

with new scientific evidence concerning the importance of brain development in the early years virtually mandate the expansion of early childhood education to all of our children. Traditionally, early learning programs have been available only to the affluent and to lower income families in programs such as Head Start. My bill provides a practiced way to gradually move to universal pre-school education. The goal of the Universal Pre-K Act is to bring the benefits of educational pre-K within reach of the great majority of American working poor, lower middle class, and middle class families, most of whom have been left out.

In a letter to Congress last term opposing private school vouchers, City Council Member Kathy Patterson suggested that instead of vouchers, Congress should fund a number of unfunded D.C. public school priorities, including pre-K education for all 4-year old children. She said that although universal 4-year old pre-K was a top D.C. priority, the city has been able to provide this schooling to only half of its children from local tax revenue.

Compare the cost of day care, most of it offered today with an inadequate educational emphasis, at an average cost of \$6,171 per year to the cost of in-state tuition at the University of Virginia, which costs \$6,785 per year. Yet, more than 60% of mothers with children under age six work. That proportion is rapidly increasing as more mothers enter the labor force, including mothers leaving welfare, who also have no long term access to child care.

Considering the staggering cost of daycare, the inaccessibility of early education, and the opportunity earlier education offers to improve a child's chances in life, four-year-old kindergarten is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

RECOGNIZING LOIS GREENE FOR  
HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
LAS VEGAS COMMUNITY

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2005*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Ms. Lois Greene for the contributions she has made to the people and communities of the Las Vegas Valley.

Ms. Greene's career of 25 years in banking and finance has enabled her to be an impassioned and pure advocate for small and minority owned businesses. Her commitment to God and her faith has been the key factor in her successful advocacy for non-profit organizations and the faith-based community. Out of her devotion to her ideals, she has helped transform the Las Vegas Valley and has brought hope to the residents that live there.

Without question, her professional leadership in community development has helped Bank West of Nevada achieve and maintain an outstanding compliance rating under the Community Reinvestment Act for the past 10 years. But also as remarkable, has been her work as the "Economic Evangelist," helping lead countless men and women out of financial bondage and toward financial freedom and economic growth through her efforts to

wage war on debt. As a result of her leadership, she has been recognized as a "Woman of Distinction," "The Most Influential Woman in Southern Nevada Business" and the "Minority Business Advocate of the Year."

I applaud her for her commitment to improving the lives of southern Nevadans of every age group, but more importantly of our youth. Her life story of humble and impoverished beginnings is one that transcends the color line. It serves as a remarkable example that hard work, determination, compassion and faith in God can overcome the stumbling blocks that were historically designed to oppress American minority groups. Therefore, her accomplishments are a triumph and her story is an example of success with which countless numbers of young people have found inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of her accomplishments, I honor her today and during Women's History Month, so that our Nation will be aware of her service and commitment to helping others become self-sufficient and realize their American dream. I am proud to represent her in Nevada's Third District.

HONORING JUDY GUERRA

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2005*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, across America you can find people who make a difference in their community. Usually in quiet unassuming ways every day they help change the lives of people with whom they work and the neighborhoods they call home. Tonight, I rise to pay tribute to one such person, an outstanding and unforgettable woman from Indianapolis, Judy Guerra. Living by the very simple credo, "you get what you give" Judy has made such a tremendous difference in her community.

A mother of two, grandmother to seven, and a successful businesswoman, Judy truly embodies the spirit of community service and friendship that we strive to live by. Whether its sponsoring a local girls little league team, or opening her restaurants for fundraisers for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Children's Bureau of Indianapolis, Butler University's Armed Forces Scholarship fund or just the local Christmas food drive, if there is a need, Judy unselfishly and tirelessly gives of herself to meet the challenge headon.

Judy Guerra does not belong to St. Joan of Arc or Christ the King Church but they are the lucky beneficiaries of her generous donations. Why? Because these churches are located in her neighborhood and giving back to all sectors of the community resonates deep within this Hoosier. When senior citizens on fixed incomes visit Judy's "Just Judy's" restaurant it's not unusual for them to receive a larger than normal serving of soup or extra sandwich to accompany the friendly service with a smile. If a local family finds themselves fallen upon hard times they know their troubles can be left at the door as Judy and her daughters will welcome them with open arms and perhaps a sampling of the day's "new recipes." And what makes every small act of concern and each gesture of kindness so remarkable is that they are simply second nature to Judy, as uncon-

scious as breathing. As her friend Maureen Cox said to me in an e-mail, "If there is a national award for generosity, Judy Guerra is our person," and I heartily agree.

Mr. Speaker, Judy Guerra is an amazing woman, an ordinary person who reaches beyond herself in every way to bring hope, and opportunity, friendship and caring to everyone around her. I am proud to call her a fellow Hoosier and privileged to honor her here today.

THE SILVERY MINNOW  
AGREEMENT

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, water is a precious natural resource that we must manage as efficiently as possible. Benjamin Franklin wrote in Poor Richard's Almanac in 1746, "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water." In parts of the West, the well is quickly running dry.

Drought conditions have affected nearly everyone in arid Western States in one way or another. Farmers are being forced to sell livestock, many cities are in various stages of water conservation, and many acres of land have been charred by fire. I believe we must use every tool available to confront these water problems, and doing so remains one of my top priorities.

We need to come at this from many different angles since water shortages present a multitude of complications. That is why I have crafted several pieces of legislation that focus on rural communities, water technology and augmentation, and insidious plant eradication.

I believe the combined effect of those bills plus continued efforts in desalination and formation of a national water council will greatly improve the situation of dry States like New Mexico.

Last week, a historic and long overdue agreement was announced in New Mexico regarding the silvery minnow. After five and a half years of court proceedings, not to mention millions of dollars in legal costs, the City of Albuquerque and an alliance of six environmental groups announced an agreement that will help ensure the endurance of the Rio Grande. The accord signals that water conservation and ecological goals on the Rio Grande are vital.

As part of the agreement, litigants in *Silvery Minnow v. Keys* agreed to drop any claim on the San Juan-Chama water for minnow purposes, as well as end their protest to Albuquerque's drinking water project and diversion of San Juan-Chama water from the Rio Grande. At the same, the City of Albuquerque has agreed to significant conservation measures that acknowledge the need for water to sustain the river itself as an ecosystem.

The project has been in legal jeopardy because the Endangered Species Act and the city's agreement with the Federal Government to transfer water from the Colorado River to the Rio Grande basin also recognize an essential need to use that water for ecological purposes.

The agreement gives the city and its residents legal relief, while requiring the city to do