

State College, and working his way up the ranks of the Mesa County Sheriff's Office. After obtaining his certification from the Colorado Peace Officers Standards and Training Board, Riecke began working for the Sheriff's Office in 1971 as a Patrol Deputy. In 1974, Riecke was promoted to Sergeant and then to Investigator in 1976. After eight years in that position, Riecke was tapped to become the Lieutenant in charge of Investigations. Then, in 1990, he was elected to Sheriff and began his twelve distinctive years in that post. With over 30 years of service to the residents of Mesa County, Sheriff Claussen's positive impact on the Grand Valley is immeasurable.

Riecke has always been highly active in the community and state, and with the help of his wife, Nancy, has raised their daughter Lisa in the Grand Valley. He has also contributed to several professional organizations and serves as a board member of the Peace Officers Standards and Training Board, the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Executive Board, the Colorado Attorney General's Victim Assistance Project Board, and the County Sheriff's of Colorado Board.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Sheriff Riecke Claussen before this body of Congress and this nation for his outstanding leadership and impeccable character. The citizens of Mesa County have certainly been honored by the service of Sheriff Claussen and, as he moves into retirement, I look forward to seeing Riecke continue as an important asset to Colorado and the communities of the Western Slope.

#### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. BUCKLEY

##### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement at the end of this year, we rise to thank Mr. Michael J. Buckley for his outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives over the past 26 years.

Over the years, Mike has made significant improvements to the financial management of the U.S. House of Representatives. He began his career with the House on January 18, 1977, and served this great institution in numerous capacities, most notably in financial positions within the offices of the Clerk of the House and the Chief Administrative Officer. During the past six years, Mike has served as the Budget Director for the Office of Finance. In this position, he has provided financial guidance to every entity of the House, assisting with such critical functions as projecting annual budgetary requirements and monitoring House expenditures to ensure compliance with laws and regulations. Mike's financial expertise has enabled House entities to maximize the availability of funds to support critical House operations.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Mike for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the financial management of the House. We wish Mike and his wife Robin many wonderful years in fulfilling their retirement dreams.

#### TRIBUTE TO "DESTINATION DETROIT" MAGAZINE, EDITED BY DIANE EDGECOMB

##### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the Fall 2002 issue of "Destination Detroit," which is edited by a friend with much wisdom, Diane Edgecomb. Diane was the editor in chief of this issue, which focuses on water quality and water availability and the challenges that we will face in coming decades.

One of the themes of this publication that I'd like to touch on briefly is the idea that we need to work worldwide, if we are to help ensure that everyone has access to a sustainable supply of fresh water. The importance that water has in our lives and the complications that arise when there are shortages dictates that we find a solution that transcends borders. I believe that if there is additional action that we as Americans can take to help educate and make this goal a reality it will better serve us in the long run.

Also included in the magazine is an interesting article about how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have improved our ability to manage water resources. GIS is a comprehensive mapping tool that allows us, among other things, to assess the volume of a region's water supply and locate the source(s) of that water. Using this tool we can anticipate problems and develop innovative solutions before there is a crisis.

I would encourage every member of Congress to take the time to review the Fall 2002 issue of "Destination Detroit" for themselves. I have sent copies to the relevant committees and there are copies available in both the Republican and Democratic Cloakrooms.

#### PROCLAMATION HONORING BRENT LANER

##### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Brent Laner has exemplified leadership for the Ohio Highway Patrol as a state trooper for 25 years, serving with distinction at the New Philadelphia post for 15 years; and

Whereas, Brent Laner was chosen five times by his fellow officers to receive their post Trooper of the Year award and is to be commended for his hard work, devotion to duty, and willingness to serve our community; and

Whereas, Brent Laner has been an enthusiastic and loyal public servant in the Ohio Highway Patrol for Ohio's citizens;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Brent Laner on his retirement after 25 years of public service to the Ohio community.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO DURANGO/LA PLATA COUNTY AIRPORT

##### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the men and women of Durango/La Plata County Airport for their service and dedication during one of Colorado's most formidable fire seasons. Last summer, the men and women of the Durango/La Plata County Airport played an integral role in containing the Missionary Ridge forest fire that burned over 70,000 acres in Southwestern Colorado. Today, I would like to pay tribute to their heroic efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

When the Missionary Ridge fire first erupted last June, the citizens of Durango, Bayfield and the surrounding communities called upon the Durango/La Plata County Airport to protect their loved ones, homes, and communities from what would become the worst fire in area history. The fire began in a ditch beside Missionary Ridge Road just 15 miles northeast of Durango and grew to consume more than 70,000 acres, 56 residences, and 27 outbuildings.

Although the Missionary Ridge fire was a devastating reminder of how destructive forest fires can be, it also served to remind us of the men and women who risk their lives to protect their fellow citizens on a daily basis. The Durango/La Plata County Airport aided firefighters with slurry bombings to help contain fires that were too severe to contain from the ground. They also provided valuable medical supplies to fire fighters who had been injured during the event.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the men and women of Durango/La Plata County Airport before this body of Congress and this nation. I want to commend everyone at the Durango/La Plata Airport for their determination, courage, and resolve during last summer's efforts on Missionary Ridge. Without the help of the men and women of the Durango/La Plata Airport and others, the added devastation to our community, environment, and quality of life would have been unimaginable. Their tireless commitment throughout the last summer's fire season has served as an inspiration to us all and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

#### GREAT LAKES AND LAKE CHAMPLAIN ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

##### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2002*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, included in Title III of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1070 is an authorization of \$1 million for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a center for Brownfields Excellence.

The purpose of this center is to demonstrate opportunities for public-private partnerships and regional cooperation to facilitate the redevelopment of closed Federal facilities, the

transfer of technology from the public sector to the private sector, and the return of such property and technology to productive use.

A prime example of this activity can be found in East Tennessee. The closure of major portions of Oak Ridge stranded a very skilled workforce and abandoned a great deal of infrastructure. Working together on a regional basis, local governments, businesses and members of the community have been able to return parts of Oak Ridge to productive use, and facilitate the transfer of technology to the private sector, bringing back jobs and investment to the region.

These efforts in East Tennessee should serve as a national model to promote new opportunities for brownfields redevelopment around the country.

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REMEMBERING NEW MEXICO'S  
RICHARD ROCCO

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, last month New Mexico lost a real hero. Richard Rocco, an Army Medic in the Vietnam War who received the Medal of Honor for rescuing severely wounded fellow crewmen from the wreckage of a downed helicopter under enemy fire, died of cancer on October 31 at his home in San Antonio, Texas. He was 63.

On May 24, 1970, Mr. Rocco, a sergeant, was aboard a medical evacuation helicopter that was shot down on a mission to remove wounded South Vietnamese troops besieged near the village of Katum. Mr. Rocco suffered back injuries, a broken hip and a broken wrist, and the other four crew members were shot. Brave and determined, Mr. Rocco went back to the helicopter and carried the co-pilot, the crew chief and another medic to cover, one at a time, crossing 20 yards of open ground under a hail of fire, his hands and face burned by flames engulfing the helicopter. The next day, two American helicopters were shot down trying to evacuate the crewmen, who had called in artillery and air strikes on their own position to turn back an assault by North Vietnamese troops. However, all five crew members were rescued on that second day.

The commander of the First Cavalry Division visited Mr. Rocco at the hospital and told him he had been recommended for the Medal of Honor. He heard nothing else about it until 1974, when he was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and was told he would receive the medal, the nation's highest award for valor.

Mr. Rocco had not known that the co-pilot he saved, Lt. Lee Caubarraux, had been lobbying in his behalf. In March 1971, while Mr. Caubarraux was preparing for a medical retirement in Texas, the Medal of Honor recommendation was mailed to him by a warrant officer in the First Cavalry Division awards office in South Vietnam who had found it in a desk drawer.

