

For the past five years, Sheri has been the Dean of Development at Fort Lewis College. After receiving her education, she joined the Fort Lewis College staff as a secretary for the sciences faculty. Her natural ability to lead and desire to succeed soon moved her up the ladder of advancement. Before becoming Dean, she served Fort Lewis College in the capacity of Director of Admissions.

Along with her duties at Fort Lewis, Sheri is also quite active in the community of Durango. She has served as president of the Durango Foundation for Educational Excellence and has been a long time supporter and member of the La Plata County Historical Society and the Animas Museum. Sheri has worked diligently for the community of Durango and Fort Lewis College. Her contributions have been great in number. As she continues to serve as Dean of Development, I wish her the very best. Sheri is one of our own in western Colorado and she has made us all very proud.

TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTER,
ROBERT C. BRANNON, JR.

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert C. Brannon, Jr., a fallen firefighter from Bluefield, West Virginia, who passed away at the age of 43 after suffering a heart attack while battling a house fire.

Robert C. Brannon, Jr. lived his life with integrity, dignity and honor. He was a man known for his service to his family, his church, and his community. As an alumnus of West Virginia University and Bluefield State University, he was well-educated and well-rounded and used his education in business and engineering to help people in need. Mr. Brannon served as lieutenant and fire inspector for the Bluefield Fire Department.

Although Mr. Brannon's life was cut short, he lived it to the fullest. Before serving over 20 years with the Bluefield Fire Department he enjoyed growing up in Bluefield, West Virginia. As a boy, he played little league, wrote for his high school newspaper and was on his high school basketball team. As an adult, Robert C. Brannon, Jr. not only gained the technical knowledge to create and design web pages but also was skilled as an electrician, carpenter, stoneworker and painter.

Known by his friends and family as Bob, he was a loyal friend, husband and father. Bob, along with his wife Cindy, showed love and guidance to their two sons Jonathan and Jeffrey. He and his family were also active in Christ Episcopal Church in Bluefield.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House please join me in recognizing and honoring the life of service and dedication of Robert C. Brannon, Jr., and commemorate his sacrifice of service as a Bluefield firefighter.

EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY OF MARY
LOUISE QUIGG CALDWELL
PLUMER

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize one of my constituents and very dear friends, Mary Louise Quigg Caldwell Plumer, of Miami, Florida, who will be celebrating her 80th birthday on October 21, 2000.

Mary was born October 21, 1920 in Live Oak, Florida. Her parents moved to Miami when she was 6 years of age, where she was educated and graduated from Ponce de Leon High School in 1938. She served as editor of the school newspaper and was awarded the Woman's Club Cup as the "Most Outstanding Girl." Mary continued her education at the Florida State College for Women (FSCW), becoming a member of the Sophomore Council, the Cotillion Club and the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. She graduated from FSCW in 1940 and transferred to the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, where she was awarded the Valkyrie Cup as the Most Outstanding Coed of the University, graduating in 1942.

Moving to Atlanta, Georgia in 1942, she worked as the publicity director for radio station WSB. She returned to Miami and contributed to the War effort by working for the Red Cross as staff assistant to the Army Air Corps Redistribution Unit in Miami Beach, where she met her husband to be, Naval Lt. Commander Richard B. Plumer. He was graduated from Miami High School, Philips Exeter Academy and Princeton University (summa cum laude).

Mary raised four children (Richard, Penny, Christopher and Patience) and became actively involved in many worthwhile community projects. Among her accomplishments, she brilliantly led a committee to build the All Faith Chapel at Jackson Memorial Hospital in 1973, five years after her daughter, Penny, died there. She has had articles published in The Miami Herald and Reader's Digest. She was awarded the M.O.M. Cup in 2000 as the Most Outstanding Mother. She also earned a prestigious reference in Who's Who of American Women.

Mary's gracious manner and warm spirit has won the hearts of the people of Miami. She is admired and respected for her compassion and generosity to anyone who is fortunate to meet her. It is my sincere pleasure and great honor to join Mary's family and friends in wishing her a wonderful celebration and many more happy and healthy birthdays.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM H. AVERY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my congratulations to the many tributes recently given to the Honorable William H. Avery, a former member of this House and a former governor of the state of Kansas.

On September 29, the post office in Wakefield, Kansas, the hometown of Bill Avery, was renamed in his honor, and the town honored their native son by proclaiming the event the "William H. Avery Day."

I had the pleasure of working with Bill Avery at the Department of the Interior in the early 1970's after his distinguished 10-year career in Congress and as the 37th governor of Kansas. After receiving a degree from the University of Kansas in 1934, he went back to his hometown to work the family farm. He started his public service career on the local school board in his hometown, and from there was elected to the Kansas State House of Representatives before moving on to Congress and the Kansas statehouse.

Bill Avery is a man of honor and integrity who has devoted his life to serving the public. He continues to reside in Wakefield today, and it's a fitting tribute to this fine gentleman that the people of his hometown have recognized his service to their community by renaming their post office in his honor. I join in saluting The Honorable William H. Avery.

HONORING MILES KARA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sadness that I take this moment to celebrate the life of Miles Kara of Grand Junction, Colorado. Miles recently passed away in his home at the age of 84. Miles lived a life full of love and happiness and his legacy will long endure. As family, friends, and colleagues mourn this immense loss, I would like to take this time to pay tribute to a truly compassionate and wonderful human being.

Miles was born and raised on the western slope of Colorado, and would eventually raise his children there as well. Graduating from Fruitvale High School and Grand Junction Junior College, he went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Colorado in 1937. Upon graduation, he taught at Appleton High School for a few years and then met his patriotic duty by serving his country in the United States Air Force during WWII. After returning a proud veteran, he enrolled in Westminster Law School, graduating with a law degree in 1948.

His educational background easily prepared Miles for the many career choices he would make during his service to the people of the Grand Valley. After moving back to his childhood home, Miles practiced law for a number of years before working with a number of different organizations, all serving the Grand Junction community admirably. He began his service to his community as Mesa County Judge and moved on to work for US Bank as Senior Vice President and a Trust Officer. But Miles is best known for his work in education, where he served as President of the District 51 Board of Education and as Executive Director the Mesa State College Foundation.

Miles worked hard to ensure that Grand Valley's youth were receiving the best education possible. His devotion to his community was