

the river. He immediately jumped into the hole to help the tourists and saved them in a matter of minutes. Several of Spc. Loehner's colleagues successfully directed onlookers away from the chaotic scene.

Mr. Speaker, Spc. Kenneth Loehner and the other Guardsmen involved have distinguished themselves by going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the safety of others. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in congratulating them on a job well done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEITH WIER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before you to recognize the personal achievements of Mr. Keith Wier, of Denver, Colorado. Keith's contributions to environmental technology have been implemented throughout Colorado, our nation, and the world. Moreover, his tireless efforts to preserve our ecosystem have led to the creation of new methodologies for the disposing of toxins.

Keith has used his MBA in Real Estate and Finance in all but the obvious manner. He has devoted his career to the development and manufacture of international products used in nuclear instrumentation. Keith's formation of the Resonant Shock Compaction in 1997 dramatically improved existing methods for contaminated granular waste disposal. He has also capitalized on grants received from the U.S. Department of Energy and the City of Denver Mayor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade to work jointly with the Japanese in the modernization of environmental export programs. In addition, Keith founded an international conglomerate of utility companies that studied the formation of construction products from coal burning byproducts. The published results helped commence the development of industries in India and Japan based on his research and findings.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride I rise today to pay tribute for the works of Keith Wier. The results of his research have transformed former waste into necessary products, which has helped local agencies and the environment in numerous ways. Congratulations Keith and good luck in your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I regret that a pressing family matter yesterday forced me to miss recorded vote numbers 296, 297, and 298.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3482, the Cyber Security Enhancement Act, and H.R. 4755, the Clarence Miller Post Office Building Designation Act. I would have voted "nay" on H.R. 3479, the National Aviation Capacity Expansion Act.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Assistance League of Charlotte on its tenth anniversary.

The Assistance League of Charlotte is a volunteer organization that has dedicated ten years of hard work to bettering the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community and is deserving of public recognition and commendation.

This nonprofit organization was founded in 1992 as the 93rd chapter of the National Assistance League. Its volunteer members are dedicated to identifying, developing, implementing and funding philanthropic projects to serve the needs of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. In 2001–2002, 113 members devoted almost 26,000 hours of community service to local children.

Its motto is Changing Lives for a Better Community, and the League has certainly lived by this credo, working tirelessly to enrich and uplift the people of Charlotte. Through philanthropic projects such as Operation Check Hunger, Operation School Bell, the Mecklenburg County Teen Court, and a scholarship fund for Charlotte-area seniors, the Assistance League of Charlotte has continually demonstrated its outstanding ability to enact real and beneficial changes in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community.

I am honored to recognize Assistance League of Charlotte on its tenth anniversary and to extend my heartfelt thanks to its members for their vision and integrity in serving the people of Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

HONORING JAMES E. BURTON

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. James Burton as he ends his tenure as the Chief Executive Officer of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS). As his friends, family and colleagues all gather to celebrate his departure from over 25 years of public service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the dedicated service of this truly distinguished citizen of Sacramento.

Jim Burton came to the California Public Employees' Retirement System in 1992 and was appointed CEO in 1994. During his eight years of guiding the fund, total assets increased 30 percent and now total over \$150 billion. His leadership has provided the 1.3 million California public employees, retirees and their families with a secure future.

Jim's time at CalPERS will not only be remembered by the funds' outstanding growth, but also by his commitment to the participating employees. Providing enrollees with exceptional customer service was high on his list of concerns. This can be seen in the organization's first strategic plan, which he helped shape.

In addition to leading CalPERS through a time of remarkable growth, Jim has served on numerous boards and committees of many prestigious organizations. These include the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, the Council of Institutional Investors, and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. He also is a former Blue Ribbon Commission member of the National Association of Corporate Directors.

In recognition of his excellent work in serving the public employees of California, Jim was recently named Outstanding Public Administrator by the Sacramento Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

His service to the citizens of California, which has spanned the course of four decades, will surely be missed. Yet, his commitment to the employees of California and their families will undoubtedly serve as a model for others to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most distinguished citizens, James Burton. His successes have been great, and it is a wonderful opportunity for me to recognize his many contributions to the people of California. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing my friend, Jim Burton, continued success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS, SUE NEUSTIFTER, UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant upon the occasion of her retirement. Sue Neustifter, the elected Register of Deeds of Douglas County, Kansas, which is located in the Third Congressional District, retired at the end of last month after holding that office since her first election in 1972, and after having worked for Douglas County for 43 years.

