Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Specialist Gerrit Kobes for fearlessly sacrificing his own safety in order to save the lives of wounded Iraqi soldiers. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Specialist Kobes for his service to our country and Iraq, and congratulate him on earning a Silver Star.

TRIBUTE TO TULARE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
HON. DEVIN NUNES OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative Jim Costa, to pay tribute to Tulare County Superior Court Judge William Silveira who has faithfully served as judge for more than 25 years.

His career is distinguished by his innovative efforts to improve juvenile justice, involve parents in the rehabilitation of their delinquent children, and bring together a comprehensive approach to the disparate factors that influence this unique area of law.

Judge Silveira was instrumental in building support for the construction of a new juvenile detention center in the county, along with probation offices and a new juvenile court complex.

He has also helped create a 100-bed juvenile boot camp and one of the first juvenile drug courts in the country, which has gone on to receive national acclaim.

During his time on the bench, he has traveled the county speaking as a leader in juvenile justice and has helped other communities establish their own programs.

At home, he is widely involved in many community activities and boards apart from his work on the bench, and he remains the loving husband of Marylin with children Matthew and Amy.

Once again, Representative Costa and I encourage you to join us in applauding his many years of dedication as a judge, whose thoughtful approach to the administration of justice has forever changed the legal landscape of Tulare County. He leaves a legacy of hard work, compassion, and justice that stands as an example for us all.

TRIBUTE TO INTRADO INC. OF LONGMONT, COLORADO
HON. BOB BEAUPREZ OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my appreciation for the services provided by the men and women of Intrado Inc., headquartered in Longmont, Colorado.

For over two decades, telecommunications providers, public safety organizations and government agencies have turned to Intrado for their communications needs. As North America’s leader in 9-1-1 infrastructure and services, Intrado has been at the forefront of improving public safety and we continue to have a tradition of giving back to the community.

Intrado’s corporate culture is built around employee involvement in causes that are both local and national in scope. From Intrado’s core business of 9-1-1 to the widely participated employee volunteer activities, Intrado aims to make a positive contribution to society.

Intrado’s ongoing mission is to continually improve and expand the Intrado IntelliCast® target notification system as a tool to help win the fight against time in locating missing children. Operating like 9-1-1 in reverse, the IntelliCast system automatically delivers a telephone call and a message to thousands of targeted homes and businesses within minutes, helping ensure the most efficient dissemination of relevant information to safely and quickly recover missing children.

Intrado has played a key role in defining, building and maintaining the complex emergency communications infrastructure. In 2004, Intrado products, services and systems supported nearly 200 million calls to 9-1-1, and the volume continues to grow.

Intrado emphasis on corporate citizenship is reflected in numerous activities. For the past two years Intrado has partnered with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to assist cities and towns across the US to deploy the Intrado IntelliCast® target notification system as a tool to help win the fight against time in locating missing children. Operating like 9-1-1 in reverse, the IntelliCast system automatically delivers a telephone call and a message to thousands of targeted homes and businesses within minutes, helping ensure the most efficient dissemination of relevant information to safely and quickly recover missing children.

Intrado’s encouragement of community involvement and volunteerism has resulted in support for local food drives, assistance with armed forces care packages, and financial donations to a number of charitable efforts.

In 2004 Intrado began support of the 911 For Kids program in Denver and surrounding cities. 911 For Kids provides 9-1-1 education for children in elementary schools to ensure they know how to call for help in an emergency.

Finally, Intrado is actively working to design and build the next generation emergency services network to address and support the changing communications requirements. Intrado’s extensive intellectual property in emergency communications management and fundamental 9-1-1 operations—combined with the world’s largest pool of experienced personnel in these areas—makes Intrado the clear leader for this task.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the fine men and women of Intrado, Inc. for working to make our communities safer and better places to live. They represent some of our country’s best, and I hope they continue to call Colorado home for years to come.

CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER HONORS INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN WILDLIFE ARTIST JOHN A. RUTHVEN FOR RECEIVING THE 2004 NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS
HON. ROB PORTMAN OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and Brown County, Ohio constituent, John A. Ruthven, who will be honored on April 21, 2005 by the Cincinnati Museum Center in the regional recognition for his selection by President Bush to receive the 2004 National Medal of the Arts. The National Medal of the Arts is the highest award presented to an artist or patron in the United States, and John is the first wildlife artist to receive this prestigious award.

In my hometown of Georgetown, Ohio, John was the Museum Center’s first employee, hired as a taxidermist and to create exhibits. Audubon supplemented his Museum income by drawing portraits, teaching art, and even opened his own art academy. While in Cincinnati, Audubon created five paintings of local birds that were among the first contributions to his acclaimed Birds of North America.

There can be no doubt that John Ruthven is our Audubon, and a true American treasure. John has said, “I believe art is as necessary to our heritage as our brick and mortar. Both record past and present in the effort to educate and enrich the lives of people today and in the near future. It is my desire, through my paintings, to record for later generations some of the beauty of nature that exists in my lifetime.”

John’s wife, Judy, is also accomplished. She was project manager and co-chair of the Historic Georgetown Project to restore the Georgetown, Ohio courthouse square buildings. With John, she purchased the brick Brown County homestead of President Ulysses S. Grant, who grew up in picturesque Georgetown. Judy is a Grant scholar, and she spent a tremendous amount of energy to ensure that the building was historically accurate.

The Ruthvens later donated the structure, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, to the State of Ohio. In addition, Judy has supported numerous other organizations, including the Ohio Humanities Council.

As a lifetime member of Southern Ohio, I urge John on receiving the National Medal of the Arts, being honored by the Museum Center, and his life as an acclaimed artist, and we wish him luck in the many projects to come.