

my fellow colleagues will join me in honoring these individuals and praising the Puerto Rican people as they celebrate Constitution Day.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE STEFANELLI SIMMONS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Louise Stefanelli Simmons who retired from the Corps of Engineers in Huntington, West Virginia on August 1, 2000 after dedicating 39 years, 11 months and four days to the Corps.

I salute Louise Stefanelli Simmons for her lifelong dedication to her husband and son Alan, as well as her devotion to duty throughout her service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Her professionalism as well as her commitment to family and community are an outstanding example of family values and good citizenship.

Louise was born in Newark, New Jersey of Italian immigrant parents, one of four children. After graduating from Newark Prep with an associate degree in business, Louise worked as a civilian for the U.S. Army Corps in Newark during World War II, where she met her future husband Howard "Red" Simmons. Upon her marriage, she left family and friends in New Jersey to marry "Simmy" as she called him, moving with him to Huntington, West Virginia. Louise remembers the "culture shock" when she first visited downtown Huntington—the girl from the "big city"—there was no comparison.

Early on in her marriage to "Simmy", she helped him run their restaurant, the Corral Drive-Inn near Marshall University, then got her real estate license so she could help him in his real estate development business.

In addition to helping out with the restaurant business and her husband's real estate interests, Louise worked several years for an insurance company before coming to the Corps of Engineers in 1963. Beginning in the typing pool before becoming secretary to the Chief of Engineering, she later became the secretary to the Colonel in charge of the Huntington Corps, where she remained for nearly four decades.

Louise will spend much of her retirement time as a long-time booster of Marshall University's sports activities, especially the football team, and attending the sporting events involving her two grandchildren, Mark 14 and Elizabeth 12.

Louise loves to travel, back to New Jersey with family and friends. Early this summer she took a 2-week vacation to Italy, to revisit the history of her parentage, and to steep herself in the culture and traditions of her parents' homeland.

Other retirement activities will include her dedication to walking (twice around Ritter Park at least 5 days a week), watching old movies, and perfecting her Italian cooking. Louise is an active member of Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church, the Women's Club of Huntington, and participates in the Professional Secretaries Association.

I wish all the best for Louise, her husband, son Alan and her grandchildren as she embarks upon her Golden Years giving all her uninterrupted energy and love to her family, to her church, and to the community to which she has already contributed so abundantly throughout her remarkable life in her adopted State of West Virginia.

HONORING BASIL T. KNIGHT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I now honor an extraordinary human being and great American, Basil T. Knight. Mr. Knight was an educator that changed the lives of literally thousands of young men and women over his more than seven decades as an educator in western Colorado. As family, friends, former students and colleagues mourn this profound loss, I would like to honor this truly great American.

Mr. Knight was an individual that reached out to help every human being that he came in contact with. As an educator, countless students in District 51 have been affected by this remarkable man and each are better off because of his service. Basil began his legendary educational career as a substitute teacher at Mount Lincoln School near Palisade, Colorado, in 1923. He went on to become Principal only a year later. In 1925, Basil became a math teacher at Grand Junction High School where he remained for over three decades. As remarkable as his teaching career was, his immense impact upon the community continued long after he left the classroom.

Mr. Knight was elected County Supervisor of Schools in 1965, which placed him in charge of over 40 schools within the county. As supervisor, he continued to work to ensure that the children in his community would receive the best education possible. His commitment to education earned him not only the Educator of the Year award in 1974 from the Colorado Education Association, but also the District 51 staff development center now bears his name. Employees and visitors alike are reminded of his unmatched commitment to education every time they set foot in the Basil T. Knight Center.

Mr. Knight's passion for serving children extended well into his golden years. In fact, he played an instrumental role in the passage of a recent school bond initiative that helped improve a number of existing schools in the Grand Junction area and build two new ones. The passing of this bond was the answer to a wish he made on his 100th birthday. Beyond his brick and mortar contributions to School District 51, Mr. Knight's legacy will also endure in his five A's philosophy (attendance, attitude, attention, achievement and ABC's), a philosophy still used by the district today.

Former State Senator Tilman Bishop, in a recent article in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, helps to sum up the impact Basil had on his community: "Many generations have and will benefit from Basil T. Knight, to say he was

a unique person is an understatement. Thank you Basil for all you stood for and believed in."

Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, as you can see, this extraordinary human being truly deserves our gratitude and our thanks. It is individuals like Basil who are committed to bettering the lives of America's youth through both education and public service that make our great country what it is today. Basil T. Knight may be gone, but his proud and distinguished legacy will long endure.

America is most assuredly a better place for having known Basil T. Knight.

PROPOSED TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL DOUGLAS E. WADE, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Douglas E. Wade as he prepares to culminate his active duty career in the United States Air Force. Doug is the epitome of an outstanding officer and leader.

Lieutenant Colonel Wade began his career more than 20 years ago as an enlisted soldier in the Army. He then received his direct commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force. A law graduate of Ohio State University, as well as the Air Command and Staff College, Doug Wade has met the many challenges of military service as an Air Force Officer, and has faithfully served his country in a variety of command and staff assignments.

Doug concludes his career as the Director for House Affairs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs; he was instrumental in advising the Defense Department leadership on a broad range of national security issues of immediate interest to Congress. Doug's personal rapport with the House leadership and Members of Congress was vital in ensuring Department of Defense programs were clearly presented and soundly defended on Capitol Hill.

Mr. Speaker, service and dedication to duty have been the hallmarks of Lieutenant Colonel Wade's career. He has served our nation and the Air Force well during his years of service, and we are indebted for his many contributions and sacrifices in the defense of the United States. I am sure that everyone who has worked with Doug joins me in wishing him and his family health, happiness, and success in the years to come.

HONORING DONELDA WARHURST AND LIZ STUMPF OF YORBA LINDA, CALIFORNIA

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor