

I had the pleasure on having Rear Admiral Goldberg serve on my Service Academy Nominations board since I was elected to Congress in 1980. I urge all my colleagues to join me in wishing Rear Admiral Goldberg the traditional naval parting for a fallen naval officer, farewell and following seas.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. DONALD
"MAC" McLAUGHLIN

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Donald "Mac" McLaughlin. After 61 years of service to his country, Mr. McLaughlin is retiring.

He began his career in 1940 as a cadre in the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. He went on to become a member of the 82nd Airborne Division and a parachute jumper for the regimented combat team. After a combat jump in Holland in 1943 and the end of World War II in 1945, he returned home. Mr. McLaughlin separated from the Army that year and began his service with the Air Force in food services.

Twenty-six years later, Mr. McLaughlin retired from active duty as a chief master sergeant, but his service to our Nation did not end there. He was hired by the Air Force Academy athletic department as a concessions manager where he devoted many long hours to ensure that Falcon Stadium and its patrons were accommodated.

This man knows the true meaning of service to his country and I am proud to have him as a constituent. I congratulate him on his long and rewarding career and wish him well as he enters retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE LOWER EAST
SIDE PEOPLE'S FEDERAL CREDIT
UNION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union (LESPFCU) on the occasion of the grand opening of its Avenue C ATM.

Since 1986, the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union has served the financial needs of low-income neighborhood residents who are not served by commercial banks. For over 15 years, since the closing of the last commercial bank in the Lower East Side community, the credit union has maintained its goal of stimulating the economic and community development of the neighborhood by providing a safe, sound, and democratic alternative to traditional banks. Today, nearly 4,000 area residents and employees are members of the credit union. Including the extended family of credit union members who benefit from its services, the credit union serves close to 10,000 Lower East Side community members. As of December 2001, LESPFCU has made over \$8 million in loans

to 3,488 members of the community, enabling them to realize their dreams of home ownership, starting a small business, or furthering their education.

The Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union has now opened its second ATM location on Avenue C between 8th and 9th Streets. This new ATM makes the credit union the first financial institution to establish a presence on Avenue C since the 1960s. The opening of the ATM marks two important developments for the Lower East Side: first, it is the beginning of the credit union's expansion plan, which will allow it to continue to serve the growing financial needs of the community; secondly, it demonstrates a revitalized interest and dedication to the economic well-being of the Lower East Side. These developments are sure to contribute to a revitalized community and to benefit the long-term recovery of New York City.

I would like to congratulate those whose hard work has contributed to the opening of the new ATM: the dedicated staff and leadership of the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union, the Lower East Side People's Mutual Housing Association, New York City Councilwoman Margarita Lopez, the Co-op Network, Citibank, HSBC, and JP Morgan Chase.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
BRANDON PEARCE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Brandon R. Pearce on the occasion of him being named the United States Air Force's Airman of the Year. Mr. Pearce is an Aircraft Hydraulic Systems Journeyman assigned to the 146th Maintenance Squadron, 146th Logistics Group, 146th Airlift Wing, Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, California. In order to achieve this high honor, Mr. Pearce competed against more than 6,000 airmen in California with the national competition including members from throughout the United States and territories.

Staff Sergeant Pearce graduated from Mariposa High School in 1988 and enlisted in the Air Force. While on active duty, Staff Sergeant Pearce received several Crew Chief of the Month awards and was assigned to his own C-141 aircraft. He participated in Operation Just Cause in Panama, the Persian Gulf war as well as many other operational missions. Staff Sergeant Pearce has also received other military awards, such as the Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon and the Air Force Training Ribbon. Upon completion of his 4-year enlistment, he became a full time student which earned him an Associate of Arts degree in History in 1993, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1995. In addition to his two degrees, he also obtained a Teaching Credential and devoted 3 years helping to educate and mentor the youth of Ventura and Mariposa Counties.

After completing his education, in 1998, Staff Sergeant Pearce rejoined the Air Force in the California Air National Guard as an Aircraft Hydraulic Systems Technician with the

146th Airlift Wing. Some of his responsibilities include maintenance of all hydraulic components of the wing's 12 C-130Es, including flight controls, brakes, and landing gear. In addition to his busy schedule at the California Air National Guard, he and his wife, Jackie, still find time to take active roles in their church's community outreach program assisting families in need and the homeless.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Staff Sergeant Brandon Pearce on his achievement of being named the United States Air Force's Airman of the Year. Not only is he a fine example in the service to his country, but also to his community. His success reflects credit upon himself, the Air Force and our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Staff Sergeant Brandon Pearce being named Airman of the Year and wish him many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DEREK PARRA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's new Olympic heroes. Like all Americans, I watched all of our athletes competing in the 2002 games with great pride. We love the Olympics. We love the international spirit, the thrill of competition, the joys of victory and stories of struggle. The athletes capture our imaginations and our hearts.

