super hard steel

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON
OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Daniel Branagan, Elizabeth Taylor, Josephine Fincke, David Swank, and Delon Haggard on their upcoming R&D 100 Award to be presented next month in Chicago. The R&D 100 award celebrates the 100 most significant technological achievements for the year 2001 as recognized by R&D Magazine. This talented group of scientists made this unique contribution to American science and industry as a materials research team for the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). The honor that this team has earned is the 27th such award for the INEEL. Specifically, this team is being recognized for their creation of the new material known as Super Hard Steel.

Super Hard Steel, created through an innovative process that transforms steel alloy into a non-crystalline metallic glass, has hardness properties that are not even reported for a metallic substance. Once sprayed on, the Super Hard Steel coating cannot be removed—even with a hammer and chisel. This tough, low cost, wear and corrosion resistant coating is expected to replace, and indeed outperform, much more expensive materials in high-stress machine parts. Already, more than 15 companies are evaluating the metal with an eye towards licensing it and the Department of Defense is expected to soon begin tests of the metal in various demanding environments. Also, the story of the R&D Magazine’s award, which has appeared in publications such as USA Today, has already added to the list of companies pursuing this new material.

The work of this intrepid group of Idahoan scientists will soon benefit the entire American economy as their metallic coating, with wide-ranging applications in products such as knife blades and mining-rock crushers, becomes integrated into products that affect the lives of all Americans. Who knows exactly how many machine parts will someday be made with Super Hard Steel. It is innovation such as this that everyone at the INEEL, and the entire state of Idaho, are proud to be a part of.

Mr. Speaker, there are a series of government-funded national laboratories across this great country doing important work akin to this remarkable achievement of the INEEL. The Super Hard Steel Project was funded through the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the INEEL’s own discretionary research fund. As Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham recently said, “. . . this accomplishment demonstrates the value of government-funded research to the Nation.” Breakthroughs such as Super Hard Steel prove beyond a doubt that the investment of taxpayer money in these priceless institutions is well spent. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing these unique individuals and the laboratories that employ them continued success in their important endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE WADE

HON. RONNIE SHOWS
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Maggie Wade, from the great State of Mississippi, who has been named a Congressional Angel in Adoption.

As you know, each year the Congressional Coalition on Adoption holds a national awards ceremony honoring individuals whose outstanding efforts have strengthened families through adoption. In Mississippi, that person is indisputably Maggie Wade.

In Mississippi, Ms. Wade is as well known for her community activism as she is for being the trusted news anchor at WLBT. She averages over 175 speaking engagements per year, in addition to her work with the Jackson Chamber of Commerce Mentoring Project, Southern Christian Services, the Mississippi Public Education Forum, Unicef, Easter Seals, and the State Health Department. A true leader in our community, Ms. Wade has been honored with over 150 awards from the grateful recipients of her dedication to serving others.

As a journalist, Ms. Wade has not squandered the opportunity to bring attention to the most important issues in our nation—including the promotion of adoption. She does more than just deliver the news, she creates it; since 1986, almost 500 children have been adopted as a result of her compassionate weekly segment “Wednesday’s Child.” This is a great accomplishment for the children and families of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege today to honor Maggie Wade for this well deserved award. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Maggie Wade as a true angel in adoption.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PICO WATER DISTRICT

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 10, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to rise in recognition of the 75th
anniversary of Pico Water District in Pico Rivera, California. Currently serving 5,233 households, the Pico Water District is performing important work during this crucial period of addressing California’s water shortage.

Just before the Pico Water District was founded, the 243 homes in the area were served by five small water systems. In 1926, the Pico Rivera Chamber of Commerce called together the town’s citizens and urged them to create a more modern water system. The citizens of Pico Rivera recognized that their old-fashioned water system was lowering the value of their homes. After much consideration, they agreed to consolidate their small systems into one large system. They voted to form the Pico Water District under the State Water Act of 1913. The newly elected Board of Directors for the Pico Water District held their inaugural meeting on September 20, 1926, and have been in operation ever since.

As in 1926, California is again at a point in time when we are realizing that we must modernize our water system. If we are perceived by others as a region that is water deficient, it will be difficult to sustain the businesses that complement our high-tech and biotech industrial base and our diverse agricultural economy that is so important to our nation and the global marketplace. I applaud the Pico Water District for doing its part by continually modernizing its system while providing the residents of Pico Rivera with low cost, high quality water service.

The Pico Water District currently has nine functional wells available to deliver water. The present energy crunch is being met in Pico Rivera by a water district prepared to provide uninterrupted excellent service. In fact, in the past 75 years, only natural disasters such as earthquakes have interrupted the District’s water service.

