

which I have built my career in public service. As the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I am a strong supporter of the JROTC and the ROTC Programs. The fine cadets at Chapin High School are excellent examples of what the JROTC Program stands for. I am very proud of what this outstanding group of high school students has accomplished. Since being established in 1996, the NJROTC Unit at Chapin High School has doubled in size, and 51 percent of the Freshman Class have enrolled in the NJROTC Unit for the 1999/2000 academic year. The Chapin High School NJROTC cadets have worked tirelessly to prove that they exemplify excellence, and I would like to offer my congratulations to them for being named the most outstanding NJROTC Unit in the Nation for 1999 by the Navy League of the United States.

TRIBUTE TO BILL GARRETT

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, in 1990 during my race for Governor of Georgia I had the privilege to meet and get to know Heath Garrett, then a student at the University of Georgia. In the years since, Heath became my campaign manager, my Chief of Staff, and always my friend.

As our friendship grew, I came to know Heath's father, Bill. On the evening of October sixteenth, Bill Garrett passed away, the victim of a heart attack and a lifetime battle with diabetes. I rise today, to pay tribute to the life of Bill Garrett.

During the past year, Bill volunteered in my Congressional District Office 4 hours a day answering the phone and greeting constituents. He always answered the phone the same way, "Johnny Isakson's office, Bill Garrett how may I help you." Bill Garrett's voice was always pleasant, and his "how may I help you" assured the caller he really wanted to help.

As I came to know Bill, I learned of his battle with diabetes. For over 50 years Bill dealt with the daily blood sugar test, the rigid and limiting diet, and the inevitable complication of the disease that strikes thousands of Americans every year. Like so many Americans with diabetes, Bill Garrett did not complain and led a productive life.

As we pause to pay tribute to Bill Garrett, each of us in Congress should renew our effort to commit the funds for the research to find a cure for diabetes. There are thousands of Americans like Bill Garrett, and many in every Congressional district in this country. Let us work together to make tributes like this less frequent, and the occurrence of diabetes less frequent in America. Let us do it for Bill Garrett.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON AND THOSE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with an overwhelming sense of pride that I now rise to pay tribute to a truly historic event in the proud and distinguished history of the great State of Colorado: the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

As the House sponsor of legislation that redesignated the Black Canyon as a national park, it gives me great joy to describe for this esteemed body's record the beauty of this truly majestic place. In addition, I would like to offer my gratitude to a community of individuals instrumental in the long process that ultimately yielded the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has visited the Black Canyon can attest to its awe-inspiring natural beauty. Named for the dark rock that makes up its sheer walls, the Black Canyon is largely composed of what geologists call basement rocks, the oldest rocks on the earth estimated at 1.7 billion years old. With its narrow openings, sheer walls, and scenic gorges that plunge 2000 feet into the clear blue majesty of the Gunnison River, the Black Canyon is a natural crown jewel second to none in its magnificent splendor. Though other canyons may have greater depth or descend on a steeper course, few combine these attributes as breathtakingly as does the Black Canyon.

If ever there was a place worthy of the prestigious status that only national park status can afford, Mr. Speaker, it is the Black Canyon. But as you know, national parks don't just happen. In this case, it took nearly 15 years, several Congressional Representatives and Senators, innumerable locally elected officials, and a virtual sea of committed citizens in western Colorado.

Included in this group are the good people of Delta, Colorado. During this long and at times difficult process, Delta's civic leaders have given tirelessly and beyond measure in the hopes of making the Black Canyon a national park. Again and again these great Americans rose to the challenge, doing everything in their power to fulfill this dream. Without Delta's leadership and perseverance, none of what we have accomplished would have ever been possible.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I give my thanks to the people of Delta who played a leading role in making the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park a wonderful reality for Colorado, America, and the world to enjoy.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE P. MITCHELL

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a man who is not only a great

Galvestonian, but a great American, Mr. George P. Mitchell. On Friday, the City of Galveston will pay tribute to George for his service to the community by naming a street after him. Business took George away from the 9th District, but he came back to make it a better place to live.

George Mitchell was born in the Ninth Congressional District, the area of Texas that I have the privilege to represent. Following his graduation from Texas A&M University and his service during World War II, he went to work for a newly formed wildcatting company. In 1959 he was appointed president and guided the progression of the company to its current status as one of the most extensive independent gas and oil producers in the nation and one of the largest real estate developers in the Houston-Galveston region.

A man of great vision, George developed a real estate project in the 1960's on a scale never seen in the flourishing Houston area. He created The Woodlands, a 25,000-acre planned community located 27 miles north of downtown Houston. Today, more than 40,000 people reside in The Woodlands and are living George Mitchell's dream.

George has made the bulk of his substantial contributions to the Galveston community and the people who live there. He believes in Galveston and its residents, and has unflinchingly placed his time and energy into its progression. As I thank George for his contributions, I also must recognize his wife, Cynthia Mitchell, who was by his side lending strong support and partnership throughout his career.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to speak on behalf of Mr. George Mitchell and all of his accomplishments. He is a man that I look to for inspiration as I continue to work for the communities and neighborhoods of Texas. When I drive down "Mitchell Avenue" it will be with great pleasure, as it recognizes a man who has committed his life not to himself, but to others.

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