Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former California state senator Rose Ann Vuich, a mentor and her shadow over the Central Valley will be long.

She set a strong standard of ethical behavior that led her to raise tough questions about legislation before the Senate. She rose to become chairman of the Senate Banking and Commerce Committee, a position that allowed her to advocate on behalf of Valley agriculture. She also tirelessly shepherded construction of Highway 41 in Fresno, which she considered her proudest accomplishment.

On a personal level, I had the pleasure of serving as Rose Ann’s Administrative Assistant immediately prior to my coming to Congress in 1990. I learned from Rose Ann the virtue and dedication of public service, and the importance of standing up for what is right.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Rose Ann Vuich and celebrating her long and distinguished legacy of service to California’s Central Valley.

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE 50TH BIRTHDAY OF ELLEN RATNER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Ellen Ratner was born August 28, 1951 and will be celebrating her 50th year surrounding by admiring friends and family; and,

Whereas, Ellen has much to be proud of as she reflects on her many accomplishments and anticipates her future endeavors; and,

Whereas, Ellen has achieved respect and notoriety among Presidents, Members of Congress, and foreign leaders as she has successfully navigated and illuminated the ever-changing tide of American politics; and,

Whereas, Ellen is also an accomplished writer, authoring “The Other Side of the Family: A Book for Recovery from Abuse, Incest, and Neglect” as well as “101 Ways to Get Your Progressive Ideas on Talk Radio”; and,

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Ellen Ratner as she celebrates 50 years of achievement. I am honored to be a close friend with a woman whom I hold in the highest esteem.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD ROWE’S DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN GOVERNMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
HON. GEORGE MILLER
OF CALIFORNIA
HON. DOUG OSE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues from California, Mr. George Miller and Mr. Ose, I wish today to recognize Donald R. Rowe, who is retiring this month following a long and distinguished career in county government.

Mr. Rowe retires as the Director of the Solano County Health Services Department, a position he has held for the past twelve years. As Director, he had the overall administrative, budget and leadership responsibilities for 1,200 employees and an annual operating budget of $187 million.

He was previously employed with the county from 1987 to 1989 as the Chief Executive Officer of Business and Personal Insurance Services.

Mr. Rowe came to Solano County from Fresno County where he worked as the Solid Waste Coordinator, as both a Senior and Principal Administrative Analyst in the County Administrator’s Office, as the Associate Director of Health and as the Director of Health.

Mr. Rowe currently serves as Chair of the Solano Partnership Health Plan Board of Directors, which is one of five California health insurance organizations providing full service health maintenance coverage for the Medicaid population.

He is a member of the Executive and Legislative Committees of the County Health Executives Association of California, the State of California Health Information for Policy Project Committee and a founding member of the Solano Coalition for Better Health, a community-wide collaborative health planning and community action committee.

Mr. Rowe holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Welfare from California State University, Fresno and a Master of Public Administration Degree from the University of San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, because of Donald Rowe’s many contributions to county government, and specifically to Solano County, it is proper for us to honor him today.