiting Room expands upon those basic services and will allow the hospital to better serve its emergency room patients and their loved ones.

In addition to providing general medical care, Southwest General Hospital serves as an invaluable resource to the community. I have worked with the hospital, the Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, and the Texas Department of Health to bring Breast Cancer Awareness Day to the Southside. It is through events like this that Southwest General Hospital makes an impact on the health of the people it serves.

I would like to specially recognize Richard Gonzalez, CEO of Southwest General. Richard has worked tirelessly to ensure that each patient receives care with the dignity and respect they deserve when visiting Southwest General. He has assembled a great team that carries this message into every thing they do.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this irreplaceable health care institution and wishing Southwest General Hospital a very happy birthday.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL  
VISION STRATEGY

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Vision Caucus, I rise to recognize May as Healthy Vision Month, and to discuss the important recommendations of the Vision Problems Action Plan, A National Public Health Strategy as a way to prevent blindness and vision loss.

Good vision is critical to conducting activities of daily living, is important for language, and affects developmental learning, communicating, working, health and quality of life.

Unfortunately, far too many people are at risk for losing their eyesight. More than 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease, 3 million have low vision, 1.1 million are legally blind, and an additional 200,000 are more severely visually impaired. Despite the fact that half of all blindness can be prevented, far too many people do not access the care they need. If nothing is done, the number of blind and visually impaired individuals will double by 2030.

That is why awareness, early diagnosis and prevention are so important. Healthy Vision Month, a component of Healthy People 2010, is a national eye health campaign to raise awareness about the various conditions that can affect eyesight and cause vision loss.

Additionally, a coalition of leading eye health experts, including Prevent Blindness America, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lighthouse International, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, recently released the Vision Problems Action Plan, A National Public Health Strategy, to provide our nation with a framework for preventing vision loss. This report can be accessed at [http://www.preventblindness.org/news/releases/Action\\_Plan.html](http://www.preventblindness.org/news/releases/Action_Plan.html)

This groundbreaking study recommends that, in order to reduce the occurrence of vision loss and its accompanying disabilities, our nation must concentrate our efforts on three priority areas: prevention/public health, access to care and treatment including rehabilitation, and research.

Our public health and prevention campaign must ensure that vision programs at the National Eye Institute (NEI) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have the resources they need to improve communication and education campaigns, increase surveillance, epidemiology and prevention research; and implement appropriate programs, policies and systems changes.

In order to ensure access to and availability of treatment and rehabilitation services for individuals with vision loss, we must support programs at the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that remove barriers and improve access to eye exams currently covered under Medicare, such as diabetic eye exams and glaucoma detection for high risk populations.

We must also strengthen the Medicare program to advance coverage for Medicare vision rehabilitation services as provided by orientation and mobility specialists, rehabilitation teachers and low-vision therapists including in patients homes and their environment.