

The Coast Guard Group of Corpus Christi, South Padre Island and the Marine Safety Office arrived at once and worked tirelessly—around the clock—to recover the victims, and retrieve the vehicles and debris from the water in the canal so commercial traffic could move again through the canal.

No one was surprised by the instant response from our Coasties. They are amazing people. They began as soon as the tragedy was reported and worked with our local and state officials in providing further protection and emergency assistance for citizens in the area. They worked tirelessly around the clock.

They brought assets to the Valley from the Coast Guard, Corpus Christi Group to help with search and recovery. They were focused on recovering victims. They are well-trained and ready to perform brilliantly in a time of crisis like the bridge collapse.

The Coast Guard provided tremendous support to the local and state officials, which was a huge logistical chore. They helped ensure the re-opening of the canal so the Rio Grande Valley would receive fuel supplies, food and other necessities, which arrive via the Intra-coastal canal, closed to such traffic while the recovery is in progress.

One of the most satisfying things about watching these men and women do the work that they do is understanding the love they have for their job. They simply love what they do, and they are very good at it.

While we always appreciate the good work of the Coast Guard in South Texas and around our nation, we particularly want to thank them today for the hard work they did when they came to the rescue when our community needed them.

The Coast Guard has a wide range of responsibilities . . . in peacetime, they are law enforcement; in times of war, they are soldiers. Right now they are working extended hours to carry out a host of responsibilities: search and rescue, enforcing our fisheries regulations, enforcing boating regulations, drug interdiction and other national security missions.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending these great Americans for their dedicated service to South Texas and our nation.

RECOGNITION OF MRS. SALLY
FULTON RESTON'S DEATH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the death of a notable civil rights leader and an extraordinary person.

Mrs. Sally Fulton Reston made numerous contributions to our community and led an exemplary life. As a civil rights advocate, she dedicated much of her efforts towards seeking equality for disenfranchised communities. She served as a Board Member for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, MALDEF, for seven years and also served as the second Vice Chair for the Board for a year. MALDEF protects and promotes the civil

rights of Latinos living in the United States through sound public policies, laws and programs. Mrs. Reston's efforts and contributions earned her MALDEF's highest award, The Valerie Kantor Award. The Valerie Kantor Award is the highest honor presented to those who have served MALDEF and the Latino community.

Mrs. Sally Reston was also a renowned journalist. From 1968 to 1988, she was the co-publisher of the Vineyard Gazette. Furthermore, she also worked for The Junior League Magazine, Mademoiselle Magazine, Readers Digest in London, as well as the New York Times. Ms. Reston also enjoyed the simple things of life. She enjoyed photography, developing and printing her own work and had a great affection for the piano.

I am saddened by the loss of such a fine member of our community. I extend my sincerest condolences to the Reston family, as we all mourn the loss of a true civil rights leader and an exceptional person.

HONORING VIOLA S. MARTINEZ

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Viola S. Martinez of Laredo, Texas on the occasion of her 70th birthday on October 4, 2001. Viola has been an outstanding member of my team since I ran for Congress in 1992.

While her family is native to Texas, Viola was born in Dearborn, Michigan in 1931. Viola returned to Laredo as a young girl and received her education there. Family plays a large role in Viola's life. Viola and her husband recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. Viola and Ernesto are also proud parents of three children, Ernesto J. Martinez Jr., Sara Martinez Tucker and Rosie Stevens.

Viola is the heart and soul of Laredo. Folks in this booming border city know that if you need something done, go to Viola. Whether it is assisting a veteran with benefits or helping a young family find the proper tax form, Viola goes the extra mile for each constituent.

Viola is one of those rare people who can successfully accomplish many work-related tasks while still finding time to volunteer in professional and community groups. Viola's dedicated service to the Laredo community reminds us of all that is good in America. Viola is truly a shining example for all citizens.

It has been a great pleasure to work with Viola for these nine years and I look forward to many more to come. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Viola Martinez a very Happy Birthday!

ALBANY FIRST CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albany First Christian Church for its

work and sacrifice in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seek to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of churches like Albany First Christian Church signify the commitment and concern of Americans everywhere. Our nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, the Albany First Christian Church has collected relief supplies from the congregation and community to assist grieving families and rescue workers. The patriotism and persistence of the Albany First Christian Church is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and do what they can to assist the nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousand of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day so that we may be free, it is important that the American people are vigilant in their efforts to overcome this evil. Though our nation has witnesses unspeakable horror. America's virtues, determination, and faith continues to shine brightly on the world.

I am confident that the United States will seek out those that harbor hatred, terror, and depravity in their hearts; and we will defeat them. This is a war that we must, can, and will win. May God bless the families and children grieving across this great nation and may God bless America.

OREGON AND CONSERVATION
EASEMENTS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Oregon has a system unique to the nation in protecting its farmland. Other states have utilized conservation easements to preserve farmland. Oregon has used a comprehensive land use system though with a record of stunning success. According to Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development, the state has 16 million acres zoned for Exclusive Farm Use (EFU). This is in stark contrast to the 800,000 acres protected acres nationwide. That number is less than what we protect in the northern Willamette Valley alone, which is also our most populous area.