The Pico Water District provides only the highest quality water to its customers. Every week, numerous bacteriological and chemical tests are performed by the District. As a result of this meticulous work and the high standards maintained by the District, the quality of Pico Rivera’s water has never been challenged by the Health Department. This high quality service is provided at very reasonable rates. In fact, the Pico Water District remains the only water district in Los Angeles County that does not tax its customers.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work of the Pico Water District. The high quality of service the District provides should serve as a model for water providers throughout California. Since 1926, the Pico Water District has worked as a cohesive unit to provide water to its customers. Please join me in commending them as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS
IN RECOGNITION OF THE AEGEAN REGATTA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 10, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an event that took place on August 18, 2001. Nikos Sifounakis, Minister of the Aegean, was the sponsor of the Aegean Regatta 2001, an international event that highlights the rich culture and history of the Aegean islands.

This event pays tribute to the ancient mariners who first introduced Hellenic culture to other parts of the world and honors today’s international mariners. The Aegean Regatta celebrates the irreplaceability of the area, as well as its remarkable history. The poetry of Sappho and Elytis of Mytilini, Sefers of Smyrna and Homer of Chios, who derived their inspiration from the natural beauty of the Aegean, continues to enchant and enthral modern readers.

The Aegean Regatta stands as a testament to the legacy of sportsmanship community of this great civilization, a tradition also exemplified by the Olympics. Like the Olympics, the Aegean Regatta fosters community bonds among people of different countries and cultural backgrounds.

The ancient mariners of the Aegean were known far and wide for their skill. Their vessels carried both raw materials and new concepts of democracy, vision and hope. Participants in the 2001 Aegean Regatta are heirs to the old seafarers. They enjoyed the phenomenal experience of sailing the routes traveled by the ancients. The beauty of the Aegean to ancient mariners is mesmerizing, a beauty connected to the spirit and the soul, forged by the waves and sculpted by the wind.

The Aegean Regatta is not simply a sailing competition. It is an international event that continues the maritime tradition, and emphasizes two of Greece’s most successful “exports” sports and culture. This unique event allows mariners of today to pay homage to mariners of the past and to carry on an ancient tradition in which sailing was a way of life. Sailing enthusiasts from around the world participate in the Aegean Regatta, proof of the respect and admiration other countries continue to bestow upon this timeless community.

Many of my constituents attended this event, and as a friend and co-founder of the Hellenic Caucus, I would like to say that I hope all who attended enjoyed a time filled with great sailing and great fun. Participants were the recipients of the Aegean’s best and most prestigious prizes, the hospitality of island residents.

I request that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Minister of the Aegean, Nikos Sifounakis, and the sailing community for participating in this wonderful event. We can all take pride in an extraordinary celebration of history and athleticism as well as an opportunity to forge new bonds among different people from different cultures. Islanders, organizers and competitors will have the opportunity to join together beneath the Aegean sky in universal friendship and understanding.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM RALPH "BILL" ROUTON OF HOPE, ARKANSAS

HON. MIKE ROSS
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the life and achievements of a man who was not only a personal friend, but a friend to his entire community and a respected civic leader in southwest Arkansas, Mr. William Ralph “Bill” Routon.

Bill passed away on August 26 at age 77 following a lengthy battle with heart and bone marrow related illnesses. He was a lifelong resident of Hope, Arkansas, where he was also a lifelong member of the Methodist church.

During World War II, Bill served his country for three years with the U.S. Army Air Corps in England. Following his service, he returned to Arkansas to attend college at Henderson College and the University of Arkansas and then came home to take over the family farm and timber business.

As a resident and community leader in Hope, Bill served on the Hope School Board for 16 years during the crucial time in the 1960s and 1970s when the Hope schools were being integrated. He was also a member of the board of the School of Hope, a school for developmentally challenged children. For 40 years, he served on the board of the Citizens National Bank, where he would visit each day and greet customers. In 1993, he was appointed by Governor Jim Guy Tucker to the state’s Red River Commission, which promotes the economic viability of the southwest Arkansas region along the Red River.

At the First United Methodist Church in Hope, Bill was chairman of several boards and committees and was a leader in the Century Bible Class. In addition, he was a member of the board of Rose Hill Cemetery and an active member of local chapters of the Masons and the Shriners as well as a 50-year member of the Yellow Creek Hunting Club of McNab, Arkansas.

Bill could usually be spotted in his trademark khaki pants and diamond stickpin that he wore in place of a necktie. He was a friend to many in Hope and throughout Arkansas, including the late Virginia Clinton Kelley, mother of former President Bill Clinton. To those who knew him, he was regarded as a stalwart in the community, a true southern gentleman dedicated to his family and his fellow citizens. His passing is a great loss not only to his family and friends, but to the City of Hope and all the people of southwest Arkansas.

I am grateful for his friendship and his devotion to serving others, and I honor him for his lifetime of accomplishments. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Bonnie, his children and his loved ones.