

creed and his vision for a greater, more influential brotherhood has been adopted by the Shrine with open arms. Through the Jaffa Shrine's community outreach initiatives, countless children have benefitted from orthopaedic, burn and spinal cord care free of charge and the quality of life within the community has improved because of its effluence of optimism.

Sir Long has connected with citizens in the area in a way that few are able. Since 1938, when he first joined DeMolay, Sir Long has worked diligently to make positive changes throughout the community so that the area would grow and prosper. Having taken the reigns as a strong leader since his youth, he has been a pillar of strength within his community, and his ceaseless dedication to the Jaffa Shrine is unparalleled. In the 43 years that Sir Long has had a significant hand in the Shrine's operations, it has become a driving force of service in the area by implementing new and improved health care technology in its hospitals, expanding the temple's infrastructure, and increasing the laughter and happiness among everyone involved.

It was during the 1980s, a period in which Sir Long held significant positions within the Shrine, that Shrines all across North America experienced the greatest expansion in their history. The hospitals treated unprecedented numbers of children in need, Temples and Shrines expanded both in physical structure and in membership, and the feeling of brotherhood spread even further. His uncompromising sense of duty to the community in which he lives has been a source of inspiration, and the impact he has had is immeasurable.

For his incomparable generosity, service to the Jaffa Shrine, and unabated commitment to excellence, Sir Raymond A. Long deserves the highest recognition. Throughout his tenure within the Shrine, Sir Long has not only enriched the lives of the other members, but of those in the surrounding communities who have undoubtedly benefitted from the charity, education and service that they have repeatedly provided. The legacy he has created is one that every American should emulate, and his contributions will not go unnoticed by the organization for which he has served nor the community in which he lives. I would like to congratulate Sir Long on his many accomplishments, and I wish him the best of luck as he continues his admirable service to the people of Blair County.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
MR. ROBERT WILSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Robert Wilson has served as the mayor of Toronto, Ohio for thirteen years; and

Whereas, Mr. Wilson oversaw projects in Toronto including the Sloan Station Square, the Veterans Victory Pavilion, Newburg Landing, and the installation of the beautification committee; and

Whereas, Mr. Wilson maintained a friendly, caring, and hardworking demeanor not only in

his post as mayor, but also in his personal life. He should be commended for the leadership he provided to the people of Toronto and the surrounding area.

Therefore, I join with the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in celebrating Mr. Robert Wilson's service to the Village of Toronto, Ohio.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 1000TH
STRYKER ASSEMBLED AT THE
ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the employees at the Anniston Army Depot who have reached an important milestone on behalf of our Nation's military.

On January 12, 2005, the 1000th Stryker was assembled at the Anniston Army Depot. This was a proud day for the citizens of northeast Alabama, Mr. Speaker, and was the direct result of the hard work and dedication of thousands of workers from across our community.

Assembled right here in Calhoun County, the Stryker is a transformational vehicle that will help protect our forces far into the 21st century. The troop carrier is part of a new generation of wheeled vehicles for our military, and will allow the Army to more safely and efficiently transport soldiers on the field of battle.

Not only has the Stryker proven its tactical value in Iraq, Mr. Speaker, but it has also helped better protect the lives of countless soldiers. Knowing Alabama workers helped make this advancement possible is a great honor for our community.

I salute the employees of the Anniston Army Depot for their ongoing dedication to the Stryker project, and thank them for their service to our Nation and to our men and women serving on the front lines overseas.

MILESTONE FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit this article from my predecessor Representative Bob Schaffer detailing his experiences in the recent Ukrainian elections. Thank you.

[From the Denver Post, Jan. 25, 2005]

MILESTONE FOR DEMOCRACY

(By Bob Schaffer)

A milestone in the democracy movement occurred Sunday as Ukrainians inaugurated Viktor Yushchenko, their third president since declaring independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

He succeeded outgoing President Leonid Kuchma, whose administration, with the help of Russian President Vladimir Putin, went to extraordinary lengths to steer the election outcome toward Viktor

Yanukovich. This time, their attempts—legal and otherwise—were just not enough.

