

defense of freedom. Our world changed forever on September 11th when our freedom was attacked and a long present terrorist threat was realized.

Our government's most sacred responsibility is to provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. This is an enormous undertaking. It will require not only a complete rethinking of military strategies and a very proactive and imaginative pursuit of new technology, but also a new American attitude towards the rest of the world.

The necessity of a strong military is undeniable. Our soldiers must have the finest training, technology and support our country can offer. However, the branches of our military are completely overextended and exhausted. Eight years of abuse and downsizing have not only shrunk our active duty military by nearly half (from 900,000 active-duty soldiers in 1991, to 475,000 in 2000) but have also left the standing forces with the lowest moral since Viet Nam.

There has been a resurgence of enlistment since the September 11th attacks, but we cannot rely on attacks to drive enlistment and it is unfair to rely on patriotism. Instead, patriotism should be rewarded with strong incentives to join the military. Men and women willing to make the ultimate sacrifice should be compensated accordingly. Neither active-duty nor reserve forces should have to worry about feeding their families or losing their jobs while they are defending our country. We cannot look at our military as a superfluous fiscal corner to be cut.

These incentives must extend to our veterans as well. It is appalling that the men and women who sacrificed so dearly for our country cannot expect basic consideration when they return home. Never again can we allow our soldiers to be treated the way veterans returning from Viet Nam were treated. (*Link to Veterans Page*).

Consideration of our soldiers is only one aspect of our national defense. Another area of great concern is our intelligence gathering capability. With out adequate knowledge of our enemies, we cannot create effective military responses, weapons or foreign policy. Cost cutting measures have left our intelligence gathering capability compromised and our intelligence incomplete.

American men and women, sent to fight for us, should be armed and equipped to the best of our abilities. We must ensure their safety to the greatest possible degree. More resources must be dedicated to research and development of cutting edge technology. There is no reason our soldiers cannot be the best equipped on the planet.

Our soldiers and intelligence agencies must have the best technology we can create in order to defend us. They must be able to detect and react to any threat to American sovereignty. An integral part of this is a missile defense program, which can destroy ballistic missiles launched at the United States. This system must be capable of destroying missiles in their launch phase, while they are most vulnerable (*Link to MDI Page*).

With adequate intelligence, human and electronic, we will be able to detect threats early enough to mount an effective defense. The need for this capability is mandated by our Constitution and it has never been more of a

concrete necessity than it is today. The existence of freedom is at stake and it must be defended.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GLENN L. GRAYEM

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Glenn L. Grayem and recognize his contributions to this nation. A native of Holyoke, Colorado, Glenn began his service as a soldier at the age of nineteen, during World War II, when he was assigned to Ft. Wheeler, Texas for basic training. Upon completion of training, in 1945 Glenn was sent to serve in the Pacific and take part in the invasion of the Philippines.

Glenn was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division with the task of liberating the island of Luzon. For months, Glenn's unit fought the Japanese army for control of several towns located throughout the region. During the battles, the Japanese were instructed by their leaders to fight to the last man and surrender was not an honorable option. Glenn fought through enemy defenses for over three months until the end of the campaign. Over 156,000 Japanese and 30,000 Allied soldiers lost their lives in the Battle of Luzon.

Glenn went on to serve as part of the occupational force in Japan following the victory. He returned to his native Colorado upon the completion of his enlistment. Some of Glenn's decorations from his service include the Bronze Star, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and the Army of Occupation medal. Glenn Grayem now makes his home in Montrose, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker it is a great privilege to recognize Glenn and thank him for his dedicated service during the war. If it were not for soldiers such as Glenn, America would not enjoy the many freedoms that we have today. He served selflessly in a time of great need, bringing credit to himself and to this great nation. Thanks Glenn.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH SIMUNOVICH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph Simunovich for his extensive corporate, governmental, and entrepreneurial genius and expertise. On Friday, November 16, 2001, Mr. Simunovich will celebrate his official retirement with family, friends, and former colleagues. The celebration will take place at the White Beaches Golf & Country Club in Haworth, New Jersey.

