

active with it after that. He was a member of the Mohegan Park Advisory Committee, the Public Parking Commission, City Hall Renovations Committee and the Public Works and Capital Improvements Committee.

Don's and his wife Anna's commitment to education is well known. Anna is chairwoman of the Norwich Board of Education.

Lines on a resume do not adequately describe Don Alfiero. Though they had no children, Don was a grandfatherly kind of guy who loved his city and the people who live here.

It's appropriate to recall that shortly before he died, Don was on the radio with Johnny London, cheerleading for his city and summer festivals at Howard T. Brown Park.

Don Alfiero was a nice man, but more importantly he was a good man. His presence in this city will be missed.

Anna has our sympathy. Don has our prayers. The Norwich City Council has big shoes to fill.

TRIBUTE TO MEL TAKAKI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of Colorado's outstanding individuals, Mel Takaki. In doing so, I would like to pay tribute to an individual who, time and again, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty.

A resident of Pueblo, Colorado, Mel Takaki has taken an active role to better his community. Recently, Mr. Takaki, a Pueblo civic leader, was recognized with a "Distinguished Service Award" from the University of Colorado for his work in medicine and community service.

A graduate of the Northwestern Dental School, Mel Takaki has previously been honored by the University of Colorado as an honorary alumnus. He was nominated for the "Distinguished Service Award" by Dr. Robert Schrier, chairman of the CU Health Services Center in Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Takaki has worked to better the community of Pueblo in various capacities. He has cared for the citizens of Pueblo through his work as a dentist, and he has provided leadership as an economic-development leader and former City Council president. He is an outstanding citizen and great contributor, and for this I would like to express my gratitude and pay tribute to him for his extraordinary efforts.

TRIBUTE TO GERALDINE "GERRY" SCHNEIDER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate Geraldine "Gerry" Schneider on completing her general educational development certificate at Lewis and Clark Community College on June 10, 1999, at age 58. Ms. Schneider was born with cerebral palsy.

Despite this disability, Ms. Schneider diligently worked to learn the three R's. Her work at Lewis and Clark Community College that

began in 1994, has allowed her to become actively engaged in issues on disabilities as a resident of Godfrey, Illinois. She was appointed to the Illinois Planning Council on Development by former Governor Jim Edgar, and has moved out of nursing and group homes to live with a companion Raymond Boyle since her educational progress.

Her success can also be attributed to Support Systems Services; a nonprofit organization that provided the funds allowing Gerry to pay for her classes. I believe this is an excellent example of local service organizations caring about people, and helping dreams become realities. I commend both Geraldine Schneider and Support Systems Inc. for their efforts.

I want to congratulate Gerry, in particular, for receiving her hard-earned and much deserved GED. Her personal efforts to persevere and overcome adversity are an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING GRADUATES OF THE EL PUENTE ACADEMY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating special graduates of the 12th Congressional District of New York. I am certain that this day marks the culmination of much effort and hard work which has lead and will lead them to continued success. In these times of uncertainty, limited resources, and random violence in our communities and schools, it is encouraging to know that they have overcome these obstacles and succeeded.

These students have learned that education is priceless. They understand that education is the tool to new opportunities and greater endeavors. Their success is not only a tribute to their strength but also to the support they have received from their parents and loved ones.

In closing, I encourage all my colleagues to support the education of the youth of America. With a solid education, today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders. And as we approach the new millennium, it is our responsibility to pave the road for this great Nation's future. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives I ask you to join me in congratulating the following outstanding students from the El Puente Academy: Lily Andugar, Indra Camo, Isable Espinal, Ana Hernandez, Evelyn Hernandez, Mia Hilton, Luis Johnson, Miriam Nunez, Maria Perez, Marvin Rodriguez, Luis Ramos, Gerson Santillana, Rodolfo Solis, Omar Torres, Jennifer Valentin, Octovio Vargas, Taiesah Vasquez, and Essany Velazquez.

INTRODUCTION OF ZERO CAPITAL GAINS PROPOSAL

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MATSUI and I are introducing a bold proposal to zero out capital gains taxes for those who invest in our burgeoning high tech industry. We are joined by our colleagues on both sides of the aisle who are leaders in the effort to foster a healthy economic climate in which our nation's high tech companies can continue to thrive.

