

the accomplishments of Mr. Francisco Garcia. Mr. Garcia is the Founder and CEO of Integrated Information Technology Corporation, and through his company he has provided employment opportunities to 360 Coloradans in his eight offices. Francisco Garcia lives his business life by the motto: "Treat others with the same level of respect, professionalism and fairness that you wish to be treated", and I am proud to bring forth his accomplishments before this body of Congress.

Francisco has two degrees, a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from the University of Texas-San Antonio, and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Ohio University in Athens. He also served our country in the United States Air Force as a Communications Officer where he achieved the rank of captain. Later in life, Mr. Garcia established his own company to provide important satellite, communications, network and installation services to the state of Colorado. His good fortune and quality business ethics have earned him many awards, including the SBA Region VIII Subcontractor of the Year in 2002, the Denver Post Minority-Owned Business of the Year in 2001, the Family Business Award in 2001, and also the SBA's National Minority Small Business Person of the Year in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the accomplishments of this pillar of the Denver Business community. Francisco Garcia has been a great asset to the State of Colorado and to the world of communications. Francisco, I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

JULY 4TH ADDRESS BY MAYOR
ROBERT BLOMQUIST OF
OLMSTED FALLS, OH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to share a 4th of July speech given by Robert Blomquist, Mayor of Olmsted Falls. Mayor Blomquist eloquently spoke of the values and principles on which our country was founded that we must remember and cherish on Independence Day.

Welcome to the City of Olmsted Falls 4th of July festivities. Five weeks ago we gathered here to honor and remember the members of our countries' armed forces whom paid with their lives for the ideas behind the event and document that we celebrate today, the anniversary of the signing, and adoption, by the continental congress, or the declaration of independence.

Today is just not about the birth of a nation. Today is a day in which we pay respect and tribute to the men that pulled together in one document, the most comprehensive and complete ordered thoughts about the nature of man, the nature of government, and how human beings can exist to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The careful thinking that is the fabric of our great nation. A statement of how we can be free as individuals, but still coexist in a structured and orderly society.

When I think about the history of our country, I am so grateful that I am a citizen of the United States, that my children and I are the beneficiaries of the ideals of the best human nature.

Think with me for a moment.

This land is the product of a unique confluence of the evolution of technology, economics, politics, and the nature of man. In the 17th century it became technically and economically possible for European powers to claim and settle lands beyond their boundaries. Politically Spain, France and Great Britain competed to exploit their claims in the new world and expand their influence.

The original 13 colonies were settled between 1607 and 1732, by Great Britain. It took 125 years and began 170 years before the birth of our nation. People first came as agents of the king to exploit the natural resources, and later came to escape the king and a situation where men were not recognized as being created equal, but where it was believed that men were given rights by station of birth.

At the time this land was being settled. The ideas of what is the true natural state of man. What is freedom and liberty? What is the role of government? What are the divine rights of the king as a sovereign? Should a king truly govern without the consent of his subject people? These ideas were being explored by such philosophers as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean Jacques Rousseau. At the time the colonies were flourishing.

These ideas flourished with the American colonies. They took root and grew in the minds of both the intellectual and the layman as natural state of the human desire to be free and independent itself.

We know that this led to the events of our American Revolution. As we openly rebelled against an unjust king we still tried to organize ourselves and our government to better reflect mans desires.

The declaration of independence when you read it was nothing more than an indictment and redress of grievances in the literal sense. It was an announcement to the world of the reasoning behind the rebellion. When Congress adopted the declaration of July 4, 1776, England virtually ignored it. It received a 6 line mention in the London Morning Post, just below a theater notice. But on these shores it galvanized a people, to expend treasure and lives to fight for the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that we still enjoy today.

The Declaration of Independence was the product of the best thinking on social and political philosophy of the time. It became the blueprint of our constitution. And continues to this day to inspire men to pledge their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

In the year that has just passed, between today, and last year's celebration we again find it necessary to defend the foundation of our freedoms enjoyed as Americans.

At the time Jefferson wrote it and 56 men signed it and were declared treasonous, and sentenced to death, no one knew what would happen as a result of the Declaration of Independence. We have the advantage of 226 years of history to evaluate and appreciate this event.

