

Don Alfiero worked hard day-in and day-out on behalf of everyone in Norwich. He served on several boards and commissions and was a senior member of the City Council. He recognized the importance of education and fought to ensure that the students in his community had the very best. Don Alfiero was more than a remarkable public servant, he was a great person. He was gregarious and outspoken, but compassionate above all else. I have attached an editorial from the Norwich Bulletin that describes Don well which I request be included following my statement.

Mr. Speaker, Don Alfiero's memory will live on and endure in Norwich. He will always be a model for those of us in public service.

[Editorial from the Norwich Bulletin]

**LOSS OF DON ALFIERO STUNS AND DIMINISHES  
NORWICH AND COUNCIL**

Donald L. Alfiero died suddenly yesterday morning and his loss has stunned and saddened this city.

As husband, neighbor, alderman, volunteer—and simply a good guy—Don Alfiero touched a lot of people hereabouts and always for the better.

Don was 62, retired from Electric Boat, and the senior member of the Norwich City Council. A Democrat, Don represented Precinct 9. But you didn't have to be a Democrat or live in his precinct to call Don Alfiero a friend.

If ever there were anyone of whom it could be said led by example, Don Alfiero was that man. He was involved, he listened and—regardless of what others thought—Don always spoke his mind and did what he thought best. That didn't always win him great popularity; but for Don being popular was secondary to being right.

His service to the city was extensive. Don was vice chairman, then chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, and remained active with it after that. He was a member of the Mohegan Park Advisory Committee, the Public Parking Commission, City Hall Renovations Committee and the Public Works and Capital Improvements Committee.

Don's and his wife Anna's commitment to education is well known. Anna is chairwoman of the Norwich Board of Education.

Lines on a resume do not adequately describe Don Alfiero. Though they had no children, Don was a grandfatherly kind of guy who loved his city and the people who live here.

It's appropriate to recall that shortly before he died, Don was on the radio with Johnny London, cheerleading for his city and summer festivals at Howard T. Brown Park.

Don Alfiero was a nice man, but more importantly he was a good man. His presence in this city will be missed.

Anna has our sympathy. Don has our prayers. The Norwich City Council has big shoes to fill.

**TRIBUTE TO MEL TAKAKI**

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of Colorado's outstanding individuals, Mel Takaki. In doing so, I would like to pay tribute to an individual who, time and again, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty.

A resident of Pueblo, Colorado, Mel Takaki has taken an active role to better his community. Recently, Mr. Takaki, a Pueblo civic leader, was recognized with a "Distinguished Service Award" from the University of Colorado for his work in medicine and community service.

A graduate of the Northwestern Dental School, Mel Takaki has previously been honored by the University of Colorado as an honorary alumnus. He was nominated for the "Distinguished Service Award" by Dr. Robert Schrier, chairman of the CU Health Services Center in Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Takaki has worked to better the community of Pueblo in various capacities. He has cared for the citizens of Pueblo through his work as a dentist, and he has provided leadership as an economic-development leader and former City Council president. He is an outstanding citizen and great contributor, and for this I would like to express my gratitude and pay tribute to him for his extraordinary efforts.

**TRIBUTE TO GERALDINE "GERRY"  
SCHNEIDER**

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate Geraldine "Gerry" Schneider on completing her general educational development certificate at Lewis and Clark Community College on June 10, 1999, at age 58. Ms. Schneider was born with cerebral palsy.

Despite this disability, Ms. Schneider diligently worked to learn the three R's. Her work at Lewis and Clark Community College that began in 1994, has allowed her to become actively engaged in issues on disabilities as a resident of Godfrey, Illinois. She was appointed to the Illinois Planning Council on Development by former Governor Jim Edgar, and has moved out of nursing and group homes to live with a companion Raymond Boyle since her educational progress.

Her success can also be attributed to Support Systems Services; a nonprofit organization that provided the funds allowing Gerry to pay for her classes. I believe this is an excellent example of local service organizations caring about people, and helping dreams become realities. I commend both Geraldine Schneider and Support Systems Inc. for their efforts.

I want to congratulate Gerry, in particular, for receiving her hard-earned and much deserved GED. Her personal efforts to persevere and overcome adversity are an inspiration to us all.

**HONORING THE OUTSTANDING  
GRADUATES OF THE EL PUENTE  
ACADEMY**

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my colleagues

to join me in congratulating special graduates of the 12th Congressional District of New York. I am certain that this day marks the culmination of much effort and hard work which has led and will lead them to continued success. In these times of uncertainty, limited resources, and random violence in our communities and schools, it is encouraging to know that they have overcome these obstacles and succeeded.

These students have learned that education is priceless. They understand that education is the tool to new opportunities and greater endeavors. Their success is not only a tribute to their strength but also to the support they have received from their parents and loved ones.

In closing, I encourage all my colleagues to support the education of the youth of America. With a solid education, today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders. And as we approach the new millennium, it is our responsibility to pave the road for this great Nation's future. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives I ask you to join me in congratulating the following outstanding students from the El Puente Academy: Lily Andugar, Indra Camo, Isable Espinal, Ana Hernandez, Evelyn Hernandez, Mia Hilton, Luis Johnson, Miriam Nunez, Maria Perez, Marvin Rodriguez, Luis Ramos, Gerson Santillana, Rodolfo Solis, Omar Torres, Jennifer Valentin, Octovio Vargas, Taiesah Vasquez, and Essany Velazquez.

**INTRODUCTION OF ZERO CAPITAL  
GAINS PROPOSAL**

**HON. JENNIFER DUNN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MATSUI and I are introducing a bold proposal to zero out capital gains taxes for those who invest in our burgeoning high tech industry. We are joined by our colleagues on both sides of the aisle who are leaders in the effort to foster a healthy economic climate in which our nation's high tech companies can continue to thrive.

The American economy is moving quickly from one dominated by large corporations to one whose growth is fueled by emerging entrepreneurial high-growth companies. Entrepreneurial companies are today's leaders in job creation, technological innovation, and international competitiveness. America's future economic well-being lies in the hands of today's emerging companies and the central organizing principle for our nation's economic policy should be entrepreneurship.

Over the course of many years, a complex fabric of public policies have created the environment in which entrepreneurial firms compete. Due to the fact that the public policy needs of this community have not been articulated in a united fashion or widely understood by policy makers, however, the basic "building blocks" used to enhance economic growth have not been properly constructed. I rise today to begin to lay the foundation for this policy and ensure that the engine that drives this economy has access to the fuel it needs to thrive: capital.