

Classified Activities, Under Secretary of Defense (OSD) Comptroller. She has also worked as an Associate Director for Investment, a Budget Analyst for the Directorate for Plans and Systems, a Budget Analyst for the Directorate for Operations and Personnel, and a Budget Analyst in the Department of the Air Force where she started in 1975.

Together, these two have been instrumental in the formulation and passage of all of the Department of Defense Appropriations bills and War Supplemental Appropriations bills since the War on Terror began in 2002.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and selfless service of these two outstanding individuals. On behalf of the United States Congress, I say "thank you" for their over fifty years of combined service and experience, for their dedication to the Department of Defense, and for their work on behalf of our brave men and women in uniform. I would like to conclude my remarks by saying that I look forward to working with them for many more years.

AMERICA CAN LEARN FROM THE
EXPERIENCE OF ZAKA SEARCH
AND RESCUE

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of September 11th, we have made huge strides in expanding and updating our Nation's emergency preparedness and response capabilities. As a whole, our communities are better prepared than ever before. However, like with everything else, more can be done and we cannot lull ourselves into believing that we have all the answers; especially considering that we do not know what the next terrorist attack may look like. The old military adage is that you go into the next war with your army prepared for the last war; and I believe that philosophy applies to our Nation's emergency response system. I believe that our first responders have worked hard to anticipate and train for a future crisis but what will we do if those experts become the victims? It is not hard to imagine a scenario where terrorists attack police, firefighters and other emergency responders in order to sow more chaos and confusion. If our frontline responders go down are others prepared to step up and handle the crisis?

I believe that we should look to the efforts of ZAKA Rescue and Recovery, an Israeli volunteer organization dedicated to helping victims of terrorist attacks, accidents or natural disasters for guidance. I think we can all agree that the threat of terrorist attacks and missile strikes are an everyday worry for the people of Israel; and ZAKA volunteers are often the first to arrive on the scene when tragedy strikes working seamlessly with Israel's police and emergency responders. At the core of ZAKA's mission is the belief in the preservation of human dignity when disaster strikes. ZAKA volunteers provide first aid and rescue services, aid in the identification of the victims of terrorism, accidents and other disasters, and

where necessary ensure that the deceased receive a proper Jewish burial. ZAKA first aid materials and supplies and volunteers are prepositioned in practically every Israeli community; along with special motor scooters ready to take them to the scene of any accident or terrorist attack day or night.

ZAKA has gained international recognition by expanding their rescue and recovery work around the world to include the United States. In the aftermath of the deadly Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in 2004, ZAKA teams were on the ground and worked side-by-side with the host nations and other international rescue and recovery teams to help identify victims. ZAKA has also helped return victims of plane crashes in Russia and Namibia as well as help rescue and preserve sacred Jewish Torahs in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Last year alone, ZAKA volunteers participated in more than 18,000 life-saving or search-and-rescue incidents, and I believe that ZAKA has a level of emergency preparedness and response expertise that we here in the United States could benefit from. That's why I truly believe America's first responders and our communities could benefit from ZAKA's expertise and vice versa. ZAKA's dedication to "saving those who can be saved, and honoring those who cannot" should be commended and I am proud to stand up and recognize their good works.

Our Nation's first responders are dedicated and, in my opinion, the best in the business. I commend all of America's first responders and the countless volunteer organizations who came to the rescue of their fellow citizens following September 11th, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike, and who joined in the international relief efforts to aid the victims of the 2004 tsunami. Simply put, international relief organizations, like ZAKA and the Red Cross, are critical backstop players in search-and-rescue and recovery efforts, and I hope my colleagues will take the opportunity to research and learn about ZAKA's story and capabilities.

TRIBUTE TO CENTRALIA, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great city in Southern Illinois which has earned a great honor.

Centralia, Illinois, was recently named a 2008 Governor's Home Town Award winner for its Centralia Clean Community Campaign, a community cleanup program. This year, roughly one in eight members of the community participated in some facet of the community cleanup, which included such events as curbside pickup, school neighborhood cleanups and liberty garden planting.

I want to congratulate the citizens of Centralia not only on earning this recognition, but also on their civic mindedness and their willingness to take the time to show their pride in their community by helping to keep it clean. I especially want to acknowledge Bev Virobik, coordinator for Clean & Green and Keep Centralia Beautiful for her organization's ef-

forts in leading this project. Centralia's efforts are truly a model for other communities to follow in expressing their civic pride.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL RITA
ARAGON

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend and congratulate retired Major General Rita Aragon, who has been named Woman of the Year by the Journal Record business newspaper in Oklahoma City.

Rita Aragon's story is an inspiration to all women. As a single mother working as a public school teacher, she joined the Oklahoma Air National Guard more than 30 years ago. In 1989 she became the first unit commander in the Guard, and by 2003 she had risen to the rank of Brigadier General. As a Major General she served on active duty as assistant to the commander of air education and training and later as assistant to the chief of Staff Manpower and Personnel in the Pentagon. Since her retirement she has returned to education as director of advance programs at the College of Continuing Education at the University of Oklahoma.

Throughout her career, Rita Aragon has given her time and talent to many community organizations and served on the boards of many of those groups. During Oklahoma's response to the 1995 federal building bombing in Oklahoma City she helped lead the military contingent at ground zero. I am honored to recognize Rita Aragon's life of service to her nation, state and city.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JERILYN McINTYRE,
PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I wish to speak today to pay tribute to Dr. Jerilyn McIntyre, the President of Central Washington University (CWU). Dr. McIntyre, who is the first female to serve as President of CWU, will retire at the end of this year after completing eight years of exceptional service to the students, faculty, and community of Central Washington University.

Since her appointment, CWU has experienced a period of incomparable growth and development. In fact, enrollment has increased by 27 percent. Dr. McIntyre has inspired academic advancement and diversity through the implementation of several initiatives. Specifically, the Performing Arts and Presidential Speaker Series, started in 2002, brings nationally renowned speakers and artists to CWU's campuses; providing unique opportunities for students to learn about various ideas, art and cultures. Dr. McIntyre has also encouraged excellence and ingenuity through the Spheres