

WEEMS GALLERY AND FRAMING

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention a woman in my home town of Albuquerque, New Mexico who has contributed much to our community. On March 20, 2001 Mary Ann Weems along with friends and family celebrated the 20th anniversary of Weems Galleries and Framing.

Inspired by her vision of a gallery that would warmly welcome anyone who found joy in art as an expression of life, Mary Ann began this journey toward excellence in the visual arts twenty years ago. Her first gallery was in a little-noticed shopping center, opened with borrowed money and lack of business experience. She won the confidence and trust of New Mexico artists and aficionados who joined in supporting her vision of making more art accessible to more people.

That vision led 10 years ago to the first Weems Artfest, now the nationally ranked annual event which attracts thousands of families and children to see and experience New Mexico art. The Artfest also provides an affordable venue for all kinds of artists to gain exposure for their talents. The Artfest benefits the whole community of artists by increasing awareness of their work, and by expanding the community of admirers who will pay a fair price for art that touches their spirit. Additionally, the Artfest hosts a charity event to raise funds for healthcare needs in our community, particularly for children.

By making art more accessible for children, Mary Ann gives every child who participates the chance to discover something wonderful in themselves. For children who face challenges, it's a discovery gives them powerful hope for their future. Mary Ann serves as my Chairperson for the Congressional Art Competition.

Mary Ann Weems earned her success in the visual arts the hard way, by trial and error and sheer grit. She achieved excellence in the visual arts by setting new standards for what a gallery can be, and what an art show can become, and making her vision real for the whole of New Mexico's art community.

Please join me in recognizing the achievements of this business woman, Mary Ann Weems.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF LYNN SELMSER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize today Ms. Lynn Selmser for over 27 years of service to Members of the House of Representatives. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Education Reform of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I have worked with Lynn only a few years, but I can say that her reputation as a talented and knowledgeable member of the Committee staff is well deserved.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Lynn began her Capitol Hill career in the personal office of Illinois Rep. Robert McClory in 1974. She stayed with Rep. McClory for over seven years.

Next, Lynn worked in the personal office of Pennsylvania Rep. Bill Goodling, her hometown representative. She stayed in Rep. Goodling's personal office until January 1989, when she moved to the Committee on Education and Labor staff, which is now the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

During her time with the Committee, Lynn has educated me and many other Members of Congress on the intricacies of quite complex issues. She has covered issues and programs such as Child Nutrition, Impact Aid, Juvenile Justice, and child and adult literacy. I know all of the Members of the Committee will be at a disadvantage without her institutional knowledge and advice on these issues.

I believe that Lynn is most proud of her work on family literacy issues. Lynn worked on this issue on behalf of Rep. Goodling from 1988, when he originally sponsored what became the Even Start Act. She cares deeply about improving the literacy of adults as a way to improve literacy in children, and I understand that she plans to continue to promote adult literacy following her retirement from the Committee staff.

I know many Members of Congress and staffers, along with her friend and former boss, Rep. Goodling, join me in thanking Lynn for her many years of service and wishing her a relaxing and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING FAYETTEVILLE FIRE
CHIEF DUKE "PETE" PINER

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fayetteville Fire Chief Duke J. "Pete" Piner, who will retire on April 1, 2001, after more than 37 years of service.

Chief Piner, 63, joined the Fayetteville Fire Department in 1964, following his father into the firefighting profession after a stint in the United States Navy and working briefly as an electrician.

Almost 25 years to the day, on March 22, 1989, Piner became chief of the department. In the words of Fayetteville City Manager Roger Stancil, Chief Piner quickly established himself as a team player among city management. "His leadership extended throughout the city," said Stancil. "He was someone you could call on to accomplish a mission anywhere within the city government."

Chief Piner's vision led to many innovations for the fire department. During his tenure, the Fayetteville Fire Department built new stations to expand its service area, successfully merged with volunteer fire departments in neighborhoods annexed by the city, developed a state-of-the-art hazardous materials response team, and began to utilize more modern technology. In fact, Chief Piner played a key role in modernizing the city's communications capabilities so that various city departments, state, and county agencies could

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communicate with one another during a crises or disaster situation.

I ask that all my colleagues join me in honoring Chief Duke J. "Pete" Piner for 37 years of remarkable public service to the people of Fayetteville, North Carolina.

A TRIBUTE TO JORGE MAS
SANTOS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I congratulate Jorge Mas Santos on being honored for receiving the National Community Service Award by the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

As the son of a Cuban immigrant, Jorge Mas Santos learned to appreciate the freedoms and opportunities in our country, and realized that the dreams of liberty and democracy that his father had for his native land of Cuba would never be possible under the tyrannical regime of Fidel Castro. His ambition to fulfill his father's aspirations to help the thousands of Cubans migrating from the island seeking freedom has resulted in countless programs and activities that have benefited not only Cuban-Americans but also every citizen in South Florida.

Among his illustrious accomplishments, Jorge is the founder and chairman of Neff Rental; Chairman of the Board of the Cuban American National Foundation; Chairman of MasTec Inc.; and Executive Director of the Mas Family Foundation. Through this Foundation, the Mas Family Scholarships has awarded over \$500,000 to students who had little hope of obtaining higher education. He is deeply involved in community and civic activities as a member of the University of Miami President's Council and of Nova Southeastern University's Board of Trustees. Jorge's current multi-million dollar restoration project is to fulfill his late father's dream of turning The Freedom Tower, which is included in the National Registry of Historic Places, into an educational center and museum, scheduled for completion in late 2001.

Jorge has achieved a multitude of honors. His love and dedication to the cause of freedom has touched the lives of so many and has won him respect and admiration. I want to join with his family, friends and colleagues in celebration of this wonderful award and I wish him every future success.

RE-OPENING OF SPAG'S OF
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the community of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts in celebrating the Grand Re-Opening of Spag's—a store that has become one of the biggest tourist attractions in New England.