

Americas, Human Rights Award from the Bahai Community of Ventura County, Cruz Reynoso Award of the American Bar Association of Los Angeles County, and Community Hero Award from the Ventura County Diversity Board.

Studs Terkel devoted a chapter to her in his book *Coming of Age*, and Debra Sands Miller did the same in her book *Independent Women*. Her oral history has been recorded for posterity by the UCLA Research Library.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a strong supporter of Interface Children Family Services for more than twenty years. The work of the organization and its volunteers has bettered the lives of countless families in my community. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Alice McGrath for the honor she so richly deserves and thank her for decades of helping others.

REFORM OF THE 1872 MINING LAW

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, last week the Budget Committee held a hearing on my legislation H.R. 3221, the Corporate Welfare Commission Act. The Committee heard testimony from several witnesses including members of Congress about the most egregious examples of unnecessary and wasteful subsidies to industry. While members of Congress have mixed feelings about many of the items other members consider corporate welfare, there is virtual unanimity in the belief that the 1872 Mining Law needs reform.

The 1872 Mining Law was enacted to promote mineral exploration and development on federal lands in the western United States and to encourage settlers to move west. This law granted free access to individuals and corporations to prospect for minerals on public lands. Once a discovery was made, they were allowed to stake a claim on the deposit.

The law works this way:

Once the prospector does some exploration work on public land, he may stake a claim on an area that he believes to contain a valuable mineral. The price of holding such a claim is \$100 per claim per year.

If the prospector spends at least \$500 on development work on the parcel and the claimed mineral deposit is determined to be economically recoverable, the claim holder may file a patent application for the title to surface and mineral rights.

If the application is approved, the claimant may purchase surface and mineral rights for between \$2.50 and \$5.00 an acre. These amounts have not been adjusted since 1872.

There is no limit on the number of claims a person can locate, nor is there a requirement that mineral production ever commence.

And as if this policy were not bad enough, the 1872 Mining Law lets mining companies extract the minerals without paying a royalty. This is unlike all other resources taken from public lands. For example, oil, gas and coal industries operating on the public lands pay a 12.5 percent royalty on gross income of the operation. On tribal lands, the average royalty paid for copper was 13 percent. In the private sector, gold royalties range from 5 to 18 percent.

As an unnecessary subsidy, this policy should have been reformed long ago. But the harm of this policy does not end with wasteful government support for the mining industry. Once the land has been exploited, the environmental damage is the additional price that taxpayers are forced to pay. Over the past century, irresponsible mining operators have devastated over half a million acres of land through carelessness and abandoned mines. According to the EPA, waste from mining operations has polluted more than 12,000 miles of our nations waterways and 180,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs.

My amendment to the FY 2001 Interior Appropriations Bill, which was rejected by the Rules Committee, would impose a 5 percent royalty on all hard rock minerals mined from public lands. The funds generated from the royalty would be devoted entirely to environmental cleanup of these mining sites. The amendment would also make the current one year moratorium on the issuance of mining patents permanent (the current moratorium has been extended each year over the past five years).

Mr. Speaker, this policy is in need of repair and reform. I am disappointed that the Rules Committee did not allow for House consideration of my amendment. I will continue to work with my colleagues to reform this outdated and wasteful policy.

HONORING MS. VALERIE
BEASCOCHEA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding student, Valerie Beascochea. Her sharp mind and strong work ethic recently won her the high distinction of being named the United States National Collegiate Award winner in Nursing. In addition, Valerie will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Collegiate Yearbook in recognition of her academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibilities, enthusiasm, citizenship, attitude, motivation to learn and dependability.

What makes these accomplishments even more remarkable is that Valerie is a wife and a mother of two. Her ability to successfully juggle the rigors of school, work and family underscores the significance of these outstanding achievements. She is a model that other students should follow and one that will be sure to achieve great things for the good of our community. She has proven to be an asset to her school, community, state and nation.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say congratulations to Valerie Beascochea on a truly exceptional accomplishment. Due to her dedicated service and integrity, it is clear that Colorado is a better place. We are all proud of Valerie.

HAILING GENERAL SERRANO, VAL-
IANT DRUG FIGHTER AND
GREAT FRIEND OF THE UNITED
STATES

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I praise General Rosso Jose Serrano on his retirement as head of the Colombian National Police (CNP) as a valiant drug fighter and great friend of the United States. He will be hard to replace.

General Serrano saved countless American families from the nightmare of drug addiction. For this, we owe him a debt of gratitude.