I watched one athlete with particular pride, speed skater Derek Parra, winner of the silver medal in the 5,000-meter skate and the gold in the 1,500-meter skate.

You see, Derek Parra is from my district. He went to school with my son, Joe Baca, Jr., and I attended church with Derek's father, Gilbert Parra, at St. Catherine's in Rialto, California.

Derek Parra is an American hero. One of eight Olympians chosen by fellow teammates to carry the American flag into the opening ceremonies, Derek accepted the honor even though his first race was the next day. While most athletes spend the night before a race resting, Derek jeopardized his medal chances to carry Old Glory.

On February 9, 2002, Derek's family and friends gathered on Saturday at Graziano's pizza restaurant in Colton to watch the San Bernardino native dazzle the world. Derek unexpectedly broke the world record in the 5,000-meter speed skating race with a time of 6 minutes and 17.98 seconds, beating his own best time by 15 seconds. Derek won the silver medal when the Dutch skater edged out Derek's record-breaking time.

Derek's record breaking performance and silver medal were a bit of a surprise even to the people who knew him best, because the 5,000-meter was not his best race. Friends and family eagerly awaited his best event, the 1,500-meter race on February 19th.

Ten days later on February 19, 2002, fifty of Derek's closest relatives and friends jammed a tiny San Bernardino living room to watch Derek break another world record this time in the 1,500-meter speed skating race with a

time of 1 minute and 43.95 seconds. This record held and Derek won Olympic gold.

Derek's silver and gold medals surprised the world. At 5 feet 3½ inches, Derek is a small man in a tall man's sport. He is known by his Nordic competitors as "the little man with the big strokes."

Derek grew up on the West Side of San Bernardino with his brother and single father. He attended Roosevelt elementary and Eisenhower high school. He first learned to skate at the stardust roller rink in Highland where he became an avid inline skater.

As a Mexican-American youth growing up in southern California, Derek did not set foot on ice until he was 17 years old. Derek would be 26 years old before he would switch from inline skating to ice skating in 1996 in order to shoot for Olympic gold.

Derek's road to the Olympics has not been easy. He and his wife Tiffany have struggled to make ends meet raising a baby girl, Mia Elizabeth, while Derek trained for the Olympics. Unlike most skaters who train fulltime, Derek works part-time at a Home Depot to help support his family. Derek has doggedly pursued his dream against all odds.

When people said that he could not do it, he said that he could, and he did it. Derek proved that a determined kid from a working class family in Southern California could grow up to be a champion in a sport dominated by Northern Europeans.

We do not have many Winter Olympians in San Bernardino. The beauty of the Olympic games is the opportunity they allow all of us to experience the glory and triumph through our athletes. We feel a connection with them. As the first Mexican-American to ever appear in the winter games let alone win a medal, Derek expanded the dreams of millions of Hispanic boys and girls throughout the U.S. and the world. In a world that all too often tells our children, "no you can't," Derek Parra has shown them that "sí se puede," yes, they can compete! Through faith, determination and hard work, Derek broke down barriers to become a beacon of hope to children everywhere. Derek is truly a role model for others to follow.

Derek Parra made history and opened the world of possibility of Hispanic Americans. Thank you Derek. San Bernardino is proud of you. Mexican Americans are proud of you. All Americans are proud of you. You are our hero. God Bless you.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITIANS' RESPONSE TO OUR RECENT ICE STORM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, Ms. MCCARTHY and I rise today to pay tribute to the thousands of Kansas City-area residents who over the past two weeks rose to the challenge posed by the worst ice storm to hit the Kansas City metropolitan area in decades.

The storm, which struck our area with unprecedented fury on January 29th and 30th,

cut electric power to over 450,000 area residents and caused more than \$50 million in damage in Missouri and approximately \$47 million plus damage in Kansas. Seven deaths were attributed to the storm.

