

family for Pueblo as well as the State of Colorado.

Throughout his life, Butch and his wife Maylan, have ensured that the White family remain true to its roots and give back to a community that has provided his business the resources to prosper throughout the bank's long history. The family charity, known as the Mahlon Thatcher White Foundation, has provided funds to charitable and community organizations in Pueblo for decades. The organization is a proud supporter of the YMCA, Pueblo Library District, the Sangre de Cristo Arts center, and the Pueblo Zoo, and a handful of other organizations in the area. Through these donations, the City of Pueblo has enjoyed a prosperous history and high culture rating that has elevated the area as a top destination in Southern Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, Butch White's list of achievements have not been overlooked during his career and his efforts have been repeatedly awarded over the years. It is now my honor to congratulate Butch on his most recent and well-deserved award from his own community, the Citizen of the Year Award, provided by the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce. On receipt of his award, Butch remained true to his philanthropic standards while a member of the chamber announced a further \$50 million will be additionally donated to the community from the foundation. Butch has been a model citizen for the community and I extend my thanks to his charitable efforts. Keep up the good work Butch, and good luck to you and your wife Maylan in your future endeavors.

HONORING THE CITY OF SUN VALLEY, IDAHO, ON ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OLYMPICS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a place I'm proud to represent. It's a place with rolling hills and snow-capped mountains, dazzling celebrities and home to a world class ski resort: Sun Valley, Idaho. On Friday the 19th Winter Olympics will begin in Utah. For three weeks, we'll see skating, skiing, curling, bobsledding and high jumping. For many of the athletes the trip to Salt Lake City will only be a few hours in the car, because they've been training in Idaho for weeks.

I'd like to honor Sun Valley Co. for hosting these tremendous athletes and for their contribution to the Winter Olympics. Sun Valley has opened its doors to these athletes and given them the opportunity to not only adjust to the altitude of the West and Mountain Time Zone, but to America. More than 200 athletes have trained in Sun Valley from countries as far away as the Ukraine and Sweden to as close as Canada. I'm also proud of the Wood River Valley's three Olympiads that will take part in the winter Olympics: Sondra Van Ert, Muffy Davis and Tessa Benoit.

Thank you Sun Valley for hosting the Olympiads and for your continuing support of the Winter Games. Your contribution is noticed and appreciated.

NATIONAL TRIO DAY

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a wonderful program that has helped and encouraged young people in my District and all over this country to complete their education. I am speaking of the TRIO Program.

In the 15th Congressional District, we are plagued with high drop out rates among our youth. In fact, the recent figures published by the U.S. Census Bureau show that 78% of Texans do not have a college degree. This is a tremendous waste of human capital and talent, and we must continue to find innovative ways to tap into this underdeveloped potential.

One program that is making inroads into this problem is the TRIO program. TRIO is made up of several programs including Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math Science, Talent Search, and Student Support Services. These programs promote educational excellence in at-risk students through mentoring, counseling, and support. The goal is to make sure that these students stay in school so they can complete their education and become part of the American dream.

I especially want to bring to your attention the work that is being done by the TRIO programs run by the University of Texas Pan American, Texas A&M Kingsville, South Texas Community College, and Coastal Bend Community College. These dedicated schools in my District are committed to seeing that every student has the opportunity to receive a higher education.

February 23, 2002 has been designated National TRIO Day. I urge my colleagues to take this opportunity to visit their local TRIO programs and encourage these students and the teachers and counselors who are dedicated to their success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on February 5, 2002, I was attending the funeral of my good friend Darlene Luther in Minnesota and missed roll call votes 6 and 7. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of H.R. 577 (roll call vote 6) and in support of S. 970 (roll call vote 7).

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MEL COLEMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I pay tribute today to Mr. Mel Coleman, a man whose dedication to his profession, his customers, and his loved ones, is both extraordinary and inspirational. Mel

was not only an incredible rancher and businessman, but, more importantly, a man of unquestioned integrity and of unparalleled morality. He will be sorely missed by each and every person whose life he touched. As his family mourns his loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Mel and pay tribute to him for his contributions to his city, his state and his country.