Sue Neustifter was elected to the Douglas County Courthouse in 1972, as one of the group of Democratic candidates whose election in Douglas County in that year marked the real beginning of two-party politics in the home of Lawrence and the University of Kansas. She joined the Register of Deeds office on June 1, 1959, just a few days after graduating from Eudora High School. With the exception of one six month period when she left the office to campaign for the position of Register, Sue served in the office continuously until July 1st of this year. Elected thirty years ago, she was re-elected her last seven times on the ballot without any formal opposition.

As an active member of the Kansas Register of Deeds Association, Sue has served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of that group; she also has been a part of many Lawrence community organizations, such as Soroptimist International of Lawrence, Lawrence Business Women, the local legal secretaries' group, and the Lions' Club, where she was awarded "Lion of the Year" in 2001. She also received a 40-year award from the Kansas Association of Counties.

Now that Sue has handed the keys of the Register's office over to Kay Pesnell, so that she can spend more time with her daughter, Sandra, son-in-law, Terry, and three grandchildren—Paige, Kalia and Tyler—it is fitting, Mr. Speaker, to include in today's RECORD a recent article from the Lawrence Journal-World that reviews the tenure and accomplishments of this dedicated and deservedly popular Kansas public servant. On behalf of the citizens of Douglas County, I wish her all the best upon her much deserved retirement and ask unanimous consent to reprint the article below.

[From the Lawrence Journal-World, June 4, 2002]

REGISTER OF DEEDS LEAVES LEGACY OF
GROWTH, EFFICIENCY
(By Mark Fagan)

Sue Neustifter is closing the book on a 43-year career at the hub of Douglas County's development industry.

Make that the disk drive.

"We've gone from typewritten to photostat to microfilm to scanning now," said Neustifter, who has overseen the recording of thousands of land transfers as the country's register of deeds. "It's easier now, but the work has tripled."

Neustifter, in her ninth term as the county's elected register of deeds, said Monday that she would retire effective July 1. She will leave behind an office that generated an unprecedented \$2.46 million in revenues last year for the county, bolstered by a record year for taxes on new and refinanced mortgages throughout the growing community.

And the tally is poised to grow even stronger.

Beginning the day Neustifter leaves office, mortgage-registration fees will go up by \$2 per page, as mandated by the Kansas Legislature. The extra money will be used to upgrade technology in her office, which already has started transferring hundreds of rolls of microfilm onto dozens of compact discs for posterity.

For an office that records pages at break-neck speed—1,000 pages last Friday alone—Neustifter's efficiency and proclivity will be missed, said Craig Weinaug, county administrator.

The information kept in Neustifter's office forms the basis of virtually every land transfer in the county, and is relied upon by Realtors, title companies and property owners alike.

Last year Neustifter and her seven employees faxed, photocopied and pulled enough documents—at \$1, 50 cents and 25 cents a pop, respectively—for customers to add \$20,930 to the county's budget.

"I've never heard one peep of complaint about anything out of your office," Commissioner Charles Jones said, after joining a standing ovation to applaud her work. "And you're the cast cow."

Neustifter joined the register of deeds office June 1, 1959, just days after graduating from Eudora High School. She started as a clerk, and worked her way up before quitting in 1972—for six months—only so that she could run for the top job.

A Democrat, she won that race and every one since, including the last seven without any formal opposition. Neustifter intends to recommend that Kay Pesnell, who has worked for her for the past 12 years, be appointed by the county's Democratic Central Committee to serve out the remaining two years of Neustifter's term.

Her 30 years in office marks one of the longest tenures of any elected official in Kansas—a testimony to her competence, work ethic and community involvement."

said Carrie Moore, chair of the county's Democratic Party.

The party's central committee is scheduled to meet June 17 to appoint a new register of deeds.

A few weeks later, Neustifter, 63, intends to be on the road to Michigan to visit her daughter and three grandchildren.

