

state of California. Although he was not the final winner, his nomination is a glowing tribute to his service to our children.

CTA President Wayne Johnson's nomination letter includes the following information about Mr. Gomez and his achievements: "CTA conducted a search for nominees for this prestigious award. Many excellent California teachers were nominated, but Mr. Gomez stood head and shoulders above the rest. Not only is he an excellent teacher, but he is also an inspiring one. He created an after-school program called Circle of Little Brothers and Circle of Little Sisters, where he helps upper-elementary students explore possibilities for their futures. He coordinates an after-school homework center and takes the lead in training staff on English language development standards.

Becoming concerned that there were few males, especially of Latino descent, who were involved in a school with many Latino children, Mr. Gomez, along with another teacher, created a group called "Mi Papa" in the community resource center. This program helps bring fathers into the school community as role models and pairs them with children in educational and art activities.

Despite the fact that he has been a teacher for only six years, Mr. Gomez is active in his local CTA chapter, Chula Vista Educators. He serves on many communities and, as an association representative, he kept teachers in his school informed and focused during recent negotiations with the school district. He is also the chair of the political action committee for his local association. In short, CTA believes that Mr. Gomez exemplifies all the qualities that are present in the best teachers: dedication, caring, innovation and creativity, and teaching excellence."

Both Marilyn Prall, Principal, and Martha Deichler, Associate Principal of his school, who was Mr. Gomez' mentor, attest to his efforts to grow professionally and to become the best teacher possible—asking for advice, taking suggestions, and making them work in his own classroom. They believe that his passion for teaching has enabled him to become the excellent teacher he is today.

Mr. Gomez also works outside the classroom walls with the families of his students. He believes that only as an active social agent in the community can a teacher provide opportunities for students to advance in this competitive society. He participates in literacy nights, harvest carnivals, job-a-thons, and fundraising activities, such as car washes and haunted houses, to make sure that all of his students can go to sixth grade camp. In his "spare time", he also coaches soccer!

Mr. Gomez' public service goes beyond his local community. He and his students are often involved in charitable activities to help victims of natural disasters thousands of miles away. He is compassionate and appreciative of all people and cultures. His students know that he cares deeply about them and their families, and they return year after year to visit Mr. Gomez after their elementary school graduation.

Mr. Gomez is a graduate of San Diego State University (SDSU) and holds a Bilingual Cross-Cultural Language Academic Development multiple subject credential. He will receive his Master's Degree in Latin American

studies from SDSU this coming summer. In addition, he regularly attends Saturday workshops, after-school in servicing training, and district workshops. He reads professionally and implements in his classroom the methods and ideas supported by current research.

Mr. Gomez knows the abilities of each and every one of his students and works to help each child achieve his or her full potential. He is proud to be a teacher, and I am proud that he is a teacher in my Congressional District. He will be honored by the National Education Association Foundation for the Improvement of Education in Washington, DC on December 6, 2001.

A sincere thank you, Mr. Gomez, for your dedication to our young people, the future of our nation.

HONORING FRANCIS M. BAIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember and honor the life of one of America's true leaders. Not only was he a patriotic soldier during World War II, but he was also a civic leader in his community. Francis M. Bain passed away at the age of ninety-two on November 1, 2001, and it is with a solemn heart that I would like to pay tribute to his life and memory.

Francis Bain was born in Springfield, Illinois on November 7, 1908. He spent the majority of his childhood growing up in Tungsten, Colorado, outside of Boulder, where he completed his high school education and graduated from the University of Colorado in 1931. He went to Europe during World War II, where he served for four years as a Lieutenant Colonel in the 65th Infantry Division of the United States Army fighting to defend the freedom we hold so dear in the United States.

Mr. Bain's role switched from a military soldier to civic leader when he returned home from Europe to Colorado. He joined his brother to manage the family business, Campbell-Sell Baking Company. Throughout the years he undertook several civic responsibilities including such posts as a member of the Denver Board of Education for 16 years, president of the Metropolitan Council for Community Service, and Trustee of the Temple Buell College and Liff School of Theology among others.

Mr. Speaker, Francis Bain contributed so much to our nation and gave selflessly of himself to the community. He was a leader and role model for the people of our country both at home and abroad. He has touched so many lives and his contributions will not be forgotten. I would like to express my condolences to his family and friends during their time of mourning.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, at an historic inter-Korea summit in June of 2000, the leaders of the two Koreas pledged to work toward reconciliation and reunification of the divided peninsula. A key component of healing the 50-year old wounds is for the Korean governments to work quickly to reunite families that were torn apart during the violence and chaos of the Korean War.

Families on the Korean peninsula, as well as many Korean Americans in my district and across the United States, have not given up hope that one day they will be reunited with their long lost relatives. I applaud Congressman BECERRA for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 77 and thank Chairman HYDE and Congressman LANTOS for bringing it to the floor tonight. It is my hope that this resolution will reinforce the United States commitment to a united and peaceful Korea. I urge all members to vote in support of this important measure.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN D. GROENDYKE

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John D. Groendyke on the 25th anniversary of his appointment to the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission by then Governor David Boren.

Let me tell you a little about this man. John Groendyke graduated from Wentworth Military Academy where as Cadet Lt. Col., he served as the first brigade commander when the corps was organized as a "battle group" with seven subordinate companies. He now serves as President of the Wentworth Board of Trustees. John went on to receive his Bachelor of Science in Business from Oklahoma State University and his law degree from the University of Oklahoma. He served as a Captain in the U.S. Army, and after a two-year tour of duty he returned to Enid, Oklahoma to join the family trucking operation. He is a lifelong resident of Oklahoma whose vocation is serving as owner, Chairman and CEO of Groendyke Transport Company, founded by his father, Harold C. Groendyke in 1932 and today, one of the nation's largest motor carriers of bulk commodities serving the continental United States, Canada and Mexico. He and his wife, Virginia have two daughters, two sons, and four grandsons and live in Enid, Oklahoma where they are actively involved in many community activities. He serves as Chairman of the Board of the National Tank Truck Carriers and is a member of the Board of Directors of Central National Bank in Enid. He is a Trustee of the Oklahoma chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Grand National Quail Foundation and Grand National Quail Club, having