

A graduate of Ferris High School, Catherine Todd is also an alumnus of Hudson County Community College.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Catherine Todd for her years of distinguished service on behalf of public housing residents in Hudson County, New Jersey.

HONORING FREDERICK P. AGUIRRE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor an outstanding citizen of Orange County, Mr. Frederick P. Aguirre who has recently been honored by Orange County's United Way for his outstanding service in education to the Latino community. Mr. Aguirre has a strong sense of civic duty and is dedicated to the Latino community, to our country's veterans, and to education.

A graduate of UCLA Law School, he is a co-founder of the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County. Currently, he serves on the Hispanic Advisory Committee of the Orange County District Attorney's office.

His support for education spans across all levels. He was a mentor through the "Stay in School Program" that provides tutoring to at-risk students in the Santa Ana Unified School District. He has been a speaker at elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and at several colleges. He re-established the Placentia chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), a group that provides scholarships for Hispanic youth and encourages civic participation through citizenship classes and voting. In 1994, he became a member of the Corporate Development committee of the Hispanic Education Endowment Fund. In addition, he organized and re-incorporated Latino Advocates for Education, Inc. a nonprofit organization that promotes educational excellence among our Latino students and increases quality instruction and administration in schools.

His exemplary achievements in the community are also noteworthy. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Alzheimer's Association of Orange County, he founded the Multi Ethnic Community Advisory Board. He was also a member and Chairman of the Board of the Community Advisory Board of Placentia Linda Hospital. In 1994, he organized a program offering free legal services at the Cathy Torrez Learning Center in Placentia.

In addition, he has been active in recognizing U.S. veterans. Since 1998, he has organized a Veteran's Day conference at Santa Ana College in Santa Ana, CA. These events have grown in scope each year. The most recent, the 5th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration and Scholarship Program, honored over 100 living Mexican-American World War II veterans and their families. Over 3,000 people attended, including Governor Gray Davis.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Frederick P. Aguirre for his outstanding service to the Orange County community, to education and to the Latino community. His efforts have truly touched people's lives and have had a positive impact on our community.

RECOGNIZING THE PHYSICIANS, NURSES, AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS OF INOVA FAIRFAX HOSPITAL

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fine work of the physicians, nurses and other health care providers at Inova Fairfax Hospital in response to the recent cases of inhalation anthrax that befell workers at the Brentwood postal facility. Two employees of this facility, Mr. Leroy Richmond and an unnamed colleague, sought treatment at Inova Fairfax for what ultimately proved to be inhalation anthrax. For both gentlemen, the close attention and astute diagnoses of Drs. Cecele Murphy and Susan Bersoff-Matcha were literally the difference between life and death.

Physicians, nurses and other health care providers represent the difference between life and death for many, many patients with myriad conditions every day. What was special about this instance was that both doctors were dealing with a rare disease that affords little, if any, room for error. Early diagnosis of anthrax is essential in giving a patient the chance to survive—a task made all the more difficult because early symptoms of anthrax are not easily distinguishable from the flu or other common maladies. In addition, at the point when Mr. Richmond presented at the emergency room, the extent to which postal workers were at risk for exposure was not fully understood. Cast against a backdrop of profound public fear, with numerous worried patients believing they displayed signs of anthrax, the actions of Drs. Murphy and Bersoff-Matcha are all the more impressive.

Quick and accurate decisions such as those made by Dr. Murphy, Dr. Bersoff-Matcha, the nurses and staff of Inova Fairfax Hospital will be required to minimize casualties in any future bioterrorism attacks. In the anthrax attacks—the first biological assault of our new war on terrorism—these individuals have provided an outstanding example for others to follow.

TRIBUTE TO FLAGLER FFA AGRONOMY TEAM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Flagler, Colorado chapter of the Future Farmers of America. The Flagler team recently attended the 74th National FFA Convention and placed fifth in the Agronomy Career Development competition.

The members of the team—Jake Michal, Nathan McCaffrey, Kyle Einspahr, BJ New, and David Wieser—were the first representatives from Colorado to compete in this event. Despite being newcomers to the competition, the team was able to persevere with an outstanding finish at this year's convention.

The FFA is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of young people by de-

veloping their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. With a 74-year history, the FFA has been an integral part in continuing America's great tradition as a leader in agriculture production.