"I'm ready to retire," she said.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATRICK
SULLIVAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Sheriff Patrick Sullivan, Jr. of Arapahoe County, Colorado and thank him for his extraordinary contributions to his community and to his state. As a resident of Arapahoe County, Patrick has dedicated his career to protecting the community by selflessly devoting his time and energy to his job, his family, and his community. His remarkable nineteen years as sheriff serve as a symbol of the commitment that Patrick feels for the Arapahoe County Sheriff's department and the protection of Colorado residents. As we celebrate the accomplishments of his fine career, let it be known that I, along with the people of Colorado, applaud his efforts and are eternally grateful for all that he has done for his community.

Sheriff Sullivan received his law enforcement training from several institutions including the FBI National Academy Sheriffs' Institute; the Juvenile Officers' Institute, California Specialized Training Institute, Special Tactical Firearms Course, and the Special Weapons and Tactics Course (SWAT). During his tenure as sheriff of Arapahoe County he led the department in becoming the first sheriff's office to national accreditation under the 908 professional standards established by the commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

During Patrick's time as Sheriff, Arapahoe County has hosted several Presidential events and a Papal visit, as well as co-hosting the 1997 G-8 summit with the City of Denver. Each of these events presented security and terrorist threats that required significant preparation and uncommon diligence. In every event, Sheriff Sullivan and his men met the challenges presented by such high profile security details; professionalism and skill have been their hallmark throughout Patrick's tenure. Here in Washington, Sheriff Sullivan has shared his expert knowledge with me and my colleagues, having advised and testified before subcommittees of this House that deal with Crime and Trade, areas in which he has been able to provide us with invaluable guidance and wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Sheriff Patrick Sullivan is a man of unparalleled dedication and commitment to his job, his community and his country. It is his dedication to hard work, as well as the spirit of integrity and selflessness, that I wish to bring before this body of Congress, and our nation. Sheriff Sullivan has honorably served his state and nation, and it is my privilege to extend to him my sincere congratulations on his retirement and to wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER L. JOHNSON

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to an extraordinary man and a dear friend of mine, Mr. Walter L. Johnson, a member of the San Francisco Labor Council, who is to be honored by the San Mateo Labor Council at its annual banquet on July 18th, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, Walter Johnson was raised in North Dakota, and like many men of his generation he gallantly served our country during World War II. After his discharge in 1946, like many wise men of that day, he moved to San Francisco, where he obtained a job as an appliance salesperson with Sears Roebuck, and immediately joined the Department Store Employees' Union Local 1100.

From his earliest working days, Walter showed a deep commitment to racial equality, which is best highlighted by the key role he played in 1958, when he was instrumental in helping the first African American woman work behind the counter at Woolworth's. That same year, he was elected President of Local 1100. By 1964, he was elected to a senior leadership position: Secretary Treasurer of the Department Store Employees Union. He was re-elected a remarkable eleven times. In 1965 he became Executive Officer of the Union.

In the spring of 1985, Walter Johnson was elected Secretary Treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council, a position he has held since that time. Under his guidance, the Council continues to work for the laudable goal of providing employment, advantageous wages and benefits for its members. Serving over 100 Unions and over 75,000 workers in San Francisco, Walter Johnson is the voice of labor in the Bay area.

Mr. Speaker, Walter Johnson and his lovely wife Jane are residents of South San Francisco, which is in my congressional district. They are the proud parents of three children and five grandchildren. Aside from working closely with many union leaders, he also interacts with community groups, elected officials, and religious leaders to promote issues that enhance the quality of life for working people. Strengthening his position as an advocate for working men and women, he serves on various boards and committees, including the United Way of the Bay Area, the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee and Our Redeemers Lutheran Church.

Walter is the recipient of numerous awards, which are far too many to enumerate, but I will mention a few key ones. He has provided valuable direction as President of the James F. Housewright—United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), Scholarship Fund, and he is a member of the UFCW Advisory Board, the International's Foreign Affairs Committee, and its National Department Store Committee.

Moreover, Walter has been a member of the board of directors of the San Francisco Private Industry Council, Arriba Juntos, the Bay Pacific Health Plan, the Council for Civic Unity, KQED-TV, the Organized Training Center, the Board of the San Francisco Bay Area Girl Scout Council, the Center for Ethics and Social Policy, the Shelter Network, the Death