

of the 18th and early-19th centuries, Essex was known as a world-class shipbuilding center. In fact, the first ship commissioned by the U.S. Navy in 1775, the *Oliver Cromwell*, was built in Essex and provided to our fledgling Government by the State of Connecticut. In addition to building the ships which were the lifeline of commerce in the 1700's and 1800's, Essex was an important commercial port for trade throughout the world, especially between the eastern United States and the islands of the Caribbean. The village of Ivoryton was so named because Essex was home to one of the leading manufacturers of piano keys. Manufacturers in Essex also helped to pioneer commercial production of witch hazel and the community remains home to one of the world's largest distillers of this product.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious to this Member why Essex has been ranked No. 1. The community has something to offer to everyone. Families can take advantage of first-rate public schools, affordable housing, and local employment opportunities. Lying on the banks of the lower Connecticut River, Essex boasts tidal flats and marshes, coves and inlets which provide valuable habitat for many species of fish, wildlife and birds. Visitors can enjoy leisurely rides on the Connecticut Valley Railroad, affectionately known by locals as the Essex Steamtrain, and conclude their day with a great meal at the historic Griswold Inn, which has been serving visitors for more than 200 years.

During the course of writing his book, Mr. Crampton interviewed citizens in communities around the Nation. His conversations with those in Essex highlighted another characteristic which makes this community special—the volunteer spirit of its residents. Until recently, virtually every local official served without pay and many continue to do so today. Fires are fought by volunteers, school playgrounds are built by parents, and elections are monitored by civic-minded citizens who never receive a penny for their dedication to their community. Mr. Richard Gamble summed up the contribution of Essex's residents by saying "we're unusually blessed by people who are not only capable, but willing to spend the time."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join residents from Essex in celebrating this much deserved honor. Parochially, I believe every small town across the Second Congressional District could qualify for the No. 1 spot. However, today we celebrate the achievements of this community and welcome people from across the country to come join us in America's No. 1 Small Town—Essex.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 837. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 2684.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ENID G. WALDHOLTZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, on Rollcall No. 837 I was unavoidably detained and I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Senior Citizens Right to Work Act of 1995. This bill removes the penalty for seniors who choose to work in their later years by raising the Social Security earnings limit. Under current law, seniors lose \$1 in Social Security benefits for every \$3 they earn above \$11,280. When you add FICA and Federal income taxes, seniors are hit with a tax rate of over 55 percent, a higher rate than millionaires pay. This bill removes that penalty by safeguarding Social Security benefits of seniors earning up to \$30,000, rewarding—rather than punishing—working seniors.

THE BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1995 IS GOOD FOR CALIFORNIA

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, as Congress and the President are mired in budget negotiations, it is a good time to reflect on why a balanced budget by 2002 is so important. The national debt as of Monday was \$4,988,891,675,281.12. This figure is outrageous. It is why my Republican colleagues and I are fighting so hard for a balanced budget and why time is of the essence. Our children should not be saddled with this overwhelming financial burden.

Passing the Balanced Budget Act now is not only good for the country, it is good for California. The people of California will save \$262 per household per year on the State and local government debt, \$4,757 per year on an average fixed-rate mortgage, and \$858 on the average 10-year student loan. These are real benefits for the hard-working people of California.

Mr. Speaker, agreement on a balanced budget will ensure that the current and future generations of California will enjoy lower taxes, cheaper loans, and lower mortgages. A budget stalemate will deny Californians, and all Americans, the future they deserve.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN HOWARD COLES III

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on December 31, 1994, Dr. John Howard Coles III, a constituent of mine, retired after a long and distinguished medical career.

Dr. Coles has unselfishly devoted his entire life to the healing of others, investing countless hours in the operating room, by his pa-

tients' bedsides or on the telephone late at night discussing a sick patient's symptoms.

Dr. Coles is from the old school of medicine, where care and genuine concern were always part of the prescription, and nothing was too minor for his attention. In an era where big business has spread to the medical industry, Dr. Coles' office was a sanctuary for his patients because they always knew they could find someone who truly cared about them, not only about their physical well-being, but their emotional well-being and the health of their families as well. He knew their children's names, vacation plans and desires for the future.

