

As the grandson and nephew of fire fighters myself, I am familiar with the Jahnke name. For many years, Jahnkes have served in the Houston Fire Department with distinction. Currently, over a dozen Jahnkes answer the call and lay their lives on the line as fire fighters. Numerous other fire fighters are part of the Jahnke extended family through marriage.

His father, Claude Jahnke, was a District Chief who died of a heart attack while training for the departmental Olympics. Three uncles, former District Chief Marvin "Roe" Jahnke, who died in 1991; retired Assistant Chief Eugene "Duke" Jahnke; and former District Chief in charge of cadet training, and namesake for the department's training center Val Jahnke, all protected our community for many years.

Jay Jahnke died doing his job, trying to protect and evacuate Houstonians whose lives were in danger. The words of his cousin, District Chief Steve Jahnke, say it best: "That early in the morning, you know there are people sleeping in. They had to get them out, so they took a calculated risk. That's what the job's about. We don't ever go in trying to commit suicide, but we do take calculated risks, and that's what Jay did. It's what all firemen do."

Jahnke is survived by his wife, Dawn; daughter, Jayne, 11; son, Hunter, 8; mother, Katherine; brother, Jeff; and sisters Karen and Mary Ann.

Mr. Speaker, across our nation every day, people like Capt. Jahnke put their lives on the line. Later this week, I plan to introduce legislation that would help not just the Houston Fire Department, but departments across America protect our lives and homes by providing Federal assistance for hiring additional fire fighters.

The SAFER Act of 2001, which would be modeled after the successful Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), will provide direct funding in the form of grants to States or communities for the hiring of additional fire fighters. It will help fire departments meet industry minimum standards for staffing and enhance the ability of fire fighters to save lives, property, and effectively respond to emergencies.

We can never replace Houston Fire Captain Jay Jahnke, loving father and husband, skilled fire fighter, and loyal friend. It is my hope, though, that we can provide the residents of Houston with a greater level of fire protection, and prevent incidents like this one from happening in the future.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, recently, Armenia celebrated its 10th anniversary of independence from the Soviet Union. This anniversary reminds us of the strong bond that the people of the United States and Armenia share. As we grieve for the victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, so do the Ar-

menian people. The Armenian people have expressed their solidarity with the American people. Armenian President Robert Kocharian has offered rescue aid to help in the recovery efforts. Moreover, Armenia has joined with the United States and the world in the fight against terrorism.

Earlier this year in a House Resolution, I joined with the people of Armenia, the Armenian Church in America, and His Holiness Karekin II in celebrating the ideals and values they share with the people of the United States. These values are essential to the continued stability and economic prosperity in the region. In a letter to President Kocharian of Armenia, President George W. Bush echoed these ideals. President Bush states, "our countries continue to work together to achieve our common goal of establishing peace and stability and seeing Armenia prosper. Peace in this region will provide Armenia with great opportunities to ensure the economic prosperity and security of future generations."

Traces of Armenian heritage are evident in the United States and worldwide. Throughout the United States, and in my state of Virginia, there are multiple monuments, towns, and mountains celebrating Armenian heritage. One of Virginia's own search and rescue teams aided the Armenian people during the unfortunate earthquake of 1988.

The close bonds between Armenia and the United States are constantly being strengthened. I am confident that the people of Armenia and America will flourish together in the spirit of freedom and democracy.

COMMENDING DELTA AIRLINES

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my admiration to a Good Corporate Citizen. I would like to call attention to the thoughtful actions being performed by Delta Airlines in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001.

The airline industry in this country has suffered a catastrophe with the events of September 11, along with the rest of the country. However the tragedy was not a license to treat people poorly. Other airlines ejected passengers from their seats because fellow passengers were scared to fly with people of Middle Eastern descent. While others committed vicious acts like these, Delta took another road and sent out a memo from the president Fred Reid saying: "Delta has an uncompromising policy never to discriminate against customers on the basis of race, gender, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or similar classifications. The law mandates this policy—discrimination is not only illegal, it is wrong and will not be tolerated".

If only the rest of this nation's airline carriers could follow Delta's lead.

Instead other airline carriers ignored the law and punished innocent people just trying to fly during a difficult time. But what do you expect from airlines that blindly cut jobs and not executive salaries?

I stand today to commend Delta for the careful cost cutting measures it has taken to preserve jobs and morale as the airlines weather these uncertain times. Delta has put the needs of their workers first. No employee at Delta will be left out in the cold this winter. You can tell a lot about a corporation by the way they act when the going gets tough.

Finally I want to commend Delta for providing complimentary tickets to New York City on behalf of volunteer relief workers who are giving so much to the recovery effort. Delta has been a true Corporate Good Citizen and on behalf of a grateful nation we thank you!

HONORING ROBERTA BARR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a person who truly understands the importance of education. Roberta Barr has spent a majority of her life dedicated to helping others and ensuring that all who cross her path receive only the best education possible. Even after retiring from her formal role as an educator, she has continued in her quest and has remained diligent to helping others.

Roberta Barr, now 87, grew up in La Plata County, Colorado. She graduated from Durango High School in 1931 and went on to receive her teaching certificate from Fort Lewis College. From 1933 to 1979 Roberta taught at many different local schools and was appointed Principal of Mason Elementary School in 1962. Roberta returned to school earning a Master's Degree at Western State. She has been retired from teaching for the last 22 years, but continues to contribute to educating others in her community.

Roberta and her husband Robert never had any children of their own, so after her husband passed away she established the Robert and Roberta Armstrong Barr Foundation. This foundation has been set up to provide up to ten thousand dollars in scholarships each year to students from the State of Colorado who attend Fort Lewis College or Western College and plan to become teachers. The foundation provides financial assistance to future educators and is designed so that the funds do not diminish, even after Roberta is gone.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize Roberta Barr for the significant contributions that she has made to educating her community. She has spent her life teaching others and through her foundation will now be able to continue her life's ambition indefinitely. Her selfless dedication certainly deserves the praise and admiration of this body.

POEM BY AMY FARLEY

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention a poem written by one of