

today is cutting edge. Dr. Gilbert has an unusual but highly successful style in his classes. He has been known to show up as Isaac Newton, Galileo, or Albert Einstein.

Dr. Gilbert has continued to teach and do research while battling prostate cancer for the last 10 years. "I'm told I have about three more years. I've been told that every other year since 1992." Despite all he has accomplished, his greatest gift is being a dad to his three kids, Beth, James, and Thomas. "It may be true. I don't laugh at it. I don't take it for granted. But I do know the roses have never smelled sweeter."

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gilbert has done a lot for science, space exploration and his students. And despite having cancer, he is still giving it his all in the classroom and with his family. I applaud, Gordon and all that he has accomplished in his lifetime, and I want to thank him and wish him all the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO STATE
SENATOR JIM DYER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Colorado State Senator Jim Dyer of Durango for his years of service to the State of Colorado and to wish him good luck in his new position. Senator Dyer has accepted a nomination by Colorado Governor Bill Owens to join the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Although the State Senate will miss Jim greatly, I know that Jim's leadership and service to the State of Colorado will continue with the PUC.

Senator Dyer has been a member of the State Legislature for 15 years serving in the House for 12 years and the Senate for 3 years. He was first elected to the House in 1986, and then in 1998 he was elected to the state Senate. He served as the chair of Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, as well as on the Veterans and Military Relations Committee and the Transportation Committee. "I think we've all been served well by Jim. Regardless of the fact we're of different political parties, he's a good friend of mine. . . . Jim has always taken a strong stance for us locally. Jim has never lost the viewpoint that small government is important to the process," said County Commissioner Fred Klatt.

Senator Dyer has also had a distinguished career in the military. Senator Dyer served in the U.S. Navy from 1959-1964 and the U.S. Marines from 1964-1979 with three tours of duty in Vietnam. During his years in the military, Senator Dyer was recognized with the Soldiers Medal, three Bronze Stars, the Air Medal, the Gallantry Cross with Palm (Republic of Vietnam), and the Order of Military Merit (Republic of Korea).

In his spare time, Senator Dyer is involved as a member of the VFW, the American Legion, the National Rifle Association, and the Durango Historical Society. "I feel he has been a very fine Senator and represented our area very well. He has always been responsive to our needs and responsive when he

could do things for us at the state level," said Mayor Jim Shepard.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Senator Jim Dyer on his new position and wish him good luck in the future. He will be missed in the state legislature.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Dyer is a person of high integrity and honor. I consider it a privilege to have known and worked with him.

Jim has served the State of Colorado well in the state Senate and I know he will continue that record of leadership in his new capacity with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR GINETTE
(GIGI) DENNIS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Colorado State Senator Gigi Dennis for her years of service to the State of Colorado and to wish her good luck in her new position. Senator Gigi has served in the Colorado State Senate since 1995, but is resigning at the end of the month to accepted an appointment from President George W. Bush to become the Colorado Director of the Department of Agriculture's Office of Rural Development. "I'm proud of her," said her husband Dean Dennis. "I'm proud of her accomplishments." I know that Gigi's friends and neighbors in south-central Colorado, her colleagues in the Colorado legislature, and elected officials all across Colorado—including me—share Dean's sentiments. We are all proud of Gigi!

Senator Dennis has held numerous positions of real significance during her seven years in office, including Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee, a Member of the Legislative Council and Chairman of the Majority Caucus. Senator Dennis also served as the Rio Grande County Republican Secretary. Additionally, she served as a member of the State Accountability Commission on Education, and the Vice Chairman of the Education Committee (NCSL).

Senator Dennis summed up her feelings like this: "This resignation is not like walking away from my constituents, but creating a bigger circle of people I can impact through this office. In the end, it doesn't make any difference who gets the credit or who wins the fight. . . .but whether Colorado citizens are better off for what we do. I'm extremely honored that President Bush has selected me for this position. This is another terrific opportunity to continue to help the State of Colorado, particularly the rural areas that I've represented over the years."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Senator Gigi Dennis on her new position and wish her good luck in the future. She will be missed in the state legislature.

Gigi has served the State of Colorado well in the state Senate and I know she will continue that record of leadership in her new capacity with the Department of Agriculture.

HONORING OMI, WINNER OF THE
MALCOLM BALDRIGE AWARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate, Operations Management International, Inc., one of the 2000 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award winners. President Clinton presented the Malcolm Baldrige award to OMI. The award, first presented in 1988, recognizes US companies for business performance excellence and competitive improvement. It is the highest-level quality award given in the U.S.

The Baldrige Award evaluates organizations on seven performance excellence criteria: leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, information and analysis and human resource focus. This award recognizes organizations that play a major role in energizing our nation's economy and quality of life. OMI uses these criteria as a cornerstone for its "Obsessed With Quality" process. OMI is an employee-owned global leader in the management of water, wastewater and utility systems.

This is the first time that a water treatment company has won the Baldrige Award. OMI operates and maintains more than 160 public and private sector wastewater and water treatment facilities in 29 states and eight countries. Their primary services are processing raw wastewater to produce clean, environmentally safe effluent and processing raw groundwater and surface water to produce clean, safe drinking water.

"OMI began its quality journey in 1990 when we initiated our 'Obsessed with Quality' process. Winning the Baldrige Award demonstrates how our quality process continues to positively affect the millions of lives our people touch. . . . My thanks to all OMI associates for a job well done," said OMI President Don S. Evans.

Mr. Speaker, OMI is helping our economy grow and is setting an example for other businesses to follow. I want to thank them and congratulate them for their continued success.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
WESTERN STATE COLLEGE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado a happy 100th birthday. Since 1901 Western State College has been a model of excellence. It is that record of achievement that I would now like to honor.

On April 16, 2001, then Governor James B. Orman signed a bill creating the Colorado State Normal School at Gunnison. This bill was a victory for the citizens of Gunnison, who would claim the first college west of the divide.