

Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth. Judge Mahon has been a member of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth since 1988.

Judge Mahon has been recognized many times for his immeasurable contributions to the community. In 1989, the Eldon B. Mahon Scholarship Fund was established at his alma mater, McMurry University. Judge Mahon received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree in 1974, and the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1987 from McMurry University as well. In 1990, Texas Wesleyan University awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree. July 10, 1997 was declared "Judge Eldon B. Mahon Day" throughout Tarrant County, Texas, to commemorate his 25th anniversary as a federal judge. The Tarrant County Bar Association recently established the "Eldon B. Mahon Lecture Series on Ethics and Professionalism" at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law. In 1998, Judge Mahon received the "Samuel Passara Outstanding Jurist Award" from the Texas Bar Foundation. Last year, he was selected as one of 100 lawyers from the state of Texas as a 20th Century "Living Legend" by Texas Lawyer Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, we should honor Judge Mahon by naming the United States Court in Fort Worth, Texas after him. Serving on the federal bench for over 28 years, he has made a profound impact on the legal community and on America.

COMMENDING M. B. "SONNY"
DONALDSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dedicated educator, a role model for countless students and a good friend. In June, after 14 years as superintendent of schools and 34 years as an educator in the Aldine Independent School District, M.B. "Sonny" Donaldson will retire.

Sonny Donaldson has spent his career working tirelessly on behalf of all children. He has always promoted what was best for school children, never forgetting that their best interest was his driving force.

Superintendent Donaldson has held the position of Superintendent of Schools since 1986. Prior to his service as superintendent, he held the positions of teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, athletic director, and assistant superintendent, all with Aldine ISD. He is an active member in numerous professional associations and organizations and a committed civic leader dedicated to public service.

Among his numerous honors and awards, Sonny was selected Superintendent of the Year in 1994 and 1996 for Region IV, which includes 57 school districts in the Houston area. He was also one of five finalists for Texas Superintendent of the Year in 1994 and 1996.

The Success of the Aldine ISD does not happen by accident. Sonny Donaldson has created and fostered an environment that demands quality and dedication from both teachers and students.

When Texas A&M University evaluated the test scores of minorities in districts with more

than 15,000 students, Aldine ranked first in the state. In addition, researchers at the University of Texas said that Aldine is one of a handful of districts showing impressive successes with students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Because of the emphasis placed on education by the administrators, the teachers, the students and the parents, Aldine ISD has received a "recognized" rating from the Texas Education Agency for the last four years. Of the district's 48 schools rated by the state, four are exemplary, 28 recognized and 16 acceptable.

American historian and writer Henry Adams once stated that "a teacher affects eternity; he can never tell when his influence stops." For Sonny Donaldson, the lives he has touched over his many years in the education field will ensure that his influence carries on far into the future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career of one of Texas' education heroes. Sonny, we wish you and your wife Suzanne well.

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF
SAINT PARIZE LE CHÂTEL,
FRANCE

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, in cities and towns all across America, Memorial Day will be marked with parades down Main Street, patriotic speeches on the town square and little league games in the park. But for others—families and surviving comrades in arms—it is a day of pilgrimage to cemeteries and memorials, for a moment of remembrance.

For some, this pilgrimage takes them to places far away from that town square; to places made infamous through the fury of war, and where now, peace holds its gentle sway.

One such pilgrimage will take place in the French Village of Saint Parize le Châtel and its neighboring hamlet, Moiry. During World War I, this area was home to one of the largest US Army hospitals, the Camp Mars-sur Allier. Its 44,000 beds were filled with wounded Americans who went off to fight for peace and liberty in the homeland of Lafayette.

After the Armistice, the villagers of Saint Parize le Châtel and Moiry built a monument to this hospital on the site of a cemetery where over 2,000 victims of the war are buried. Inscribed on the memorial—AUX AMERICAINS MORTS POUR LA FRANCE LE DROIT ET LA LIBERTE 1916–1918—to the Americans who died for France, Right and Liberty.

On this Memorial Day, a permanent exhibit commemorating the hospital, its staff and the soldiers and civilians who died and recovered there will open. At this ceremony, in an expression of the strong friendship between the United States and France, a new walkway to the memorial will be dedicated.

I know that all my colleagues join with me in an expression of gratitude to the people of Saint Parize le Châtel and Moiry for their desire to ensure an appropriate and lasting memorial to those Americans who gave so unselfishly of themselves in the name of peace and freedom.

