CPS has made the participation of small and historically disadvantaged businesses a central tenet of its operating policy. CPS conducted numerous seminars and individual interviews to explain the purchasing process and identify potential obstacles. By listening to the target audience—small, minority and women-owned businesses—CPS learned what was needed to make its outreach efforts most productive. Among other actions taken to increase subcontracting opportunities, CPS subdivided larger contracts into smaller ones, eliminated bonding, except in high risk areas, implemented longer contract terms in certain cases, and businesses the chance to amortize their capital costs, significantly reduced and sometimes eliminated insurance requirements, facilitated meetings with CPS personnel to foster communication, expanded the use of target businesses in professional contracting, lowered the subcontracting requirements for prime contractors to submit a plan for the use of small businesses from $500,000 to $100,000, and waived contract requirements on low-risk jobs under $50,000.

CPS has been a leader in developing programs for small business. For example, in July 1998, CPS launched the first Mentoring/Project-year long program for small, minority and women-owned businesses. The goal of this program is to enhance business skills for start-up businesses and to assist in the development of firms in operation from 4 to 7 years. In 1999, CPS joined with the city of San Antonio and other local governments to establish the South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency to centralize, and thereby simplify, the process for certification as a small, disadvantaged, or woman-owned business. CPS has also found success in its one-stop Supplier Diversity Program, which now has 3,800 certified vendors.

CPS works with local chambers of commerce to increase local and small business participation in contract bidding. Through educational programs and one-on-one meetings, the utility has been able to identify potential business partners, millions of dollars in contract awards have gone to businesses owned by women, Hispanics, and African-Americans.

The SBA’s Eisenhower Award is a great tribute to the years of hard work by CPS leadership and its small business team. I welcome the CPS Chairman of the Board, Clayton Gay, and the Director of Purchasing, Contracts and Small Business Development, Fred Vallasenor, to Washington, and I congratulate CPS General Manager Jamie Rochelle for her leadership and vision. As you accept this award, I hope that it will be for you and the company an inspiration to continue your leadership in small and minority business contracting. You and all of CPS have made us proud!

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF ROSELLA COLLAMER BAUMAN
HON. JAMES A. BARCIA
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Rosella Collamer Bauman on her retirement from the Michigan Women's Studies Association. Rose has truly led a unique and inspiring life, and one which will leave an indelible mark on her community, and the entire state of Michigan.

Born in 1920 to Edna and Ward Smith, Rose’s family moved around quite a bit during her childhood, sometimes more than once in the same year. Determined to graduate high school, she left home at 15 and worked for room and board. When she was 18, the met Max Collamer and the two were married when Rose was 18. The couple would have three children, Larry, Jerry, and Mary, in the next 10 years.

After raising their three children, which is no small feat in its own right, and at a time when “nontraditional” students were uncommon, Rose went back to school to further her education. She earned an associate degree from Delta College, a bachelor of arts degree at my alma mater, then called Saginaw Valley State College, and a master degree in English at Central Michigan University. Rose appreciated the value of her education, and the hard work it took to achieve it, so she founded the Chrysalis Center at Saginaw Valley to help women like herself have access to higher education. The center is thriving today, as Saginaw Valley State University awarded its first Chrysalis Scholarship to a student for this coming fall.

Rose continued to be a pioneer in the field of Women’s Studies by being a founding member of the Michigan Women’s Studies Association in 1973, and, in 1979, the association began the development of the Michigan Women’s Historical Center and Hall of Fame to honor the achievement of Michigan women. And today, on the occasion of her retirement, I am proud to honor her years of service on the center’s board and as editor of the newsletter.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on about Rose’s service to the community, her impressive leadership in advancing women’s studies, her career as an educator (with which I have had the honor of having firsthand experience), or her unparalleled commitment and dedication to her family. But I wanted to wish her well and hope that the days ahead are filled with all the good fruits of a well deserved retirement. I know that she will spend even more time with her second husband, William Bauman, and her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Rose Collamer Bauman has lived a truly incredible life, and serves as a role model and an inspiration to everyone who has ever met her.

IN HONOR OF ALICE McGRATH
HON. ELTON GALLEGLY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Alice McGrath, whose six decades of devotion to disadvantaged and oppressed people here and abroad will be recognized this weekend at the Interface Children Family Services' Tribute Dinner in my district.

Alice McGrath’s life and efforts on behalf of others have been memorialized in a play, documentary film, and two books. She began her