September 21, 2001

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Mr. MENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Donnelly for winning United Way’s Congresswoman Mary T. Norton Memorial Award.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MARC HoltzMAN TO THE STATE OF COLORADO

Mr. McInnis. Mr. Speaker, technology has become an important tool today in terms of nearly every facet of our lives—from legislation to the completion of daily routines. It has been used to reinvent many systems and increase ties between people. Marc Holtzman, the first Secretary of Technology in the State of Colorado, has accepted this new and transformational role to merge technology with government, economics and education. I would like to recognize the work of this honorable man and all that he has done, and will continue to do, for the great State of Colorado.

Following his graduation from Leigh University, Marc founded an investment firm called MeesPierson EurAmerica, which was later sold to become the 11th largest bank in the world. His time in Europe has allowed him to increase ties between people. Marc Holtzman, the first Secretary of Technology in the State of Colorado, has accepted this new and transformational role to merge technology with government, economics and education. I would like to recognize the work of this honorable man and all that he has done, and will continue to do, for the great State of Colorado.

Marc has been honored with creating quasi-charter schools that aim to build a bridge across the technological divide with the support of Microsoft’s Bill Gates. Throughout all of his projects, Marc has proven to be a valuable contributor to Colorado and has a high success rate in all that he does.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when technology is becoming such an important part of our world, the convergence of technology and governance is inevitable. Marc is ensuring that we implement this technology and in return, benefit the people of Colorado. Additionally, his charismatic leadership has led to many innovative experiments and successes. He is truly navigating Colorado through this remarkable revolution. I would like to honor his contributions and recognize the importance of his service to the State of Colorado. I extend my warmest regards to him and wish him the best in years to come.

RECOGNITION OF MR. ADEL Karas’ DEATH

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge one of my constituents who was lost to us this past weekend in a tragic shooting.

Mr. Adel Karas, a resident of Arcadia, was shot in his grocery store in San Gabriel on September 15, 2001 in an attempted robbery that the FBI is now investigating as a hate crime. Mr. Karas had owned and operated the International Market in San Gabriel for two decades. As a Coptic Christian, Mr. Karas fled his native Egypt in the 1970’s to escape religious persecution. It is difficult to think that despite living in the United States for 20 years, he may have lost his life because the perpetrators targeted him based on his race.

We will remember him as a warm and loving man who gave his best to his family and to his community. His family mourns his death and remembers him as a loving father to his sons and a good husband to his wife, Ronda Karas. Mr. Karas was also a care giver to his elderly parents, calling every day to check on them. Moreover, Mr. Karas was a respected businessman and appreciated by friends and neighbors. Our community mourns the loss of one of our own as is evident by the memorial filled with heart-felt cards and hundreds of flowers that has been created outside his storefront.

I am saddened by the loss of such a fine member of our community and wish his family and loved ones my greatest sympathies by acknowledging him today. Let us remember Adel Karas as a genuine, kind, and loving son, father, husband, and American.

RECOGNIZING COUNTY COMMISSIONER BILly CRoker, POLK COUNTY, GEORGIA

Mr. Barr. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Billy Croker of Polk County, Georgia is one...