

since enhanced the lives of so many Central Coast residents. Since that first donation, the, Santa Barbara Foundation has become an organization that provides grants and funds to projects within four fields of interest: Education and Personal Development, Health & Human Services, Culture & Recreation and Environment and Community Enhancement. The Foundation additionally promotes programs that expand opportunities for the less advantaged as well as those that will enhance the lives of youth. In fact, over the last 72 years, more than \$60,000,000 has been distributed in the forms of grants and student financial aid.

There are more than 550 similar foundations throughout the nation, and the Santa Barbara Foundation holds the distinction of ranking among the top 50 oldest and largest such organizations. A board of trustees and a staff of 12 make pertinent decisions and run the operation on a day-to-day basis. And of course, the Foundation could never operate as successfully as it does without the help of the over 100 volunteers that dedicate the most precious resource a non-profit could ask for—their time.

Santa Barbara is extremely fortunate to have an organization of this generosity in its midst. I would like to bestow my sincerest congratulations to the Foundation on its 75th anniversary and wish the organization the very best in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. WEBER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to Michael Weber and thank him for his many contributions to healthcare and public policy initiatives in Colorado and throughout the nation. As Mike retires from his position at Rocky Mountain HMO, let the record show that I, along with the people of Colorado, appreciate his leadership of healthcare and managed care in rural areas. His dedication and hard work is greatly respected and I am honored to pay tribute to him today in front of this body of Congress. Mike will long be remembered as an effective leader by all who worked with him in the healthcare industry, and he will continue to stand out as a leader in his home community of Grand Junction, Colorado.

During his time as CEO of Rocky Mountain HMO, Mike turned his company into the leader of rural area managed care, growing the company from a one-county organization serving 3200 members in 1975 to one serving over 128,750 statewide today. He was a five-term president of the Colorado Association of HMOs, served ten years on the Board of Directors of the American Medical Care and Review Association, and was a member of the National Task Force on Medical Management. Perhaps a more telling accomplishment is the respect shown by several governors of Colorado—his numerous panel appointments include the Colorado Cost Containment Commission, the Health Advisory Council, and the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

His involvement in the community has been outstanding as well. Locally, Mike served on

boards for the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, Mesa National Bank, Rocky Mountain Health Foundation, and the Mesa County Economic Development Council. Perhaps most importantly, Mike is married to his wife Jeannie, and has four children. As he retires from Rocky Mountain HMO, I look forward to him still playing an important role in his community and the healthcare industry because he is a great asset and brings a lot of talent to the table.

Mr. Speaker it is my privilege to rise today to honor this outstanding citizen before this body of Congress and this nation. Mike Weber has shown great dedication and leadership on local and state healthcare matters on up to nationwide issues. I am glad to extend to him my gratitude for all he has accomplished in his field and wish him all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO CLEAN WATER ACTION AND ITS CANVASSERS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important work of Colorado Clean Water Action and the outstanding efforts of many of the group's canvassers who work tirelessly to educate the public and improve the environmental quality of life for all Coloradans.

Clean Water Action is a nationally recognized organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of our environment and especially of our nation's water resources. In arid states like Colorado, water is a precious and scarce commodity. That makes the work of groups like Clean Water Action all the more important. Clean Water Action's efforts to enhance water quality not only benefit humans, they also benefit wildlife and promote a host of other environmental and economic values, such as productive agriculture, wetlands protection and recreation.

Here in Colorado, Clean Water Action has been led by Carmi McLean, an effective and passionate leader for the cause of the environment. Over the past three decades, Carmi has been involved in most if not all of the high profile environmental issues facing Colorado and the nation. She has been active in wilderness protection, reducing pollution and holding polluters accountable for their releases, fighting damaging rollbacks of environmental protection laws and programs such as Superfund, and, of course, in all issues related to water quality. Colorado Clean Water Action has also been involved in these and similar issues since 1989.

Recently, Colorado Clean Water Action has taken up the important, cause of reducing the toxic discharge of heavy metals and acids from old, abandoned hardrock mining operations. These mines, which occur in the hundreds of thousands across the west, have caused impacts to a number of watersheds which oftentimes supply drinking water to many western communities. These releases also can have devastating impacts to the aquatic life of many streams and lakes, which further impacts recreation and the ecological

health of the lands affected by these sites. However, because those responsible for these abandoned, polluting mines cannot be found, most of these mines go on polluting. What's worse, because of the costs of cleanup and the risks of future liability exposure, many entities that would be willing to cleanup these mines are discouraged from taking steps to clean them up.

