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CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

POIII Jovito Jasmin; POII James G. Santos; POIII Michael A. Arcangel; POII John P. Aguon; POIII Ronald S. Taitano; POIII Michael A. Aguon; POII Scott G. Wade; POIII Richard A. Cress; POIII Joseph P. Leon Guerrero; POIII John A. Bagaforo; POIII Edward D. Charfauros; POII Arthur W.J. Paulino; POII John C. Castro; POII John V. Sablan; POII Samuel S. Bersamin, Jr.; POII Peter A. Pascua; POII Jesus T. Leon Guerrero; POII Darrylle C. Masnayan; POII Sean M. Untalan; POII Derrick J. Anderson; POII Roy N. Henriksen; POII Roque S. Cruz; POII Christopher S. Dawson; POII Tommy J. Salas; POII Orion J. Mendiola; POI David J. Munoz; POI Carl E.D. Castro; POI Edgar Z. Tiamzon; POI Tommy M. Benevente; POI Jerry A. Santos; POI Restituto J. Guevarra; POI James R. Nakamura; POI Sigfredo M. Pilipina; POI Paul N. Moore; POI Rogelio T. Retizo; POI Donald D. Nakamura; POI Sang Q. To; POI Edgar J. Orallo; POI Marvin Desamito; Civ. Helen E. Eustaquio; Civ. Miriquita S. Palacios; CVPR Victor M. Camacho; CVPR James N. Muna; CVPR Anthony J. Demapan; CVPR Randy A. Patague; CVPR Andrew R. Patague; CVPR Jose S.A. Lizama; CVPR Miguel C. Camacho; CVPR Ronaldo L. Delfin; CVPR Jeremiah DeChavez; CVPR Richard B. Veluz; CVPR Brian D. Awa; CVPR Orly I. Imanil; CVPR George F. Mendiola; CVPR Christopher W. Delucia; CVPR Frank M. Cassares; CVPR Josef F. Sablan; CVPR Joel R. Verango; CVPR Anthony J. Pangelinan, Jr.; CVPR John J. Balbin; CVPR Paul S.N. Tapao; CVPR Peter D. Wolford; CVPR Rodney P. Verango; CVPR Allan G. Estella; CVPR Albert G. Piolo; CVPR Mark I. Patricio; CVPR James T. Flores; CVPR Charles J. McDonald; CVPR Reynante G. Ponce.

RECOGNITION FOR TWO OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two teachers, Jack Ganse and Micheal Matassa of Superior, Colorado. Jack and Michael are eighth grade science and math teachers at Eldorado K-8 school. They have initiated a program in which their classes will work together to study how the tremendous population growth Superior has experienced effects the quality of the air, land, and water.

In this program, Jack and Michael have found a way to engage our children in a meaningful educational experience. This experience will engage the students in an issue that our civic leaders must wrestle with on a continuous basis. It will be an education in math and science and civics all at the same time.

As in many parts of the country, urban sprawl has become a great concern to the citi-

zens of Colorado. Superior has grown from a small, rural town of 250 residents in the mid-1980's to a community of nearly 9,000 residents according to the 2000 census. It holds the title of Colorado's fastest growing town. Jack and Michael and their students are going to investigate the effects of this growth on everything from wildlife to possible local climate change from all the new concrete. In addition to posting their findings on the school's web site, the classes will also provide the information to the town board, so that it can then be used to assist in municipal decisions.

Jack and Michael are two of only 55 pairs of teachers nation wide to earn a \$15,000 grant from Verizon to fund their project. This project will continue each year with each succeeding class picking it up and adding to the database.

At a time when unchecked growth is having detrimental impacts on our natural resources and environment, these two individuals are connecting our students' energies and knowledge to a pressing community need. They are teaching them that their studies can have a practical application, an application that will benefit the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally thank Jack Ganse and Michael Matassa for their selfless dedication to their community and to the education of the students to whom we entrust to them.

TRIBUTE TO INA SINGER

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ina Singer, an American patriot and dedicated public servant, who retires on May 30, 2001, from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

I first met Ina in 1969 when she came to the Coastal Bend of Texas after a hurricane. She was detailed to the Corpus Christi-Robstown, Texas, area to set up temporary housing for people who lost homes in the hurricane. It was the beginning of a long and beautiful friendship and professional relationship.

Ina is widely recognized as one of the best managers in the federal government. She is leaving the Directorship of Multifamily Housing in Baltimore, after a long and distinguished career in public service. Ina is a smart, tough motivator of people, and she has applied her considerable talents to improving public housing in the mid-Atlantic area since 1969.

