

A TRIBUTE TO BILL MILLS, THE  
FATHER OF THE SANTA ANA  
RIVER FLOOD CONTROL  
PROJECT

**HON. CHRISTOPHER COX**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2002*

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to commend Bill Mills who is retiring on April 1st after completing a successful term as the general manager of the Orange County Water District.

An innovative leader, for the past fourteen years Bill Mills has spearheaded both conservation and reclamation water projects to aid one of the largest counties in the nation. Recognizing the long-term need to reduce Orange County's dependence on imported supplies, Bill has been at the forefront to promote new technologies that would improve the quality of both surface and groundwater supplies. Under his leadership, the Orange County Water District has pioneered some of the most exciting changes in water management as well as maintaining one of the highest financial ratings for a water agency in the state of California.

What was once considered to be only practical in theory, the ability to purify wastewater for reuse, became a reality during Bill's tenure. An accomplished civil engineer, Bill advanced a project referred to as "Water Factory 21," a model water filtration system. This new technology has enabled Orange County residents and businesses alike to recycle a useless product into one of the most important resources needed to maintain irrigation needs during drought. And of course, today, this "new" technology is now the norm for many cities and counties throughout the nation and world. Because of Bill's leadership on this project, Orange County is now taking the next step to transfer this critical technology to help solidify other water needs.

Bill's keen ability to recognize early on the potential of new technologies such as Water Factory 21 have earned him praise and recognition from his colleagues throughout the world and numerous awards, including "Water Leader of the Year." The recognition of the Orange County Water District as a leading public agency is a tribute to his legacy. I know that many of my colleagues here in this House personally gained from Bill's expertise when he traveled several times to Washington, D.C. to testify on groundwater and water quality issues. Always thinking ahead, Bill developed a 20-year master plan to guide the County's future groundwater planning—including tackling a major flood control project for an area that was once considered the biggest flood threat west of the Mississippi. Due in large part to the expertise he shared with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Orange County is no longer designated as a flood threat area.

Today, I join my fellow California colleagues to thank Bill for all of his hard work and dedication. Orange County is a better place to live because of his foresight. In behalf of the United States Congress and all of the people of Orange County whom it is my privilege to represent, congratulations to Bill Mills, and best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

SUPPORT OF NATIONAL SCHOOL  
COUNSELING WEEK

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2002*

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, the American School Counselor Association has declared the first full week of February as "National School Counseling Week." Congress recently recognized the importance of school counseling through the reauthorization and appropriation of the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Improvement Act of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

School counselors have long advocated that the American education system must leave no child behind. Even though students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, depression, and school violence, school counselors help develop the total child by guiding their students toward academic, personal, social and career development.

In addition, school counselors are usually the only professionals in a school building trained in both education and mental health. For this reason, school counselors were instrumental in helping students, teachers and parents deal with the trauma of the aftermath of Sept. 11. Nevertheless, the role and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood and as a result, under budgetary constraints, the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated.

The school counselor shortage is prevalent today, as evidenced by the fact that the current national average ratio of school counselors to students is 1 to 561. The American School Counselor Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association and other organizations recommend a ratio of 1 to 250.

I urge my colleagues to support National School Counseling Week during the first full week of February and I urge communities across the country to participate with appropriate ceremonies and activities. The American School Counselor Association recommends that parents and students should develop a collaborative relationship with their school counselors. School boards and administrators should continue to support students' academic, personal, social and career development through school counseling.

Mr. Speaker, our students' futures are important to us all and school counselors work every day to ensure that our students are well-rounded socially and academically. Let us take a moment to thank our school counselors for their ongoing work in our schools and communities during times of national crisis or students' personal crises by supporting National School Counseling Week.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT L.  
HOMER

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2002*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, Colonel Robert L. Homer retired on 26 September 2001 from his

position as the Logistics Group Commander for the 174th Fighter Wing, New York Air National Guard in Syracuse. He was appointed to this position on 2 Nov 95.

Col. Homer was born on 28 September 1945 in Ithaca, NY. He graduated from Skaneateles High School in 1963 and earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from St. Lawrence University, NY in 1967. He went on to graduate from Syracuse University with a Masters in Business Administration Degree in 1971. His military education includes Squadron Officer School, Air Command & Staff College and Air War College.

