

ensuring an exceptional Catholic education and maintaining quality Catholic schools ensures that Catholic students in the future will continue to benefit from outstanding educational opportunities. An overwhelming percentage of students in our Diocese of Cleveland attend college, which is a sign of the excellent work of our local Catholic School systems are doing.

I would also like to recognize the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) for their efforts to promote educational and catechetical goals. By sponsoring events like the Seton Awards, which recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Catholic education, the NCEA works diligently to insure better education across America.

Providing excellent educational opportunities for all children is one of the most important goals in our society. I am encouraged by the involvement of the students, teachers and parents who are observing the National Appreciation Day For Catholic Schools.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. VERNAL E. SIMMS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rev. Vernal E. Simms, the newly-elected President of Black Clergy of Philadelphia and a distinguished member of the church. Rev. Simms was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. Throughout his life, he has made undying efforts to serve the community and push forward to better the church and its people. He has spent tireless days helping in the production and creation of community developments such as weekly and monthly food programs, day care centers, and facilities to accommodate the older generation of his community. Rev. Simms has managed to organize a new way of life for many and continues to provide consistent efforts in furthering these ideas and expanding on the future of all communities that surround him. In the course of sharing his knowledge and compassion he has touched many while pastoring in Plymouth, Massachusetts; Chatham, New York; Brooklyn, New York; and Moorestown, New Jersey.

Rev. Simms currently serves as the pastor of Morris Brown African Methodist Episcopal Church in North Philadelphia, and the Vice President of the African Methodist Episcopal Preacher's meeting of Philadelphia and the Vicinity. While assuming such immense and prestigious responsibilities, he has found time to be a loving father of four and the husband of Mary L. Boxley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow Philadelphians to join me today in congratulating Rev. Vernal E. Simms, Sr. on his election as President of Black Clergy of Philadelphia and vicinity. I am confident that this organization will continue to grow and prosper under his leadership. I look forward to his successful future.

HONORING DONALD R. D'AMICO,
WINNER OF THE AMERICAN CENTURY AWARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a winner of the American Century Award, Ronald R. D'Amico, Retired Colonel of the United States Air Force.

Colonel D'Amico served in the USAF for nearly 30 years, most of which were as a combat and fighter pilot. He flew 129 combat missions during the Korean War and over 100 missions in Vietnam during three tours of duty. Colonel D'Amico was awarded four Distinguished Flying Crosses for heroism, two Purple Hearts, and thirteen Air Medals among a total of 50 awards and decorations.

Colonel D'Amico also displayed a quality of character that makes us all proud to be Americans. During the Korean conflict, Don used some of his spare time to help an orphanage for Korean children. He would gather milk that the soldiers would not drink and take it to the orphanage along with other supplies, some of which were donated and mailed from his parents' church in Rochester, New York. Even now, Don keeps pictures of the children he helped.

During the Vietnam Conflict, Don nearly lost his life after being shot down during an attack on a heavily fortified enemy position. Fortunately, he and his crew were rescued and after nine months in the hospital, Don returned for two more tours of duty.

Since retiring from the Air Force in 1977, Don continues to be involved with issues and community service. In the 1980's, he volunteered with a variety of organizations that worked to educate America about the dangers of Communism. In 1989, he joined the Board of Directors of Street-Smart Inc., a program helping inner-city youth avoid the dangers of gang involvement. In 1990, Street-Smart was recognized by President Bush as one of the "Thousand Points of Light".

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to honor Donald R. D'Amico, American Century Award Winner. He risked his life in defense of freedom and still gives selflessly to his country and community.

IN MEMORY OF DON HUTSON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Don Hutson, of Lebanon, Missouri. He was 68.

Mr. Hutson was born on November 4, 1931, in Kansas City, MO, to Alpha Henry and Lola Hutson. He graduated as valedictorian from Oak Grove High School and went on to graduate with honors from Central College. In 1958, he earned a juris doctor degree with honors from George Washington University Law School. He then spent 4 years as a staff assistant to Senator Stuart Symington. This gave him an opportunity to work on many leg-

islative issues beneficial to the state of Missouri.