Prior to her present position, Ina has held the following positions with HUD: Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multi-family Housing, Director of the Housing Management Division in the Baltimore Office, and a variety of positions in the mid-Atlantic area that provided her with a foundation of understanding asset management and property disposition, the staples of the work HUD does.

She is an extraordinary leader who motivates people and gets the job done. High performance ratings have followed Ina throughout her career at HUD, and her team consistently exceeds their goals. She is one of the "go-to" people at HUD when trouble pops up. She has been detailed all over the country to deal with troubled offices.

Ina has taken her no-nonsense attitude about the disposition of taxpayers' money and applied that to programs at HUD. Anybody can say yes, but Ina is the rare government creature who is unafraid to say "no" to people who would be bad partners or who would sell bad property.

In her current position, she expanded her responsibility from the Chesapeake Bay area to include other Maryland counties and the District of Columbia, forming valuable community partnerships and creating a virtual office in the greater Maryland-District of Columbia area.

In addition to all the work she does for HUD, she also gives of her time to national roles she views as important to furthering the mission at the Department. In 1990, Ina was awarded HUD's Distinguished Service Award for consistently going above and beyond the call of duty. She leaves HUD with the respect of her colleagues both locally and nationally.

Ina has a beautiful family: her husband Jon, and their children Meredith and Michael. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Ina Singer as she completes a distinguished lifetime of service to the United States as a tremendous steward of the public trust.

A TRIBUTE TO LEE QUARNSTROM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I am in the habit of paying tribute on this floor to constituents and persons who have made extraordinary contributions to our community. But words fall me when it comes to describing the life of one of Santa Cruz's finest newspaper columnists, Lee Quamstrom. Consequently, Mr. Speaker, I ask your indulgence in my sharing with the House the observations of Mr. Quamstrom's journalism colleagues on the event of his retirement:

Whereas, Lee Quamstrom has toiled for the San Jose Mercury News for nearly 20 years, covering daily events in Santa Cruz County, Monterey County as well as the great American West, and during that time has written literally more than a dozen news stories; and

Whereas, Lee has covered three generations of Santa Cruz County politicians, simultaneously indulging and insulting them; and

Whereas, Lee is the only man in Santa Cruz County to have made the psychedelic journey from Merry Prankster to Cranky Curmudgeon; and

Whereas, Lee has acted as a selfless champion of homeless rights, giving even the poorest among us the special privilege to call themselves "bums"; and

Whereas, Lee has been voted "Man of the Year" by the Santa Cruz Bicycling Club for his columns that have come flat out against capital punishment for cyclists; and

Whereas, Lee is the longest-standing member of the local journalistic community's honorary, limited organization, "The Three Biggest Jerks in Santa Cruz County," serving along with such notables as Dick Little, Steve Shender, Tom Honig, Bob Smith, Greg Beebe, Lane Wallace and Don Wilson; and

Whereas, Lee has been a friend, an advocate and an intellectual voice for all that is

good about journalism, Santa Cruz County and for all who ply their trade just trying to get a story in the paper without the copy desk screwing it up. He's funny, appropriately disrespectful and—perhaps the greatest praise of all—never boring to have around.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Lee Quamstrom has been the most memorable Santa Cruz resident ever and thus shall be allowed to dismantle the Santa Cruz lighthouse, brick by brick, and take it to the real Surf City, Huntington Beach in Orange County, Calif. As his buddy and former fellow columnist, James Trotter, put it:

"He might as well take the lighthouse because without Lee Quamstrom, Santa Cruz will never be the same place again."

HONORING BILL AND JULIE ESREY

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents from Kansas City who recently have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to their community.

William T. Esrey, Chairman and CEO of Sprint Corporation, and his wife Julie Esrey have been awarded the 2001 Star Award by the Kansas City Starlight Theater. The Starlight Theater is Kansas City's largest and oldest performing arts organization and is the second largest theatre of its kind in the United States. Founded in 1950, the Starlight Theatre is now in its 51st season.

This distinguished Star Award was presented the Esreys, who are Honorary Co-Chairs for the 15th Annual Starlight Theatre Benefit Gala on Saturday, May 19, 2001. The Star Award is given to honor those individuals who have made outstanding contributions and dedicated long-time service to Kansas City, making a difference in the community. The Esreys are honored with this award through countless hours worked in the community to help benefit an extensive list of community service organizations.

Under Bill Esrey's leadership, the Sprint Foundation has been a major benefactor of The Starlight Theater. Additionally over the past five years alone, Sprint has donated more than \$17 million in Sprint Foundation contributions and matching grants to organizations in greater Kansas City. Mr. Esrey also spearheaded the drive that raised millions of dollars for the rehabilitation of Union Station and the development of Science City, including \$9 million in Sprint contributions since 1991.