A TRIBUTE TO RITA BEE HILL

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rita Bee Hill of Visalia, California, a loving mother and wife, a community leader, and a dear friend of mine who passed away in an automobile accident on May 4, 2001.

Rita was born in Hayward on Aug. 1, 1949. After graduating from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo in 1971, Rita moved to Visalia to work for the Tulare County Planning Department. She married Jim Hill in Visalia on Dec. 16, 1972. Throughout her 17-year career with the Planning Department, she served in many local and state leadership roles and was instrumental in the establishing and managing the Tulare County Economic Development Corporation.

In 1989, Rita joined my sister in law, Diana Dooley, as partners in a local public relations agency. The company, which later became Rita B. & Company, worked on behalf of local community projects and groups, exemplifying Rita's commitment to community.

As a friend recently observed, Rita Bee Hill was her father's daughter. Her father, Carlos Bee, was speaker pro tem of the California Assembly and was a champion for higher education. Like her father, Rita believed people could solve problems by working together. She inspired, cajoled and shamed people into doing the right things and she rolled up her sleeves and worked alongside everyone from whom she requested help.

Rita was active in a number of community organizations, serving as a member or leader of groups including the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, Visalia and County Center Rotary Clubs, Networking for Women, Visalia Planning Commission, City Manager's Advisory Group, California Women for Agriculture, Family Planning Program and the United Way of Tulare County. In 1998, Rita was recognized for her record of service by being bestowed with Visalia's Woman of the Year award in 1998.

In addition to all she did for our community, Rita was extremely dedicated to her family. She is survived by her husband, Jim, a math instructor at Redwood High School; her son, Tony; her granddaughter, Libby; and a large extended family throughout the country. Rita also leaves behind many friends who feel as she treated them as family.

On a personal note, my wife Linda and I had the opportunity to become close friends with Rita and Jim over the years. When I first ran for office at a time when few believed that I would succeed, Rita was one of my strongest and most dedicated supporters. She went on to be one of my most loyal supporters in all my subsequent re-election efforts, and even hosted my campaign office in her company's conference room for many years. This year, I designated her as my delegate to the California Democratic Party convention.

Rita's strong civic spirit, generous heart, and concern for others were obvious to all those she touched. Always living life to the fullest and always advocating the most noble of causes, Rita was a shining example of what it means to be a citizen and friend. Her passing

will leave a tremendous void in the life of the Visalia community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Rita Bee Hill and celebrating her legacy of service to her family, her community, and her country.

YMCA TEEN ACTION AGENDA
ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleagues, Reps. WAMP, PORTMAN, SERRANO, ETHERIDGE, ISAKSON and GREEN (WI) join me, in introducing the YMCA Teen Action Agenda Enhancement Act of 2001.

For 150 years, the YMCA has provided our nation's youth with safe, healthy activities. The YMCA is volunteer founded and volunteer-led. The YMCA depends on more than 600,000 volunteers to meet the unique needs of their communities. YMCAs serve people of all faiths, races, abilities, ages and incomes. 1 in 10 teens—2.4 million teens across the nation—are involved in a program offered by a local YMCA. Recognizing the unique obstacles faced by the teenagers of today, the YMCA has launched the Teen Action Agenda, a nationwide campaign to double this number and serve 1 in 5 teens by 2005.

This legislation authorizes federal appropriations of \$20 million for fiscal years 2002 through 2006 to carry out the Youth Teen Action Agenda. Similar legislation was enacted into law in the 105th Congress to aid the Boys and Girls Club of America and in the 106th Congress to aid Police Athletic Leagues, in their efforts to improve academic and social outcomes for youth. Under this legislation, subgrants will be made to YMCA teen programs that have a primary purpose of serving youth that are at-risk of delinquency or are in failing schools.

In my district, a number of YMCA clubs are serving our teenagers. In the town of Lafayette, CO alone, twenty-five programs at two YMCA Centers serve close to 1300 kids. The YMCA Arapahoe Center is a full youth and family center for teens and preteens ages 11–17, and the YMCA Lafayette Youth Center serves low income, at risk kids. These two clubs lead programs for Youth Employment services, after school drop-in, drop-in sports, field trips, Leaders club, Arts and Humanities classes and camps, high school and middle school sports, baby-sitting training, Youth and Government, Leadership development (Leaders-in-Training and Junior Leaders summer program), and Teen Adventures camps.

A recent nationwide study shows that participation in afterschool activities leads to better grades and better behavior in teens. Nearly eight in 10 teens (79%) that engage in afterschool activities are A or B students, but only half (52%) of teens who do not participate in afterschool activities earn these high marks. Teens that do not engage in afterschool activities are five times more likely (15%) to be D students compared to students who do participate in activities after school (3%).