Shortly before his death in 1826, Thomas Jefferson also had the advantage of the passage of time to reflect. The following is a passage of a letter written by Jefferson, as he had to decline an invitation to Washington City to celebrate Independence Day because of ill health. Expressing his regrets that he could not join with the small group of worthy gentlemen who created and signed the declaration, he said, "I should have indeed delighted to gather with an exchanged congratulations with those who joined with us to have elected to not submit to the sword, and to enjoyed with our fellow citizens after a half century of prosperity to continue of the choice we made. To assume

the blessings of self government that restores the right of the exercise of reason and freedom of opinion. All eyes are open to the rights of man. For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights and our devotion to them."

A TRIBUTE TO REBEKAH REVELS MISS NORTH CAROLINA 2002

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rebekah Revels who was recently crowned Miss North Carolina 2002. A native of St. Pauls in my home county of Robeson and a teacher at my alma mater, Lumberton Senior High School, Rebekah's recent accomplishment is a source of immense pride throughout our county and all of south-eastern North Carolina.

The American historian, James Truslow Adams, once said, "Seek out that particular mental attribute which makes you feel most deeply and vitally alive, along with which comes the inner voice which says, 'This is the real me,' and when you have found that attitude, follow it." With dedication and determination, Rebekah has followed her heart and mind and become Miss North Carolina 2002.

Rebekah is a woman of dedication who does not rest on her laurels. Having held the past titles of Junior Miss Lumbee, Miss Lumbee, Miss University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Miss St. Pauls and Miss Fayetteville, Rebekah has kept the fire and energy alive to reach her dream of Miss North Carolina. She is a woman of dedication who provides a positive example for all to follow.

Rebekah is a very determined young woman. She set the goal of becoming Miss North Carolina and worked tirelessly to achieve this high distinction. She now will use this same drive and determination to inform people all across North Carolina of the devastating effects of Alzheimer's disease.

Rebekah, thank you for your dedication and your determination. We wish you continued success, and may God's strength, peace and joy be with you as you begin your reign as Miss North Carolina 2002 and as you compete for the title of Miss America.

TRIBUTE TO THE REGISTERS OF WILLS AND CLERKS OF OR- PHANS' COURT

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Registers of Wills & Clerks of Orphans' Court (ROW/OC), comprising Pennsylvania's 67 counties, for their 75th Anniversary as a state association. This organization is a collective group of elected professionals who have come together to learn from one another and to work as one body. By doing this, they have succeeded in creating one set of standards, procedures, rules, and statutes that are used statewide.

First organized in 1927, the ROW/OC Association of Pennsylvania, has strived to promote more effective government by concentrating on the priorities of information dissemination, education, and legislation. To best do this, they conduct an annual statewide conference for their members, which is an effective forum for education and the sharing of information. The result of this hard work, is the creation of a critical link between Pennsylvania's various departments, agencies, and the public who depend on these offices for a wide variety of purposes.

I would like to once again congratulate the Register of Wills & Clerks of Orphans' Court Association of Pennsylvania on their 75th Anniversary as a state association and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

COMMENDING JASON HIBNER

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct a national audio essay contest entitled the Voice of Democracy. 85,000 secondary school students participated this year on the theme, Reaching Out to America's Future. Jason Hibner, a young man from my congressional district, took second place with his entry, and was awarded the \$16,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship. Jason has just completed his junior year at Vandalia-Butler High School. I am pleased to insert his remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

2001-2002 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

"REACHING OUT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE"

The train ride must have been nearly unbearable. The biting cold, so unlike the warmth of the Hawaiian harbor, likely did nothing to dull the pain of his recent losses as the iron machine chugged along the parallel tracks. The telegram giving word of his father's death had come only a week prior, it would be difficult to comfort his sister and mother with the tragedy of his brother's death also fresh in their minds. The date was December 7, 1941. The title, "a date that shall live in infamy" would come later as would the declaration of war. But for my great uncle Arthur the day would mark the grimmest day of his life. He should have been there, at Pearl Harbor, as all his friends and fellow crewmen were when the Zeroes began dropping their deadly cargo. Such cruel irony, only his personal tragedies had prevented the loss of his own life. The thoughts of friends dying to the West and his family grieving to the East must have made the long ride nearly unbearable.

In December of '41, the world changed for every American young and old. The threat to our liberty could not be questioned; it could only be answered with such extra ordinary force and purpose. However, the war was won, not by the adults who earlier questioned the next generation's patriotism, but by the young men and women who were pulled from their homes and thrown into battle for all those who would come after. Today we call them "The Greatest Generation," once they were called the future of America.