Mel Coleman, the great-grandson of pioneers who settled in the San Luis Valley of Colorado in 1870, created a cattle ranching empire by employing a novel and often overlooked practice—listening to his customers. By responding to complaints that there was no good source for hormone-and-stimulant-free beef in the marketplace, Mel turned an unprofitable ranching business into Coleman Natural Products, a \$70 million-per-year empire, which controls 50 percent of the natural beef market and sells to 2,500 retail outlets throughout the United States and Japan. His beef is now preferred by an ever-growing population of people who prefer its taste, which results from the cattle never being given any hormones, antibiotics or growth promotants, and which graze on ground that is never fertilized.

Mel's vision and dedication to his cause is truly remarkable. He was bold enough to venture into an untested market and talented enough to become extraordinarily successful in this endeavor. In 1981, he was the first to receive permission from the United States Department of Agriculture to label his beef "hormone and stimulant free," which subsequently led to an influx of competition into the marketplace that continues to be dominated by Coleman Natural Products. Mel is survived by his wife, Polly, who was always at her husband's side in both business and in life, his two sons, Mel Jr. and Greg, and his daughter Dianne.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Mel Coleman, but take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed only by the legacy of courage, success and love that Mel left with all of us. Mel Coleman's life is the very embodiment of all that makes this country great, and I am deeply honored to be able to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN C. HITZ

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Helen C. Hitz, a former employee here on Capitol Hill. Mrs. Hitz recently passed away, on January 15, 2002, at the age of 80.

In 1960, Mrs. Hitz moved to the Washington, D.C. area and began her employment on Capitol Hill in February of 1961 as a secretary and receptionist to the Honorable Frank Moss of Utah. In September of 1961, Mrs. Hitz accepted the position as Secretary to the General Counsel at the House of Representatives Committee on Small Business. In April of 1965, she transferred to the House Committee on Banking and Currency where she was a staff director and supervised several Committee caseworkers. She was also the confidential and personal Secretary to Dr. Paul Nelson, Administrative Assistant to the committee chairman. In July of 1965, Mrs. Hitz accepted the position of Personal Secretary to

Congressman Fernand St. Germain, a Democrat from Rhode Island. She coordinated the work of the Congressman between his personal office and the Committee. Mrs. Hitz retired from Congressional service in 1983 from her position with Congressman St. Germain after more than 20 years of federal civil service.

In 1987, Mrs. Hitz moved from Virginia to Jackson, Tennessee to be near her son, John Hitz. In 1998 she relocated to Holts Summit, Missouri to be near her other son, Charles Hitz, and to her hometown of Jefferson City, Missouri when she lived until her death.

It is always an honor and a privilege to recognize folks who have given a large portion of their lives to government service. It is a noble profession and I am proud to recognize the service of Mrs. Helen C. Hitz.

RECOGNIZING THE HISPANIC ENGINEER NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CORPORATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work that the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation (HENAAC) is doing to enlighten the Hispanic community and nation about the achievements of Hispanics in science and technology in order to motivate Hispanic students to pursue careers in science and technology.

American students lag behind their counterparts in other developed countries like Japan in the areas of science and math. If America is to hold its technological advantage in an ever complex world, we must close this gap and improve our children's achievements in math and science.

In October, HENAAC will hold its annual conference to honor outstanding Hispanics in nine categories. In addition to the conference, HENAAC, in conjunction with the University of Texas-Pan American in my Congressional district, will also sponsor four special events as part of the International Science and Technology Week. The Hispanic Science and Technology EXPO Day at UT Pan American will bring students, parents, educators and the community together to learn about the importance of science and technology and give students information on career opportunities in engineering, science and math. Thousands of pre-college students will be able to participate in the hands-on interactive workshops, presentations and expositions. Hispanic Science and Technology Educator Day will recognize teachers throughout South Texas and give them opportunities to improve their skills.

In addition to International Science and Technology Week, HENAAC also sponsors student scholarships and a Hall of Fame traveling exhibit.

On February 19, 2002, the University of Texas-Pan American will have a kick-off to encourage students, parents and teachers to participate in the upcoming events. I want to commend HENAAC and the University of Texas-Pan American for their commitment to educating the next generation of Hispanic scientists, mathematicians and engineers.

