

group of researchers, educators, public servants and mentors in 192 fields of study and offers more than 3,300 classes each year. The school's budget exceeds \$200 million and its economic impact is an estimated \$2 million per day.

Its library, named after former President Duane Meyer, is a shining example of the growth and sophistication of SMSU. The number of books in the library has increased from 600 borrowed books in 1906 to 842,000 books, 928,000 government documents, 1,040,000 microforms, 35,000 audio-visual items, and 180,000 maps today. This year, the library will add its collection of union archives to its offerings available over the Internet.

SMSU has "opened the door of opportunity" for students who have dared to excel for the past century and distinguished themselves in academics, in research, in public service, and in co-curricular activities and sports.

In 1995, SMSU gained further distinction by adopting a statewide public affairs mission. SMSU has had a profound effect on improving the quality of life for citizens in Springfield, the region, and the state.

March 17, 2005 is "Southwest Missouri State University Founders Day." It is part of a year-long celebration of the school's 100 years of service to Missouri. It is an appropriate celebration to mark the significant contributions the institution has made to the citizens of Missouri and the nation over the past 100 years.

The future looks bright for Springfield campus. It has strong, principled leadership, a dedicated faculty that is actively involved in many communities. The school's research goals are expanding and its student body comes from nearly every county in the state.

The evolution of SMSU followed its name. In its 100 years, the institution has had four names—Missouri State Normal School, Fourth District; Southwest Missouri State Teachers College; Southwest Missouri State College; and Southwest Missouri State University—each name changed to more accurately reflect what the institution had become.

Nowhere is that more evident than in the growing ranks of its alumni that include governors, members of Congress, members of the state general assembly, countless local and municipal officials, teachers, civic leaders and business owners. I am proud to be among the 80,000 living SMSU alumni today.

This school has earned the honor of being called Missouri State University. It is a fitting new name for this institution that has provided excellence in higher education, research and public service across the state and continues to expand its service and reach into more communities. I want to wish Missouri's second largest university at Springfield another 100 years of service to, not only the region, but also the entire State of Missouri.

Go Bears!

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SERGEANT JOSEPH PEREZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a great Amer-

ican, Sergeant Joseph Perez. I honor him today for his heroism in the fight against our global enemies and in fighting for equitable treatment for all Army National Guardsmen.

As a former member of the Nevada Army National Guard, Sgt. Perez has shown valor and honor in combat in Iraq against the aggression of our enemies in the Global War on Terror. Since his return to the United States, overcoming near-fatal injuries and other odds, Sgt. Perez has taken an active stand to ensure that our returning Guardsmen and Reserves get their guaranteed pay and benefits.

The inspirational story of this brave man is one that deserves notice not just for his bravery in combat, but for his determination to reform inequities in services for their fellow guardsmen and soldiers. I encourage each of my colleagues to diligently work to provide, in an accurate and timely manner, pay and benefits to reserve soldiers who have been injured or have become ill fighting in the line of duty. Our troops deserve that much for the sacrifices they have made volunteering to fight to maintain the freedoms we all take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I salute Sgt. Perez for his bravery and sacrifice. I also honor him for his continued determination to find solutions to inequities in our military.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HAYS COUNTY JUDGE JIM POWERS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Powers for his many initiatives and accomplishments as a judge and public servant of Hays County, Texas.

Jim Powers was sworn in as Hays County Judge in 1999 and became the first ever Republican to be elected to the seat. Since taking office, Powers has helped make Hays County one of the fastest growing counties in Texas.

Powers has been very instrumental in the growth and infrastructure development of Hays County. He was crucial in a \$47 million bond issue to improve and make safer the roads in Hays County. Powers also negotiated the Hunter Road expansion project in San Marcos, which is the second major highway project in Hays County for the last 15 years. In addition, Judge Powers was responsible for purchasing 20 acres of land surrounding the Civic Center for future expansion and development.

Powers has also supported initiatives to preserve and protect the environment. He supported the first ever bond issue in Hays County history for the preservation of parklands and open spaces.

Some of his other accomplishments include cutting taxes, decreasing the county's debt, increasing the county's credit rating, improving the water system, and making government much more efficient in Hays County.

Prior to becoming County Judge, Powers was a successful restaurateur, author, Vice President of the Dripping Springs Independent School District Educational Foundation, and an Executive Director of Family and Marriage

Resources. Powers has always adhered to the basic precept of putting people first and motivating those around him. Throughout the years, this formula has brought him success in business, politics and in his personal relationships.

Currently, Judge Powers resides in Dripping Springs with his wife Maripat Mayfield Powers and their four children. Powers is a member and Deacon of the First Baptist Church of Dripping Springs. I am honored to have this opportunity to distinguish Judge Jim Powers for his lifetime of achievement, and to thank him for his continued commitment to the betterment of our community.

IN HONOR OF KEVIN MORAN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kevin Moran for his years of leadership and community service. Mr. Moran was honored at the annual brunch for the Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which was held on February 20, 2005.

An active member of the community, Mr. Moran has worked with many local organizations. In the past, he was the assistant coordinator of the Summer Youth Employment Program (CETA), which helped find employment for 800 disadvantaged youth. He also served as the administrator of the Lincoln School Community Education Program where he organized the After School Enrichment and Summer Day Camp programs. An advocate of parental involvement, Mr. Moran is committed to participating in activities with St. Peter's Prep, Vroom School, and Holy Family Academy.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Mr. Moran graduated from St. Peter's College with a degree in history and earned a master's degree in educational administration from Kean University. For 23 years, he worked as an educator and served on a variety of committees. He taught at Marist High School, St. Anthony's High School, and the Henry E. Harris School. Since 2000, he has served as principal of the Dr. Walter F. Robinson School.

Mr. Moran is a devoted husband and father of two children. He and his wife, Rosalie, are actively involved in Ireland's 32. He will serve as an assistant to the Grand Marshal for the 2005 parade.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kevin Moran for his extensive work with community organizations and his demonstrated commitment to serving others.

RECOGNITION FOR THE LOUISVILLE ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the recent accreditation of the Louisville Zoological Gardens by the American Association of Museums (AAM) which was awarded for the excellence of its animal, botanical and non-living collections. Accreditation