Joseph Simunovich's remarkable career in corporate America spans four decades. In 1962, he began his distinguished career working in the Sales and Marketing Management divisions at the New York Telephone Company. After 16 years of remarkable service, Joseph Simunovich left the New York Tele-

phone Company to become Marketing Manager for major accounts at Bell Atlantic New Jersey, now Verizon. While at the former Bell Atlantic, he quickly rose the corporate ladder becoming Director of Sales in 1985. As Director of Sales, he supervised and coordinated a renowned sales team that led Bell Atlantic sales for 8 consecutive years. Upon his departure from Bell Atlantic, Mr. Simunovich joined United Water New Jersey-New York as Senior Vice President for Business Development, External Affairs, and Corporate Communications. In addition, Mr. Simunovich has served as Chief of Staff, President, and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors during his nine dedicated years at United Water New Jersey, New York.

Mr. Simunovich has also played an influential and active role in New Jersey politics. In 1986, he was appointed by Governor Kean to be a Member of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA). He has been re-appointed to the EDA for six consecutive terms and currently serves as EDA Vice Chairman. In addition, he is Chairman of the Bergen County Economic Development Corporation and served 12 years as a Hudson County Freeholder.

Joseph Simunovich is a resident of Bergen County, New Jersey. He is married and has two children and four grandchildren.

As a result of his hard work, Joseph Simunovich has helped improve the quality of life for thousands of families living throughout New Jersey.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joseph Simunovich for his commitment to helping others and for his years of distinguished service to the people of New Jersey.

PROCLAMATION FOR GREGORY M. PORTER

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students, Gregory Porter. This young man has received the Eagle Scout honor from their peers in recognition of their achievements.

Since the beginning of this century, the Boy Scouts of America have provided thousands of boys and young men each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

The Eagle Scout award is presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. Becoming an Eagle Scout is an extraordinary award with which only the finest Boy Scouts are honored. To earn the award—the highest advancement rank in Scouting—a Boy Scout must demonstrate proficiency in the rigorous areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills; they must earn a minimum of 23 merit badges as well as contribute at least 100 man-hours toward a community oriented service project.

I ask my colleagues to Join me in congratulating the recipients of these awards, as their

activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Gregory and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young man on his day of recognition, Saturday, November 24, 2001. Congratulations to Gregory and his family.

CONGRATULATING KRISTIE
THOMPSON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize today Ms. Kristie Thompson of Rockwall, Texas, who this past summer succeeded in hiking the 2,167 miles of the Appalachian Trail. This hike from Springer Mountain in Northern Georgia to Katahdin in Central Maine is a trek completed by fewer than 500 people each year. What makes Kristie's accomplishment even more outstanding is the fact that she hiked the distance in only four months instead of the usual six—and she did a majority of it alone.

Since childhood, Kristie has had a love for the outdoors and a sense of adventure. A schoolteacher at Maurine Cain Middle School in Heath, Texas, and the mother of two teenage children, she used her summer break to fulfill this ambitious, lifelong dream. Kristie and her sister, Melanie Musser, began the journey on April 15, but 800 miles later, Melanie decided she could not be away from her family for another two months. Kristie understood—for she, too, missed her family—but she decided to go on alone.

Kristie awoke each day to begin hiking by 7 am and did not stop until 6 pm. That is an average of eighteen miles every day, much of it through mountains, carrying a pack of about 26 pounds. Often hiking as many as thirty miles in one day, Kristie noted that the mental challenges were equally as great as the physical ones. Her emotions ranged from elation to loneliness to frustration. She tells that more than three months along the trail—but still 300 miles from her destination—she stopped, stared down at the trail and burst into tears. But there, scratched in the dirt, was a message left for some other mother: "Good job, Mom." This message gave her the inspiration and resolve to complete the arduous journey.

Support from family and strangers saw her through. Every few days she would pick up food and supplies that her parents would send to towns along the way. Her children sent postcards and provided words of encouragement when she called. They followed her progress on a map. Along the way she slept in shelters or under a tarp or tent. On the last five miles of the hike, Kristie was joined by her father, Emmett Howe, who shares her family's immense pride in this accomplishment.

Kristie's ambition and perseverance certainly will serve as sources of inspiration for

her family, students and friends in Rockwall. Her feat took resolve, extraordinary willpower and courage—as well as meticulous planning and resourcefulness. She said the trip made her stronger in her resolve to tackle difficult challenges in life and reinforced what mattered most to her—her family.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize this outstanding young woman from my hometown of Rockwall—Kristie Thompson—and to congratulate her for this extraordinary achievement in hiking the Appalachian Trail.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE
BOLLINGER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to an icon of the Pueblo, Colorado community who recently passed away. Charles Bollinger, who was fighting Alzheimer's disease and a brief illness, died at the age of 85 and as his family and friends mourn his loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember Charlie for his many contributions throughout his life.