Within my own short lifetime, I can remember another period when everyone felt it was time to create some more patriotism

and concern for our nation. That time was roughly from the moments during my childhood as coherent thoughts began to fill my mind to a date that shall always occupy a front position in my memory: September 11, 2001. Now, no one acts concerned about the need to teach the cost of freedom. We just want to go back to that time, before America once again lost her innocence as children watched from their school room desks both the toppling of the World Trade Center Towers and the disappearance of hope from their teachers' faces.

The young people of America's future will not have the luxury of being gently educated by the wiser members who have experienced Vietnam and Desert Storm. Instead, they have been ripped from their shelter of indifference into the ultimate struggle of good versus evil, a united nation against a radical terror network. The leaders of America have been handed a burden of monstrous proportions for the terrorists' instrument of evil has also become an image demanding retaliation for the American people. Today, the concern of reaching out to America's future has become a universal thread, weaving together all the citizens of this great nation.

America's future is unclear. But it has always been so from first cries of revolution, to the separation of the Union, to the grinding of war on Normandy Beach. Our future citizens of this country may live with daily threats of violence and the fearful anxiety of what will come next. But as Benjamin Franklin once declared, "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety * * *". The American way will continue as long as there are Americans to sustain it.

Before, I could only imagine the thoughts of my great-uncle during that long ride home. Now we, America's youth, are riding the same journey across the fruited plains and under the spacious skies of America the Beautiful. The parallel tracks of hardened metal resemble the tracks of change through the history of our nation. Often there will be treacherous turns and steep declines, but America always levels herself and turns to the morning dawn. My generation is the future of America and we will fight for liberty and freedom just as all those before us.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TED ALBERS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay respect to the passing of Ted Albers, who recently passed away at the age of 78. Ted was the former Mesa College president-Administrator who helped reform higher education in Western Colorado to meet vocational and academic ambitions. Ted is credited as an innovative thinker who not only transformed Mesa College from a community college into an accredited four year institution but also preserved the two-year aspects of the institution so that Mesa could continue offering associate degrees and vocational certification.

Ted was born in the small Northwestern Colorado town of Maybell and became a teacher and principal at Rio Blanco High School in Meeker in 1949. He went on to become an administrator for the University of Colorado extension division in Grand Junction and served as an assistant superintendent of

School District 51. In 1969, he returned to receive higher education at Denver Community College and then returned to Mesa in 1970.

Ted's leadership guided Mesa College on a course geared toward providing young adults with a quality and affordable education aimed to meet as many needs as possible in western Colorado. Ted was almost perfectly suited to the job of reshaping Mesa because he was first and foremost an educator in the highest sense of the word.

Ted is survived by his wife, Maxine, who served as a Mesa County Commissioner for 15 years and his two children, T.L. and Rhonda. Throughout his life Ted remained a strong supporter of the Mesa State College and its role in the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that we remember Ted Albers. He was a remarkable man whose innovative teaching techniques have educated thousands of people and whose good deeds deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. The impact of Ted's life on those with whom he has come in contact is a testament to this great man. I would like to express my condolences to the family of Ted Albers.

IN RECOGNITION OF FATHER BYRON COLLINS OF THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINA- TION INTO THE PRIESTHOOD

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 21, 2002, a gentleman who has been a friend to many of us in this chamber over the last quarter century, Father T. Byron Collins, S.J., celebrated the golden anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood. He entered the Jesuit Order in September, 1940.

Through fifty years of ordained priesthood, Father Collins has left a lasting impression on the lives of many devout Catholics. Virtually every weekend, Father Collins travels over 150 miles round trip to say Mass at Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church in Centreville on Maryland's Eastern Shore. During the week, he is an active presence on the campus of Georgetown University where he not only has played a major role in shaping the physical presence of that institution, but has also enhanced the understanding of the Catholic faith among the students. Now in his eighth decade of life, Father Collins is still seen rowing on the Chesapeake Bay and bicycling in the vicinity of the Georgetown campus. This is a man who is living life to the fullest and continuing in many ways to serve his faith.

I know that Father Collins is immensely proud—in his very humble way—of having been able to play a significant role in the life of Georgetown University, the Nation's oldest Catholic university. Likewise, I know that many of us in this House have come to admire and respect this man of the cloth. He has been a friend who has been with us in times of joy and of tribulation. He is to be commended for the fifty years of service he has provided since his ordination.