

TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTER,  
ROBERT C. BRANNON, JR.

**HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert C. Brannon, Jr., a fallen firefighter from Bluefield, West Virginia, who passed away at the age of 43 after suffering a heart attack while battling a house fire.

Robert C. Brannon, Jr. lived his life with integrity, dignity and honor. He was a man known for his service to his family, his church, and his community. As an alumnus of West Virginia University and Bluefield State University, he was well-educated and well-rounded and used his education in business and engineering to help people in need. Mr. Brannon served as lieutenant and fire inspector for the Bluefield Fire Department.

Although Mr. Brannon's life was cut short, he lived it to the fullest. Before serving over 20 years with the Bluefield Fire Department he enjoyed growing up in Bluefield, West Virginia. As a boy, he played little league, wrote for his high school newspaper and was on his high school basketball team. As an adult, Robert C. Brannon, Jr. not only gained the technical knowledge to create and design web pages but also was skilled as an electrician, carpenter, stoneworker and painter.

Known by his friends and family as Bob, he was a loyal friend, husband and father. Bob, along with his wife Cindy, showed love and guidance to their two sons Jonathan and Jeffrey. He and his family were also active in Christ Episcopal Church in Bluefield.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House please join me in recognizing and honoring the life of service and dedication of Robert C. Brannon, Jr., and commemorate his sacrifice of service as a Bluefield firefighter.

EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY OF MARY  
LOUISE QUIGG CALDWELL  
PLUMER

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize one of my constituents and very dear friends, Mary Louise Quigg Caldwell Plumer, of Miami, Florida, who will be celebrating her 80th birthday on October 21, 2000.

Mary was born October 21, 1920 in Live Oak, Florida. Her parents moved to Miami when she was 6 years of age, where she was educated and graduated from Ponce de Leon High School in 1938. She served as editor of the school newspaper and was awarded the Woman's Club Cup as the "Most Outstanding Girl." Mary continued her education at the Florida State College for Women (FSCW), becoming a member of the Sophomore Council, the Cotillion Club and the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. She graduated from FSCW in 1940 and transferred to the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, where she was awarded the Valkyrie Cup as the Most Outstanding Coed of the University, graduating in 1942.

Moving to Atlanta, Georgia in 1942, she worked as the publicity director for radio station WSB. She returned to Miami and contributed to the War effort by working for the Red Cross as staff assistant to the Army Air Corps Redistribution Unit in Miami Beach, where she met her husband to be, Naval Lt. Commander Richard B. Plumer. He was graduated from Miami High School, Phillips Exeter Academy and Princeton University (summa cum laude).

Mary raised four children (Richard, Penny, Christopher and Patience) and became actively involved in many worthwhile community projects. Among her accomplishments, she brilliantly led a committee to build the All Faith Chapel at Jackson Memorial Hospital in 1973, five years after her daughter, Penny, died there. She has had articles published in The Miami Herald and Reader's Digest. She was awarded the M.O.M. Cup in 2000 as the Most Outstanding Mother. She also earned a prestigious reference in Who's Who of American Women.

Mary's gracious manner and warm spirit has won the hearts of the people of Miami. She is admired and respected for her compassion and generosity to anyone who is fortunate to meet her. It is my sincere pleasure and great honor to join Mary's family and friends in wishing her a wonderful celebration and many more happy and healthy birthdays.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
WILLIAM H. AVERY

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my congratulations to the many tributes recently given to the Honorable William H. Avery, a former member of this House and a former governor of the state of Kansas.

On September 29, the post office in Wakefield, Kansas, the hometown of Bill Avery, was renamed in his honor, and the town honored their native son by proclaiming the event the "William H. Avery Day."

I had the pleasure of working with Bill Avery at the Department of the Interior in the early 1970's after his distinguished 10-year career in Congress and as the 37th governor of Kansas. After receiving a degree from the University of Kansas in 1934, he went back to his hometown to work the family farm. He started his public service career on the local school board in his hometown, and from there was elected to the Kansas State House of Representatives before moving on to Congress and the Kansas statehouse.

Bill Avery is a man of honor and integrity who has devoted his life to serving the public. He continues to reside in Wakefield today, and it's a fitting tribute to this fine gentleman that the people of his hometown have recognized his service to their community by renaming their post office in his honor. I join in saluting The Honorable William H. Avery.

HONORING MILES KARA

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sadness that I take this moment to celebrate the life of Miles Kara of Grand Junction, Colorado. Miles recently passed away in his home at the age of 84. Miles lived a life full of love and happiness and his legacy will long endure. As family, friends, and colleagues mourn this immense loss, I would like to take this time to pay tribute to a truly compassionate and wonderful human being.

Miles was born and raised on the western slope of Colorado, and would eventually raise his children there as well. Graduating from Fruitvale High School and Grand Junction Junior College, he went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Colorado in 1937. Upon graduation, he taught at Appleton High School for a few years and then met his patriotic duty by serving his country in the United States Air Force during WWII. After returning a proud veteran, he enrolled in Westminster Law School, graduating with a law degree in 1948.

His educational background easily prepared Miles for the many career choices he would make during his service to the people of the Grand Valley. After moving back to his childhood home, Miles practiced law for a number of years before working with a number of different organizations, all serving the Grand Junction community admirably. He began his service to his community as Mesa County Judge and moved on to work for US Bank as Senior Vice President and a Trust Officer. But Miles is best known for his work in education, where he served as President of the District 51 Board of Education and as Executive Director the Mesa State College Foundation.

Miles worked hard to ensure that Grand Valley's youth were receiving the best education possible. His devotion to his community was not only demonstrated by his work in education but also as a dedicated 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason. For Miles helping others was second nature. In a recent article in The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel by Rachel Sauer, his daughter Nancy best summed up her father in her own words: "you always love your family and take care of them first thing. And that people in trouble who need a hand should have one. If you could help someone you should help them. It's your responsibility as a human being."

Miles lived his entire life devoted to his family but always made time for others. It didn't matter the time of day; he was always there to lend a helping hand. Miles showed his love for his family and his fellow humans in his every action. His commitment to public service has changed the lives of many. Miles was a loving and cherished member of our community and he will be greatly missed.

Although he may be gone his memory will live on within the hearts of all that knew him. Clearly, America is better off for having known Miles Kara.