

Initiative. This initiative is dedicated to preserving our country's heritage, increasing awareness of what as well as who we are as a nation, and keeping our legacy enhanced, and intact, for future generations. Since the formation of the program, First Lady Laura Bush has recognized more than 100 communities with the Preserve America honor.

Other components of the program include a History Teacher of the Year Award, educational outreach, and grants to assist communities in preserving their cultural and natural resources.

I would like to commend Mayor Jerry Alford and the City Council, as well as all those who participated in the Main Street project, for this distinction.

JAMES J. STUKEL

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 2005, James J. Stukel, will be retiring after 10 years of service as President of the University of Illinois. From his days as a teaching assistant in 1961 to his appointment as President in 1995, in his 43 years of service James Stukel has strived to make the University better. Without question, he has succeeded.

As University President, James Stukel has remained steadfast in his commitment to enrich undergraduate education. Under his guidance, the University expanded access to thousands of students through the creation of the University of Illinois—Online system. In addition, the creation of the University of Illinois at Springfield has provided access for an additional 4,500 students.

President Stukel was also tremendously successful in securing increased funding for academic purposes for the University. Under his leadership, the University of Illinois has established itself as one of the world's leading research institutions, meriting a national ranking as high as 5th and no lower than 7th in terms of federal research and development dollars received by any institution. On his watch, federal support for the University of Illinois has doubled.

President Stukel has strengthened the bonds between the University and the citizens of Illinois by logging over 200,000 miles and conducting 50 daylong community visits throughout the State. This unprecedented effort exemplifies why President Stukel is known as "the people's president".

Thus, it is truly impossible to quantify the number of people who have benefited under President James J. Stukel's guidance of the University of Illinois. However, as one of those positively affected and as an alumnus of the University, I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to President James J. Stukel. He will be truly missed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REVEREND P. H. LEWIS, SR., ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS MINISTRY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to Reverend P. H. Lewis, Sr., on the celebration of his 50th anniversary in active ministry.

A native of Wilcox County, Alabama, Reverend Lewis has for the past 34 years served as pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Mobile, Alabama. Reverend Lewis graduated from Camden Academy in Camden, Alabama, and later from the Daniel Payne College and Payne Theological Seminary of Birmingham, Alabama. Following his graduation, he shared his gifts and skill as a pastor with several churches and congregations throughout Alabama: Miles Memorial A.M.E. Church in Birmingham, Gaines Chapel in Birmingham, Black Buff Circuit in Wilcox County, St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Tuscaloosa, and Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma.

Reverend Lewis is also recognized as one of the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. As the pastor of Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, he was the only minister in the City of Selma to act against a prohibition on gatherings focused on the discussion of race issues and open his church for such meetings. Many of the early civil rights rallies of the 1960s were held at his church, and he and members of his congregation hosted the now-famous march from Selma to Montgomery that was led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reverend Lewis marched side-by-side with Dr. King on this difficult march and endured the same arrests, harassment, and abuse that so many of the hundreds of men, women, and children did on that day in March 1965.

He has throughout his life been a strong supporter of public education in Alabama and was the first African-American to serve on the Selma Public School Board. Reverend Lewis has also been extremely active in the life of the Mobile community. He is a member of the City of Mobile's Board of Adjustment, the Interdenominational Alliance of Mobile, the A.M.E. Ministerial Alliance of Mobile, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, the Mobile Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Board of Directors of Drug Free Mobile. During his life he has received numerous awards and citations for his religious, civic, and community involvement. In addition, he has during his career authored three well-respected books: *Illustrations*, *Life is a Symbol of a Baseball Game*, and *Selma: The Other Side of 1965*.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Reverend P. H. Lewis, Sr., for his many significant contributions to his friends, his congregation, his community, and to the citizens of Alabama. He has indeed been a genuine asset and friend to everyone with whom he has come into contact and shared his gifts, and I wish him and his family—his wife, Alice Grady Lewis, his three sons, and his four grandchildren—much happiness and success in the time ahead.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE YOUTHNETWORK CRISIS SHELTER

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize the YouthNetwork Crisis Shelter. On October 21st, 2004 the YouthNetwork Crisis Shelter will be celebrating their thirtieth birthday. I have known Dave Hoppe, Executive Director of YouthNetwork, and Kyle Boyles, Senior Development Officer and the staff for many years. They have been and will continue to be an integral part of the Charlotte, NC community.