Charlie owned and operated Bollinger's Confectionary, a magazine/bookstore located in Pueblo. Bollinger's Confectionary began as a candy store that was started by his uncle in 1927. In 1946, Charlie bought the business and moved it to a new location. While there, he added the magazine collection that made Bollinger's a favorite store in the community.

Charlie was an adamant sports fan throughout his life. He was a longtime, devoted Denver Broncos fan and his love of sports was clearly reflected in his store magazine selections. His legendary collection included over ninety titles covering sports from football to baseball, and outdoor sports including hunting and fishing.

Mr. Speaker it is with profound sadness that we remember the life and memory of Charlie Bollinger. He will be remembered for his kind heart and the gentle demeanor he displayed throughout his life. As family and friends mourn his passing, I would like to recognize the wonderful life Charlie lived. We will miss you Charlie.

TRIBUTE TO TOKO FUJII

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Toko Fujii, one of Sacramento's most notable citizen leaders. Toko was regarded as one of the most well respected and positive figures in the Sacramento Japanese American community. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting one of Sacramento's most outstanding citizens.

Toko was born in Stockton, California on May 11, 1920. The eldest child of Kinji and Midori Fujii. As a youngster in Oakland, where his parents owned a billiard hall, Toko demonstrated his trademark independence at very

early age. He would often stop by a neighborhood restaurant to purchase a bowl of oatmeal for breakfast before walking to school each morning. In 1927, Toko and his parents, along with younger sister, Chizue, moved to Sacramento, where he attended Lincoln School for his elementary and junior high years before attending Sacramento High School.

While in high school, Toko was an active member of the Japanese Student Club, Math Honor Club, and the prestigious California Scholarship Federation. In his spare time, Toko was also involved in the Buddhist Church Youth Organization. It was in a high school French class that he first met Sayoko Akume, who eventually became his wife and had been for the last 58 years.

When World War II broke out, Toko and Sayoko were sent to the Tule Lake Internment camp. During the internment, he kept busy by writing a column for the camp newspaper. Toko and Sayoko eventually left camp in the summer of 1943 and the young couple moved to Salt Lake City, where they were married on July 3, 1943. While majoring in Business Administration at the University of Utah, Toko displayed his innate talent for bringing people together when he organized a basketball team of Japanese Americans from the university.

Upon graduation, Toko and Sayoko moved to Denver before returning to Sacramento. During these years, Toko further enhanced his ability to bring people together. Toko organized his first fundraiser to raise money for uniforms and traveling costs for the Japanese American All Star Basketball Team. Toko also played an instrumental role in the establishment of the Buddhist Church Basketball League and the Northern California Nisei Athletic Union. Before the integration of Little League Baseball, he played a major role in organizing the Northern California Church League, a Nisei baseball league.

In his professional life, Toko first ran the Sun Hotel and shortly thereafter he became a real estate and insurance broker before he was recruited to manage the El Rancho Bowl in 1960. In 1964, Toko and his business partner, Kay Hamatani, started Victory Trophies, which he successfully operated until 1996. In addition to being a small business owner, Toko also contributed 27 years of outstanding service to the former Bank of Tokyo.

In his personal life, Toko remained very active with various community causes. He served as the acting office manager for the Japanese American Citizen's League since the early 1990's. In early 1991, he spearheaded the project to exhibit the story of Japanese American's in the Greater Sacramento Valley. After the unexpected death of the project's organizer, Toko assumed full responsibility of the project and fulfilled the mission to introduce their story at the Sacramento History Museum for six months in 1992.

Toko was also affectionately known as "The Man" in the local community when it comes to fund raising for special causes. Toko played a key role in securing \$200,000 for the Sacramento Japanese American Citizens League's Endowment Fund in 1990. When the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation was organized in 1999, Toko stepped up to the plate and organized a local fund raising campaign that raised \$120,000. He never forgot the importance of giving back to his community. Toko's tireless commitment to serving his community was truly an inspiration and example to his fellow citizens.