EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, our country has undergone dramatic changes in recent years, including continued urbanization of the American West. I would like to thank Michael Martin Murphey for his leadership in the crucial movement toward the preservation of our Western heritage.

Michael is blessed with many talents, which he has applied to promote this cause. He is best known for his extensive musical ability, which has earned him countless awards and fans. His Pop and Country music have made him an award-winning artist in those areas, and his American Cowboy Music is the top-seller of its genre. For example, Michael’s hit, "Wildfire" is one of the "most-played songs in the history of radio" according to the Murphey Western Institute of Oklahoma at Medicine Park. In addition, "he is a five-time award winner in The National Cowboy Hall of Fame," and The Academy of Western Artists awarded him 1999 Best Album and Best Song. Michael conveys the essence of the West through his music, allowing his audience to experience the West, rather than only to read about it.

In addition to utilizing his musical ability, Michael has sprung into action using his relationship with Western land issues, his leadership skills, and his writing ability to get the word out about the preservation of Western heritage and culture. He is publisher of The American West magazine, for which he writes articles supporting his cause, and he is currently working on his first book. He also started what Country Music Magazine called "the best festival in the US," the Westfest, located in Lai, Colorado. This festival celebrates "Cowboys, Indians, Country and Western music, Rodeo, Western Art and the world of the American West." Michael understands the need to help people experience the West, empowering them to incorporate Western heritage into their own lives. Along those same lines, he recently established the Murphey Western Institute, a not-for-profit foundation "dedicated to the promotion, preservation and perpetuation of the culture and heritage of the American West through research, education, recreation and entertainment."

Mr. Speaker, Michael Martin Murphey is a man of conviction, and a man whose tireless endeavors have reached millions. I would like to pay him tribute for all that he has done to preserve and promote the American West, a significant aspect of our nation’s history, and one of the most precious aspects of our American heritage.

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