The YouthNetwork Crisis Shelter was founded in 1974 by members of Dilworth United Methodist Church in Charlotte. Originally known as The Relatives, the shelter was established due to the rising concern about the growing number of homeless youths in the center city. Since its founding, it has served thousands of teens and their families over the past 30 years. The shelter continues to be one of Charlotte's most successful charitable causes.

Located on East Boulevard in Charlotte, the Crisis Shelter serves the community as a coed, 9-bed emergency shelter for runaway, homeless and other youth in crisis. The Shelter is one of the Alexander Youth Network's numerous programs for positive growth and improvement of youth. Staff provides 24-hour supervision, individual and family conferences, recreational activities, and community referrals.

I greatly appreciate all their efforts and dedication to the Charlotte community.

RECOGNIZING ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE CHIEF EDWARD PLAUGHER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Edward Plaughner who has recently been named Career Fire Chief of the Year for 2004 by Fire Chief magazine. Chief Plaughner retired as Chief of the Arlington County Fire Department in June and was instrumental in the response at the Pentagon on September 11th.

In recognition of his service in Virginia Fire Departments over the last three decades, the Virginia State Fire Chiefs Association nominated Chief Plaughner for this prestigious award. For 24 years he served with the Fairfax County Fire Department, and in 1993 was named Chief of the Arlington County Fire Department. Throughout his tenure he has been known as a leader throughout the firefighting community. Because of his leadership his fire department was aware and prepared for the threat that terrorism could pose to Arlington County, Virginia, and the United States.

This awareness first began in 1995 after the sarin gas attacks in the Tokyo subway system. Chief Plaughner recognized that something similar could happen in Arlington County and the metropolitan area and began preparing his department and the region for this possibility. One of his top accomplishments was the creation of the first locally staffed terrorism response team in the United States.

It was through this foresight that the Arlington County Fire Department was able to so effectively deal with the terrorist attack on the Pentagon. Chief Plaughter and his firefighters were commended for their quick and organized response to the tragedy. Without the leadership of Chief Plaughter and the dedication of the men and women of the Arlington County Fire Department and other Northern Virginia fire departments more lives would have been lost on that tragic day.

I would like to thank Chief Plaughter for his distinguished service to Arlington and Fairfax Counties. His leadership and vision have helped create some of the premier fire departments in the nation. He is highly deserving of this honor. I wish Chief Plaughter and his family the best as he begins his much deserved retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MRS. ALMA
MURR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to mourn the life of a remarkable lady from New Castle, Colorado. Alma Murr passed away at the age of ninety-seven this past May. She left a strong impression on all those whom she met, and her life is an example of the constant change and growth that our great country made in the past century. I am honored to stand here with my colleagues before this body and this nation to recognize her life.

Alma was born in 1906 in Madison County, Nebraska, and at a young age began to deal with big changes and responsibilities when the family moved to Lander, Wyoming. When Alma was ten years old, her father died of pneumonia, which put her in charge of raising her younger brothers and sisters while her mother worked as a cook at the Shoshone and Bannock Indian reservations. In 1917, the family moved in a covered wagon to Meeker, Colorado, where Alma attended and graduated from high school. At twenty-one, Alma married Orel Murr and the couple farmed on Beaver Creek, and Rifle before finding their true home near New Castle on Colorado's Western Slope.

Alma and Orel had a working fruit orchard with apples, plums, nectarines, apricots, peaches and all sorts of berries. They sold their produce at their family-run Peach Valley Market, or at a second family-run market in the Fort Collins area, and to wholesale markets in nearby states. When they had to close the fruit market, the couple turned to raising hay. With their hard, painstaking work, Alma and Orel raised three children on the eighteen-acre Peach Valley Homestead where Alma has lived for sixty-nine years.