The inauguration of Yushchenko caps an unprecedented marathon election marked by rampant election fraud, voter intimidation, assassination attempts, the presence of Russian troops and appeals to the nation's top court. Last Thursday, the end became certain as the Supreme Court rejected Yanukovich's last desperate appeal. Yushchenko is Ukraine's former prime minister. His performance established him as a leader with pro Western leanings. His penchant for privatization, free markets and private-property rights put him in the crosshairs of Ukrainian and Russian oligarchs whose tremendous wealth is built upon exclusive government deals and on the backs of Ukraine's working class.

These same Ukrainian commoners define the "Orange Revolution," named after Yushchenko's campaign color. I was in Ukraine as an election monitor during the start of the revolution and witnessed millions of Ukrainians pouring into Kiev's Independence Square.

The protest was sparked when the government announced fraudulent election results and tried to hand Yanukovich a false victory. Demonstrators stayed in the streets for weeks in sub-zero weather demanding a new election and an end to corruption.

Yushchenko's election is important for two reasons. First, with the help of international observers (including several Coloradans), Ukrainians conducted a legitimate election in the face of difficult odds.

Given the history of oppression in Ukraine, the election is a triumph of courage. Today's Ukrainians are the grandchildren, children and survivors of Stalin's engineered famine of 1932-33. For generations, they have seen that Ukrainians who challenge governing authorities often die untimely deaths.

The election is also a triumph for women. In 35,000 polling stations throughout Ukraine, it was the women who insisted on a transparent election. They were the brave volunteers who stood up to thugs, dressed down armed government agents and enforced the rules to protect the ballot box.

Indeed, the Patrick Henry of Ukraine is Yulia Tymoshenko, a parliamentarian who marshaled the masses in the peaceful, purposeful and well-organized Orange Revolution. Tymoshenko is emblematic of Ukrainian women. Their leadership has made the greatest difference in Ukrainian politics, business, academia and culture.

For Ukrainians, Yushchenko represents unleashed opportunity. Ukraine's massive underground economy has the potential to become one of the most powerful economies in Europe. Yushchenko understands this.

He has charted an ambitious agenda for reforming Ukraine's economic institutions with an emphasis on attracting foreign investment and improving domestic productivity. Ukraine's economy is quite strong. Last year's increase in its gross domestic product was among the highest in the world.

A country of 48 million, Ukraine has a highly educated workforce and nearly 100 percent literacy. It is the second-largest country in Europe, has abundant natural resources, contains the planet's richest soil and enjoys a geographic location conducive to trade.

In anticipation of a Yushchenko presidency, foreign investors have been busting down the doors of Kiev in search of ground-floor opportunities. Yushchenko's promise to accelerate NATO cooperation, European integration and Western economic standards is

underscored by his immediate travel schedule. This week he heads to a meeting of the Council of Europe, then to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Colorado shares many common features with Ukraine which have led to partnerships in agriculture, mineral extraction, medicine, space development and education. Strengthening these partnerships in the Yushchenko era presents a solid opportunity for Coloradans to help secure democracy and freedom in Ukraine while expanding trade here at home.

RECOGNIZING MR. BRADLEY
DAVID DEBRASKA

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Bradley David DeBraska, a police officer with the Milwaukee Police Department. It gives me great pleasure to join the International Union of Police Associations in recognizing his service to the Milwaukee community.

Mr. DeBraska has honorably served the police force since 1977. He worked tirelessly as a Police Officer, and for the past twelve years has served dual roles as a Police Liaison Officer and Detective. Mr. DeBraska's service also extends to numerous Boards and Associations, helping to guide several police and community organizations. In addition, he faithfully served the residents of Wisconsin as a member of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents. He has truly fulfilled his duty as a citizen of this country.

I am proud of the work that Mr. DeBraska has accomplished in his 28 years of service. Once again, I congratulate him. I wish Mr. DeBraska a healthy and happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING MARY BETH SCOW

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mary Beth Scow and her contributions to excellence in public education. As a current representative of District A of the Clark County School District Board of Trustees, Mrs. Scow has been an outspoken voice and is honored for her contributions. I stand today to praise her for her continued leadership and passion in improving education in southern Nevada.

Mrs. Scow, a Denver native, has been a resident of southern Nevada for the past 25 years. She graduated cum laude from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in community health education. She and her husband Steve are the proud parents of nine children, all educated in the Clark County School District. The entire family has been very involved in community sports, music and church activities.