The Flagler chapter of the Future Farmers of America is a source of pride for the community of Flagler and all people of Colorado. The team has shown great strength and fortitude by placing in the top five of all teams competing. I ask the House to join me in extending wholehearted congratulations to the Flagler chapter of the Future Farmers of America team.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROSE BELLANCA
"2001 WOMAN OF THE YEAR" COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATION

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, each year the Italian American community celebrates Columbus Day, with festivities including a weekend of food, music, and fun, as well as an annual Columbus Day Parade and Banquet. With organizations and committees dedicated to promoting and preserving the Italian-American heritage through language, culture, music, and social events, the Columbus Day Committee is no exception. Honoring distinguished Italian-Americans who have shown outstanding service in their local communities, each year the Columbus Day Committee selects individuals who demonstrate these qualities. On Sunday, October 7, as the families and friends gathered together at their annual Columbus Day Banquet, they recognized Dr. Rose Bellanca their "2001 Woman of the Year".

Demonstrating outstanding dedication and commitment to her students, her colleagues, and her community, Dr. Rose Bellanca has always been an active and enthusiastic supporter of education and advancement. Beginning her teaching career in 1973 at Fitzgerald High School in Macomb County, a short nine years later she was the first woman serving as the Director of Vocational-Technical Education in Macomb County while working for the Chippewa Valley School District. Her hard work and relentless pursuit for excellence in education led her to become Assistant to the President of Macomb Community College, where she served as Interim Vice President for Student and Community Relations and later Vice President for Planning and Development. Today, as Provost of Macomb Community College, her strong focus on students continues to be her priority, and her hard work and innovative ideas continue to make her a leader in educational advancement.

Faithfully committed to promoting her Italian American heritage as well, Dr. Bellanca is also an active member of the American Italian Professional and Business Women's Club and the Americans of Italian Origin Society. She has received the Macomb County Woman of Distinction Award by the Girl Scouts of Macomb County, as she is truly a role model for young women and young Italian American women. A devoted mother and wife of 30 years, a professional, and a friend, Dr. Bellanca truly is this year's "Woman of the Year".

I applaud the 2001 Columbus Day Committee and Dr. Bellanca for their leadership, commitment, and service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting them for their exemplary years, of leadership and service.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2299,
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises in support of the conference report for H.R. 2299, the Transportation appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002.

This Member would like to commend the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the Chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, and the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), the ranking member of the Subcommittee for their hard work in bringing this conference report to the Floor.

Mr. Speaker, this Member certainly recognizes the severe budget constraints under which the full Appropriations Committee and the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee operated. In light of these constraints, this Member is grateful and pleased that this legislation includes funding for several important projects of interest to the State of Nebraska.

This Member is particularly pleased that this appropriations bill includes \$1.5 million for preliminary work leading to the construction of bridges in Plattsmouth and Sarpy County to replace two obsolete and deteriorating bridges. The request for these funds was made by this Member as well as the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) and the distinguished gentlemen from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE and Mr. BOSWELL).

The agreement leading to the funding was the result of intensive discussions and represents the consensus of city, county and state officials as well as the affected Members of Congress. The construction of these replacement bridges (a Plattsmouth U.S. 34 bridge and State Highway 370 bridge in Bellevue) will result in increased safety and improved economic development in the area. Clearly, the bridge projects would benefit both counties and the surrounding region.

This Member is also pleased that the conference report includes \$4 million for Nebraska's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). This funding, which was requested by this Member and the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), is to be used to facilitate travel efficiencies and increased safety within the state.

The Nebraska Department of Roads has identified numerous opportunities where ITS could be used to assist urban and rural transportation. For instance, the proposed Statewide Joint Operations Center would provide a unifying element allowing ITS components to share information and function as an intermodal transportation system. Among its many functions, the Joint Operations Center will facilitate rural and statewide maintenance vehi-

cle fleet management, roadway management and roadway maintenance conditions. Overall, the practical effect will be to save lives, time and money.

This Member is also pleased that the conference report includes \$1 million for a Highway 66 bypass south of Louisville, Nebraska. This project, which has the support of the Louisville mayor and city council as well as the Cass County commissioners, would provide significant safety and economic development benefits for the area.