Mr. Hutson was a well known and respected attorney, who practiced law in Kansas City and Lebanon for 40 years. Prior to entering private practice, he was appointed assistant prosecuting attorney for Jackson County, serving as chief trial attorney for most of the major felony cases in Kansas City. He was commended for successfully prosecuting and convicting dozens of organized-crime figures during one of the first national organized-crime drives.

Mr. Hutson was recognized for his numerous achievements throughout his life. He was named in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the Midwest and Who's Who in American Law. In addition, he was active in his community and civic affairs. Mr. Hutson was an ordained minister in the Christian Church and served as a Christian Church minister at Oak Grove, Lone Jack and other churches in Missouri. He was the founder of the Lebanon Arts Council and involved with the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce and the Lebanon Concert Association.

I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his son, Eric; his three daughters, Sheila, Robin, and Heather; and five grandchildren.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. RANDALL McCASKILL

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rev. Randall McCaskill and commend him for his accomplishments during his 3 year tenure as head of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and the surrounding vicinity. Rev. McCaskill has inspired and aided countless citizens of Philadelphia during his leadership. Working together with the Rendell administration in fostering improved inter-racial relations, Rev. McCaskill gave his unique insight during such trying times as the 1998 Grays Ferry incident. It was in times of urgency such as this that Rev. McCaskill showed us how truly important he is to our city. As President of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia, he recognized his role as a motivating force in our community. He consistently offered solutions to numerous problems our city faced, maybe best illustrated by his diplomatic efforts during the sensitive School Board of Philadelphia budget negotiations of 1998-99 and his key role in resolving the potentially crippling dispute between SEPTA management, and its union heads and employees.

Rev. Randall McCaskill has been anything but passive in his efforts to help Philadelphians in need. He has assumed massive responsibility within a diverse body of national and local organizations, most obvious being his role as founder and pastor of the Olivet Baptist Church. As pastor, McCaskill manages the fiscal solvency of the church, which offers day care, job training, medical services, etc. Furthermore, Rev. McCaskill is a member of the original charter founders of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers and is Vice-President of the Strawberry Mansion Corporation,

which manages a \$4 million budget neighborhood investment project. He is Vice-President of the Community Development Corporation, a multi-million dollar corporation which addresses issues of housing, rehabilitation, weatherization, and other related redevelopment issues. Rev. McCaskill is also Chair of the Community Renaissance Alliance, Inc., an organization that works toward building low income housing for Philadelphia Senior Citizens.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. McCaskill is more than just a dynamic leader and a man of God, Randall McCaskill is my friend. I know I speak for all Philadelphians when I say thank you to him for his continued participation in the struggle to improve the conditions of our proud city. We are eternally grateful to him for showing us that where there is a will there is a way. By breaking down barriers along racial lines, socio-economic lines, etc., Rev. McCaskill has become the personification of our city's age-old tradition of "brotherly love"; a truly remarkable accomplishment for a truly remarkable man.

**HONORING FORMER COLORADO
LEGISLATOR AND FBI SPECIAL
AGENT, ROBERT DENIER**

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a true advocate of crime prevention.

Robert DeNier has played a role in trying to stop criminal activity in Southwestern Colorado for most of his life. Robert served as a special agent in the FBI for 27 years. During that time, he worked hard to eliminate crime.

Robert also served in the Colorado State House of Representatives from 1976 to 1982 and in the State Senate from 1986 to 1990. While in office, Robert tried to pass legislation appropriating funds to be designated for youth crime intervention. Legislation on the issue never passed while Robert was in office. However, in 1995, under a bill co-sponsored by State Senator Jim Dyer and State Senator Ben Alexander, legislation and an appropriation to build a detention center passed through both houses and became reality.

The center is located in Durango and, after a unanimous vote of the Colorado General Assembly, is named after Robert. The Robert DeNier Youth Services Center was opened on January 25, 2000.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute in honor and thanks to Robert DeNier, a man that is dedicated to making Colorado a better place to live.

HONORING WILLIAM M. LYLES

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William M. Lyles for being named the 1999 Entrepreneur in Residence, a program of the Sid Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno. Each

year the program hosts a successful entrepreneur in order to stimulate local business interest.

William M. Lyles is the president and chief executive officer of Fresno-based Lyles Diversified, Inc. Lyles was selected as the 1999 Entrepreneur in Residence because of his tremendous qualifications and service to both the community at large and the business community.