I will never forget the warmth and concern Dr. Coles showed for my welfare when I was a freshman on the Hillsboro High School football team. Dr. Coles put stitches in my chin and left me with a lasting, wonderful impression of his superior bedside manner and conscientious attention to detail. You knew that when Dr. Coles was taking care of you, you were in the best of hands. He personalized every relationship and truly made you feel as if you alone were his No. 1 priority.

The announcement of his retirement prompted a letter to the editor in The Tennessean from patient Sara Roop, and I'd like to take a moment to read a portion of that letter because I believe she has accurately captured the essence of Dr. John Coles.

For over 20 years, Dr. Coles has responded to my calls, some frantic with concern over a sick child, some simply seeking advice or reassurance. The ailment was never too minor, the question too foolish, nor the time consumed too excessive.

Just talking with Dr. Coles was good medicine. He would always dispense appropriate doses of advice, medication, treatment and kindness. Then he would send us home with the directive, "Call me any time, day or night."

What has impressed me most about John Coles is his genuine compassion—a rare commodity, even in the medical profession. "I'm sorry" was a much-used phrase. He was truly sorry when my son or daughter was ill, when I struggled physically and emotionally with breast cancer.

I am sure Dr. Coles is unaware he has shared so many of these wonderful gifts with my family and so many other grateful patients. Giving wasn't something he did; it was something he was.

Dr. Coles was born in Nashville on Sept. 29, 1927, and graduated from Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical School. He served a rotating internship at Baltimore City Hospital in 1951–52, delivering 105 babies in a 60-day period. He continued at Baltimore with a surgical residency through 1955, taking a little time out to marry.

After serving an Oncology Fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 1955–56, he served as a captain and base surgeon at Chenault Air Force Base in 1957–59.

In 1959, he established his private practice in general surgery and general practice, which he continued until his recent retirement. In addition to his regular medical duties, he also served as school physician for David Lipscomb College from 1968–82 and as a team physician for Hillsboro High School from 1960–73. He has held surgical privileges at Baptist Hospital, St. Thomas Hospital and Nashville General Hospital.

He has been a physician and surgical consultant to such local companies at South

Central Bell, and has served on the board of directors of the Green Hills Health Care Center. He has helped with disability evaluations for the Social Security Administration. He holds active memberships in the Nashville Academy of Medicine, Davidson County Medical Society, Tennessee Medical Association, Southern Medical Association and the American Medical Association. Dr. Coles is the father of three and the grandfather of four, and he is an active member of the Hillsboro Church of Christ and the Nashville community.

While Nashville is saddened over the retirement of such a faithful doctor, it rejoices in Dr. Coles' decision to begin the next phase of his life. As he finally has time to pursue other interests, may he find the same kindness, compassion and support that he has given all of us for more than four decades.

TRIBUTE TO KVEA-TV, CHANNEL
52

HON. XAVIER BECERRA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it gives me the utmost pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the wonderful people at KVEA-TV, channel 52, as they celebrate 10 years of quality service to the Spanish-speaking community in southern California.

KVEA is a Los Angeles-based television station that is an affiliate on Telemundo, a national Spanish-language television network. Over the last 10 years, it has reached over 750,000 homes and served the Latino community through its Emmy award-winning newscasts, entertainment and most importantly, community outreach efforts.

The vital work performed by KVEA makes it possible for members of the Latino community to connect and react to the social and political events around them.

So, it should come as no surprise that when the frightening 6.7 Northridge earthquake struck, the people at KVEA came to the rescue. Almost as soon as the tremor shook the Earth around Angelenos, the station responded with information, food and a 14-hour telethon to bolster the efforts of the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

When the wave of anti-immigrant sentiment surged during the 1994 election, KVEA took a stand and denounced proposition 187. The station sponsored the Riverside Summit to increase awareness and propose plans to combat immigrant bashing. As the proposition 187 vote neared, KVEA employed its newscasts, public affairs programs and public service announcements to alert viewers of the harm that its passage might bring.

Mr. Speaker, in southern California, KVEA is recognized as a leader in children's rights. It was the first and only station to broadcast the "De Mi Corazón" telethon to raise money for abused children. KVEA has also actively supported Walk America, a March of Dimes campaign for healthier babies.

The station has certainly taken to heart its responsibility to educate and entertain the children of southern California. And as a next step, KVEA is developing its own locally-produced children's program.

One of KVEA's proudest moments had to be September 30, 1995. On that day, 5,000 of

our newest Americans decided to become full participating members of society through citizenship. The station was there from the beginning making this idea a reality. KVEA went the extra mile and donated 40 spots of air time during prime time programming to promote citizenship. The result: Absolute success.