Col. Homer enlisted in the NYANG in Aug 1968, was commissioned in March 1969 and graduated from Pilot Training in 1970 as Distinguished Graduate. He began working Full-Time at the 174th in 1975 as a Flight Instructor and held various positions within Operations to include Ground Training Officer, Stan/Eval Officer, Scheduling Officer, Air Operations Officer and Deputy Commander for Operations. In 1991, when the 174th was activated during Operation Desert Storm, he was assigned as a Mission Director on the Joint Stars Aircraft. Following that, he went on to head the NYS Counter Drug Program for Headquarters, NYANG in Albany, NY. His last assignment prior to his current position was that of establishing the Minimum Essential Airfield (MEA), at Griffiss AFB in conjunction with the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1995.

Col. Homer is a command pilot, having been combat qualified in the A-37, A-10 and F-16; with more than 4,000 flying hours.

His awards and decorations include The Bronze Star Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device and 4 devices, Combat Readiness Medal with 5 devices, National Defense Service Medal with 1 device, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 2 devices, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with 5 devices, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 1 device, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with 1 device, Air Force Training Ribbon, and Kuwait Liberation Medal.

His military and civic affiliations include the National Guard Association of New York, Militia Association of New York, and the Air Force Association.

Col. Homer resides in Scott, NY with his wife, the former Lynn Bari.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DIANE  
PORTER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Diane Porter and thank her for her extraordinary contributions to her community and to her state. As a resident of Pueblo, Colorado, Diane has dedicated herself to helping her community by selflessly giving her time and energy to a number of philanthropic endeavors. The remarkable work she has done with the people in her community is surpassed only by the level of integrity and honesty with which she has conducted herself each and every day. It is with a great deal of satisfaction and pride

that I pay tribute to her today for the tremendous accomplishment of being honored by the United States Justice Department for her significant contributions to her community and to her state.

As Director of the YWCA, Diane has long been active in the Pueblo community and has dedicated a significant amount of her time and efforts to improving community relations and upholding civil rights. Recently, her tireless efforts and extraordinarily selfless endeavors culminated in the creation of the Pueblo Human Relations Commission, a 15 member panel which will discuss divisive community issues, and a long-time dream of Diane's. Along with Sandy Gutierrez, Diane was responsible for the Commission's creation, which will undoubtedly serve as a catalyst for more open discussions on race related issues and other controversial issues facing the Pueblo community. Like all true pioneers, Diane had to overcome a great deal of opposition to see her dream come to fruition, and I commend her for her courage and persistence in the face of such opposition.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Diane Porter is a woman of unparalleled dedication and commitment to her community and to the people whose lives she has touched while serving it. It is her unrelenting passion for each and every thing she does, as well as her spirit of honesty and integrity with which she has always conducted herself, that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. She is a remarkable woman who has achieved extraordinary things and enriched the lives of so many people. It is my privilege to extend to Diane my sincere congratulations on the creation of the Pueblo Human Relations Commission and for the tremendous accomplishment of being honored by the United States Justice Department for her efforts. I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

#### HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2002*

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Republic of Kazakhstan for its efforts in assisting the United States in our war against terrorism. Kazakhstan was among the first of our allies to offer its condolences and help after the destruction of September 11th. Indeed, following the terrorist attacks, Kazakh President Nazarbayev took the unprecedented step of visiting the United States Embassy in the Kazakh capital of Astana to sign the Embassy's book of condolences.

On September 15, 2001, President Nazarbayev issued a strong statement of support for our war against Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda. In his statement, President Nazarbayev declared that his country would support our own government "in the fight against terrorism with all means available." More importantly, our friends in Astana backed their firm statements with action—offering blanket overflight clearance for U.S. aircraft over the vast Republic of Kazakhstan. Moreover, the Kazakh government has since offered its own airfields and supply bases to the

United States military for use in action against Al Qaeda.

In addition to this strong strategic help, our Kazakh friends have shipped nearly 3,000 tons of wheat and other grains to the impoverished people of Afghanistan. This sort of vital assistance has helped our own nation in a fight not only to rid Afghanistan of its terrorist oppressors, but to resurrect a long-suffering people. A young nation itself, Kazakhstan has also sought to integrate itself into the global alliance against terrorism by offering further food sales to the United Nations World Food Programme in order to facilitate the feeding of the Afghan people.

