

this action to the list of mistakes made by the Johnson administration.

The Marines were replaced by an Organization of American States presence, order was restored and President Balaguer returned to his native land. He and his Social Christian Reform Party won the 1966 presidential race, despite charges of fraud, and went on to win two more consecutive terms.

Newsweek, which characterized President Balaguer as "slight, ascetic and sad-eyed," reported in 1965 that he was "neither an orator, nor a schemer," adding that many Dominicans considered him "an honest, kindly reformer."

President Balaguer lost the 1978 and 1982 presidential races, then was again victorious in 1986. He won reelection in 1996 (defeating Bosch) and in 1994. Two years later, after increasing criticism for vote fraud in the 1994 election, he resigned. He was unsuccessful in a 2000 bid to return to the presidency.

President Balaguer received mixed marks as head of his country. Soon after he took office the first time, critics were stifled, many going into exile while others were imprisoned or disappeared. Vote fraud and corruption seemed constants in the Dominican Republic, regardless of who was president.

He instituted large-scale public works, including the enormous 1992 Christopher Columbus Lighthouse. President Balaguer also brought about modest reforms and made a weekly habit of walking through his nation's small villages, visiting residents and passing out toys to children and medicine to the sick and listening to the desires of all.

Through it all, he managed to largely keep in the good graces of the United States, with the Dominican Republic becoming a huge recipient of U.S. foreign aid.

President Balaguer, whose only interests were colliers and antique cars, never married and had no children. He wrote books, including volumes of poetry and political science. He was fluent in English and French as well as Spanish.

But politics became his life. He was head of his political party until his death, continuing to broker political deals and to counsel not only his party colleagues but other high figures, including presidents, as well.

In the 1980s, when foes tried to use his blindness against him during a presidential run, he said, "I will not be asked to thread needles when in office."

Joaquin Balaguer Ricardo was born in the small town of Villa Bisono, the only son of eight children. His father was born in Puerto Rico of Castilian descent. His mother was a Dominican of Spanish blood.

The future president, who won a poetry award as a teenager, graduated with a degree in philosophy and letters from the Normal School in Santiago and was a 1929 graduate of the University of Santo Domingo law school. He was a state attorney in the land court before entering the foreign service in 1932. He served in Madrid and then in Paris, where he received a doctorate in law and political economy from the University of Paris in 1934.

In 1936, he was named undersecretary of state for the presidency. In the 1940s, he served as ambassador to Colombia and Venezuela. He entered the cabinet as secretary of education and culture in 1949 and became secretary of foreign affairs in 1954. He also taught law at the University of Santo Domingo before becoming vice president in 1957 and president in 1960.

He defended the Trujillo years as a time when a strong hand was needed to rule a backward nation not yet ready for democracy.

Yet in his 1988 autobiography, President Balaguer admitted that his first presidency, when he was the figurehead chief of state for

the brutal and bloody Trujillo, was "the saddest and most humiliating" time in his political life.

President Balaguer also had at times deplored the "unavoidable excesses" of his own security forces and deplored corruption, though stoutly maintaining that corruption stopped at his door.

## IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LA-Z-BOY, INC.

### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to La-Z-Boy, Incorporated, which was founded and remains headquartered in my Congressional District in Monroe, Michigan. La-Z-Boy is celebrating 75 years of bringing comfort, quality and style into homes and offices worldwide through its extensive selection of furniture.

The La-Z-Boy story is the story of the American dream. On March 24, 1927, in Monroe, Michigan, two young entrepreneurs and cousins, Edward M. Knabusch and Edwin J. Shoemaker, left the security of their jobs to take a leap of faith and begin manufacturing a unique and innovative product. A porch chair wrapped in fabric was the prototype for the La-Z-Boy recliner, a moniker that has become a worldwide household term. Using money from Edwin's mortgaged family farm and donations from relatives, the cousins built their first factory by hand, brick by brick. After introducing the revolutionary chair that both rocked and reclined, La-Z-Boy sales skyrocketed. La-Z-Boy evolved from a small business to having a place on the New York Stock Exchange.

La-Z-Boy has grown immensely in its 75 years of operation. The company has added many new products and features over the years, which have enabled it to remain competitive in the furniture industry since its founding. La-Z-Boy has grown from "two guys in a garage" to nearly 19,000 employees worldwide. Today, La-Z-Boy generates annual sales in excess of \$2 billion, making it the largest manufacturer of upholstered furniture and the world's leading producer of reclining chairs.