In his nearly 40 years as a policeman in Colombia, General Serrano has fought corruption and drug traffickers and made the CNP the model of Latin American police agencies. Through his tireless and selfless leadership, General Serrano won the support of the Colombian people and the world for his valiant police officers, more than 5,000 of whom have died in the last 10 years in Colombia's drug-financed civil war.

General Serrano destroyed the powerful Medellin and Cali drug cartels. When finally provided with the Black Hawk utility helicopters, Serrano's CNP officers began inflicting massive damage on narco-terrorists, producing significant results in destroying cocaine labs and reducing opium and coca leaf crops.

I invite our colleagues to join in wishing General Serrano and his family our sincerest best wishes for a long, happy, and healthy retirement. We hope that he will continue to serve the international community by sharing his years of expertise through such institutions as the planned International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) for the Americas.

RECOGNITION OF CARMEN
SCIALABBA

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the attached newspaper article describing an achievement award recently bestowed upon a long-time member of my staff, Carmen Scialabba, by his high school alma mater. It is a fitting tribute to an extraordinary individual and I hope you will take the time to read it.

Many of you recognize or have gotten to know Carmen over the 24 years he has worked with me. He is a patient and tireless attendee of appropriations hearings and mark-ups and has been absolutely indispensable in his role as Associate Staff, handling all manner of appropriations-related issues as well as a wide array of constituent services. He has been an indispensable aide, conceiving numerous economic development projects with me and overseeing them to their fruition, to the benefit of countless workers and families back home in Pennsylvania.

Many of you probably do now know, however, the heroic story of how Carmen Scialabba has overcome the harshest adversities, beginning in his early childhood when the

untimely death of his mother landed him and his brothers in an orphanage while his father went off to war.

You may not know that he had enlisted in the Marine Corps and become a champion boxer before he was tragically stricken with polio and collapsed before a fight at the height of his career.

You may not know how he overcame his debilitating illness to raise four daughters as a single parent after their young mother succumbed to leukemia; how he fought against appalling prevailing attitudes toward the disabled to be able to attend college, ultimately earning a masters degree; how he made a difference to hundreds of young students as a high school history teacher; how he then served his community as a local magistrate before he joined me in coming to Washington to help the people of Pennsylvania in yet another capacity.

He has been fighting for years to eradicate institutional discrimination against the disabled. Whether it involves helping a single long-suffering Veteran to obtain needed rehabilitation services and regain self-sufficiency or developing partnerships with employers and vocational rehabilitation facilities to help employ people with special needs, he has been a tireless advocate for "leveling the playing field" for the economic, as well as the physically, disadvantaged.

His passionate advocacy for 'doing the right thing' and his blunt, no-nonsense demeanor have earned him a somewhat fearsome reputation befitting a champion prizefighter. They've coined an expression in Washington. It is known as being "Carmenized," and they say you certainly know when it has happened to you. Yet to those who know him best he is a gentle soul with an enormous heart of gold.

I realize such achievements and praise are usually only associated with high-profile public servants. Carmen has never been high-profile. A true product of the blue-collar hardscrabble steel and coal regions of Pennsylvania from which he hails, he has set about his extraordinary life with near-Biblical humility. He has never once lost sight of his guiding belief that his purpose in life is to serve others and that, although life is certainly not always fair, everyone deserves fair treatment by their government as well as their fellow man.

Again, I am glad to be able to share the attached article with my colleagues and submit it for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that history will remember the life and work of this consummate public servant as staff to the United States Congress.

[From the Eagle, June 9, 2000]

POLIO CAN'T KEEP '53 GRAD DOWN—CARMEN SCIALABBA WINS PRESTIGIOUS BHS AWARD
(By Shari Kitzmiller)

BUTLER TWP—Base your life on what you can do for other people, not what they can do for you.

That's the doctrine that has gotten Butler alumnus Carmen Scialabba where he is today.

It's also the attitude that has earned him a prestigious award from his high school alma mater.

Scialabba was named the 21st recipient of the Butler School District Distinguished Graduate Award during commencement ceremonies Wednesday night.

He is a 1953 graduate of the school.

High school Principal Dale Lumley said recipients are not invited to attend commence-

ment because it usually is too hard for those who no longer live in the Butler area to guarantee they can make it.

Winners are notified after the announcement is made public.

A committee of students picked Scialabba from more than 50 nominees.

Scialabba lives in Silver Spring, Md., with his second wife.

Scialabba's first wife, Janice Ann Collins, died in 1979. She also was a Butler graduate.

