

my colleagues to appropriate full funding to fulfill the mission of the Violence Against Women Act.

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TRIBUTE TO NANCY REDING

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**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Nancy Reding of Colorado City, Colorado. Nancy is one those great Americans who teaches our kids as a profession and it is my pleasure to represent her in this Congress. Recently, her colleagues at Pueblo Community College named Nancy the faculty member of the year and I could not miss this opportunity to acknowledge her dedication and commitment to education before this body of Congress.

For the past 30 years, Nancy has given her life to teaching math to students in her Colorado community. We should all be humbled by this generous contribution to society and the sacrifice Nancy has made as an educator. Just think of the countless number of lives Nancy has touched. Nancy not only has lent her talents but her heart as well and, by so doing, she has given her students an awesome gift—the opportunity to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today and express my gratitude for Nancy Reding before this Congress and our nation. It is a chance for us to remind our fellow citizens that when you find a good teacher, thank him or her from the bottom of your heart for doing one of the toughest jobs in the country. Teaching is truly a noble calling and Nancy Reding has answered that call.

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AMERICAN SERVICEMEMBER AND CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

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**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2003*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “American Servicemember and Civilian Protection Act of 2003.”

This bill prohibits funds made available by the United States Government from being used for the establishment or operation of the Court.

Perhaps the most significant part of the bill makes clear that any action taken by or on behalf of the Court against members of the United States Armed Forces shall be considered an act of aggression against the United States; and that any action taken by or on behalf of the Court against a United States citizen or national shall be considered an offense against the law of nations.

Mr. Speaker, on May 6, 2002, President George W. Bush took the commendable step of repudiating the signature of the United States on the Statute of the International Criminal Court, stating that the United States “can no longer be a party” to the International Criminal Court. He also requested that those states choosing membership in the Court respect the decision of the United States in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, the Court is an illegitimate body even by the United Nations’ own standards. The Statute of the International Criminal Court was enacted by a Conference of Diplomats convened by the United Nations General Assembly, whereas according to the UN Charter, the authority to create such a body lies only in the UN Security Council.

The International Criminal Court was established contrary to the American Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. It puts United States citizens in jeopardy of unlawful and unconstitutional criminal prosecution.

The International Criminal Court does not provide many of the Constitutional protections guaranteed every American citizen, including the right to trial by jury, the right to face your accuser, and the presumption of innocence, and the protection against double jeopardy.

Members of the United States Armed Forces are particularly at risk for politically motivated arrests, prosecutions, fines, and imprisonment for acts engaged in for the protection of the United States. These are the same brave men and women who place their lives on the line to protect and defend our Constitution. Do they not deserve the full protections of that same Constitution?

Last year Congress passed the American Servicemembers’ Protection Act within the Defense Authorization bill. Commendable as that effort was, the fact of the matter is that because of the numerous loopholes and exemptions in that legislation, our servicemembers are still not protected from the probing arms of the International Criminal Court. American citizens have absolutely no protection under last year’s legislation. This is simply unacceptable. That is why I am introducing this legislation that makes the position of the United States clear: we will protect our servicemembers and citizens from this illegal court.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all members of this body will join me in opposing this illegitimate and illegal court by cosponsoring the “American Servicemember and Civilian Protection Act of 2003.”

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TRIBUTE TO RETIRED LT. COLONEL JOHN V. AZEVEDO

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**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2003*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Retired Lt. Colonel John V. Azevedo for his service to our Nation and to his community.

John was born in Patterson, California to Joe and Maria Faustino Azevedo on December 21, 1919. He attended school in Patterson, then attended college in Modesto and Salinas. He then completed his education in Tokyo, Japan at Sophia University.

John joined the Army in May 1941, where he held the rank of Sergeant in the Infantry. In 1942, he was promoted to Second Lieutenant and served in England. John was in Normandy, France, crossing the beach 20 days after the first landings. While in France, John crossed Cherbourg, LeMans and Paris. He also served in Belgium as well as Holland. Following World War II, John was assigned to the Occupation Forces in Japan where he be-

came Special Staff to General Douglas MacArthur.

During the Korean War, John served in both North and South Korea. Following his assignment in Korea, John served Stateside where he was stationed as an instructor at the Adjutant General’s School in Indiana. When that assignment was up, John was sent once again to Japan for 3 years. He returned to the United States where his assignment landed him at the Pentagon with promotion to Major. When his assignment was complete at the Pentagon, John was sent back overseas where he was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany. John again returned to the United States and spent time in San Francisco where he served at the Reserve Forces Headquarters. John was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and returned to the Pentagon where he served as Director of the Army and Air Force Postal Service.

John served his country admirably for 25 years. John retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Army in 1966 and returned to his roots once again in Patterson, California. Once back in Patterson, he was elected to serve on the Patterson City Council where he also served as Vice Mayor.

John has served his community well. He is one of the founding members of the Patterson Historical Society where he served as a volunteer curator for over 20 years. The Patterson Apricot Festival honored John in 1997 by naming him Grand Marshal to preside over the Festival that year. John organized the Patterson Beautification Committee.

John has not only been honored by his community, but by his state as well. John was introduced on the California State Assembly floor where he was presented with an Assembly Resolution recognizing his volunteer work for the City of Patterson as well as Stanislaus County.

It is my pleasure to join the Patterson community in recognizing John V. Azevedo for his commitment to his community. It is an honor to call John my friend and represent him in the 18th Congressional District.

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TRIBUTE TO MARY HELEN YBARRA—IRA D. CALVERT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

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**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2003*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Mary Ybarra is one of these individuals. On March 22, 2003, Mary will be honored at the annual YMCA Ira D “Cal” Calvert Distinguished Service Awards Dinner.

Mary was born in Yuma, Arizona but has resided in Corona for many years. She began service to the community at a very young age and as a teenager Mary was constantly busy organizing food drives for the needy in her local community. This drive and special gift of