La-Z-Boy is a great success and consistently shares its good fortune with the community of Monroe. Its philanthropy is rooted in small town values that prevailed when Mr. Knabusch and Mr. Shoemaker first launched the company. During World War II, La-Z-News kept the community informed about overseas news, and the company rented out garages to build the most comfortable tank seats and crash pads in the country. La-Z-Boy continues being very much involved in the city of Monroe and is a major asset to Michigan's 16th Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I would like you to join me in commending the La-Z-Boy corporation and its employees for their leadership in both their industry and in their community, as we celebrate their 75th anniversary.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent March 12 through 14 for medical reasons. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 53-54, 56-61, 63-64 and "no" on rollcall votes 55 and 62.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT MICHAEL THOMAS FLETCHER, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

### HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement, it is my pleasure to recognize an exceptional United States Marine, Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Thomas Fletcher. Master Gunnery Sergeant Fletcher has served our Nation with distinction for over three decades in the United States Marine Corps, rising from Private to Master Gunnery Sergeant. He has served in times of both war and peace and has gone from patrolling the jungles of Vietnam to walking the halls of Congress. During the Vietnam War, he was awarded: the Combat Action Ribbon; the Vietnam Service Medal with one star; the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; and the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation of the Gallantry Cross. His personal awards have included two Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals, a Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and he has been recently recommended for the Legion of Merit.

During Master Gunnery Sergeant Fletcher's last six years of service, he has been the Administration Chief in the United States Marine Corps' Office of Legislative Affairs. That office supports Members of Congress and Congressional committees in matters of legislation, protocol, and logistics for Congressional travel. Master Gunnery Sergeant Fletcher brought a wealth of managerial expertise and leadership to this office and contributed significantly to the successful accomplishment of its mission.

During these six years, Master Gunnery Sergeant Fletcher has helped carry the Corp's message to the Congress. He has enabled the Marine Corps' Office of Legislative Affairs to provide consistent and timely responses to the United States Congress, and in doing so, has made a lasting contribution in the containment of today's readiness and shape of tomorrow's Marine Corps. Particularly noteworthy have been his efforts in directing, organizing, and escorting Members of Congress and their staffs around the world. His attention to detail in making these important trips logistically successful is yet another indication of this Marine's talent and professionalism.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Fletcher has made immeasurable contributions to both today's Marine Corps' and to the Corps of the 21st Century. His superior performance of duties highlights the culmination of more than 30 years of honorable and dedicated Marine Corps service. By his exemplary competence,

sound judgment, and total dedication to duty, he has served well this body, the United States Marine Corps and our Nation. Please join me in wishing Master Gunnery Sergeant Fletcher, his wife, Barbara, and their sons, Joel and Gary, all the best as he begins this new chapter in life.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE 13-COUNTY MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH ALABAMA

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the North Alabama 13-County Emergency Management/Civil Defense Mutual Assistance Association as it celebrates over three decades of dedicated service to the North Alabama community. The association, which dates as far back as 1971, consists of the Emergency Management officials in Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan and Winston Counties across North Alabama. This organization has tirelessly protected countless lives in Alabama over the last thirty years, and I rise on behalf of my constituents in North Alabama to express my sincere appreciation to these EMAs.

Formally organized in December 1978, the association was established with a purpose of working together among the thirteen counties across North Alabama to help each other protect lives and property in a coordinated, efficient, reliable and effective way during times of emergencies that exceed the capabilities of any single affected local government. The association works closely with the State of Alabama Emergency Management Agency to better facilitate effective response to critical situations.

The EMAs from these thirteen counties had the foresight over three decades ago to recognize a concept that is today strongly advocated by all levels of government, that being, just how critical it is to cooperate across artificial jurisdictional boundaries in order to respond to emergencies. And now, when securing our homeland and preparing for emergency response is of utmost importance, the rest of the country has begun to realize the value of this kind of cross-district cooperation by strongly promoting and requiring mutual aid and regional response capabilities. I want to commend the North Alabama EMAs in the 13-County Mutual Assistance Association who have worked so hard to protect the livelihood of North Alabama citizens.

