

on the long-range implications of their health behaviors. In addition, The Corner Health Center also encourages these youths to develop responsible behaviors and take responsibility for their own health, using such innovative programs as: a theatre troupe, individualized baby booklets, as well as drug, alcohol and pregnancy prevention counseling.

Mr. Speaker, organizations such as The Corner Health Center serve our communities in invaluable ways. They provide key services supporting both the health of individuals as well as the health of their communities in which they live. I am proud to have The Corner Health Center in Michigan's 15th Congressional District and I would like to congratulate The Center on its 25th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE JOHN F. GILLESPIE

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication of Detective John F. Gillespie of the Boston Police Department. Upon his recent retirement, I wish to praise John for his thirty-five years of devoted service to the city of Boston.

John joined the Boston Police Department on October 7, 1970 and was first assigned to District Two in Roxbury. After more than two years of exemplary service, he was assigned to the Tactical Patrol Force (TPF), which patrolled the various neighborhoods of Boston.

John's next assignment was to District Eleven in Dorchester, where he received several letters of commendation during his tenure. One in particular was awarded to John for his courageous apprehension of a man wielding a shotgun.

In 1985, he moved to the position of Information Officer, which worked directly with the Boston Police Commissioners Office. After three years of service John was promoted to Detective and assigned to the Intelligence Unit, which is designated to dignitary protection. In this position he coordinated with Federal and State agencies in order to protect various heads of state as well as United States presidents.

John Gillespie is a remarkable gentleman with a long and illustrious career with the Boston Police Department. John's personal integrity, hard work and determination illustrate the best characteristics of those who work to protect and serve us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join with John's family, friends, and fellow officers on the Boston Police Department to thank him for his service. Additionally, I think we all would like to congratulate him on his much deserved retirement. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating John Gillespie's distinguished career and thank him for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES D. SCANLON

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James D. Scanlon for a distinguished professional career that has spanned more than 39 years. As Jim prepares for his retirement as president of BAE Systems Platform Solutions, I would like to recognize and thank him for his tremendous leadership of one of our region's biggest and most stable employers, as well as his leadership in the Greater Binghamton business community.

After serving in the U.S. Army as a nuclear weapons officer, Jim began his career in the private sector with General Electric's Engineering Career Development Program, developing design and management systems for military aircraft. In 1992, he was named General Manager of GE's Control Systems business, retaining that position when the business was acquired by Martin Marietta and then merged with Lockheed. In 1995, as president of Lockheed Martin Control Systems, Jim led the acquisition of GE Aircraft Engines' engine control manufacturing operation. When Lockheed Martin Control Systems was combined with BAE Systems in 2000, Jim was named president of BAE Systems Controls. During the course of his career, he has overseen the development and production of mission-critical control systems used on all U.S. military aircraft and most of the global military aircraft, as well as every regional and large commercial aircraft worldwide.

In addition to his broad engineering and management experience, Jim has been an invaluable resource for our community, ensuring that BAE Systems and the previous owners of the Johnson City, New York, plant were involved and committed partners in the redevelopment of the Greater Binghamton region's economy. He has matched his professional commitment to our communities with a personal one, serving on the directorial boards of several local organizations, including the United Way and the SUNY Binghamton School of Management. He has justly received the many honors bestowed upon him by community organizations.

In addition to these numerous professional credentials, it must be noted that I, like so many others in Broome County, regard Jim as a friend. He inspires great loyalty in his employees and affection from the countless others with whom he has worked over the years, in the defense industry, in the government, and in his home community of Vestal. He will be sorely missed by those of us who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Jim Scanlon and his family on his retirement. I offer my very best wishes to him and his wife Dolores as they begin this new chapter in their lives, along with my deep appreciation for his innovation, dedication and hard work for the past 39 years.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIR ORR, CHAIRMAN AND FOURTH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE OF COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clair Orr, a fellow Coloradan who has served with distinction on the State Board of Education. Since 1994, Clair has endeavored to provide students around the state with greater opportunity in life by obtaining high quality educations in our state's public schools. On this eight-member Board, Clair served as its Chairman and represented the 35,000-square-mile Fourth Congressional District.

