PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CLASS OF 2001

HON. BOB FILNER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise today to recognize Hal Jensen, as he is honored by the San Diego Labor Community at the 19th Annual John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet with the 2001 “JOHNS Fellowship” Award.

Hal was born in Canada in 1936 and later gained U.S. citizenship. As a member of the Mormon Church, he served a mission to Africa from 1955 to 1958, and upon his return was married to Rebecca Campbell Jensen.

Hal attended Brigham Young University where he received the “Outstanding Student” award and earned degrees in Finance and Economics. He then went on to attend Stanford University School of Law.

After school, Hal went to work for IBM and led the team which developed IBM’s banking system. Upon leaving IBM, he founded his own computer company, Computer Planning Corporation (CPC). Among its many accomplishments, CPC developed the first real-time business system.

CPC was acquired by TRACOR, Inc., and after serving as a board member for TRACOR, Hal left to form the Industrial Development Corporation, which remains his flagship company. Hal got involved in real estate and in 1978, helped found Palomar Grading and Paving, Inc. It is one of the largest operations of its kind, and employs many skilled tradesmen and women.

Beyond success in the business world, Hal has remained committed to helping people in need. In 1980, aware that Native Americans face enormous challenges in their own country, he developed programs to assist Native American businessmen and help reservations with economic self-sufficiency.

Hal joined the Board of American Indian Services, which provides over 1200 college scholarships each year to Native Americans, and serves as Chair of its California Chapter and its Economic Development Committee.

Hal’s achievements are both extraordinary and broad. He has chaired the Navajo Nation National Advisory Board and has participated in the drafting and amending of tribal constitutions. He is a member of the Haskell University Advisory Board. He served as Chairman of the I–15 Design review Board, and has been commended on a number of occasions by Israeli institutions for his good work.

My congratulations go to Hal Jensen for his significant contributions to our community, our nation and the world. Hal’s commitment to all of humanity is evident by his actions, and I am pleased that he is the recipient of the 2001 “JOHNS Fellowship” Award.
On the wall next to Elouise Cobell's desk is a blown-up reproduction of a famous Peanuts cartoon strip, signed by creator Charles M. Schulz.

Cobell told me. "Lucy" is 5 feet 4, a wife and mother. Cobell is a member of the Blackfeet, an Indian tribe that was sequestered in the northwest corner of Montana. As a result of a lawsuit she filed on behalf of her fellow Native Americans, they finally are about to collect a settlement—there are some 300 tribes.)

"We finally could not take anymore..." The class-action suit representing 500,000 Native Americans was filed in the District of Columbia on June 10, 1986. The Justice Department represented the Interior and Treasury Departments, declined to enter into settlement talks. The presiding federal district judge, Royce Lamberti, twice ordered Interior to produce documents involving the Individual Indian Money trust fund. Despite promises to do so, a special investigator appointed by Judge Lamberti discovered that, during the course of the proceedings, Interior had in fact been destroying documents. What's more, Treasury officials had shreded 162 cartons of ledgers listing the supposed individual balances plus records of uncashed checks—some 100 years old—then never reached their intended Indian recipients.

On Aug. 10, 1999, after holding Interior Secretary Babbitt and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin in contempt of court, Judge Lamberti fined them a total of $625,000, which the U.S. paid with our tax dollars.

On Dec. 21, 1999, Judge Lamberti ruled that the government had breached its sacred trust duties across the board. He ordered the Interior and Treasury Departments to file quarterly reports detailing efforts to reform the trust system and decree court supervision. The Justice Department appealed on the grounds that the judge had overstepped his authority. But a federal appeals panel of judges unanimously upheld Lamberti's ruling.

This May, the Bush Administration abandoned an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. What remains now, in the second phase of the case, is to determine how much money—plus interest—the Native American plaintiffs will receive. Some estimates range from $20 billion to as much as $40 billion. Whether the government will continue the battle or begin serious settlement talks remains up in the air. In June, the House Appropriations Committee said it had no interest in funding more litigation, which so far has cost the U.S. more than $31 million.
Meanwhile, Elouise Cobell has dedicated herself to helping Native Americans achieve economic self-sufficiency. She is the founder and current chairperson of the Blackfeet National Bank—the first bank in the nation owned by Indians.

In Montana, when Cobell drives from her ranch to her bank office in the woebegone town of Browning, with an unemployment rate as high as 70 percent, she passes a sign. It marks the site of the government’s first Indian office on the Blackfeet reservation, under agent John Young. It says that this is where, in the terrible winter of 1881, 500 Blackfeet Indians died of starvation.

