

HONORING THE 125 YEAR HISTORY  
OF LA VETA, COLORADO**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay special tribute to La Veta, Colorado on its 125th Birthday. For over a century, the people of La Veta have contributed a rich heritage and cultural diversity to the state of Colorado. I would like Congress to wish the citizens of La Veta a very happy 125th birthday.

In 1862, Col. John M. Francisco, a former settler with the US Army at Fort Garland, and Judge Henry Daigle built Fort Francisco on land purchased from the Vigil-St. Vrain Land Grant, significantly south west of most of the San Luis Valley bound traffic. When Col. John Francisco looked down on the future site of La Veta in the mid 1850's he said, "This is paradise enough for me." The town of La Veta was incorporated on October 9, 1876.

As more settlers moved into this beautiful and fertile valley, the Fort increased in importance as shelter for Indians and as the commercial center for the area. The first Post Office, named Spanish Peaks, opened in the Plaza in 1871. By 1875 the Indian threat was almost completely gone. In 1876 the narrow gauge railroad came through La Veta several blocks north of the Fort on its way westward through the newly surveyed La Veta Pass. In 1877 the permanent rail depot was built beside the rails and the business community slowly moved north toward it. For many years, this stretch of the line between La Veta and Wagon Creek was the highest in the world. The old depot building at the summit is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The mountains of the Sangre de Cristo Range were long known by the Indians of the Southwest. Relics of the Basket Weaver Culture have also been found within the county. The Spanish Peaks are a historic landmark to travelers—from the early Indians to the vacationer. Besides being the railhead, La Veta has also been the center of local agriculture and coal mining.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Colorado are proud of La Veta's 125-year heritage. It is an area rich in culture, history and heritage. For that Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish La Veta happy birthday and wish its citizens good luck and prosperity for the next 125 years.

ENERGY PRICE CAPS NOT THE  
ANSWER**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2001*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the June 6, 2001, Omaha World-Herald. The editorial emphasizes that there is a role for the Federal Government in addressing concerns, but it highlights the problems which could result from improper government involvement.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PRICE CAPS MAKE IT WORSE

With the Democrats back in administrative control of the U.S. Senate, a move is in the works to push for federal price caps on admittedly burdensome electricity costs in California and some other Western states. If that happens, it will be a quick and nifty short-term solution. It will also, we're convinced, be a calamity in the long run. It shouldn't be done.

When President Bush met with California Gov. Gray Davis last week, he made it plain that he wasn't going to mandate any such solution through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which has such authority under some circumstances. Now, Davis' state is crafting a lawsuit to compel such caps—if Congress doesn't get to it first and legislatively require the FERC to impose controls. (Of course, such efforts might die in the GOP-controlled House.)

Nobody wants to make light of the agony of California or some of its neighbors, where electricity prices in some locales are 10 times what they were a year and a half ago. But California, which made its own mess by shunning in-state electrical generation and neglecting its power grid, is finding its way out of the difficulties with due speed.

Four new plants are being built now and four more are scheduled to come on line next year. The state has enacted an \$800 million conservation program and within a couple more years hopes to have 15 new power plants in place. President Bush has pledged \$150 million in emergency aid to help low-income consumers in California keep the lights on.

And both Congress and the FERC still have perfectly legitimate and possibly useful roles to play in this energy drama. There are questions about how well the agency has exercised its existing authority. That's because while private power companies may under some circumstances charge market-based wholesale rates for electricity (far higher than cost-based rates), they're required to apply to the FERC for authority to do so. But the agency is supposed to deny reauthorization if it determines that companies have raised prices above competitive levels for a significant period of time. The commission may well have been asleep, figuratively and almost literally, at the switch. Congress would do well to inquire into this.

In addition, Congress may have some sharp questions to ask about whether Texas natural gas sellers have manipulated the market in California. Davis said Bush agreed with him that it seems suspicious for Texas-originated gas to cost nearly three times in California what it does in New York. Both states are about the same distance from Texas. There may be some difference in transmission costs—but triple? A FERC administrative law judge is already at work on the question, but a Senate inquiry in addition would do no harm.

Such efforts are within the normal workings of the regulatory matrix. Price caps are not. Historically, over time they have dried up supply and either halted plant construction or slowed it to a crawl. If caps are to be tried, they should at least be brief in duration, with a defined beginning and end. But it would be best not to head that direction at all.

*June 7, 2001*

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. FLOYD SPENCE**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2001*

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 149 I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROY P.  
BENAVIDEZ**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before Congress today to pay tribute to a man that put duty, honor and the lives of others before his own safety and well-being. Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez, a former Green Beret Soldier, received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1981 for his service to this country. He has been an outstanding citizen and deserves the thanks and praise of Congress for all that he has done.

Roy was born in 1935 in Texas. He joined the Army at the age of 19. Then Staff Sergeant Benavidez served two tours of duty with the U.S. Army's Green Berets during the Vietnam War. On the Morning of May 2, 1968, he heard the cry "get us out of here" over his radio. Roy voluntarily led the emergency extraction of a 12-man special forces unit that was ambushed while gathering intelligence. Prior to arriving at the team's position he was wounded in his right leg, face and head. Despite these wounds and heavy fire, he dragged half of the wounded soldiers to awaiting aircraft. Roy was then shot in the stomach and thigh, hit in the back by grenade fragments and stabbed by a bayonet. Roy was still able to return fire, call in air strikes, administer morphine and recover classified documents.

His fearless leadership, devotion to duty and fellow soldiers and valorous actions earned Roy the Distinguished Service Cross. In 1981 President Ronald Reagan presented the Congressional Medal of Honor to Roy at the Pentagon. Roy has also been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple Heart Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with Four Battle Stars, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Air Medal and numerous other decorations. In June of 2001, the Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Department will honor Roy by dedicating a park in his name.

Mr. Speaker, Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was a true American hero. He was wounded over 40 times while saving his fellow soldiers. He performed above and beyond the call of duty. His gallantry, loyalty and strong sense of duty far superseded any concerns for his own safety. He promoted patriotism, staying in school and encouraged continuing education. It is for this, that I ask Congress to pay special tribute to this living, breathing American hero.