Julie Esrey has worked both for Exxon and as an international economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, as well as serving on the boards of Bank IV (Kansas), Duke University and Brown Shoe. In Kansas City, she has served as honorary Chairman, American Cancer Society Gala; Honorary Chairman, Lyric Opera Ball; Chairman, Children's Mercy Golf Classic; Chairman, March of Dimes Gourmet Gala; and Honorary Chairman, KCPT Speaking of Women's Health for 2001, as well as serving on the Central Governing Board of Children's Mercy Hospital from 1989 through 1995.

During Bill Esrey's tenure as CEO, Sprint has grown into a \$23 billion worldwide communications force and was named the most admired communications company in Fortune Magazine's survey of corporate reputation. Business Week named Esrey as one of the "Top 25" business executives in the world in 1997. Bill Esrey joined Sprint, then known as United Telecommunications, Inc., in 1980 as Executive Vice President of Corporate Planning. In 1984, Esrey led the effort to fundamentally reposition the company by entering the long distance market and building the nation's first all-digital fiber optic network. Today Sprint is a leader in the communications industry, which has emerged as one of the growth engines for the overall U.S. economy. Currently, Bill Esrey serves on the boards of Exxon-Mobil Corporation, Duke Energy Corporation and General Mills, Inc. He also is chairman of the Business Council and a member of The Business Roundtable.

In addition to their dedication to the community and their careers, Bill and Julie are dedicated to each other and their family. Married since 1964, they have two grown children, Bill Jr. and John, who have participated in many local activities and follow in their parent's footsteps in giving back to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Bill and Julie Esrey on receiving the 2001 Star Award. Their dedication to the Kansas City community and their family is an example to all of us of the difference individuals can achieve who have dedicated their lives to making the world a better place. Thank you Bill and Julie.

FERS REDEPOSIT ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, there is no debate over whether the federal government is facing a crisis—it is. Reports indicate that about 30 percent of the government's 1.6 million full-time employees will be eligible to retire within five years, and an additional 20 percent could seek early retirement. Furthermore, 65 percent of the Senior Executive Service will be eligible for retirement by 2004.

One hearing has been held and numerous editorials have been written about the impending workforce shortage, but very few specific policy changes have been suggested. Today I am introducing legislation that takes a step in the right direction. The FERS Redeposit Act would allow individuals who left the federal government and received a refund of their Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) contributions to reenter government service without losing their accrued annuity. Instead of forfeiting credit earned during their prior service, returning employees would be able to redeposit their cashed out annuity upon reentrance. This benefit is already available to federal employees who are registered under the older Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).

Retiring federal employees represent the institutional knowledge and expertise needed to run the government, and we must pro-actively address this drain on our human capital. Creating incentives for federal employees who left

for the private sector to return to government service is one way to address this problem. Studies indicate that a key trait of younger workers, who are covered by FERS, is their increased professional mobility. FERS's design implicitly acknowledges this fact by incorporating a portable private sector-style Thrift Savings Plan and 401(K) plan. It is ironic that those federal workers who are in CSRS—most of whom have worked their entire careers in the federal government—have a redeposit option while the younger FERS employees do not.

As more and more FERS employees leave the federal government and later wish to reenter federal service, a redeposit option would provide the incentive needed to bring these individuals back to the government.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to make federal service more attractive by co-sponsoring this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the value of agriculture research and the contribution it makes to the lives of U.S. producers and consumers.

Over the past few months, American livestock producers have closely followed the latest international news. We have watched nervously as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) has ravaged the United Kingdom's livestock community, and as it has marched into the European mainland, the Middle East, Asia and South America.

To date, around 1,560 sites in Britain have been hit by the highly contagious virus. Now, Brazil is the latest country suspected of hosting the disease. Moreover, FMD has cost the world's cattle, hog and sheep industries billions of dollars. Britain's meat industry estimates the highly-contagious disease has cost it \$12 million a week in lost sales leaving the UK with a bill of more than \$4.3 billion just to halt and destroy the disease.

All of this begs the question: How do we best protect American livestock from animal ailments such as FMD and mad cow disease?

In the new global market, it is only a matter of time before the rest of the world's diseases come knocking on America's door. Considering my district—Colorado's Fourth District—is a leader in livestock sales, and that the U.S. livestock industry generates \$55 billion a year, we must be able to defend our livestock from threats like FMD by means of science and technology, instead of relying only on border checks, federal agents and good luck.

Nor is new legislation the answer for the long term. The real key to prevention lies in agricultural research and development. It makes sense to take a proactive approach in protecting and improving America's livestock. Such research leads to the discovery of new uses for ag products, which in turn boosts demand.

I was surprised to learn that even though agriculture receives less than two percent of the federal research budget, productivity in the