IN HONOR OF THE LATE KEITH CLARK
HON. SCOTT MCKINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. MCKINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I would like to take this moment to honor the remarkable life and exceptional achievements of a great Coloradan and American, Keith Clark. In doing so, I wish to pay tribute to Keith for all of his many years of service and sacrifice on behalf of this nation. At the same time, I would also like to offer my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Keith as they grieve at his passing. Like those who knew him well, the entire Grand Junction community will miss both Keith and his tireless service on their behalf.

For 29 years in Grand Junction, Colorado’s School District 51, Keith was a pillar of education who served with great distinction, both as a teacher and as an advocate for improving our schools. Keith was, for nearly three decades, a powerful voice of leadership and vision for education in the Grand Valley. It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that his leadership in education will continue to benefit students in our school system for many years to come. I know that this is a legacy that Mr. Clark would take great pride in.

In addition to his service as an educator, Keith also served his country with great valor as a B-52 pilot during World War II. Mr. Clark flew and fought bravely over the skies of North Africa and Italy in defense of the nation he loved deeply.

At one might surmise from his sustained service and selfless sacrifice, Keith was also a fierce patriot and proud American. He believed deeply in our constitutional form of government and in the bedrock principles—like freedom, liberty, and individual self-determination—upon which this great republic stands. It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Mr. Keith Clark for his decades of service, both in defense of our country as an airman and in defense of our future as an educator. He was truly a great American.

The same time, I would also like to offer my heartfelt sympathy to Keith’s family: his wife of 52 years Anita, his children Katie and Kelly. I hope that these family members, wife of 52 years Anita, his children Katie and Kelly.

Joan Kelly has taught in La Crescenta, California for 11 years. However, her work as a teacher began long before her move to my district. Throughout her life, Joan has committed herself to serving the needs of students and the needs of the community. Joan is a native of Brooklyn, New York. A graduate of Fordham University, she taught elementary school and worked extensively in the New York area. Her work with students and parents led her to develop a counseling program in Yonkers, New York. This program is a shining example of her relentless pursuit of innovative and creative ways to reach students.

Joan joined the faculty at Rosemont Middle School in the Spring of 1987. Her efforts as a math, history, and English teacher and school administrator contributed to Rosemont being recognized as a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and a California Distinguished School.

In honor of the late Keith Clark, Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize their selflessness and lives.

How is it that this “Jibaro Puertoquero” came to lead his life in the desert? While a boy in Puerto Rico, Dr. Ortiz dreamt of helping others. His parents encouraged his love of learning and dedication to the public service.

As a fellow Puerto Rican-American, as a fellow American, I am pleased to rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Augusto Ortiz and his wife Martha, who have for half a century provided medical and clinical services to the Spanish-speaking population of Arizona. I wish to recognize their selflessness and commitment to the health and welfare of their fellow Americans.

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, none of us here today would have found success without the help and guidance of a teacher. As students, we were all influenced by those who commit their lives to the service of others. Too often, this service goes unnoticed. Today, I would like to salute the service of a teacher who has dedicated over a decade of her career to the students in my district.

Dr. Ortiz became a champion for the rights of those he served. His involvement in improving human needs and access to medical care, better education, housing and jobs led him to become politically active and an ally for people who lacked a voice, particularly farm workers. He worked to improve field sanitation conditions and was instrumental in enacting state laws to regulate the use of pesticides.

Martha Ortiz was the organizational brains of this effort. She served as the full time administrator, personnel director and business manager of the office mostly as a volunteer, because she refused to accept payment for her services. She ably handled the many “pay what you can” patient alternatives that enabled the medical practice to continue to make health services available and affordable to low income and indigent residents of Arizona.

Since 1972, Dr. Ortiz has headed the University of Arizona Rural Health Office and has successfully directed more efficient health services including prevention-focused health campaigns, mobile clinics and community health boards. He is a living model to aspiring doctors and others in the health professions.

During their 50 year commitment to their fellow man and woman, Dr. and Mrs. Ortiz have been awarded many rightfully deserved honors and recognitions at the community, state and national levels. As a fellow Puerto Rican-American, as a fellow Hispanic and as a fellow American, I am pleased to rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Augusto Ortiz and his wife Martha, who have for half a century provided medical and clinical services to the Spanish-speaking population of Arizona.