The conference report also includes \$325,000 requested by this Member for the construction of the 1.7-mile Lewis & Clark bicycle and pedestrian trail on State Spur 26E right-of-way, which connects Ponca State Park and the Missouri National Recreational River Corridor to the City of Ponca. This trail will play an especially important role as the area prepares for the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery expedition and the significant increase in tourism which it will help generate. The approaching bicentennial represents a significant national opportunity and it is crucial that communities such as Ponca have the resources necessary to prepare for this significant commemoration.

The trail will provide the infrastructure necessary to improve the quality of life by providing pedestrian and bicycle access between Ponca and the Ponca State Park and increases the potential for economic benefits in the surrounding region. The trail addresses serious safety issues by providing a separate off-road facility for bicyclists and pedestrians.

It is certainly important to note that this conference report includes \$1.6 million for the Antelope Valley Overpass in Lincoln, Nebraska. This bridge is an integral piece of a comprehensive plan to revitalize downtown Lincoln that has emerged from a partnership between the City, the State of Nebraska, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The funds would assist with the design and right-of-way phase of a bridge that would span railroad tracks. This funding will supplement the \$5,625,000 which this Member had successfully sought in the 1998 TEA-21 legislation.

In addition, the conference report includes \$200,000 to study the feasibility and fiscal impact of the passenger rail project between Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska. The metropolitan areas of Omaha and Lincoln are becoming increasingly integrated. The fringes get closer together every year and the inter-city highway commuter traffic is increasing significantly. The growing congestion will only get worse in the coming years. A far-sighted approach is necessary to address the needs of commuters and others using the corridor. The proposed study is a necessary component in this process. It would examine such important issues as travel patterns, ridership potential for rail service and cost evaluations.

Adequate funding is clearly needed to make this study and the overall project a reality. A feasible transportation alternative for the corridor would hold the promise of increased economic development, improved air quality and safety and decreased congestion.

The conference report also includes \$1 million for preliminary engineering for the replacement of U.S. Highway 81 bridge at Yankton between Nebraska and South Dakota. This funding will be helpful in replacing an important bridge across the Missouri River. This funding supplements the \$1.125 million this

Member successfully sought in the 1998 TEA-21 legislation.

Finally, this conference includes \$1.1 million for rail research to be performed jointly by UN-L and Marshall University in West Virginia. The funding will be used for safety research projects in the areas of human factors, equipment defects, and train control methods.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is well qualified to conduct this research. It has the necessary expertise in the area of transportation safety to provide meaningful research which will improve railroad safety. In addition, the nation's two largest railroads have a significant presence in Nebraska (one has its corporate and working headquarters in Omaha) and the state currently is traversed by the busiest railroad corridor in the world which move vast amounts of western coal to much of the rest of the nation. This funding will greatly contribute to safer rail operations throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, this Member supports the conference report for H.R. 2299 and urges his colleagues to approve it.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW
YORK RECOVERY FROM TERRORISM ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation to provide tax incentives for the revitalization of New York City, and in particular, Lower Manhattan.

We all know of the terrible events of September 11, 2001, the awful loss of life, the heroism in the face of adversity, and the physical devastation. This was an attack not solely on New York, but on America. In the weeks following the tragedy, Lower Manhattan has suffered greatly and the economy of New York City has been struck hard, it really is America that has been struck.

I cannot begin to say how much New Yorkers are grateful for the heartfelt response of their fellow Americans and people from all over the world. The prayers, the charity, and the promises of government support have all made an enormous difference in the ability of New York to begin to respond to and recover from the crisis. As one America we have responded to this dastardly attack in Afghanistan; across America; and, in New York.

Through this unity I believe that Congress should provide the tools necessary for New York to fully recover from the attacks and assure that the vitality of Lower Manhattan be sustained.

Lower Manhattan in 1624 was the first part of then New Amsterdam settled by Europeans. It has always been the heart of New York. It has been the entry point for millions of immigrants. Beginning in the 18th century and into the 21st century it has been the heart of finance in America and today the financial center of the world.

Unfortunately, the impact of the attack on the World Trade Center has altered the character of Lower Manhattan. Many businesses have had to temporarily move out of the area. It is unclear if they will return. Many businesses depending on the traffic in the area