

She then turned to the challenges offered by business, public relations and event-planning. Mrs. Alafogianni's entrepreneurial skills are widely recognized and she has served as a delegate to White House Conferences on small businesses since 1990, and has advised numerous public officials and government leaders.

Additionally, Mrs. Alafogianni is very civic-minded. With her husband, John, Mrs. Alafogianni co-founded the United Hellenic-American National Council, which has sponsored numerous White House luncheons for prominent and influential businesswomen from across the United States and Greece.

In 1991, she founded and organized the "Best Buddies Foundation" in Greece, along with Anthony Kennedy Shriver, who serves as its Global President and CEO. In 1995, Mrs. Alafogianni became the Global President and CEO of the Euro-American Women's Council, which promotes ties among Greeks, wherever they may live, and their motherland. She is also President of the "daughters of Roumeli" and of the "Hermes Athletic Club" of New York. She is currently a board member to the Human Rights Advisory Council of New York.

Mrs. Alafogianni has received a number of prestigious awards for her outstanding contributions, including the Crown Award, which recognizes her as one of the most creative minds of the top leading entrepreneurial women of the world. She has also earned the distinguished award of "Honorary Citizen of Baku" as a result of her pioneering efforts to improve entrepreneurial training in the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding work of Loula Loi-Alafogianni. Her unwavering dedication to improving relations among the Greek and American entrepreneurial communities, and promoting opportunities for women is truly worthy of our recognition. Thank you.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HISTORIC ARKANSAS RIVERWALK OF PUEBLO FOUNDATION

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 27, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate the Historical Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo Foundation located in Pueblo, Colorado. The group has recently been selected as the outstanding non-profit organization of the year at the El Pomar Awards for Excellence banquet. The banquet was created to honor non-profit groups in the State of Colorado.

HARP's mission is to raise the necessary funding to bring improvements to the Arkansas Valley area. Their project involves the creation of a riverwalk for the City of Pueblo to attract shoppers and restaurateurs throughout the area. Voters approved the need for such an attraction in 1995. The river walk has already begun to revitalize and re-energize the area of downtown Pueblo, not far from my district office, thanks to the efforts by many including HARP.

The foundation is led by Jean Rickman who accepted the Julie and Spencer Penrose Award on behalf of the organization on November 13, 2001. The award contributes \$25,000 to the HARP foundation, which seeks funding from private and corporate contributions. The cash award adds to the impressive total of \$7,000,000 now raised for the project.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to congratulate the HARP foundation on their recent achievement award. Through organizations such as HARP, the people of Colorado can be proud of their heritage and their community. HARP is a model group for non-profit foundations throughout the nation. It is again with great pride that I commend and thank HARP for all their efforts in enhancing the community of Pueblo.

HONORING MS. DIANNE O'DELL

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend of mine, a remarkable woman who teaches us there are no limits to what a person can accomplish.

At 3 years old, Dianne O'Dell was diagnosed with polio and, soon after, began her life in an iron lung. Her parents, Freeman and Geneva, were told Dianne would not reach adulthood. Now, more than 50 years later, Dianne is still going strong. It is believed she has lived longer in an iron lung than anyone else in the world.

Ms. O'Dell's physical handicaps have not discouraged her. While living inside the yellow, seven-foot-long iron lung, she used a two-way radio to complete coursework and graduate from Jackson High School. She took classes from Freed-Hardeman College, now Freed-Hardeman University, and accepted an honorary doctorate in psychology from Freed-Hardeman. She wrote a children's book, "Blinky Less Light," and is currently working on her autobiography.

Dianne says she has been able to reach her goals despite her physical limitations because of positive thinking and her sense of humor. She often refers to her iron lung as her "yellow submarine" and enjoys having it decorated for holidays. Dianne remembers one Halloween when she costumed the machine as a giant roll of Life Savers candy.

Ms. O'Dell also credits her strong sense of faith. She worships with the Campbell Street Church of Christ in her hometown of Jackson, Tennessee, although she is not able to attend services. Members of the congregation bring her taped sermons and the Lord's Supper.

Dianne's family has also played a valuable role. Mr. and Mrs. O'Dell, along with Dianne's two sisters, have been by their daughter's side her whole life, often making personal sacrifices for her health.

Over the years, Ms. O'Dell has worked with others coping with disabilities, especially families with disabled children. She tells them how important it is to keep faith and a positive outlook.

I believe Dianne's spirit and love of life are encouraging—not only to those facing similar

situations, but to all of us. She is an inspiration to everyone who knows her or has heard her remarkable story. Above all, Ms. O'Dell is a reminder that there is no limit to what a person can accomplish with an unyielding spirit like hers. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues rise and join me in recognizing Ms. Dianne O'Dell.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER JEAN SMITH

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jennifer Jean Smith on the release of True North, a musical album that she both wrote and composed. Jennifer's love of music and words began at an early age. Always a singer and performer, grade school led to choirs, show choirs and many gigs as a soloist.

An outgoing yet introspective young Jennifer displayed her writing skills at an early age. Little blank books became filled with poetry, and an antique typewriter became a favorite tool for composing stories. An old upright piano, passed on by Jennifer's grandmother, Ruth Smith, a beloved music teacher and musician, served as the instrument for the composition of early songs, including "The Energy Crisis" written in the early 70s.

Jennifer said, dreaming of being a star is one thing, but for a small town girl raised on a dairy farm, actually knowing how one goes about such a thing is quite another. "There were many challenges."

Her first years of college were spent at Michigan State University where she pursued a career that included music. Jennifer moved to Ann Arbor in 1990. Once settled and working at the University of Michigan, she turned her attention again to making music and writing songs. Picking up and learning to play the guitar soon led to many finished songs and trips to Nashville. Jennifer launched her own music publishing company, The Michigan Rose Music Co., and record label, Michigan Rose Records.

In June 2001, Michigan Rose Records released its first single, True North, the title cut to Jennifer's first CD. True North—relating to the life and death of Dale Earnhardt, the race car hero—was recorded along with four other original songs in Nashville this past May. The CD, which was recorded and produced by Phil Dillon at Nickel City Studios, features her daughter Jackie on background vocals and a group of world-class Nashville studio musicians. Despite being an independent release, the single has received airtime on major country radio stations across the United States and has resulted in further opportunities to write and sing—the beginning of a long-awaited dream.

Mr. Speaker, we congratulate Jennifer Jean Smith for her perseverance and success.