Receiving the award is an honor, he said, because a teacher he admired—Margaret Puff—also won the award in 1986.

Puff was a geography teacher in the district who sparked Scialabba's interest in the subject, he said.

"Because of her, I got my master's in geography," he said.

Since that time, Scialabba has led a busy life.

A current associate staff member for the U.S. House of Representatives and a top aide to U.S. Rep. John Murtha of Johnstown, Scialabba started his career in the House in 1975.

Prior to that time, he served as a district magistrate in Johnstown. He also was a junior high history teacher in the Johnstown public school system.

A former Marine, Scialabba once thought he was destined for a professional boxing career.

In 1956 he represented the U.S. Marine Corps in the Southwest Olympic Trial. In 1959, he gained the ALL U.S. Marine Corps Lightweight Boxing Champion title and represented the Corps in the Pan American trials.

He began his professional boxing career when he left the Marines and was named Ring Magazine's Prospect of the Month in August 1960.

His career was cut short just a year later, however, when he was diagnosed with polio. The illness left him paralyzed from the waist down.

But he didn't let his paralysis keep him from achieving his goals. Told he would never walk again, he fought against medical odds and learned to walk with leg braces.

That was just the start of his fight for the rights of the disabled.

Scialabba has taken his personal experience and used it to help others in similar situations.

He is working to get rewarding jobs for Americans who currently are receiving disability compensation because they have been unable to get employment.

"I want to form a non-profit group to talk to industry people to convince them it's wise to hire people with disabilities," Scialabba said, "I have a few members already in place. We're getting there, but we're not quite there yet."

He also has worked with engineers at Penn State University to create what he affectionately calls the "Lazy Carmen."

The invention, which he uses in this office at work, allows him to turn 360 degrees in his wheelchair without having to do it manually.

"It takes a lot of effort to turn this thing around," Scialabba said of his wheelchair. "Lazy Carmen" saves a lot of energy and a lot of time."

More information on the invention can be found on Penn State's Web site at www.psu.edu.

Scialabba said the invention is not yet ready to market, but he is looking for a manufacturer for the product.

Aside from his desire to help the disabled, Scialabba has some advice for the graduating class at Butler High School.

"This may sound kind of corny, but work awful hard," he said.

He also encourages the graduates to help those who can't help themselves because it builds good character.

"I've tried to frame my life around what I can do for other people, not what they can do for me," Scialabba said.

Also stay close to your family, he said, no matter where you life takes you.

Scialabba, who said his brother Nick helped him get into college, is still an important part of his life.

Nick and another brother, Anthony, still live in Butler.

CARMEN SCIALABBA

WHAT: 2000 Butler School District Distinguished Graduate Award recipient.

EDUCATION: 1953 Butler High School graduate; 1966 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown; 1965 history department scholar; master's degree in the arts from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

ORGANIZATIONS: Formed the Johnstown Boxing Club.

EXTRA DUTIES: Serves on the Board of Directors for the Governor's Council for the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; Operations and Planning Board member; New Partnerships Task Force member for the Hiram G. Andrews Center in Johnstown; Penn State University Review Board of the Institute for Non-Lethal Defense Technology; the City Planning Commission of Johnstown; and the Governor's Council for the Physically Handicapped.

AWARDS AND HONORS: 1974 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Handicapped Person of the Year; 1975 inductee to the Butler Area Sports Hall of Fame; National Guard Ben Franklin Award for dedicated service to Pennsylvania; National Guard Patrick Henry Award for distinguished patriotic service.

HONORING MICHAEL E. MATZNICK
FROM THE SIXTH DISTRICT OF
NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, with health care reform taking the congressional stage once again, I would like to recognize a constituent and friend of mine from the Sixth District of North Carolina, who will be a key player in the debate. We are proud to announce that a resident of the Sixth District was recently selected as the new president of the National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU).

Mr. Michael E. Matznick has sworn in as NAHU's president for the 2000–2001 term by Alan Katz, the outgoing president. Michael has been a member of NAHU since 1980. He has served as president of the North Carolina state chapter of NAHU and received its distinguished service award. Michael joined NAHU's board as the vice president of the Southeast region in 1996.

Michael is the president of Med/Flex Benefits Center, Inc., a firm founded in 1986 that specializes in individual and group health insurance, employee benefits plans and Section 125. He has a degree in business administration from Illinois State University, and lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, with his wife Carol and their two sons.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I would like to congratulate Michael Matznick for being selected for this national position. We wish him the best of luck