“The truth is,” Cobell told me, “that agent Young kept the rations he had on hand for white people.” She pointed to a ridge opposite the sign, where a trench was dug to bury the Blackfeet bodies, “We call it Ghost Ridge,” she said, “I think of those souls every day. I’m fighting for them too.”

HONORING THE GATEWAY/UNAWEEP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, fire fighters place their lives on the line every time they battle a blaze. This challenge requires serious training, dedication and compassion for other human beings. The Gateway/Unaweep Volunteer Fire Department in Colorado was experiencing difficulties until a team of individuals collaborated to rekindle the spirit of the department and enable it to become a reliable emergency response unit once again. Due to this unwavering persistence, the Gateway/Unaweep Volunteer Fire Department has been able to once again become a viable community resource and I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the efforts of the members of the department for all that they have done.

Fire fighting in this area of Colorado did not always have the benefit of modern tools. This basic level of equipment did not deter Dean Rickman, a web site designer from Chicago, from relocating and joining the department. After being inspired by Oprah’s Angel network, Dean decided he would help others through involvement in the fire department. Shane Burton has tackled the position of being the assistant fire chief in charge of all the other duties. Through numerous hours of coordination and examination, these and other members patched the fire department back together and have created a sustainable plan to ensure its vitality. Currently they are seeking coordination and examination, these and other duties. Through numerous hours of training, dedication and compassion for other human beings, the Gateway/Unaweep Volunteer Fire Department have gone above and beyond the call of duty to resurrect this fire department and sustain operations once again.

Mr. Speaker, fire fighters are priceless in any community. Attempts to make it more financially stable and ensure its vitality. Currently they are seeking coordination and examination, these and other duties. Through numerous hours of training, dedication and compassion for other human beings, the Gateway/Unaweep Volunteer Fire Department have gone above and beyond the call of duty to resurrect this fire department and sustain operations once again. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the sincere sacrifices the members of the department have made and extend my best wishes to them in many years to come.

HONORING TERRY LYNCH
HON. TERRY EVERETT
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, the devastation our country has suffered became profoundly personal when my staff and I learned that a former member of our delegation staff was among those who were murdered by terrorists when a hijacked plane hit the Pentagon Tuesday morning.

Terry Lynch was from Youngstown, Ohio, and got his master’s degree from Youngstown State University, where he met his wife, Jackie. He became an adopted Alabamian when he went to work for Senator RICHARD SHELBY of Alabama from 1983 to 1995. During those years, Terry worked closely with many of us on military projects for all of Alabama and in particular, the Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Montgomery, Alabama, both of which are in my 2nd District.

Terry was a kind and knowledgeable person who was dependable and dedicated to doing his job and doing it well. He was well liked by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both the House and in the Senate. Terry worked tirelessly on behalf of his adopted state.

At home in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County, he was known as a kind and considerate neighbor, coach for his daughters, Tiffany and Ashley’s T-ball and softball teams; and around good friends.

Terry Lynch is indelibly etched in the hearts and minds of all Alabamians. Our hearts go out to Jackie, Tiffany, and Ashley during this great time of sadness for all of us.

HONORING DAVE SANGER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, Dave Sanger helped to shape and open the minds of students at Salida High School in Colorado and after 30 years of teaching, has announced his retirement. It is with great pleasure that I recognize the tremendous contributions Dave has made to the future of our country and to the lives of those students he has taught.

Dave began teaching at Salida High School in 1973, after attending graduate school at the University of Colorado in Boulder where he was pursuing a master’s degree in history. While at Salida High School, he taught history for twenty-eight years. While Dave had no intention of teaching at Salida for this length of time, he has received much joy out of seeing his students blossom intellectually and challenge their future. Mr. Sanger has been recognized for his energetic and insightful lectures, even to the extent that students who have graduated have returned to experience another Sanger lecture.

While teaching requires enormous dedication, Dave found time to serve his community in other ways as well. He helped to establish the soccer program in Salida and continues to track its success. Furthermore, he served on the Democratic Central Committee and was a judge for a mock congressional hearing for high school students. His wife Nancy and he opened a bookstore called Senator’s Books that thrived during a rough economic time between 1985 and 1991. Dave and Nancy have both also served as lay ministers at St. Joseph Church.

Throughout all of his efforts, Dave Sanger has opened doors for many students. His teaching will live in the hearts and minds of all those who have been in his classroom. He has truly been an integral and respected