As the Kansas City Star described it, the storm "blasted through [and] left most of the metropolitan area a dangerous tangle of downed trees, felled power lines and snarled traffic. . . . During an intense 12 hours, from 7 p.m. Wednesday to 7 a.m. Thursday, for example, Johnson County emergency dispatchers took 420 calls, mostly from people reporting tree limbs pulling down overhead lines. The Kansas City Fire Department dispatchers took 1,100 emergency calls in a 12-hour period; ordinarily they receive 1,400 in a month."

Mr. Speaker, our constituents dealt heroically with this unexpected calamity and we want to take special note of the outstanding contributions made by those whose job it was to respond to this crisis: police, firefighters, 911 operators, KCI airport employees, and members of the Missouri and Kansas National Guard, to note just some of them.

Medical teams dealt with cases of carbon monoxide poisoning, exposure, and injuries due to falling tree limbs and falls on ice. Homeless shelters opened their doors to neighbors left without heat and electricity and church groups, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross and municipal emergency services worked overtime and went the extra mile to help those in need during this time of crisis. Countless community volunteers including AmeriCorps, the Boy Scouts, and United Way gave their time to assist in the recovery process. Whether you were in Rosedale or Brookside, Independence or Overland Park, the "Kansas City Spirit" was prevalent with neighbors helping neighbors to cope with the devastation.

Most notably, hundreds of repair crews from area utilities—including Kansas City Power and Light, Missouri Public Service, the Kansas City, Kansas, Board of Public Utilities, Independence Power and Light, Westar Energy, and SBC—worked around the clock, along with 400 out-of-state repair crews and 350 out-of-state tree trimming crews, to replace lines, repair blown fuses and clear ice-laden trees that had cut off power lines and created fire and injury hazards. In fact, it is estimated that of the 450,000 trees that line Kansas City's streets, 10 percent of them will be gone when the cleanup is complete and over 10 percent of the city's privately owned trees also will have perished. To these utility workers, the people of the Kansas City area owe a special debt of gratitude.

We also applaud the leadership of our Governors Bill Graves of Kansas and Bob Holden of Missouri along with the countless local elected officials who worked in tandem with state and federal emergency management officials in compiling the damage assessments to that our Governors could request the Federal Emergency Disaster Declaration. The President and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) acted quickly to start the process of bringing federal relief to our community so that now the full recovery can occur.

Mr. Speaker, we have proven once again Kansas City truly is the heartland of America—when our friends and neighbors are in trouble, our community comes together to address the crisis and to get the necessary job

done—quickly, efficiently and effectively. We have never been prouder to represent the Kansas City metropolitan area.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. EUNICE MERRILL OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special lady in the 5th District of Alabama as she celebrates a remarkable anniversary.

Mrs. Eunice Merrill has been serving her home cooking to the people of north Alabama for fifty years. In January of 1952, a time when very few women in Alabama owned their own businesses, she opened "Eunice's Country Kitchen" in Huntsville, Alabama. Over the years, Eunice's Country Kitchen has become a local favorite.

People from all around don't just come to Eunice's for the food. "Aunt" Eunice, as her many patrons know her, is a local celebrity. She is never caught without a smile and shows kindness and warmth to every person who enters her restaurant.

Eunice Merrill shows that same love and affection to her community as well. She is an extremely active member of the Huntsville community, spending much of her time volunteering and raising money for the Arthritis Foundation.

Eunice's Country Kitchen is a place where politicians, business leaders, and other locals can gather to eat, drink coffee, and tell stories. Whether it's at the "Liar's Table" reserved for "Politishins and Fisherfolk" or refilling coffee cups throughout the restaurant, everyone feels right at home at Aunt Eunice's. For fifty years, people from all over the world have visited Eunice's Country Kitchen and have concluded that it truly is the finest place for country ham & biscuits.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely congratulate Aunt Eunice for fifty years of friendly service and great food. And I want to thank here for making me a part of her Alabama family.

DR. BOB ALBIN OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY RETIRES

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to the tireless dedication and tremendous effort of Dr. Bob Albin, the Associate Dean of Research for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech University. For more than 40 years, Bob has shaped the minds of agriculture students, initiated cutting-edge research throughout the agricultural college, served as a committed faculty member and student advisor, and been a unswerving friend to all of agriculture. As he retires, Bob can look back on his time at Texas Tech with great pride on his many accomplishments.

As the Representative of Lubbock, TX and of Texas Tech University, I have personally