

Durango Historical Society. "I feel he has been a very fine Senator and represented our area very well. He has always been responsive to our needs and responsive when he could do things for us at the state level," said Mayor Jim Shepard.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Senator Jim Dyer on his new position and wish his good luck in the future. He will be missed in the state legislature.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Dyer is a person of high integrity and honor. I consider it a privilege to have known and worked with him.

Jim has served the State of Colorado well in the state Senate and I know he will continue that record of leadership in his new capacity with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR GINETTE
(GIGI) DENNIS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. McINNIS Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Colorado State Senator Gigi Dennis for her years of service to the State of Colorado and to wish her good luck in her new position. Senator Gigi has served in the Colorado State Senate since 1995, but is resigning at the end of the month to accepted an appointment from President George W. Bush to become the Colorado Director of the Department of Agriculture's Office of Rural Development. "I'm proud of her," said her husband Dean Dennis. "I'm proud of her accomplishments." I know that Gigi's friends and neighbors in south-central Colorado, her colleagues in the Colorado legislature, and elected officials all across Colorado—including me—share Dean's sentiments. We are all proud of Gigi!

Senator Dennis has held numerous positions of real significance during her seven years in office, including Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee, a Member of the Legislative Council and Chairman of the Majority Caucus. Senator Dennis also served as the Rio Grande County Republican Secretary. Additionally, she served as a member of the State Accountability Commission on Education, and the Vice Chairman of the Education Committee (NCSL).

Senator Dennis summed up her feelings like this: "This resignation is not like walking away from my constituents, but creating a bigger circle of people I can impact through this office. In the end, it doesn't make any difference who gets the credit or who wins the fight. . .but whether Colorado citizens are better off for what we do. I'm extremely honored that President Bush has selected me for this position. This is another terrific opportunity to continue to help the State of Colorado, particularly the rural areas that I've represented over the years."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Senator Gigi Dennis on her new position and wish her good luck in the future. She will be missed in the state legislature.

Gigi has served the State of Colorado well in the state Senate and I know she will continue that record of leadership in her new capacity with the Department of Agriculture.

HONORING OMI, WINNER OF THE
MALCOLM BALDRIGE AWARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate, Operations Management International, Inc., one of the 2000 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award winners. President Clinton presented the Malcolm Baldrige award to OMI. The award, first presented in 1988, recognizes US companies for business performance excellence and competitive improvement. It is the highest-level quality award given in the U.S.

The Baldrige Award evaluates organizations on seven performance excellence criteria: leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, information and analysis and human resource focus. This award recognizes organizations that play a major role in energizing our nation's economy and quality of life. OMI uses these criteria as a cornerstone for its "Obsessed With Quality" process. OMI is an employee-owned global leader in the management of water, wastewater and utility systems.

This is the first time that a water treatment company has won the Baldrige Award. OMI operates and maintains more than 160 public and private sector wastewater and water treatment facilities in 29 states and eight countries. Their primary services are processing raw wastewater to produce clean, environmentally safe effluent and processing raw groundwater and surface water to produce clean, safe drinking water.

"OMI began its quality journey in 1990 when we initiated our 'Obsessed with Quality' process. Winning the Baldrige Award demonstrates how our quality process continues to positively affect the millions of lives our people touch. . . My thanks to all OMI associates for a job well done," said OMI President Don S. Evans.

Mr. Speaker, OMI is helping our economy grow and is setting an example for other businesses to follow. I want to thank them and congratulate them for their continued success.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WESTERN STATE COLLEGE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado a happy 100th birthday. Since 1901 Western State College has been a model of excellence. It is that record of achievement that I would now like to honor.

On April 16, 2001, then Governor James B. Orman signed a bill creating the Colorado State Normal School at Gunnison. This bill was a victory for the citizens of Gunnison, who would claim the first college west of the divide. This was the culmination of years of work on the part of Gunnison area citizens. Early efforts for a college came in 1885 when Archie

M. Stevenson, a Gunnison resident and state senator for the district, introduced a bill in the Colorado General Assembly.

The cornerstone for the Normal School building was laid in October of 1910 with the first classes beginning in September of 1911. A total of 13 students attended classes taught by ten professors. In 1923 the college's name was changed to Western State College and it became a liberal arts college. Over the years Western has earned a reputation as a College whose faculty care deeply about teaching and working closely with the students.

Western State College has developed strong academic programs in many areas and have attracted faculty with degrees from all over the world. Western's biology program has received a "Program of Excellence" award from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. In 1975, Western's Water Workshop began, and continues to attract participants from around this region to work on one of west's most pressing issues.

Western has recently opened a state of the art \$9 million science building, making it one of the most sophisticated science facilities in the state. Its athletic department has placed in the top 10 nationally over the past few years in the Sears Cup for outstanding Division II schools.

Mr. Speaker, for 100 years, Western State College has continued to excel in its educational mission. I would like Congress to praise the institution for its outstanding accomplishments and wish it continued success and another 100 years of excellence.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE WINERY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two of Grand Junction's leading restaurateurs and an outstanding dining establishment. After 28 years, Winery owner Frank Bering is retiring from the business, turning over the reins to Chris Blackburn who recently purchased this long-time staple of Main Street eateries. I would now like to pay tribute to both of these outstanding individuals and a wonderful restaurant known throughout western Colorado—The Winery.

Frank founded The Winery 28 years ago after he moved to the Western Slope from Chicago. Frank decided Grand Junction needed a good restaurant after he ordered a glass of red wine, which was served chilled instead of room temperature. With the help of Grand Junction residents, Frank opened The Winery. "I'm bittersweet about it, but I'm going on to a new life," Frank said in a recent Grand Junction Daily Sentinel story about leaving the business.

Frank's restaurant did very well, thanks both to great food and the oil and uranium boom of the late 70's and early 80's. It was then that Frank decided to open up G.B. Gladstone's, and managed to keep it going through the economic bust of the 80's. My good friend Chris Blackburn, who recently bought Gladstone's as well, views Frank as a pioneer who saw potential where no one else did. According to John Moss, another restaurant owner and personal friend of mine, Frank did more

than build a reputation and make a living—he changed the culture and the community of Grand Junction.

Mr. Speaker, both Frank and Chris deserve the thanks and commendations of this body. As Frank moves on to new pursuits, we say thank you for your hard work and service. As

Chris takes the helm at one of Grand Junction's best known restaurants, we say best wishes for continued success.