To address this problem, I have introduced legislation—H.R. 4078 "The Abandoned Hardrock Mines Reclamation Act of 2002"—to facilitate the cleanup of these mines by creating an abandoned mine cleanup fund and a special permit program that would encourage more federal, tribal, state, local and community efforts to clean up these languishing pollution sources. Carmi and her staff at Colorado Clean Water Action recognized the significance of this problem and the value that this legislation would bring to addressing it. As a result, she has made this issue and the need to address it a top priority for the efforts of Colorado Clean Water Action, including many hours of hard work by dedicated young people who canvass door-to-door in Colorado communities letting people know about this issue and what can be done to help address it.

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to Carmi and her canvassers who have been spending the summer and fall of 2002 working on this issue. Specifically, I want to recognize the following people who have been working especially hard at Colorado Clean Water Action on the abandoned mine waste problem: David Scheck, Brian Dunn, Stoney Bergman, Greg Sobczynski, Katie Tegeler, John De Wees, Nik Haynes, Lindsay Bennett, Noel Jensen, Melinda Miller, Whitney Hanson, Whitney Gann, Eric Hale, Ana Cordova, Courtney Bennett, Amy Addison, Dewey Brown, and Fred Kirsch.

Mr. Speaker, the future of our democracy depends on the active involvement of our young people in the important issues facing our nation. I am pleased that these young people have taken a special interest in this issue and hope that they remain active on environmental protection as well as other issues of importance to them. I believe that it is important for us as leaders and elected officials to stop and take notice of the civic involvement of our young people, recognize the importance of it and encourage more such participation. I also want to thank organizations like Clean Water Action and people like Carmi McLean who provide leadership and an opportunity for young people to participate in our democracy. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young people and Colorado Clean Water Action for their great efforts.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT W. "RUSTY" NORTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we approach year's end, I often think back to dear friends that we have lost this year. One I especially loved, and miss, is the late Robert W. "Rusty" Norton of Longview, Texas, a beloved and outstanding citizen who passed away last January at the young age of 54. Rusty was a

close friend and someone that I think about often. He was a successful realtor, a caring community leader, a beloved husband, father and grandfather, and a friend of so many.

Rusty was born on November 9, 1947 in Terrell, Texas and had been an active member of the Longview community for almost thirty years. After graduation with a Bachelor of Business degree from East Texas State University, Rusty began working in real estate. He never ceased learning about the industry—evidenced by the fact that he recently was named a Certified Commercial Investment Member by the Commercial Investment Real Estate Institute—the highest certification that a person in the commercial real estate industry may earn.

One of Rusty's most cherished activities was his association with Trinity Episcopal Church, of which he had been a supportive member for 20 years. He was recently asked to become an Assistant Verger, a position of great honor, in addition to serving in a number of other positions within the church, including serving as a member of the Vestry Board and Endowment Board and Mission Funding Coordinator For the Diocese of Texas-Northeast Convocation.

Outside of his Congregation, Rusty had a number of other community activities that made him a cherished community leader. He had been a City Councilman and charter member of Longview 2020. He served on the local boards of the American Cancer Society, the Boys and Girls Club of Gregg County, the Salvation Army and was an active member of the Downtown Rotary Club. In his spare time he also served as an assistant chaplain at the Good Shepherd Medical Center. Rusty's extraordinary community dedication and service will be missed by the City of Longview and by all those with whom he worked so selflessly.

Rusty is survived by a loving family—his wife, Andee; his daughter, Meredith, and her husband, John Lucas of Graham, Texas; his step-daughter, Cissy Wrather of Longview; his step-son, David Wrather and wife, Janet of Houston; five grandchildren, Jack and Robert Lucas, Hunter, Jack, and Abigail Wrather; brothers, Joe Norton of Tyler, Texas, Tom Norton of Terrell and sister, Claire Schilhab of Tyler; as well as several nieces and nephews.

I have always felt close to and have admitted this family, and, in fact, I have felt that I was part of this great family. Rusty's father, the late Tom Norton, took me to my first State Democratic Convention. Since that time I felt close to Tom until his death, and I join all of this great family in mourning Rusty's death, while rejoicing with the memories and the love that Rusty left to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, Rusty was a dear and special friend of mine who could always be depended upon for advice and assistance, and he leaves behind him this wonderful family and many friends in Longview whose lives were enriched by him. As we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of this beloved community leader and outstanding citizen who touched so many lives and made Longview a better place in which to live. We will remember Rusty and the legacy he leaves us.