Alma was a caring person who leaves behind a large family that loved her for her spirit, and kindness—she was the type of person with whom it was easy to become friends. She is survived by her sons Robert and Richard, her daughter Phyllis, her sister Evelyn, fourteen grand children, eighteen great grand children, and one great great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, Alma Murr was a kind and generous soul who touched the lives of many

of the people who met her. She was a strong woman that led by example and helped to nourish the members of her Colorado community with great devotion and satisfaction in her work. I am honored to recognize her life before this body of Congress and this nation. My thoughts and prayers go out to Alma's family and friends at this difficult time of bereavement.

IN HONOR OF DAVID MEYERS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Meyers, a dedicated member of the Monterey community. David will be retiring from his current position of General Manager of the Monterey Waste Management District, where he has worked diligently for twenty-five years overseeing the burying and recycling of the peninsula's waste.

During his years of service, David has gone above and beyond his normal duties by playing a leading role in turning the Marina Dump into an innovative recycling and waste management center. While Meyers was working there, the center was one of the first to siphon methane and carbon dioxide gases for electrical uses in 1983. Then, in 1989, when the state passed legislation requiring cities and counties to divert 50 percent of their solid waste from landfills by 2000, David spurred the waste management center into action. Under his leadership the district grew from 10 employees who buried trash to 130 employees whose duties range in a wide variety of recycling tasks.

David's innovation did not stop there. He created a thrift store on the site called the Last Shop Mercantile that sells items that would otherwise have been thrown away. It brings in \$400,000 annually and pays for itself.

Under his stewardship, the Monterey County Waste Management District has been honored with the first ever "Best Solid Waste System in North America" award by the Solid Waste Association of North America. Meyers himself has been given two awards by the Solid Waste Association of North America: the Planning and Management Technical Division's Distinguished Achievement Award and the Robert L. Lawrence Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate David on his much deserved retirement and thank him for his contribution to our community. David has continually gone above and beyond the roles bestowed asked of him and his innovation has led to a cleaner, healthier community. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CLIFF McDUFFIE OF
ZEPHYRHILLS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Cliff McDuffie of Zephyrhills in my 5th Congressional District.

Mr. McDuffie is an amazing gentleman who through his years of dedication to public service has continually helped make the city of Zephyrhills a better place. I had the pleasure of honoring him at his retirement on August 27, 2004, in Zephyrhills, FL.

Cliff's tenure as a public servant began at the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce. There, he ran the small-business and personnel divisions and was operations manager. Cliff took over in Zephyrhills as the Executive Director of the city's Chamber of Commerce in 1997 after more than 20 years with the Tampa Chamber of Commerce. Despite his retirement, McDuffie will remain active and visible in the Zephyrhills community as the city's mayor.

Cliff McDuffie is a shining example of what a public servant should aspire to become. I join the rest of Florida's Fifth Congressional District in thanking Mr. McDuffie for his years of service and wish him the best of luck with his retirement. I am proud to call him my constituent.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PALISADE,
COLORADO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Palisade, Colorado. This year marks the celebration of its first centennial, a rare and distinguished achievement. The story of Palisade is one of success, a farming town that thrived around the mouth of a river. As they celebrate their one hundred year anniversary, I would like to join my colleagues here today, before this body of Congress and this nation, in recognizing the town of Palisade, Colorado.

Settlers first started establishing homesteads on the land in the early 1880s. The land that would become the town of Palisade was desirable because it was located close to the mouth of Rapid Creek, making irrigation easier for the fruit farming that would soon thrive. The town of Palisade began to prosper, and with sufficient growth, Palisade became an incorporated town in 1904.

Over the last hundred years, Palisade has seen many of the same changes and attributes of growth characteristic of similar American communities. With the advent of the industrial revolution in America at the turn of the twentieth century, the town saw a boom in its coal mining industry. However, Palisade is primarily known for its fruit orchards. During prohibition, the grape farmers and wine makers suffered hardships, but found success once again when prohibition was lifted. The community infrastructure has grown strong over the years as new friendships were established through common threads by the formation of many social organizations.

Mr. Speaker, after one hundred years, Palisade, Colorado continues to experience success as a tight-knit community. The social institutions and economic infrastructure account for the many years of existence. Our nation was built upon the strong foundation of small communities like Palisade. I congratulate the city of Palisade, Colorado for this important