Over the course of his tenure, Clair was instrumental in advancing initiatives because of his heart for service, dedication to helping students, and his ability to make tough stands for policies he knew would make a real difference.

It has been said that Clair measures his success by upholding the Colorado Revised Statutes, the U.S. Constitution, and the legal authority given to the Board. For these reasons, it is no wonder that Mr. Orr received the Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of States Board Educators (NASBE) after being nominated by his colleagues in his second term.

Shortly after beginning his service on the Board, Clair Orr successfully challenged Colorado Governor Roy Romer, standing up to his proposed constitutional amendment to change the Colorado Children's Trust Fund Board. Later, in 2000, he was appointed to this Trust by Governor Bill Owens.

Because of his leadership on the Board, however, Governor Romer appointed Clair to the Principle and Administrators Standards Board as well as the Colorado Achievement Task Force.

In the wake of the devastating Columbine shooting that shook our nation, Clair Orr organized an emergency Board meeting and led the bipartisan group to take unanimous action.

Among his other notable contributions over his 11 year term were the design and implementation of the Colorado Student Assessment Program, which is now the longest-standing standards-based assessment in the country. While serving on the Board, Clair oversaw the creation of an accreditation system where the state accredits local school districts using an 11 point system, which in-turn accredit local schools.

Clair Orr helped implement the School Accountability Reports program, which was considered the largest administrative task undertaken by the Colorado Department of Education. Additionally, he played a critical role in reviewing Colorado's plan to implement President Bush's No Child Left Behind.

In addition, Clair served on the Colorado Civics Task and helped secure a multi-million dollar grant for its projects. He was also selected by other Board members to serve for four years on the Nominations Committee for the NASBE.

Throughout Colorado, Clair Orr is revered by the education community and he has received high remarks from those who he has

served alongside. Here are some of the comments of his peers:

"Mr. Orr brought both grace and wisdom to his work for the children of Colorado. His experience, integrity and faith informed his positions and gave meaning to his comments. On behalf of my constituents, I thank him for his efforts to better the education of every child. On behalf of myself and my family, I thank him for being a stellar example of a true public servant."—Rico Munn, 1st Congressional District, Colorado State Board of Education.

"Clair Orr is a kind and gentle man, one of great integrity and conviction. I will remember him most for these things: his insistence on abiding by the words of the Constitution, his deep-felt admiration for the soldiers who gave their lives for our country, his joy in reciting the Gettysburg Address, his stories about raising his three daughters, and his wonderful sense of humor. What I appreciated most about working with him was that even when he had a strong opinion about something, he was willing to listen to others' points of view, give them serious consideration, and compromise."—Ernie Hudak, 2nd Congressional District, Colorado State Board of Education.

"During Clair's tenure on the Colorado State Board of Education he never wavered in his oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States, he also referred to the Constitution quite frequently, keeping us on track. Always the Gentleman, he demonstrated quality leadership with strong convictions. His devotion and dedication to the academic achievement for all of Colorado's Children was without a doubt exemplary. The Citizens of Colorado are truly indebted to Clair for his service on our Colorado State Board of Education. I personally want to thank Clair for his mentorship, leadership and most of all friendship!"—Pamela Jo Suckla, Chairman 3rd Congressional District Colorado State Board of Education.

"Clair Orr is a unique education leader. His special attention to rural schools has opened doors of academic opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Colorado youngsters. Clair's commonsense approach to pressing issues and sweeping changes in public education has made him a true statesman among education leaders. Clair's example of hard work, boundless dedication and compassion will long be the template for how the State Board of Education operates in the future."—Bob Schaffer, State Board of Education and Former U.S. Congressman, 4th Congressional District.