Mr. Lyles' extensive business involvement includes: W.M. Lyles Co., a general engineering contractor engaged primarily in underground pipeline and utility construction, and Kaweah Construction Co., a general engineering contractor specializing in heavy concrete and mechanical construction. He is also involved in American Paving Co., a general engineering contractor with interests primarily in paving residential and commercial property, and Saratoga Capital, Inc., a San Jose-based property management corporation, handling rental properties and real estate sales. In addition, Lyles also holds a partnership in Pelco, a Clovis-based company designing, manufacturing, and marketing components for closed circuit television security and surveillance systems.

Lyles Diversified, Inc. is a California corporation engaged in construction and manufacturing. The company's varied interests include subdivision and industrial tract developments, real estate ownership and management, shopping centers, and farming interests. Lyles plays an active role in all of his business ventures.

Lyles has received several awards, including the 1991 Leon Peters Award, the 1992 Outstanding Philanthropist, and the Purdue Alumni Citizenship Award, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor William L. Lyles for his achievements as a businessman. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Lyles many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT D. SQUIER

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes today to pay tribute to Robert D. Squier who passed away last week after a long illness. While his name may be familiar to some, particularly those with an interest in politics, people around the United States and even in some foreign countries know him by his work. Bob was a political consultant. He advised Presidents and would-be Presidents, Senators and those wishing to be Senators and Governors and hope-to-be Governors on how to conduct their campaigns and how to communicate their dreams, beliefs and accomplishments to the voters.

Bob believed deeply in his craft and in our political system. Despite what many think of his profession, he knew how important it is to reach out to voters. But he also knew his role. In an interview several years ago, he remarked, "the candidate is always more important than the consultant. The consultants that do poorly in this business are the ones who begin to forget that."

Bob only worked for Democrats, and the list of politicians he advised over the years is a

who's who of Democratic politicians and a modern American history book itself. Squier began his career while still in college when he produced a campaign commercial for Orville Freeman, then Governor of Minnesota who would later become Secretary of Agriculture. He would later be hired by President Lyndon Johnson as a television advisor, and he went on to work for Hubert Humphrey's Presidential campaign. In the years that followed, the list of those that sought and benefited from his wisdom continued to grow; Muskie, Carter, DODD, ROCKEFELLER, Bumpers, Simon, Hart, BYRD, BIDEN, GRAHAM, ROBB, Pell, Richards, Clinton, GORE to name but only a few.

It is fair to say that politics was in his blood. I know, however, that it was also in his genes. I have been fortunate for many years to know and work with his son, Mark, who learned at his feet and went on to open his own firm. I extend to Mark and his brother, Robert, their 3 children, and Bob's wife, Prudence, my deepest sympathy.

HONORING ROLF FUNK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man from Colorado who has displayed tremendous amounts of determination and strength to overcome a life-threatening injury.

Mr. Rolf Funk, of Silverthorne, Colorado, has always had a love for skiing. During his sophomore year of high school, in 1951, Rolf started to pursue his passion and began ski jumping. After ten years of training and competition, Rolf decided to train for the Olympics. He became the first person to use a 900 meter ski jump. For the next 35 years, Rolf competed and won various medals and awards. In 1994, Rolf competed in the United States National Competition and finished in third place.

Then in 1995 tragedy struck. Many people believed that Rolf would never walk again, much less ski.

While Rolf was training in Breckenridge, Colorado, he was going down a run and struck a mogul unexpectedly. The impact was to Rolf's neck and back and he laid in the snow, unable to move. Ski Patrol units moved quickly to stabilize Rolf and to try to minimize the injuries and transport him to a medical facility.

Rolf was air-lifted to Denver Swedish Hospital. The verdict was a spinal cord injury that was initially paralyzing. Rolf was unable to move any of his extremities and the doctors decided that surgery was needed to relieve pressure to the spinal cord. It was unclear to the surgeon whether or not Rolf would receive any motor functions after the surgery. The surgery was a success, but at first there were no signs that it would help Rolf recover any mobility in his legs or arms. Day by day, however, Rolf began to get physical movements back in his extremities.

Rolf was transferred to Craig Hospital where specialists could concentrate on helping him recover. Rolf was convinced, in his heart, that he would not only walk again, but that he would continue his love, skiing. Just a few