June 29, 2001

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LATE JIMMIE ICARDO

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to report that Kern County, California lost one of its most prominent and successful friends when Jimmie Icardo passed away. Few can or will match commitment to his family, his church and to Kern County.

The businesses Jimmie developed are going to be models for young Californians for years to come. He built strong family farm operations that produced quality melons, tomatoes, peppers and other crops. He was active in the oil and gas, banking and real estate industries. Jimmie made his own successes through honest dealings with his neighbors and a tremendous amount of hard work. He was equally committed to his community.

Jimmie Icardo will also be remembered for the tremendous support he has given the California State University at Bakersfield over the years, in particular the University’s athletic programs. Jimmie ran barbecues to raise money for athletic scholarships, established a trust to benefit the program and supported the school in other ways. His strong support over several decades helped build CSU Bakersfield into the school it is today. The school’s decision to re dedicate its athletic center as the Jimmie and Marjorie Icardo Activities Center is only a start toward acknowledging how hard Jimmie worked over the years to support an important educational resource for Kern County.

Jimmie Icardo was a person you asked for help to get things done. His strengths and sense of commitment to our community are going to be missed by those who now have to measure up to his example.

REMOTE SENSING APPLICATION ACT OF 2001

HON. MARK UDALL
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Remote Sensing Applications Act of 2001. This bill would help communities grow more smartly by giving them greater access to geospatial data—information from analysis of data from orbiting satellites and airborne platforms—from federal agencies such as NASA and commercial sources.

I am pleased that my colleague Representative Jim GREENWOOD is joining me as an original cosponsor of this bill.

Many of our cities, in Colorado and across the country, are experiencing problems with unchecked and unplanned growth—otherwise known as sprawl. Planning for growth is primarily the job of state and local government. But the federal government also has an important role to play—whether through funding transportation, infrastructure, schools, and the like; establishing federal tax incentives and disincentives for private development; or puffing in place federal permits and licenses that may contribute to or restrain sprawl.

The federal government can also help to provide information to help towns and cities grow in a smarter and more sustainable way. Wise community planning and management cannot happen if communities do not have information to make sound decisions. The federal government can bring valuable—and powerful informational planning resources to the table.

One new space-age tool is the use of satellites to provide images of the Earth’s surface. We now have technology using geospatial data from satellites—that can produce very accurate maps that show information about vegetation, wildlife habitat, flood plains, transportation corridors, soil types, and many other things. Satellite imagery and remote sensing, when combined with Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system information, can be invaluable tools for use in such areas as land-use planning, transportation, emergency response planning, and environmental planning. Getting this integrated geospatial data to local communities would give planners important information they could use to avoid problems and help communities grow more smartly.

As a member of the House Science Committee and the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, I have learned about the technological opportunities available from federal agency activities and capabilities. The bill I am introducing would establish a program that will demonstrate the effectiveness of the use of integrated geospatial data to other governmental sectors.

The bill would establish in NASA a program of grants for competitively awarded pilot projects to explore the integrated use of sources of remote sensing and other geospatial information to address state, local, regional, and tribal agency needs. This proposed legislation would build on and complement an applications program that NASA’s Office of Earth Science announced earlier this year. Like NASA’s program, the Remote Sensing Applications Act would seek to translate scientific and technical capabilities in Earth science into practical tools to help public and private sector decisionmakers solve practical problems at the state and local levels.

The Remote Sensing Applications Act has the potential to begin to bridge the gap between established and emerging technology solutions and the problems and challenges that state and local communities face regarding growth management and other issues. I look forward to working with Rep. GREENWOOD and other Members of the House to move forward with this important initiative.

IN HONOR OF DOCTOR OFEM AJAH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Doctor Ofem Ajah for his dedication to the field of medicine and health education.

Doctor Ajah, born in Nigeria, was faced with many obstacles throughout his education. Born to peasant farmers, Ofem was required to help on the farm while he attended school. His family was further impoverished and his education interrupted when war broke out in Nigeria. He continued with his secondary education on an academic scholarship. His academic excellence propelled him to the University of Ilorin in Nigeria for both his undergraduate and medical degrees.

Ofem is and always has been involved in community affairs. In high school, he was editor-in-chief of the school magazine. His involvement continued into medical school where he served as Secretary of the Medical Students Union as well as Chief Organizer of the Nigerian Medical Students’ Games. After completing his medical degree, Ofem taught mathematics in a high school in Nigeria.

It was only after Ofem finished his medical internship that Ofem immigrated to the United States. As a distinguished physician, Ofem continued his medical training at the Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn where he became Chief Resident. Pursuing his inner quest for knowledge, Ofem obtained a specialty in gastroenterology.

For Ofem Ajah, being an accomplished doctor has enabled him to give of his free time. Dr. Ajah regularly donates his time and energy to educating everyone about colon cancer. He is also currently working on his second novel.

Ofem devotes himself to the love of his life, Francine Smalls-Ajah. Together, they have one daughter, Achayen, and two sons, Anjah and Tuniche.

Mr. Speaker, Doctor Ofem Ajah has devoted his life to serving his community through his excellent knowledge of medicine. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.