The American economy is moving quickly from one dominated by large corporations to one whose growth is fueled by emerging entrepreneurial high-growth companies. Entrepreneurial companies are today's leaders in job creation, technological innovation, and international competitiveness. America's future economic well-being lies in the hands of today's emerging companies and the central organizing principle for our nation's economic policy should be entrepreneurship.

Over the course of many years, a complex fabric of public policies have created the environment in which entrepreneurial firms compete. Due to the fact that the public policy needs of this community have not been articulated in a united fashion or widely understood by policy makers, however, the basic "building blocks" used to enhance economic growth have not been properly constructed. I rise today to begin to lay the foundation for this policy and ensure that the engine that drives this economy has access to the fuel it needs to thrive: capital.

Entrepreneurs are synonymous with jobs. In the last three years there has been over a million new jobs created in the high tech sector alone. More importantly, the average wage of a high tech job is \$53,000 per year, 77 percent higher than the private sector as a whole. By creating an environment for entrepreneurship to thrive, we also ensure that "spin off" companies develop to foster even greater job creation and technological development. Nowhere is this more clearly demonstrated than in the biotechnology and computer industries that have grown up in my home state of Washington.

The bill I am introducing today will ensure that these new capital-intensive small businesses will have the money they need to create innovative technologies and create jobs. By raising the Section 1202 definition of small business from \$50 million to \$300 million and raising the capital gains exclusion from 50% to 100% for both individuals and corporations, we can create a climate in which individual investors are rewarded for their risky investment and entrepreneurs have the tools they need to succeed.

Capital gains taxes are one of this nation's primary obstacles to job creation and technological innovation. Anything to reduce the effective or actual rate on capital gains taxes will help put more money in the hands of our nation's most enterprising citizens and lift the standard of living for everyone.

In addition to the capital gains provisions in the bill, I am also proposing to eliminate Incentive Stock Options from the calculation of

the individual Alternative Minimum Tax. Today's high tech employers are having a difficult time recruiting and retaining skilled professionals because of the incredibly high demand for people knowledgeable about computers. One of the principal ways employers can retain qualified employees is through Incentive Stock Options, which help supplement the employee's income while giving them an ownership role in the company. Unfortunately, the Alternative Minimum Tax is preventing many employees from receiving more compensation and, therefore, is limiting the use of ISOs as a retention tools. This bill will fix this problem to ensure that both employers and employees can continue to benefit from the economic boom being created by the high tech sector.

Over the course of the next year, I expect a healthy debate over tax policy. It is my hope that this bill will put the primary focus of this debate where it ought to be: removing incentives to economic freedom and entrepreneurship.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

A TRIBUTE TO PEGGY AND FOSTER BURTON

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago, on June 18, 1949, Peggy and Foster Burton were married in Wheeling, West Virginia. Peggy is the daughter of Larry Gideon, a first generation American of Austrian immigrant parents and Blanch Van Kirk, whose American roots date to the 17th century New Amsterdam colony and Scotch-Irish settlement in Pennsylvania. Foster is descended largely from Scottish Highlanders with Scotch, English and Irish ancestors.

Foster Burton was born in Wheeling, West Virginia. He served three years in the United States Marine Corp before receiving an Honorable Discharge in 1946. Dr. Burton earned bachelor degrees in Civil Engineering and Industrial Management from Carnegie Tech. He then earned his Master of Business Administration from New York University and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Burton accepted a teaching position in my home state, at Arizona State University (ASU), where he served as a professor of the Del Webb School of Construction for 24 years.

Peggy Burton was born in Washington, Pennsylvania. Her family moved to Wheeling when she was fourteen. Mrs. Burton received both her Bachelors degree in Fine Arts and Master of Education degree from ASU while maintaining a household with three children. Mrs. Burton was the first official Director of the Tempe Historical Museum. She also served as the Exhibition Coordinator for ASU's Public Events Division.

Since their retirement, Peggy and Foster Burton's primary source of enjoyment has been their five grandchildren. Now their three children, Foster, Margaret (Meg) and Elizabeth, carry on their parent's legacy of service to Arizona.

