Mr. Speaker, Francesca de Paula Soler is routinely referred to as "The Poet of the Guitar" throughout the world, based on the way she conveys raw emotion and tells complex tales with only his fingers and the strings of a guitar. He has mesmerized audiences at the Levine School of Music and the Acheson Auditorium in the U.S. State Department, and has entertained a myriad of cultural societies throughout the United States. Thousands have filled the auditoriums of colleges and universities from coast to coast to hear Francesca de Paula Soler's guitar. Beyond these American performances, Soler has engaged audiences around the world.

In commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month and the ways that Hispanic Americans have served our country throughout history, I encourage all of my colleagues to attend the concert and enjoy an hour of exquisite music.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Francesca de Paula Soler for his contributions to the world of music and for honoring us with his art.

PRO BONO PROJECT

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedicated volunteers of the Pro Bono Project of Santa Clara County. The Pro Bono Project uses volunteer attorneys, judges and other legal professionals to represent low income and indigent clients in Santa Clara County in family law cases, including divorce, custody, child/spousal support, and domestic violence issues. Often, the Pro Bono Project is the last chance its clients have at securing representation.

The success of the Pro Bono Project is a direct result of 150 volunteers, through whose efforts the Project offered over 200 clients per year over $958,000 in volunteer services. Thanks to these volunteers, the Pro Bono Project was able to staff several clinics, including a Bankruptcy clinic and a Paternity clinic. Pro Bono Project attorneys staff the Domestic Violence Collaboration in conjunction with Bay Area Legal Aid, Battered Women's Support Network, Next Door and South County Alternatives. The Domestic Violence Collaboration provides divorce, support and custody services to victims of domestic violence. The Project's Family Law Mentor Program provides a volunteer mentor attorney in the office every Wednesday to provide family law advice and help to attorneys.

With very little funding, the Pro Bono Project does an amazing amount of work. I commend the Project's founders and volunteers. On behalf of Santa Clara County, I thank these remarkable volunteers for all of their hard work.

Holy Trinity Church in Milwaukee is filled with love and respect and a sense of community as the congregation saddened by the death of Rev. Mark Robinson gathers for the funeral of one of their leaders. Throughout his 10 years in Milwaukee, Rev. Robinson has impacted our community in many ways, and he will be sorely missed. I am proud to join the members of St. Mark A.M.E. Church in thanking him for his service to the people of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and wishing him the best of luck in his new position.

Mr. Speaker, as part of an effort to reduce the federal work force within the United States Forest Service, Forest Service employees were offered the opportunity to participate in a "voluntary separation incentive payments" program a few years ago. This program was included in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1997 (P.L. 104–180). As part of the agreement, employees were paid $20,000; in exchange, they agreed to retire and not be employed by any federal agency for at least five years; if they were re-employed by the federal government they would have to forfeit all or part of the money from said agreement.

However, there has been a severe shortage of qualified firefighters to combat the extraordinary number of forest fires throughout the country over the past several years, specifically in the West. Many retired Forest Service employees have been asked to help fight these fires in their communities. The Forest Service is paying employees and not being employed by any federal agency.

Rev. Robinson has also served our young people as a tireless advocate and role model. St. Mark's offers the Men to Boys mentoring program, and opens its recreation center doors on Friday nights for Word Up—a night of Bible Study, basketball, board games and other activities. Rev. Robinson has helped provide productive and non-violent options for young people, linking them with positive role models and encouraging them to lead a life free of drugs and violence.

Rev. Robinson's legacy will surely be felt at St. Mark A.M.E. Church for years to come. Last September the church dedicated its senior citizen housing facility. The congregation named this 25 unit building the C.G. Robinson Terrace in honor of their leader.

At a time when we need qualified, willing, well-trained individuals to fight these fires...