"CLAIR stands for: Concern for all children, not just a few; Leadership by moving boldly forward; A passion for service in his unwavering commitment to make Colorado schools move towards excellence; Integrity drove every decision he made during his eleven years on the board; Righteousness exudes from his very presence. There was never any question of Clair's motives."—Peg Littleton, State Board of Education, 5th Congressional District

"I am honored to have served my first year on the Colorado State Board of Education

with my colleague Clair Orr. As the newest member of the board, I found that his perspective, his respect for history and his vision for the State Board of Education was critical to our success as an elected board and a cohesive working group. Without his sense of history and where we had come, we would have—and now will—lacked a critical viewpoint in our deliberations. Clair Orr will be sorely missed and I wish him all the best in his next endeavors."—Karen Middleton, State Board of Education, 7th Congressional District.

"Clair Orr has volunteered for the state of Colorado and its schoolchildren for eleven years on the State Board of Education. He has served as Chairman, and was also recently acknowledged by the National Association of State Boards of Education for his many years of distinguished service. The example that Mr. Orr has set raises the bar for all of us and serves to encourage others to give back to this great Democratic Republic. When I was first elected to the board, Mr. Orr helped get me caught up on the many issues we faced and always had time to help me out with questions. The state of Colorado owes Mr. Orr a debt of gratitude for his time and efforts."—Jared Polis, Member-At-Large, Colorado State Board of Education.

For Clair, though, it is not about appointments, awards or public recognition, it was about keeping students front and center. For this reason, he often traveled the hundreds of miles needed in order to speak at town hall meetings, meet with parents, hear from school boards, and visit with educators around Northern and Southeastern Colorado. Mr. Orr utilized the media to get his message out. He had regularly scheduled radio appearances and frequently wrote editorials for the many small town papers throughout the district.

Clair Orr is also a dedicated family man and a successful business man. He has been married over 30 years to his wife Deb and has three grown daughters. Clair is a native Colorado resident and a fourth generation farmer. Mr. Orr is founder and is Chief Executive Officer of Agtown Technologies, which specializes in water accounting programs and web development for agro-businesses. One of his top clients is the renowned Western Stock Show. He also is a real estate broker who specializes in water rights sales as well as farms and ranches.

In 2004, Clair was nominated by the Northern Colorado Business Report as an Emerging Entrepreneur. In 2003, he was named Businessman of the Year by the National Republican Committee. In 2002, he was appointed to the Presidential Business Commission.

As a former member of the Board of Education in Morgan County, Colorado, I have seen Clair Orr work firsthand, and I have witnessed his drive to improve the quality of teaching in Colorado's classrooms. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this legislative body recognize

the talents and successes of Mr. Clair Orr and join me in congratulating him on two successful and challenging terms as a State Education Board member.

SAGO, ALMA NO. 1 MINE  
TRAGEDIES

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, 2006 has not been kind to West Virginia's coal mining communities. First, we lost 12 miners in Sago. Then, just 17 days later, a fire broke out at the Alma No. 1 mine in Melville, trapping two men, untraceable beneath the Earth's surface. I was with the families of Ellery "Elvis" Hatfield and Don Bragg while we waited for news of the two men. We clung tightly to the hope that those men, dust-covered and weary, would emerge from the Alma mine to the hugs of grateful families. In the end, our worst fears were realized, and West Virginia lost two more brave souls.

These tragic events must be investigated by the appropriate officials. Meanwhile, with the Governor advancing new laws at the State level, I and the entire West Virginia Congressional delegation led by Senator BYRD, have already begun to respond by crafting legislative proposals at the federal level to make our mines safer places to work. The nation owes it to our coal miners to advance and enforce new and improved safety measures, and I am wholly dedicated to that endeavor.

I and the rest of the West Virginia Delegation, recently met with White House and other federal officials regarding our concern for mine safety laws and future improvements. I have also called on Congress to convene hearings on the Sago and Melville mine tragedies.

Too often in recent years, miners have expressed fears that the agency's safety mission has been diluted by concerns about costs and that the agency is, in fact, rolling back safety and health gains made since its creation. West Virginia miners toil every day to keep our Nation strong and so we are compelled to do all that we can to ensure their safety and well-being. No stone should be left unturned in the efforts to learn the causes of these tragedies. The Sago and Melville communities—and miners across the nation—deserve a full, fair and expeditious look into these critically important issues.

God bless the families who lost their loved ones in these tragedies, and God bless all who toil in our mines every day.