In this day and age, it is rare to see couples with the fortitude to remain committed to each other and truly honor their wedding vows. The

Burton's dedication to their family, community and each other is an inspiration to all Americans. I know that my fellow members will join me in wishing them a sincere congratulations for their fifty years together.

**MS. BILLIE RICHARDS AND
'BILLIE RICHARDS DAY'**

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the constituents of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, the resident of Dallas and my colleagues in the House of Representatives in taking great pleasure to proclaim June 24, 1999 as "Billie Richards Day."

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Richards has served the Dallas County commissioner's court as manager of the Dallas County Home Loan Counseling Center for more than ten years. She has demonstrated continued dedication to help those low to moderate income level households in reaching the American dream of home ownership. Her hard work has allowed many families to take part in a dream that would otherwise have been unattainable.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Richards accomplished a lot during her tenure as executive director of the Neighborhood Housing Services of Dallas, Inc. and the Bethlehem Community Center. Her public relations and managerial skills, as well as her commitment to serve others, are second to none.

Ms. Richards' educational credentials are impressive. She has utilized her creativity and social skills in her teaching position at Dunbar High School in Temple, Texas. Indeed, she has made it a priority to pass on her educational skills to others. In addition, she has received many awards in recognition of her commitment to community development. Her volunteer efforts have touched the lives of many.

On June 24, 1999, we should take a moment to look back at more than 30 years of great achievements that Billie Richards has given to the Dallas community.

Therefore, I ask that all citizens of Dallas join in celebrating June 24, 1999 as "Billie Richards Day."

**CONGRATULATIONS TO COACH
RED HILL, ABRAHAM BALDWIN
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE,
NJCAA CHAMPIONS MEN'S TENNIS**

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia for recently winning the National Junior College Athletic Association's men's tennis title. The Stallions had previously won the title in 1984, and have once again proven to be the best Junior College tennis team in the nation. Both national titles were won with the Stallions under the direction

of Coach Norman "Red" Hill. This year's title is especially sweet, as Coach Hill retired after thirty-four years of dedication to ABAC, and to its students.

Red Hill began his career at ABAC in 1965. During the past thirty-four years, Coach Hill has built a nationally recognized, well-respected program. Having recruited some 300 students from around the world to play tennis at ABAC, Coach Hill was much more than a coach. Sure, he was building a nationally recognized program, but he was also instilling character, integrity, and hard work in those whose lives he influenced.

Coach Hill has won more men's college tennis matches than any other coach in America. He led ABAC teams to national tournaments thirty-four consecutive times, won twenty-nine regional championships, has been ranked in the top five national rankings for the past five years, and has won two national championships.

Red became the fourth person in 1993 to be inducted into the NJCAA Men's Tennis Hall of Fame. The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame awarded Coach Hill with an Achievement in Sports Award; he has been designated as an Honorary Alumnus by ABAC's Alumni Association, and will retire with Emeritus status.

Mr. Speaker, Red Hill spent his career making a difference in the future of this country. Those thirty-four years contributed to the success of the many lives that Red influenced. Now, ending his career with another national championship, Coach Red Hill retires a legend. I commend Coach Hill and the ABAC Tennis program for their success.

GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House of Representatives had the opportunity to pass sensible gun safety laws to keep guns out of the hands of juveniles and criminals, and to make our communities safer—but we didn't.

When we debated the bill, I supported the McCarthy amendment because it contained common sense proposals that would have closed the gun show loophole, banned large capacity ammunition clips and required child safety locks on newly purchased handguns.

After that amendment was defeated, I voted against the final version of the gun bill because its background check provision would have given criminals the opportunity to buy guns at gun shows and it would have weakened our current background check laws. The final House bill would have made it easier for a criminal to purchase handguns, and that was unacceptable.

As I have gone door-to-door talking with people and visiting schools in my district, there is no doubt that people overwhelmingly support common sense laws to keep guns out of the hands of kids and criminals. My constituents don't care about politics. They care about whether their children are going to be safe when they are at school. And as a father of two children in public schools, I understand their concerns.

Those concerns were eloquently expressed in a letter I received from Tom Mauser, whose