

"saving those who can be saved, and honoring those who cannot" should be commended and I am proud to stand up and recognize their good works.

Our Nation's first responders are dedicated and, in my opinion, the best in the business. I commend all of America's first responders and the countless volunteer organizations who came to the rescue of their fellow citizens following September 11th, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike, and who joined in the international relief efforts to aid the victims of the 2004 tsunami. Simply put, international relief organizations, like ZAKA and the Red Cross, are critical backstop players in search-and-rescue and recovery efforts, and I hope my colleagues will take the opportunity to research and learn about ZAKA's story and capabilities.

TRIBUTE TO CENTRALIA, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great city in Southern Illinois that has earned a great honor.

Centralia, Illinois, was recently named a 2008 Governor's Home Town Award winner for its Centralia Clean Community Campaign, a community cleanup program. This year, roughly one in eight members of the community participated in some facet of the community cleanup, which included such events as curbside pickup, school neighborhood cleanups and liberty garden planting.

I want to congratulate the citizens of Centralia not only on earning this recognition, but also on their civic mindedness and their willingness to take the time to show their pride in their community by helping to keep it clean. I especially want to acknowledge Bev Virobik, coordinator for Clean & Green and Keep Centralia Beautiful for her organization's efforts in leading this project. Centralia's efforts are truly a model for other communities to follow in expressing their civic pride.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL RITA ARAGON

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend and congratulate retired Major General Rita Aragon, who has been named Woman of the Year by the Journal Record business newspaper in Oklahoma City.

Rita Aragon's story is an inspiration to all women. As a single mother working as a public school teacher, she joined the Oklahoma Air National Guard more than 30 years ago. In 1989 she became the first unit commander in the Guard, and by 2003 she had risen to the rank of Brigadier General. As a Major General she served on active duty as assistant to the commander of air education and training and later as assistant to the chief of Staff Manpower and Personnel in the Pentagon. Since her retirement she has returned to education as director of advance programs at the Col-

lege of Continuing Education at the University of Oklahoma.

Throughout her career, Rita Aragon has given her time and talent to many community organizations and served on the boards of many of those groups. During Oklahoma's response to the 1995 federal building bombing in Oklahoma City she helped lead the military contingent at ground zero. I am honored to recognize Rita Aragon's life of service to her nation, state and city.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JERILYN MCINTYRE, PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I wish to speak today to pay tribute to Dr. Jerilyn McIntyre, the President of Central Washington University (CWU). Dr. McIntyre, who is the first female to serve as President of CWU, will retire at the end of this year after completing eight years of exceptional service to the students, faculty, and community of Central Washington University.

Since her appointment, CWU has experienced a period of incomparable growth and development. In fact, enrollment has increased by 27 percent. Dr. McIntyre has inspired academic advancement and diversity through the implementation of several initiatives. Specifically, the Performing Arts and Presidential Speaker Series, started in 2002, brings nationally renowned speakers and artists to CWU's campuses; providing unique opportunities for students to learn about various ideas, art and cultures. Dr. McIntyre has also encouraged excellence and ingenuity through the Spheres of Distinction initiative, which supports innovative and resourceful approaches to academic, student and campus life.

To complement the growing student body, Dr. McIntyre worked to transform the University's campuses into the state-of-the-art facilities we see today. In fact, the extensive renovation and restoration of both residential campus and academic facilities under Dr. McIntyre's tenure have been recognized with national architectural awards. CWU's University Centers in Lynnwood, Des Moines, Steilacoom, Wenatchee, Moses Lake, and Yakima have also benefited from renovation projects, providing a modern and exciting atmosphere that stimulates student life and academic discovery.

In addition to her role as President of the university, Dr. McIntyre has continued to regularly teach courses at CWU. Sharing her instructional talents and knowledge of communications studies clearly illustrates her enthusiasm and desire to directly contribute to her student's academic success.

Dr. McIntyre earned her Bachelor of Arts in History and Master of Arts in Journalism at Stanford University, and received her Ph.D. in History and Communication from the University of Washington. She is the author of numerous articles and papers on communication history, journalism ethics, and higher education issues.

Dr. McIntyre provided exemplary service to our state and the Central Washington Univer-

sity community throughout her eight years at CWU. I am honored that I had the opportunity to work with Jerilyn, and I commend her for her achievements and dedication to expanding the educational opportunities at the university. Undoubtedly Dr. McIntyre's contributions have made a remarkable and positive impression on the lives and academic opportunities of countless students.

I am also pleased to hear that Jerilyn and her husband David will be retiring in Ellensburg. It is great to know that they will remain constituents of mine and a part of the Ellensburg community. Finally, I would like to thank Dr. McIntyre for her service at CWU, and wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MURPHY, TX

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the city of Murphy, TX, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this week. This city's rich history and enduring perseverance serves as a shining example of the mettle of all Texans.

The first settlers of Murphy arrived in 1846, establishing a village which later became known as a shipping point for area farmers and stock raisers.

However, it wasn't until 1888 that it received the name it is known by today when William Murphy donated the right of way used to build a railroad line through the center of what would become the town.

Although Murphy's borders enclose only 3.8 square miles, the population has quadrupled since the last U.S. census.

Murphy is known for its close-knit community, family values, and friendly faces. With a rich history of country living and community building activities, Murphy prides itself on promoting the well-being of its residents of all ages.

This fast-growing city boasts over 14,000 residents, comprised largely of families. Popular D Magazine has ranked Murphy as one of the premiere Dallas suburbs to live. Ebby Halliday, a local real estate company, notes that "Murphy offers a small town environment with 'big city' convenience. . . . This town is ideal for families looking for the best of both worlds."

I congratulate the good people of Murphy on its 50th anniversary and wish the residents many more years of prosperity.

INCREASING SCHOOL'S OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS ACT OF 2008

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Increasing School's Opportunities for Success Act to make two important changes to "No Child Left Behind."