Mr. Speaker, over the past 10 years, KVEA has been there for my family and the residents of southern California. Today, I respectfully request that the House of Representatives join me in conveying to KVEA-TV, channel 52, a heartfelt Happy Birthday and a sincere thank you for its service and achievements in America. May there be many more decennials to celebrate.

THE FIRST LANDING OF THE
PILGRIMS

HON. GERRY E. STUDDS
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the town of Provincetown, MA, which last week celebrated the 375th anniversary of the first landing of the Pilgrims and the signing of the Mayflower Compact, our Nation's first formal governing document.

Unfortunately, since our current Government is not as efficient as the compact, the interim resolution of the Federal budget impasse kept me in Washington. We all know, however, there is no more appropriate place to celebrate the Thanksgiving season than in Provincetown, the community in which the Pilgrims laid the foundation for democracy in this Nation.

The historic significance of the first landing and the Mayflower Compact cannot be overstated. Provincetown is where the Pilgrims first landed on November 21, 1620, after their long and arduous journey across the Atlantic. While anchored in Province Town Harbor, 41 of the Pilgrims signed the Mayflower Compact, creating a self-governing colony.

The Mayflower Compact renounced European aristocracy and created many of the tenets of freedom that we enjoy today. It was the foundation for both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

The compact was modeled after a Separatist church covenant by which the signatories agreed to establish a civil government and to be bound by its laws. President John Quincy Adams called the document the first example in modern times of a social compact or system of government instituted by voluntary agreement conformable to the laws of nature, by men of equal rights and about to establish their community in a new country.

The Pilgrims were hardy people whose perseverance characterized New Englanders for generations to come. After their 66-day, cross-Atlantic passage, with little space or sanitary facilities, they faced harsh winters without proper shelter or clothing. In their first year in the New World, they lost half of their community to illness. Yet they endured. Their labors spawned a thriving colony that became modern America.

Many local families brought that spirit alive when they participated in a reenactment of the first landing on the beach—dressed in Pilgrim garb—to help dedicate a new town park. After

a free concert by a 19-piece U.S. Navy jazz band, more than 5,000 holiday lights were turned on to illuminate the Pilgrim monument.

It could be said that the Pilgrims, who fled persecution in Europe, were the first "washashores"—coming here in search of opportunity to pursue their livelihoods and dreams. Once ashore, one of their first tasks was to scour the province lands for reliable sources of clean, drinkable water. Some things never change. Just ask the Bradfords or the Brewsters, whose streets we will walk today, or pause to watch our children play on the sand on which the Pilgrims washed ashore.

Mr. Speaker, it is with special pleasure as a resident of this vibrant community that I join in commending all those who have helped organize the ambitious celebration.

Provincetown has always been a harbor of refuge, for fishermen seeking shelter from rough seas, and for those of us over the last 375 years who have sought to live our lives as we see fit in a most remarkable community. It is only in honoring our history that we can fully appreciate how extraordinary this place is, how it continue to harbor our homes and vessels, our individualism and diversity—and the fundamental value each of us places on mutual respect.

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARCTIC NATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, 35 years ago today, the Eisenhower administration had the foresight to protect what then-Interior Secretary Seton described as "one of the most magnificent wildlife and wilderness areas in North America."

Time has shown the wisdom of that bold action by the Eisenhower administration. As designated by Congress in 1980, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's unique wilderness and wildlife values make it a crown jewel of our refuge system.

As industrial-scale oil development continues to sprawl across the North Slope of Alaska, pressure to open and exploit the Arctic refuge is intense. But while the oil development wolves are knocking at the refuge door, President Clinton has continued the legacy of Presidents Eisenhower and Carter through his commitment to preserving intact this vital arctic ecosystem.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership in Congress has ignored this bipartisan history. They have tried to sneak ANWR development through Congress under cover of the budget bill, avoiding the regular process of debate and amendment. Yet the purported value of ANWR for Federal revenues is minimal at best and its value for national energy security is even more dubious since this same Congress has authorized Alaskan oil exports.

The true value of preserving ANWR's special wildlife habitat and wilderness resources for the American people are more important than ever before, transcending the worth of whatever minerals may lie below the surface. We should not sacrifice an important part of our country's natural heritage for the short-term gain of a handful of special interests.