HONORING FLORENCE HOFFMAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Florence Hoffman on receiving the Jackson County Council on Aging 2001 Senior of the Year Award. Florence’s giving heart and gentle spirit have been instrumental in the Council’s success. I am encouraged by her determination and willingness to help others and would like to take this moment to honor her.

Florence is a long-time resident of Cowdroy, Colorado. After her husband passed away, Florence came to rely on the community’s senior citizens’ OATS van, which provides alternative transportation for those who request its aid.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions that Florence has put forth certainly deserve the praise and admiration of this body. Florence has made significant monetary contributions annually to the service and also offers sizable increases to the usual fee for each ride that she takes. Her notable acts of selflessness have bolstered the OATS van and have ensured its consistent availability to the senior citizens of Jackson County.

It is with great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, that I congratulate Florence Hoffman on being named the 2001 Senior of the Year by the Jackson County Council on Aging. I would like to say thank you for the donations made to the service, which the entire elderly population in the area depend so much upon. We are proud of you, Florence!

TRIBUTE TO NANCY G. BACA ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. JOE BACA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Nancy Baca, of Barstow, on the occasion of her retirement on July 3, 2001. Nancy has had a distinguished career of outstanding service, spanning 34 years at the Marine Corps Logistics Base at Barstow, California, for which she has received 13 awards and promotions. These awards recognize her skill and acumen at accounting, express appreciation of her hard work and extra efforts, and salute her notable achievement of saving money and prompting efficiency at the Base.

Throughout her career of outstanding service, and relentless pursuit of cost-effectiveness, Nancy has contributed to saving the Base from closure. The Base plays a pivotal role in the community of Barstow, as an employer and a resource, so we should all be grateful to Nancy and others who have worked to strive for excellence.

This is not just about protecting a community, this is about standing up for the vital interests of our nation, for the Marine Corps Logistics Base at Barstow is essential for testing and repairing vehicles for the Marines. Barstow has special equipment, including water immersion facilities, to ensure that when a vehicle leaves the facility, it is in fighting shape for the mission that lies ahead. As a veteran who has worn the uniform of the United States, I can attest to the peace of mind that comes from knowing our nation has the finest Logistics facilities of any fighting force. For ultimately, the battle is won as much by dedicated workers like Nancy as it is by the labors of the soldier in the field.

Nancy’s story is about working hard, overcoming impoverished circumstances, seeking to better oneself and one’s family by embracing opportunities. It is the story that many individuals of my generation have embodied, indeed, one of my own family experienced growing up. It is the process by which our nation renews itself. It is about the dedication and hope of parents, about their striving for a better world for their children. It is about education and hard work. It is about the Latino experience.

Born on February 14, 1938, and raised in Valencia, New Mexico, in a very poor family of 10 children, Nancy moved to Barstow, California, in 1954, when her father came to Barstow. Nancy graduated from Barstow High School in 1957, married Morris Baca, began a family, and started in 1966 as a GS II Keypunch Operator at the Marine Corps Logistics Base, in Barstow, California. She took accounting classes, ultimately playing a key role in the accounting and budgetary operations of the base.

Throughout it all, Nancy has been a dedicated parent of four children: Yolanda Minor, Berna Hawkins, Anthony Baca, and Anita Lo. For years she accompanied her children to baseball practice, judo matches, girl scouts. Her children have gone on to great success, coming from our nation to the world for their children. It is about education and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Nancy, and become more involved in exercise activities. One can tell that there is no slowing Nancy down—she is still taking the world by storm!

Mr. Speaker, this is the promise of America, that the daughter of a railroad man can serve our nation with distinction and see the rolling hills of Europe, the sunset over the Seine, the canals of Italy, the dusty roads of Spain. She can gaze at the panorama of our Nation’s capital, and marvel at its monuments. She has the freedom that is the birthright of every American, freedom she has helped preserve in her work at Barstow!

And so, I wish Nancy many fine years of active retirement, and the joy that comes through bringing in the harvest of one’s labors. I wish her golden sunsets with her children, lazy days with her grandchildren and great grandchildren, and all good things in life. I wish her God’s blessings and good wishes on this fine occasion. We are all proud of you, we all salute you, as you embark on this new and exciting chapter in your life.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF GENE SMITH

HON. BART GORDON
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Gene Smith for his many accomplishments as an educator and interim president at Middle Tennessee State University. Dr. Smith will end his outstanding career in the higher education arena on August 1 when he retires.

Dr. Smith is an MTSU alumnus who came home to finish his career. After 37 years as an administrator and educator at the University of Memphis, Dr. Smith agreed to guide MTSU through a period of adjustment while the school sought a permanent president. Dr. Smith took the helm at MTSU on October 1, 2000.

Dr. Smith, who grew up next door to the Murfreesboro, Tennessee, university in neighboring Wilson County, received his undergraduate degree from MTSU in 1957. He went on to receive his master’s degree from the University of Memphis and his doctorate from the University of Mississippi. Dr. Smith also has authored numerous publications.

During his short but powerful tenure at MTSU, Dr. Smith kept the university of 19,000 students on a steady course. He made sure gains continued in the school’s highly touted academic programs, and his leadership helped MTSU’s athletic department earn the Sun Belt Conference’s top award for excellence—the Vic Bubas Cup—after just one year in the conference.

The entire MTSU community has profited from Dr. Smith’s stewardship. I congratulate Dr. Smith for his outstanding career in higher education and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION TAX ACT OF 2001

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce with my colleagues the Economic Revitalization Tax Act of 2001.