

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.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Toko Fujii's friends and family gather to celebrate and honor his legacy and many contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most well respected citizens. His successes are unparalleled, and it is great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his accomplishments. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the deeds of an extraordinary leader.

HONORING WESTFIELD WORKS WONDERS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifth annual Westfield Works Wonders event which is being celebrated in shopping malls across the nation. Over the last five years, this wonderful charity event has raised millions of dollars for national and local non-profits and charities.

First implemented in Connecticut in 1997, the Westfield Works Wonders program began as a project to benefit local non-profits and charities. In just three years, the event achieved outstanding results raising upwards of one million dollars and attracting more than 120,000 shoppers to the four centers in Connecticut. Due to its local success in Connecticut, Westfield Wonder Works was rolled out as a national program in 1999. In its two-year national history, malls across the nation have raised almost three million dollars in contributions for thousands of non-profits and charities.

The simplicity of the program is one of its greatest benefits. Westfield Works Wonders is a one-day three hour event held in November when shoppers are ready to begin their holiday shopping. For a five dollar donation, shoppers enjoy a private evening at Westfield Shoppingtowns with special discounts, instore promotions, prize giveaways, entertainment, celebrity appearances, free photos with Santa, and more. All ticket proceeds are donated directly to participating organizations. In Connecticut alone, over sixty non-profits and charities will receive invaluable funding.

It is important to recognize the dreams and wishes that are made a reality by this special event. The money raised helps thousands of children and families receive much needed services. Hospitals, schools and a variety of national and local charities all benefit from the generosity of the over half a million people who attend this event nationwide. With a small donation, people can make a real difference in the lives of many.

I am proud to stand today to recognize the tremendous contribution Westfield Shoppingtowns are making to communities across the nation. I am honored to take this opportunity to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of those—from Westfield America to the thousands of retail employees—who make this evening possible. Your efforts are truly inspiring.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE JOHNS

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 recognize Debbie Johns and thank her for the contributions she has made to the School District 51 Board in Clifton, Colorado. Debbie has served on the school board for over sixteen years, and though she will be dearly missed, I am happy to congratulate Debbie on her retirement.

Debbie was elected to School District 51 Board in 1985. She ran for office because of concerns she had over school redistricting and how it would affect her children's lives. Since then, Debbie has been elected three more times to the board with the help of her campaign staff and her family. She has been instrumental in many changes that have occurred to the district during her tenure. While in office, six new schools have been built and another twenty have undergone renovations.

When not meeting with the board, Debbie can be found distributing her time between managing a doctor's office and caring for her family. This is no easy task considering Debbie works an average of seventy hours per week in her management position. Despite her newfound freedom, Debbie already plans to fill the void by donating her time to the Mesa County Public Library literacy program.

Mr. Speaker it is a great privilege to honor Debbie Johns and wish her the best as she steps down from the School District 51 Board. She has dedicated her energy and time to the community for the last sixteen years and certainly deserves the praise and admiration of this body. Debbie, thank you for your dedicated service.

UNITED THROUGH IT ALL

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem for the RECORD.

UNITED THROUGH IT ALL

(By Mike Allen and Randall Bayne)

On an island in the harbor,
Lady Liberty's darkest day,
Terror rose against our land.
Evil had its way.

We witnessed two strong towers
As they came crashing down,
Innocent lives were sacrificed
In rubble on the ground.

We stood in awe, in disbelief,
Souls of thousands fell.
In the horror of the picture,
In the midst of this hell.

We bound our spirits in resolve
To answer freedoms call.

This is America,
We'll rise above it all.
We're united in our victory,
United in our cause.
We'll stand against all enemies,
Liberty has no walls.

We're stronger than those towers,

This country will not fall.

We are Americans,
United through it all.

We'll bind our wounded.
Grieve for those who died.
Praise the heroes' efforts.
And sing out with pride,

"America, America
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good
With brotherhood."

For we're united in our victory,
United in our cause.

We'll stand against all enemies,
Liberty has no walls.

We're stronger than those towers,
This country will not fall.

We are Americans,
United through it all.

UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARDS HAITI

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern regarding current United States policy towards Haiti.

Haiti's human and development statistics are alarming. The life expectancy of the average Haitian is only 53 years, and this number is certain to decline as the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country becomes even more severe. According to UNAIDS, the United Nations agency responsible for addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic, more than 5% of the adult population is HIV-positive, and some sectors of the population have infection rates of over 50%. In other human development categories, Haiti's record is just as lamentable. Half of Haitian adults are illiterate, and more than 1 in 4 children under the age of 5 are malnourished. Haiti ranks 152nd out of 174 on the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Index, below such countries as Bangladesh and Sudan.

In previous years, the United States pursued a constructive relationship with Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Between FY 95 and FY 99, the United States provided \$884 million in critical development assistance funds to support agricultural development, democracy and governance, teacher training, health care, and many other programs. The United States also supported multilateral institutions that worked to improve the lives of ordinary Haitians. More recently, however, the United States has pursued a myopic policy towards Haiti and has used its veto power to prevent the disbursement of funds from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The board of directors of the IDB has already approved \$146 million in social sector loans for Haiti, but because of United States policy, these funds have been blocked from improving the lives of 8 million Haitians. This policy must change.

In order for the living standards and life chances of ordinary Haitians to improve, international development assistance is critical. The United States must change its current policy towards Haiti so that it may receive multilateral funds for pressing development needs.