

A TRIBUTE TO MARY R. WRIGHT

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 4, 2001*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the selfless public service of an individual who has committed herself to the betterment of our public parks. Ms. Mary R. Wright recently retired from her position as Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and I wish to take this opportunity to recognize her work for the State of California.

Mary began her career with the Department of Parks and Recreation in 1978 as the Acting Assistant Director, in Los Angeles. In this capacity, she worked as a liaison between the Department and various agencies and organizations in the greater Los Angeles area. Her valuable combination of talent in management and passion for our natural resources were quickly recognized by all those with whom she worked, and she held a variety of positions within the Department before being named District Superintendent for the Monterey District. The Monterey Peninsula is famous for its beauty and pristine natural habitats, enjoyed and treasured by residents of and visitors to the area. The role of managing and directing the efforts of those who work to preserve and protect these natural resources fell on Mary. She excelled at the task and, in June 1999, earned promotion as Governor Gray Davis's appointee to the position of Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

In addition to her official work on behalf of the State of California, Mary works alongside her husband as an enthusiastic community advocate. As a resident of Big Sur, she works on behalf of the residents and businesses there, serving as a member of the Big Sur Historical Society and as the Vice President of the Big Sur Health Center Board of Directors. She has also been active on the Monterey Peninsula for many years, serving as an appointed commissioner on the Monterey Historic Preservation Commission from 1983 until 1992, and as an appointed commissioner on the Marina Dunes Task Force from 1985 until 1992. She truly is a precious resource for our elected officials and community members.

Mary Wright is a dedicated public servant, and a respected administrator. Her talent and vision will be sorely missed in the California Department of Parks and Recreation, but I am certain that the communities of the Central Coast will continue to benefit from them. I wish her well as she heads into a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
VINCE THOMAS

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 4, 2001*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Vince Thomas, a committed and dedicated

community activist from my Congressional District. He is retiring from his position as executive director of Project Now, a community action agency, after almost 30 years of service to the Quad Cities area.

I have had the honor to know Vince for over 20 years. Throughout my work as a Member of Congress, I have had the privilege to work closely with him on many projects and initiatives to aid our local area. Through these efforts, he has helped build a strong Quad City community that respects diversity and reaches out to the less fortunate in our area. I am proud of the work we have achieved together and the wise counsel that Vince has given to me over the years.

You need to look no farther than the numerous awards presented to him to know the high regard that the Quad Cities and people throughout Illinois hold for Vince. He has been awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King "I Have A Dream Award" and the Martin Luther King Steering Committee Peace Award as well as the Illinois State Council of Senior Citizens Award and an appreciation award from the Quad City League of Native Americans. He is clearly a man of conscience and duty.

While Vince has been a man of many causes, he is also known for his warm personality. He may be a tenacious advocate, but he is also known for his quick smile and considerate manner. I am fortunate to count Vince as a good friend.

For those who know Vince, his name is synonymous with working for social justice and serving the neediest in our society. While Vince will be retiring from Project Now, I know that he will continue to be an energetic advocate for the underprivileged in our area. I wish him the best as he embarks on his retirement. I know that he will continue to be an inspiration to those of us who seek to make the Quad Cities an even better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO OS2 NEHAMON LYONS  
IV OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 4, 2001*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001, our nation lost thousands of brave and innocent men and women in the unconscionable terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Among those who admirably, but regretfully, gave their lives that day while serving our country at the Pentagon was a gentleman from my district, Operations Specialist 2nd Class Nehamon Lyons IV. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Officer Lyons was born and raised in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where he graduated from Dollarway High School in 1989. After graduating, he moved to Mobile, Alabama, and in 1997 enlisted in the Navy. Although he was first assigned to the USS *Gettysburg*, Officer Lyons had been attracted to the Pentagon since high school. Through hard work, he eventually received a coveted and prestigious assignment to the center of our nation's military command. During his tenure at the Pentagon, he effectively managed multiple respon-

sibilities, including his most recent position as Chief of Naval Operations.

The Navy awarded Officer Lyons multiple accolades throughout his career for his contributions to our country including the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and two Navy "E" Ribbons. In addition, for his bravery in the face of extreme peril on September 11, 2001, Officer Lyons will posthumously be awarded the Purple Heart of Courage and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

Officer Lyons was not only a decorated and distinguished serviceman, but also an honorable member of his community. He served this nation and his fellow citizens with spirit and bravery. All those who knew him will miss his cheerful demeanor and hard-working attitude. His passing is a significant loss not only to his family and friends, but also to our state and our nation.

I am grateful for Officer Lyons's service to and love for his country, and I pay tribute to him for his lifetime of accomplishments. My thoughts and prayers are with his mother, Jewel Lyons, and all his family and friends.

HERMAN CASTELLANI HONORED

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 4, 2001*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the long record of service to the community by my very dear friend Herman D. Castellani, who will be honored as "Person of the Year" by the Italian-American Association of Luzerne County at the association's annual Columbus Day banquet on October 7.

Herman has served as president of the association for two years and has also served as secretary to, and a member of, its board of directors.

He has participated in numerous community activities throughout the years. He has served as president of the North Italian Citizens Club, Perugia Beneficial Italian Club and president of the Exeter Ghents Club. He has been a member of the Exeter Lions Club for 38 years, serving as president in 1971-1972. He was a volunteer office clerk for St. Anthony's Parish in Exeter, where he currently serves as vice president of the Holy Name Society and formerly served as president.

In addition, he served his fellow citizens as treasurer and occupational privilege tax collector for Exeter Borough for 11 years. He owned and operated delicatessens in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton for 21 years. He was a concrete foreman for Addy Asphalt in Wilkes-Barre for 19 years and presently works for Luzerne County.

He resides in Exeter with his wife of 47 years, the former Louise Fumanti. They have three daughters, Gloria Sekusky of Plains Township, Sharon Ellis of Shavertown and Lisa Dolhon of Exeter, and nine grandchildren. The son of the late Eugene and Palmina Catani Castellani of Nocera Umbria, Italy, he is a graduate of Plains Memorial High School.