EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

March 28, 2001

TRIBUTE TO SAL TORRES

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lois Pearshall upon the occasion of her retirement as a rural development specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture in Caro, Michigan. Lois has given 35 years of dedicated service to her country through her employment with various governmental agencies since 1965.

Lois began her government career as a clerk stenographer with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Department of the Army at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. before relocating to Michigan in 1970. Since then, her unparalleled devotion to addressing the needs of Michigan residents has earned her many awards for both the quality and effectiveness of her work.

Over the years, Lois has set the standard in her service to the residents of mid-Michigan, consistently going well above and beyond the basic requirements of her job to aid those faced with financial hardship. In her role in the Rural Housing Program and Farmer Loan programs, she played an integral part in providing shelter and economic stability to some of the most vulnerable citizens of our communities.

She has been a vital and tireless leader in securing decent, safe and affordable housing in rural Michigan.

Most recently, Lois has worked as a loan specialist for the Multi-Family Housing Program. Overseeing the management of more than 250 apartment projects in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, Lois has spent countless hours and expended considerable energy in guiding innumerable communities, borrowers, tenants and management companies into housing partnerships to put roofs over the heads of a considerable number of families throughout the state.

All those who have benefited from Lois' efforts no doubt owe a debt of gratitude to her husband, Al, and son, Albert, for their willingness to share Lois' time and talents for the benefit of the commonwealth. Lois will be the first to acknowledge that Al's and Albert's work on the family farm gave her the time and freedom to help other farm families, friends, neighbors and strangers achieve their dreams.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deep appreciation to Lois and her family for outstanding service and wishing them well in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS PEARSHALL

HON. ALLEN BOYD
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed on Roll Call vote 50. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call vote 50.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 2001, I regrettably missed a recorded vote on Roll Call 60. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

LET'S SUPPORT COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

HON. EDOLOPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in stressing the importance of funding community health centers at a level of at least $175 million for FY 2002. In my home State of New York, we provide over 164,000 residents who are uninsured or Medicaid recipients with health care services. Low-income New Yorkers are dependent on these centers for important services like immunizations, breast and cervical cancer exams as well as treatment for asthma, diabetes and heart disease.

Communities served by community health centers make a real difference in the quality of life for that community. For example, infant mortality rates have been shown to be 10 to 40 percent lower than communities not served by health centers. Health center patients have lower hospital admission rates and shorter hospital stays, and make more appropriate use of emergency room services. Moreover, centers have significantly increased the use of preventive health services like pap smears, mammograms, and glaucoma screening services among the populations they serve. The