

Animas, Colorado. Last month, First Bank celebrated its 100th year of business.

First National received its original charter on November 26, 1901, by the U.S. Comptroller of Currency. The history of First National can be traced to 1875 when it was then named Bent County Bank. At the time, it was the only bank between Pueblo, Colorado and Garden City, Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the bank for its longstanding presence and exemplary service to the community of eastern Colorado.

First National Bank has long been a foundation of capitalism and commerce in Bent County. Opening with only \$50,000 in capital, the bank has grown to over \$102 million in assets. First National Bank has been a fixture in the community and is a key reason why Las Animas continues to be one of the strongest economic centers in eastern Colorado.

As a company located in Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, First National Bank is a source of pride for the community of Bent County and all people of Colorado. Throughout the course of history the bank has helped many Coloradans. It is with honor and pride I wish First National a happy 100th Birthday. I ask the House to join me in extending wholehearted congratulations to First National Bank of Las Animas, Colorado.

IN HONOR OF CATHERINE E. TODD

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2001*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Catherine Todd for her years of service on behalf of public housing residents in Hudson County, New Jersey. On Friday, December 7, 2001, the Jersey City Tenant Affairs Board will honor Ms. Todd at their December Board Meeting. This tribute will take place at the Montgomery Gardens housing complex in Jersey City, New Jersey.

For nearly 50 years, Catherine Todd has worked to improve the standard of living for public housing residents in Hudson County. Since 1978, she has served as the Chairperson of the Montgomery Gardens Tenant Management Corporation in Jersey City. As Chairperson, she supervises the entire Montgomery Gardens Tenant Management staff and manages their operating budget. During her tenure as Chairperson, she has initiated a day care center service and developed an afterschool program for neighborhood children.

As a result of her extensive experience in the public housing sector, Catherine Todd has served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and numerous other resident management associations. Currently, she serves as the Resident Management Coordinator for the Newark Housing Authority and continues to offer advice and guidance to various resident management firms.

A graduate of Ferris High School, Catherine Todd is also an alumnus of Hudson County Community College.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Catherine Todd for her years of dis-

tinguished service on behalf of public housing residents in Hudson County, New Jersey.

HONORING FREDERICK P. AQUIRRE

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2001*

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor an outstanding citizen of Orange County, Mr. Frederick P. Aguirre who has recently been honored by Orange County's United Way for his outstanding service in education to the Latino community. Mr. Aguirre has a strong sense of civic duty and is dedicated to the Latino community, to our country's veterans, and to education.

A graduate of UCLA Law School, he is a co-founder of the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County. Currently, he serves on the Hispanic Advisory Committee of the Orange County District Attorney's office.

His support for education spans across all levels. He was a mentor through the "Stay in School Program" that provides tutoring to at-risk students in the Santa Ana Unified School District. He has been a speaker at elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and at several colleges. He re-established the Placentia chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), a group that provides scholarships for Hispanic youth and encourages civic participation through citizenship classes and voting. In 1994, he became a member of the Corporate Development committee of the Hispanic Education Endowment Fund. In addition, he organized and re-incorporated Latino Advocates for Education, Inc. a nonprofit organization that promotes educational excellence among our Latino students and increases quality instruction and administration in schools.

His exemplary achievements in the community are also noteworthy. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Alzheimer's Association of Orange County, he founded the Multi Ethnic Community Advisory Board. He was also a member and Chairman of the Board of the Community Advisory Board of Placentia Linda Hospital. In 1994, he organized a program offering free legal services at the Cathy Torrez Learning Center in Placentia.

In addition, he has been active in recognizing U.S. veterans. Since 1998, he has organized a Veteran's Day conference at Santa Ana College in Santa Ana, CA. These events have grown in scope each year. The most recent, the 5th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration and Scholarship Program, honored over 100 living Mexican-American World War II veterans and their families. Over 3,000 people attended, including Governor Gray Davis.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Frederick P. Aguirre for his outstanding service to the Orange County community, to education and to the Latino community. His efforts have truly touched people's lives and have had a positive impact on our community.

RECOGNIZING THE PHYSICIANS, NURSES, AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS OF INOVA FAIRFAX HOSPITAL

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2001*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fine work of the physicians, nurses and other health care providers at Inova Fairfax Hospital in response to the recent cases of inhalation anthrax that befell workers at the Brentwood postal facility. Two employees of this facility, Mr. Leroy Richmond and an unnamed colleague, sought treatment at Inova Fairfax for what ultimately proved to be inhalation anthrax. For both gentlemen, the close attention and astute diagnoses of Drs. Cecele Murphy and Susan Bersoff-Matcha were literally the difference between life and death.

Physicians, nurses and other health care providers represent the difference between life and death for many, many patients with myriad conditions every day. What was special about this instance was that both doctors were dealing with a rare disease that affords little, if any, room for error. Early diagnosis of anthrax is essential in giving a patient the chance to survive—a task made all the more difficult because early symptoms of anthrax are not easily distinguishable from the flu or other common maladies. In addition, at the point when Mr. Richmond presented at the emergency room, the extent to which postal workers were at risk for exposure was not fully understood. Cast against a backdrop of profound public fear, with numerous worried patients believing they displayed signs of anthrax, the actions of Drs. Murphy and Bersoff-Matcha are all the more impressive.

Quick and accurate decisions such as those made by Dr. Murphy, Dr. Bersoff-Matcha, the nurses and staff of Inova Fairfax Hospital will be required to minimize casualties in any future bioterrorism attacks. In the anthrax attacks—the first biological assault of our new war on terrorism—these individuals have provided an outstanding example for others to follow.

TRIBUTE TO FLAGLER FFA AGRONOMY TEAM

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2001*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Flagler, Colorado chapter of the Future Farmers of America. The Flagler team recently attended the 74th National FFA Convention and placed fifth in the Agronomy Career Development competition.

The members of the team—Jake Michal, Nathan McCaffrey, Kyle Einspahr, BJ New, and David Wieser—were the first representatives from Colorado to compete in this event. Despite being newcomers to the competition, the team was able to persevere with an outstanding finish at this year's convention.