President Nazarbayev and his countrymen have also shown political courage and leadership in embracing global standards of conduct in international affairs. The Government in Astana has ratified seven international terrorism conventions, while the Governor of the Kazakh Central Bank has pledged to track down and freeze any terrorist financing within the Kazakh Republic. Mr. Speaker, this sort of cooperation and assistance exemplifies the sort of friendship that our own nation treasures and needs in our fight against the evil behind international terrorism. The Republic of Kazakhstan has demonstrated a valiant commitment to protecting freedom by siding with the United States of America. It is my hope that other nations, young and old, will follow the tremendous example of the Kazakh people.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2002*

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, because I was attending to family matters in my home state of Minnesota, I missed Roll Call votes 483–512 of the 1st Session of the 107th Congress and Roll Call votes 2–14 of the 2nd Session of the 107th Congress. I would like the record to show that I would have voted: Aye on Roll Call vote #483, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 281, honoring the ultimate sacrifice made by Johnny Michael Spann, the first American killed in combat during the war against terrorism.

Aye on Roll Call vote #484, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3282, the Mike Mansfield Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse Designation Act. Aye on Roll Call vote #485, H.R. 10, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act. Aye on Roll Call vote #486, approving the Journal.

Nay on Roll Call vote #487, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3295, the Help America Vote Act. Aye on Roll Call vote #488, motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 3295, the Help America Vote Act. Aye on Roll Call vote #489, final passage of H.R. 3295, the Help America Vote Act. Aye on Roll Call vote #490, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 282, expressing the Sense of Congress that the Social Security promise should be kept.

Aye on Roll Call vote #491, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3209, the Anti-Hoax Terrorism Act. Aye on Roll Call vote #492, on passage of H.R.

1022, the Community Recognition Act of 2001. Aye on Roll Call vote #493, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, H.R. 3448, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act. Aye on Roll Call vote #494, on motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3338, the Department of Defense Appropriations Conference Report for FY 2002.

Aye on Roll Call vote #495, on closing portions of H.R. 3338, the Department of Defense Appropriations Conference Report. Aye on Roll Call vote #496, on the Conference Report to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002. Nay on Roll Call vote #9497, on the Conference Report to H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act. Nay on Roll Call vote #498, to provide for the consideration of Motions to Suspend the Rules.

Aye on Roll Call vote #499, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3379, the Raymond M. Downey Post Office Building. Aye on Roll Call vote #500, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3054, the True American Heroes Act. Aye on Roll Call vote #501, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3275, the Terrorist Bombings Convention Implementation Act. Aye on Roll Call vote #502, to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2657, the District of Columbia Family Court Act.

Aye on Roll Call vote #503, to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2199, the District of Columbia Police Coordination Amendment Act. Aye on Roll Call vote #504, on agreeing to the Conference Report to H.R. 3061, the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002. Aye on Roll Call vote #505, on agreeing to the Conference Report to H.R. 2506, the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002.

Nay on Roll Call vote #506, on agreeing to the Resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules. Nay on Roll Call vote #507, on agreeing to the H. Res. 320, providing for consideration of H.R. 3529; to provide tax incentives for economic recovery and assistance to displaced workers. Aye on Roll Call vote #508, motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 3529, the Economic Security and Worker Assistance Act. Nay on Roll Call vote #509, final passage of H.R. 3529, the Economic Security and Worker Assistance Act. Aye on Roll Call vote #510, on agreeing to the conference report to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002.

Aye on Roll Call vote #511, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.J. Res. 75, as amended, Regarding the Monitoring of Weapons Development in Iraq, as Required by United Nations Security Council Resolution 687 (April 3, 1991). Aye on Roll Call vote #512, on motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1762, to establish fixed interest rates for student and parent borrowers, and for other purposes. Aye on Roll Call vote #2, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 700, to reauthorize the Asian Elephant Conservation Act. Aye on Roll Call vote #3, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 2234, the Tumacacori National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act. Aye on Roll Call vote #4, on passage of S. 1762, Higher Education Act Amendments.