This study has also documented the need for more afterschool programs. Over half (52%) of teens say they wish there were more

afterschool activities in their neighborhood or community. Two in three (67%) teens say they would likely participate in afterschool programs that would help them get better grades, develop leadership skills and be more involved in their community while having fun with other teens if they knew that churches, recreation centers and the YMCA offered such programs. Six in 10 (62%) teens left unsupervised during the week say they would likely participate in afterschool programs.

The need for more after-school opportunities has been made clear to me in my visits to every high school in my district. Students have told me that if there were more after school activities, they would participate in them. This bill will help give kids safe, productive places to go when the school bell rings at the end of the day. We all know that the teenagers of today face challenges and pitfalls unimaginable a generation ago. I believe this bill helps a proven community based organization with a rich history of providing quality programs for America's youth to offer our teenagers with the opportunity to develop and thrive.

MODIFY THE DEPRECIATION OF
PROPERTY USED IN THE GEN-
ERATION OF ELECTRICITY

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will foster adequate electric generation and reliability. Excessive electricity price volatility, concerns about power shortages, and harmful consequences for the regional economy in the West are all related to inadequate generation and transmission capacity in and around my home state of California.

Moreover, the energy crisis in California and neighboring states has demonstrated the importance of developing generation facilities to ensure that electricity supplies are widely available at reasonable prices. But capacity shortages are not just an issue in California, and addressing this tax code problem is critical to helping avoid similar problems from developing in other regions of the country.

To encourage new investments in generation, my bill would reduce depreciable lives of generation systems from their current cost recovery period of 15 or 20 years to 7 years. The current electric industry depreciable lives are longer than those of any manufacturing segment.

America's booming technology-reliant economy of the 1990s spurred a demand for more electricity. However, that increase in demand was not met by building new generation. In the 1970s and 1980s, America had power surpluses. As a result, state regulators, trying to keep consumer rates down, often disallowed the costs of some excess capacity and did not allow utilities to recover in rates all of their costs for building power plants. In many cases, utilities were required by their regulatory commissions to buy power from other suppliers rather than build their own plants. That, and the advent of competition, engendered a cautious attitude toward investment costs that might not be recoverable. The result was a construction lag, while demand for power increased by about 2 percent per year.

Nevertheless, between 1978 and 1992, America's utilities had reserve margins that averaged between 25 percent and 30 percent to meet emergency demand situations. Since 1992, the reserve margin has dropped significantly—to less than 15 percent nationwide.

Meanwhile, the Energy Information Administration (EIA), in its Annual Energy Outlook 2001, raised its own projections of electricity demand for the next 20 years because of projected increases in economic growth and the growth in electricity use for a variety of residential and commercial applications. To meet demand growth, EIA projects that 1,310 new plants—with a total of 393 gigawatts of capacity—will need to be built by 2020. The 393 gigawatts represents nearly a 47% increase over current installed capacity, or the ability to serve approximately 60 million additional customers.

The current tax law profoundly impacts a generator's bottom line, making it difficult to compete, and discourages the formation of much needed capital investment. The price spikes and major power outages in recent years, most notably in California, have brought this issue home to millions of people. By way of example, no significant new generation has been built in my state of California in more than a decade, despite higher than-expected growth in the demand for power.

Nationwide, the structure of the electric industry is rapidly changing from vertically-integrated, regulated monopolies to unbundled and fully competitive generation services— independent transmission companies and local distribution companies. Currently, 24 states and the District of Columbia, encompassing some 62% of the Nation's population, have either passed electric industry restructuring legislation or enacted regulatory orders to implement unbundling and competitive customer choice. In addition, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is promoting wholesale competition and the formation of regional transmission organizations. Because of the introduction of competition, previously applicable rules regarding the cost recovery of capital simply do not apply any longer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this urgently needed legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF
CARPENTERS LOCAL 1005 OF
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I congratulate the members of Carpenters Local 1005 of Merrillville, Indiana who will be honored at their 29th Annual Pin Recognition Banquet. The union members of Northwest Indiana have consistently demonstrated the work ethic and quality craftsmanship on which the community prides itself. The banquet, to be held on Saturday, May 12, 2001 at the St. Elijah Serbian American Hall in Merrillville, will be held in honor of those members who have completed between 20 and 65 years of service with the union. Also to be awarded are the Joe Manley Humanitarian Award, the Ken Castaldi Apprentice of the Year Award, and the Contractor of the Year Award.