HONORING BOB SECRIST OF BOISE, IDAHO, ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Secrist, a man who has served Idaho veterans for more than 30 years, on his retirement from the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office.

As a Vietnam veteran himself, Bob has shown compassion and dedication to veterans of all ages and in all areas of Idaho.

Bob grew up in the farming community of St. Anthony, Idaho where he learned the value of hard work, a firm handshake and an honest heart. He stayed close to home, attending Ricks College and graduating in 1964. He served his church on a two-year mission to the Great Lakes area. When he returned, he joined the Idaho National Guard. While in the Guard, he was called to Vietnam. He was a truck driver, delivering truckloads of gasoline and diesel fuel throughout Vietnam's Central Highlands. His highly explosive convoys negotiated mined roadways, blown up bridges, and sporadic enemy assaults. He returned in August 1969, married his sweetheart Judy in 1970, and graduated from Idaho State University in 1971 with a degree in business.

After graduating, the family moved to Boise, and Bob began his distinguished career at the VA Regional Office. He started out as Claims Adjudicator working stacks of paper to help those who'd been disabled in the line of duty. For many, Bob put a human face to veterans' issues. His outreach on veterans' issues is legendary. If you had a question about veterans' benefits, Bob knew the answer.

In 1974, he was promoted to be the Education Liaison Representative working with Idaho schools under the GI Bill education program. According to his colleagues, Bob was able to streamline the schools' procedures and improve services to veterans enrolled in school. He utilized his claims processing background to work weekends helping adjudicators to write education awards and clearing up processing delays.

Because of his dedication and community involvement, he was named the Chief of the Regional Office's Veterans Services Division in 1990. In this position, he was in charge of state outreach to all veterans and beneficiaries around the state.

Bob always felt compassion for veterans. He never lost sight of who he was working for—not the government—not the VA—but the veterans who had served this country. He made sure the VA Regional Office wasn't an Ivory Tower looking down on the veterans they served. In the face of budget cuts, he was determined to make the Regional Office "veteran friendly." He began a program of partnerships with the Veterans Service Organizations, the VFW, DAV, American Legion, the Wake Island Survivors, the Idaho Department of Veterans Services, and many others.

After the Regional Office was consolidated in the late 1990s, Bob was appointed as the Regional Office Public Information Officer. In that position, he served as a congressional li-

aision, always ensuring that my staff and I was informed about veterans issues.

Bob, for 33 years you've been a shining star in the veterans' community, showing those around you that veterans come before bureaucracy and that good ideas don't need to be buried under the burden of government. I commend you. I congratulate you and on behalf of the thousands of veterans you've served, and I thank you.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JERRY SORENSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay respect to the passing of a friend, Gerald "Jerry" Edwin Sorensen, who recently passed away at the age of 55. Jerry was a pillar of the Glenwood Springs community and as his family mourns his loss, I think it is appropriate to remember Jerry and pay tribute to him for his contributions to his community.

Jerry will always be forever known as a true sports fan, a man who lived and thrived for sporting events. He is remembered as a superb athlete during his high school years, participating on and playing for the Roaring Fork High School football and baseball teams located in Carbondale, Colorado. His passion for sports continued throughout his life branching into hunting, fishing, 4-wheeling, bowling and watching his favorite football team, the Denver Broncos. Although known for his athleticism and hard work, Jerry's true love was working and interacting with people, particularly his two sons and grandsons. He will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, and friend. He affected the lives of so many of Glenwood's residents with his kindness and his generosity and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that we note the passing of Gerald "Jerry" Edwin. He was known for his kind heart and the gentle demeanor he displayed throughout his life and his good deeds and dedication to his fellow man certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. I, along with a grateful community and loving family will miss Jerry dearly.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LLOYD KIVA NEW

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a recently lost New Mexican who was a devoted Native American educator, artist, and entrepreneur. Lloyd Kiva New had intuition and visionary skills that made him a successful business man; however, more importantly, his humble heart and ambition drove him to aide young Native American students to strive for excellence at the Institute of American Indian Arts.

The Native American community has lost a prolific humanitarian, who devoted much of his