With a vision to help prepare Clark County students for higher education and for success-

ful future careers, Mrs. Scow has been an outspoken voice for Clark County students. Elected to the board of school trustees in 1996, Mrs. Scow has proven her leadership qualities by serving two terms as president of that body. In addition, she has served on various educational committees and zoning task forces. In her community, she leaves a legacy to the Sunset Area Council of PTA as a former president and to her local Boy Scout chapter as den leader.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand today to pay tribute to a visionary leader, committed parent and public servant. I join with the William McCool Science Center at Frank Lamping Elementary School to pay tribute to Mary Beth Scow for her dedication to Clark County students and her commitment to excellence in education. I thank her for her contribution and I urge my colleagues to recognize in their own communities, the contributions of great leaders in education.

SUPPORT OF THE ASSURED FUNDING FOR VETERANS HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Congressman EVANS' legislation, the Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act, and am proud to be an original cosponsor. This legislation will guarantee that veterans receive the health care they have earned and deserve.

With an increase in the number of veterans seeking care, a dramatic rise in medical costs, and years of inadequate VA health care funding, there is a clear and growing mismatch between the demand for VA services and available funds to support these services. The number of patients entering the VA health care system has increased by 134 percent since 1996, but funding for medical care has increased just 44 percent. This has resulted in unprecedented waiting times for routine and specialized medical care nationwide. In my home state of Michigan, some veterans are waiting more than 6 months for an initial doctor's appointment. This situation is untenable.

The reason for this problem is evident and so is the solution. Every year, veterans have to fight with a myriad of non-veterans' programs to receive the money necessary for their health care treatment. To end this annual budget battle, the Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act would require Congress to meet our veterans' medical care needs by providing funding for VA health care based on the number of enrollees in the system and medical inflation.

This is legislation that Members on both sides of the aisle should support. In fact, a commission established by the White House, the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, issued a report in March 2003 noting the mismatch between veterans' needs and VA services, and recommending guaranteed funding to fix this problem. To date, the Administration

has refused to endorse, or even to acknowledge, the Task Force's recommendation.

The current system is not serving our veterans well. The VA must have a sufficient budget to effectively manage its health care programs, to hire the appropriate number of staff, and to adequately plan for the coming year well in advance. Guaranteed veterans' health care funding would end the year-to-year uncertainty the VA and our veterans face, and would fulfill the obligation this country has to the men and women who served in uniform.

HONORING SISTER ANN MCGUINN,
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Ann McGuinn, of Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, for her lifetime of service attending to the spiritual and health care needs of others.

Sister Ann is retiring from a long and distinguished career as a health care administrator with the St. Joseph Hospitals System of California. She served as Vice-President of sponsorship for St. Joseph's Hospital of Humboldt County from 1992 to 2005. She formerly served as the administrator for St. Joseph Hospital, in Orange from 1961 to 1972; and CEO of Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa from 1971 to 1992. Under her leadership, the Children's Hospital of Orange County was established. During her tenure at Queen of the Valley she established a dental clinic for the poor, now called Sister Anne Dental Clinic, developed specialized cancer programs and created the system's first home health care.

Throughout her long career, Sister Ann has been a tireless champion for the poor and an advocate for the vulnerable. She has been generous with her time and energy and is highly regarded by those who have had an opportunity to work with her. She has played a large role in improving the lives of thousands of people.

In Humboldt County, Sister Ann's force of compassion brought together a myriad of resources to fund homeless programs, winter shelters and improved dental health for poor children. She has been unflinchingly supportive of efforts to expand rural healthcare services, particularly for battered women and underprivileged children.

In 1992, I had the privilege of naming Sister Ann "Woman of the Year" for the 2nd Senate District of the California State Senate. She is the past recipient of the "Value in Action Award for Justice" presented by the St. Joseph Health System.

Sister Ann entered the order of St. Joseph of Orange in 1944; she received her RN from Mary's Help Hospital, now called Cedar Sinai Medical Center, in San Francisco. She was trained as an obstetrics nurse. She is the daughter of John and Mary McGuinn of San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Sister Ann McGuinn for her compassion, leadership and commitment to