HONORING SAN LUIS OBISPO POLICE CHIEF JAMES M. GARDINER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring James M. Gardiner, the San Luis Obispo Police Chief, upon his retirement. This December, Chief Gardiner will retire from his 32-year career in law enforcement.

Chief Gardiner began his career in law enforcement, in 1970 when he joined the Newport Beach Police Department as a patrol officer. There he spent 4 years on various assignments before serving as Sergeant for 5 additional years. He was then promoted to lieutenant where he served for 3 years before becoming Captain in which position he remained for another 6 years. In August of 1987, Chief Gardiner joined the San Luis Obispo Police Department as Chief of Police.

Chief Gardiner has received numerous awards from the Central Coast community, including being named a Special Friend of the San Luis Obispo County Special Olympics on multiple occasions. The United Way named Chief Gardiner Humanitarian of the Year in 1993 and he was the recipient of the Community Service Award from the California Parks and Recreation Society in 1995. In 2000, Chief Gardiner received the National SOI Award of Special Olympics Hero. Chief Gardiner was also inducted into the Law Enforcement Torch Run Hall of Fame in 2001. Chief Gardiner and his wife, Elaine were recognized together as Citizens of the Year in 2001 by the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce.

San Luis Obispo has been more than ably served by this fine man for 15 years. I am proud to congratulate Chief Gardiner on his remarkable record of achievement during his career as a law enforcement officer.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF BURKE CENTRE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 25th Anniversary of Burke Centre, Virginia on Saturday, September 14th, 2002.

Burke Centre is located in the core of the 11th congressional district of Virginia. This planned, residential community began its development in 1976 and has grown into a thriving community with over 5,800 residences in its five neighborhoods: the Commons, the Landings, the Oaks, the Ponds, and the Woods. These neighborhoods are impressive examples of a successful organized community, with each of the five represented by one trustee, and featuring a pool and community center.

The gem of Burke Centre is the Conservancy, consisting of 1,700 acres, including 350 acres of pristine open space area ideal for a wide range of active and passive recreational activities. Ponds, tennis courts, playing fields,

swimming pools, and other amenities are maintained for the enjoyment of residents.

This planned neighborhood took into consideration the community needs of its residents during its development. An efficient and effective committee system ensures residents' voices are still heard today. Burke Centre has established itself as a community committed to conservancy with its abundance of nature parks and outdoor activities. The Election Board is responsible for maintaining this mission and overseeing the annual Conservancy Board and Cluster Committee elections.

In commemoration of its 25th anniversary, Burke Centre's Fall Festival, planned and organized dually by volunteers and staff, will be the community's chance to celebrate this landmark anniversary. Antique vendors, entertainment, games and arts and crafts will pay tribute to Burke Centre's beginnings.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, with all that Burke Centre has created and offered its residents since its development 25 years ago, we have great reason to celebrate today. Accordingly, I extend my warmest congratulations to a community that has been dedicated to providing the best possible residential and community environment to its citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EILEEN JENSEN-KERCHEVAL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding woman who has achieved great accomplishments throughout her life. Eileen Jensen-Kercheval has worked diligently throughout her community to provide assistance and awareness to a variety of senior citizens issues. Eileen is an active member of numerous organizations, and traveled to Washington D.C. this month from Grand Junction, Colorado to promote awareness for senior citizens. It is a pleasure to applaud Eileen and her exceptional work in her community and its surrounding areas.

Eileen regularly appears on weekly television segments in Grand Junction, Colorado. Her segments are educational and informative to the citizens of Grand Junction, and she provides important information on many senior citizen engagements. Eileen's television career started in 1962 in Springfield, Illinois, where she entertained viewers with innovative and constructive ways in which to spend their leisure time. She was an outstanding role model for the Springfield community and retired to Grand Junction after nineteen years of accomplished airtime.

In recognition of her efforts, Eileen recently accepted the "Experience Works Prime Time Award for Colorado." She accepted the award before friends and family, and modestly recounted her successful career with her charismatic, intuitive personality.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I bring forth the accomplishments of Eileen Jensen-Kercheval and recognize her before this body of Congress and our nation. Thank you Eileen for being an inspiration in your community; I have full confidence you will excel in any ventures you choose to pursue.