

York's outstanding young students, Gregory Porter. This young man has received the Eagle Scout honor from their peers in recognition of their achievements.

Since the beginning of this century, the Boy Scouts of America have provided thousands of boys and young men each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

The Eagle Scout award is presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. Becoming an Eagle Scout is an extraordinary award with which only the finest Boy Scouts are honored. To earn the award—the highest advancement rank in Scouting—a Boy Scout must demonstrate proficiency in the rigorous areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills; they must earn a minimum of 23 merit badges as well as contribute at least 100 man-hours toward a community oriented service project.

I ask my colleagues to Join me in congratulating the recipients of these awards, as their activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Gregory and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young man on his day of recognition, Saturday, November 24, 2001. Congratulations to Gregory and his family.

CONGRATULATING KRISTIE
THOMPSON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize today Ms. Kristie Thompson of Rockwall, Texas, who this past summer succeeded in hiking the 2,167 miles of the Appalachian Trail. This hike from Springer Mountain in Northern Georgia to Katahdin in Central Maine is a trek completed by fewer than 500 people each year. What makes Kristie's accomplishment even more outstanding is the fact that she hiked the distance in only four months instead of the usual six—and she did a majority of it alone.

Since childhood, Kristie has had a love for the outdoors and a sense of adventure. A schoolteacher at Maurine Cain Middle School in Heath, Texas, and the mother of two teenage children, she used her summer break to fulfill this ambitious, lifelong dream. Kristie and her sister, Melanie Musser, began the journey on April 15, but 800 miles later, Melanie decided she could not be away from her family for another two months. Kristie understood—for she, too, missed her family—but she decided to go on alone.

Kristie awoke each day to begin hiking by 7 am and did not stop until 6 pm. That is an average of eighteen miles every day, much of it through mountains, carrying a pack of about 26 pounds. Often hiking as many as thirty miles in one day, Kristie noted that the mental challenges were equally as great as the physical ones. Her emotions ranged from elation to loneliness to frustration. She tells that more than three months along the trail—but still 300 miles from her destination—she stopped, stared down at the trail and burst into tears. But there, scratched in the dirt, was a message left for some other mother: "Good job, Mom." This message gave her the inspiration and resolve to complete the arduous journey.

Support from family and strangers saw her through. Every few days she would pick up food and supplies that her parents would send to towns along the way. Her children sent postcards and provided words of encouragement when she called. They followed her progress on a map. Along the way she slept in shelters or under a tarp or tent. On the last five miles of the hike, Kristie was joined by her father, Emmett Howe, who shares her family's immense pride in this accomplishment.

Kristie's ambition and perseverance certainly will serve as sources of inspiration for her family, students and friends in Rockwall. Her feat took resolve, extraordinary willpower and courage—as well as meticulous planning and resourcefulness. She said the trip made her stronger in her resolve to tackle difficult challenges in life and reinforced what mattered most to her—her family.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize this outstanding young woman from my hometown of Rockwall—Kristie Thompson—and to congratulate her for this extraordinary achievement in hiking the Appalachian Trail.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE
BOLLINGER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to an icon of the Pueblo, Colorado community who recently passed away. Charles Bollinger, who was fighting Alzheimer's disease and a brief illness, died at the age of 85 and as his family and friends mourn his loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember Charlie for his many contributions throughout his life.

Charlie owned and operated Bollinger's Confectionary, a magazine/bookstore located in Pueblo. Bollinger's Confectionary began as a candy store that was started by his uncle in 1927. In 1946, Charlie bought the business and moved it to a new location. While there, he added the magazine collection that made Bollinger's a favorite store in the community.

Charlie was an adamant sports fan throughout his life. He was a longtime, devoted Denver Broncos fan and his love of sports was clearly reflected in his store magazine selections. His legendary collection included over ninety titles covering sports from football to

baseball, and outdoor sports including hunting and fishing.

Mr. Speaker it is with profound sadness that we remember the life and memory of Charlie Bollinger. He will be remembered for his kind heart and the gentle demeanor he displayed throughout his life. As family and friends mourn his passing, I would like to recognize the wonderful life Charlie lived. We will miss you Charlie.

TRIBUTE TO TOKO FUJII

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Toko Fujii, one of Sacramento's most notable citizen leaders. Toko was regarded as one of the most well respected and positive figures in the Sacramento Japanese American community. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting one of Sacramento's most outstanding citizens.

Toko was born in Stockton, California on May 11, 1920. The eldest child of Kinji and Midori Fujii. As a youngster in Oakland, where his parents owned a billiard hall, Toko demonstrated his trademark independence at very early age. He would often stop by a neighborhood restaurant to purchase a bowl of oatmeal for breakfast before walking to school each morning. In 1927, Toko and his parents, along with younger sister, Chizue, moved to Sacramento, where he attended Lincoln School for his elementary and junior high years before attending Sacramento High School.

While in high school, Toko was an active member of the Japanese Student Club, Math Honor Club, and the prestigious California Scholarship Federation. In his spare time, Toko was also involved in the Buddhist Church Youth Organization. It was in a high school French class that he first met Sayoko Akume, who eventually became his wife and had been for the last 58 years.

When World War II broke out, Toko and Sayoko were sent to the Tule Lake Internment camp. During the internment, he kept busy by writing a column for the camp newspaper. Toko and Sayoko eventually left camp in the summer of 1943 and the young couple moved to Salt Lake City, where they were married on July 3, 1943. While majoring in Business Administration at the University of Utah, Toko displayed his innate talent for bringing people together when he organized a basketball team of Japanese Americans from the university.

Upon graduation, Toko and Sayoko moved to Denver before returning to Sacramento. During these years, Toko further enhanced his ability to bring people together. Toko organized his first fundraiser to raise money for uniforms and traveling costs for the Japanese American All Star Basketball Team. Toko also played an instrumental role in the establishment of the Buddhist Church Basketball League and the Northern California Nisei Athletic Union. Before the integration of Little League Baseball, he played a major role in organizing the Northern California Church League, a Nisei baseball league.