The 13-County Mutual Assistance Association serves as a standard for EMAs across our nation. In today's uncertain world, our first responders have to be ready to react quickly and effectively to large-scale emergency situations that cross city and county lines. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of North Alabama, I am pleased to recognize and thank the 13-County Mutual Assistance Association of North Alabama for leading the nation with their innovative outlook on cooperative emergency response developed over thirty years ago.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO WARREN BYSTEDT

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual from Grand Junction, Colorado. Over the years, Warren Bystedt has grown to love cross-country running and he continues to run competitively today at the age 72. It is a great pleasure today, to honor Warren Bystedt for his numerous achievements and accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Earlier in Warren's life when he was an amateur boxer, he trained consistently, but avoided running because he disliked that element of conditioning. Today the Grand Junction resident has a different view, and can be seen pounding the pavement diligently every morning. Warren's passion for running has motivated him to train everyday for fifty or so yearly races. Gus said, "If I didn't start my morning with that, (run) I wouldn't know what to do." Warren provides the same determination and thoroughness to his daily activities and events.

Warren consistently finishes among the top in the sixty or seventy and older of age divisions in races throughout the country. His competitive nature comes from his earlier days as an amateur boxer when he lost only seven of seventy bouts fighting in the flyweight division. A long time educator and administrator in Minnesota, Illinois, and Iowa, he took up running after taking a hard look at his family history noting that his brothers and father all died of heart attacks and not wanting to suffer the same fate, he began running around his neighborhood in Davenport, Iowa, in 1979. Grand Junction, Colorado, has given Warren the optimum climate in which to run on a year-round basis and he is an active member the Mesa Monument Striders.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the work and contributions of Warren Bystedt, a distinguished citizen and role model for his community. His achievements are impressive, and it is my honor to recognize his accomplishments today. Best wishes to Warren, and good luck on all your future races.

#### HONORING ANDREA FOX

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrea Fox of San Rafael, California, a talented professional planner, community volunteer, athlete, and breast cancer activist and an inspiration to many.

Andrea Fox lost her tenacious battle against breast cancer on July 2, at the age of 35, leaving a legacy of extraordinary courage and compassion.

A beautiful young woman with incredible grace and dignity, "Annie" Fox was dedicated to finding a cure for breast cancer. Diagnosed with a particularly aggressive cancer in 1998, the former triathlete, who ate organically and

exercised regularly, had none of the traditional risk factors for cancer. Undergoing a lumpectomy, she continued her athletic training and the stage IV cancer seemed to disappear. But, in April 2000, cancer came back and, pursuing every treatment she could find, including non-western, untraditional methods, Annie appeared to have beaten it back again.

Andrea focused her considerable energies on increasing public awareness and getting national attention for the serious epidemic of breast cancer in Marin County, joining the board of Marin Breast Cancer Watch. "Annie was our angel," said Board President Roni Peskin Mentzer.

Whether lobbying in Sacramento for breast cancer research or educating the community about the dangerously high rates of cancer in Marin, Annie made a difference, she made history. Never daunted, she participated in athletic events such as the renowned Dipsea Race and the Human Race, and was organizing new events, like the July 20, 2002 foot race from Mill Valley to the Mountain Theater on Mt. Tamalpais to increase public knowledge and raise much needed funds for research.

In October 2001, only two months after her engagement to longtime partner and soul mate, Chris Stewart, the cancer reappeared and Annie mounted still another heroic campaign. Not one to seek sympathy, she was driven to passionately lead the fight for all women to find a cause to this insidious disease. Despite increasing pain, she continued her work at the Marin Civic Center. "Annie was a special person . . .", Stewart said, "bringing a wonderful happiness to all those who knew her. . . . She was passionate about her work and about preserving the environment."

A woman of uncommon positive spirit, Andrea Fox lost her courageous battle with breast cancer surrounded by friends and family, leaving her devoted fiancé, mother, brother, and a grieving community.

We are all more fortunate to have been graced by the presence of Andrea Fox, her beauty, wisdom and strength. Her love, resolve and remarkable will are the cornerstones of the legacy of courage she has left so that we might continue the fight. While Annie is gone, the spirit of this "angel" of our community will forever be with us.

#### STATEMENT ON THE ELI HOME CARIÑO WALK-IN CENTER

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Eli Home Cariño Walk-In Center in Anaheim which opened its doors on July 13 to families throughout my district.

Many families in my district do not have a place to go to get support, find information, or just ask questions. The Center will help these families, many of whom are dealing with economic crises and other stress creating situations.

The Eli Home is dedicated to providing free, bilingual services to Spanish-speaking families. The center offers parenting classes, weekly forums, case management, counseling, and child-abuse prevention.