

Ritchie has played a key role in raising the university over \$350 million for renovation projects to improve the campus and provide more scholarships to students.

I am honored to acknowledge these achievements by two worthy individuals from my home state; their contributions have an enormous impact on many in Colorado.

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE
DR. WILLIAM E. "BILL" WARD

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a true public servant, Dr. William E. "Bill" Ward who has given over 25 years of faithful service to the City of Chesapeake and her residents.

Mayor Ward and the City of Chesapeake have a long history together. Having resided in Chesapeake with his wife Rose since its incorporation in 1963, Mayor Ward has been instrumental in helping to shape and form one of our Nation's largest cities.

Mayor Ward has been serving his community in a variety of capacities for many decades. Those who know him best know that he is first and foremost an educator. Mayor Ward is Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the History Department at Norfolk State University, where he taught from 1973 to July of 2000. In addition, he serves on the Board of Visitors at his alma mater, Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia.

Mayor Ward's love of government and service eventually led him into public life in 1978 and he has faithfully served since that date. From 1978–1984, he served as a member of the Chesapeake City Council and served as Vice Mayor from 1984–1990. Mayor Ward is the longest serving Mayor in Chesapeake's history having served in that capacity since October 4, 1990.

During his tenure on the Chesapeake City Council, the city grew from 100,000 people to more than 210,000. Through a time of great change, Mayor Ward provided continuity of both leadership and direction.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the Mayor's wife Rose and their children Michael and Michelle and thank them for their support and sacrifices over the years. The Ward family will continue to be among the most well-respected and much-loved members of the Chesapeake community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mayor Ward, for his years of dedication to Chesapeake and for his selfless service to her citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL BENJAMIN RIGOBERTO GONZALEZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker I rise to pay tribute to Lance Corporal Benjamin Rigoberto Gonzalez, U.S. Marine Corps, a member of the E

Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, deployed from Camp Pendleton, California. Lance Corporal Gonzalez died as a result of wounds suffered while engaged in combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom on May 29, 2004.

Lance Corporal Gonzalez was from my hometown of El Monte. He was born on April 25, 1981, in Montebello, California. He received a public school education and attended Monterey High School, where he played football and participated in the school's drama and music programs.

For love of our country, Lance Corporal Gonzalez joined the U.S. Marine Corps at the tender age of 19 on October 10, 2000. He served the country with courage, pride and loyalty.

Lance Corporal Gonzalez' future was bright and filled with promise. Upon his return, he planned to marry Anna Isabel Martinez, his fiancée, and start a family. Lance Corporal Gonzalez was an active youth leader at the Iglesia Cristiana del Este de Los Angeles. Lance Corporal Gonzalez's life and love is treasured and fondly remembered by countless friends and loved ones.

Lance Corporal Benjamin Rigoberto Gonzalez is survived by his brothers: Samuel, Christopher, Andres, Josue, and sisters Betsy, Stephanie, Elizabeth, Juliana, Mia as well as his parents, aunts, uncles and cousins who were deeply touched by his kind heart and gentle strength.

CONGRATULATING JERRY DOUGLAS ON HIS SELECTION AS A 2004 NEA NATIONAL HERITAGE FELLOW

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, every year, the National Endowment for the Arts honors an elite group of master folk and traditional artists for their lifetime contributions to the Nation's musical and artistic heritage. The prestigious National Heritage Fellowships, awarded by the NEA, honor artists not only for their artistic excellence but for their commitment to passing on their skills and cultural traditions to a new generation.

I am especially proud that one of this year's winners hails from the Fifth District of Tennessee. Mr. Jerry Douglas, of Nashville, is a peerless player of the steel guitar, the "Dobro's® matchless contemporary master," according to the New York Times. He is a musical innovator often compared to Jimi Hendrix and Charlie Parker, having garnered eight Grammy Awards among his myriad accolades. He is in fact one of the few artists to have a special model of the Dobro® named in his honor.

Mr. Douglas learned music at an early age, first as a singer and a player of the mandolin and guitar. But he says that once he discovered the Dobro®, "I stopped singing because it was like I'd found another way to have a voice." Since finding that voice, Mr. Douglas has influenced all forms of American music, including bluegrass, country, rock, jazz, and blues. He has taken the Dobro® from its Southern rural roots into Celtic and even clas-

sical music, adapting his instrument to embrace all styles.

This prolific career has yielded Mr. Douglas more than 1,000 recordings. He has worked in the company of a diverse array of well-known artists, including Garth Brooks, Paul Simon, James Taylor, Reba McEntire, and the late Ray Charles. He is acclaimed by fellow musician Alison Krauss as "the greatest Dobro® player the world has ever known" and by Life Magazine as one of the top ten best country musicians of all time.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Douglas for his achievements and contributions to American music and congratulate him on his recognition by the NEA. It is thanks to artists such as Mr. Douglas that Nashville continues to be proudly known as Music City, USA.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I want to express the need for discussion on true immigration reform.

With over eight million illegal immigrants in the U.S., and approximately half a million more entering the U.S. annually, it is now time for Congress to be diligent in trying to truly engage in discussion on how we can effectively manage immigration here in the U.S.

I do not support illegal immigration. I also do not support amnesty for undocumented immigrants. Individuals who violate America's laws should not be rewarded for illegal behavior, and I believe amnesty perpetuates illegal immigration. The fact that there are eight million undocumented immigrants estimated to live in the U.S. illustrates alone that previous amnesty programs have not worked.

I am seeing the effects of immigration with regards to healthcare and our hospitals. This burden is not a problem because of illegal immigration alone. Legal immigrants are working citizens, but many do not have benefits such as health insurance. They are forced to ignore health problems until they're magnified and eventually forced to seek care in emergency rooms. Unfortunately, these costs often must be absorbed by hospitals, taxpayers and private insurance policy holders through higher premiums.

We are appropriating funds to deal with issues such as these in the short-term, but we also have to start having discussions on long-term solutions to legal and illegal immigration. Being uninsured is only part of the problem.

We must not lose sight of the significant role immigration has played in the development of the United States. We must be wise as we move into uncharted waters regarding new immigration policies. We must look for ways to construct positive steps that will ultimately lead to a better life for everyone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 8 and June 9, 2004, I