Mr. Caubarraux appealed to Army authorities to approve the award, and then recounted Mr. Rocco's efforts to Senator Russell Long of Louisiana, Mr. Caubarraux's home state. Those efforts finally prevailed when President Gerald R. Ford presented the Medal of Honor

to Mr. Rocco on December 12, 1974. The medal requires even generals to salute its recipients.

Louis Richard Rocco, a native of the Baretas neighborhood of Albuquerque, retired from the Army as a chief warrant officer in 1978 after 22 years of military service. He reenlisted in 1991, in the Persian Gulf War, and spent six months at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, recruiting military personnel.

Mr. Rocco worked extensively as a veterans counselor. In 1978 he started the Vet Center on Fourth Street which created a host of services and programs for veterans. Besides the Vet Center, Mr. Rocco started a shelter for homeless veterans, a nursing home in Truth or Consequences and tuition waivers for veterans attending state-run colleges. During the administration of New Mexico Governor Toney Anaya he was named the director of the Veterans Service Commission. In recent years, even as his health failed, he also spoke to schoolchildren about drug abuse on behalf of Vietnam Veterans of America.

As a testament to the impact that Mr. Rocco has had on his fellow New Mexicans, on October 12 of this year a South Valley Park next to the Westside Community Center was named after him: The Richard Rocco Medal of Honor Park and a stone monument placed there in his honor. Plans are also underway for a bronze bust of Mr. Rocco to be made and placed inside the old Armijo School near the park—where he went to school growing up. Although seriously ill, Mr. Rocco came to the ceremony organized by veterans throughout New Mexico. He called the naming of the park "an honor that I hold above presidents and legislators, because these are my people. For them to honor me, it makes me feel so good."

In addition to his wife, Maria, three children, five grandchildren, his mother, one brother and four sisters survive Mr. Rocco. I extend my deep condolences to the Rocco family and all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with them.

Mr. Speaker, as the only member of the New Mexico congressional delegation serving on the Veterans Affairs Committee, I wanted to inform my colleagues about this heroic and extraordinary man. Richard Rocco's historic and noble acts have given New Mexicans reason to hope, reason to be proud, and reason to champion the veteran. I ask my colleagues to join with me to pay tribute to Richard Rocco for his courageous actions, on that day so long ago.

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HONORING IOWA VOLUNTEER

**HON. JIM NUSSLE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Alyssa Hall from Epworth, Iowa. A high school student, Alyssa attended my 2001 Youth Summit in Dubuque.

During the youth summit each year, spending a full day with young Iowans encourages me about the future of our state and nation. Alyssa Hall is part of an outstanding group of students who have an enormous amount of ability and potential to make the world that surrounds them a better place.

I challenged those students attending the summit in Dubuque to become active in their local areas and to let me know about their experiences. I asked them to perform some sort of service to enhance the communities they call home.

I was very pleased to hear recently from Alyssa about her volunteer experiences with the Epworth Gateway Gardeners, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making their hometown a more beautiful place to live.

Alyssa embraced my challenge and took action. Throughout the spring and summer months Alyssa joined the Gateway Gardeners in creating a butterfly garden near a new town walking path. She worked hard, got a little dirt under her nails and especially enjoyed tending to an area with pink petunias, Epworth's official flower.

It is clear that Alyssa found the time she spent with the Epworth Gateway Gardeners to be both enjoyable and rewarding. I am sure her friends, neighbors and fellow volunteers are very appreciative of her time and effort.

I want to publicly thank Alyssa for her hard work. I hope she will continue her dedication to community service in the future. She is an outstanding young American, and I am especially proud of her efforts to make Iowa a better place.

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HONORING EMMITT J. SMITH

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary athlete, philanthropist and role model, Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt J. Smith III, for his exceptional achievements on and off the playing field.

On Sunday, October 27, 2002, Smith made history by becoming the National Football League's all-time leading rusher, surpassing late Chicago Bears great Walter Payton. With a powerful, 11-yard carry against the Seattle Seahawks, Smith pushed his career total in rushing yardage to the 16,728 mark, moving him two yards ahead of the record that Payton (16,726) set in 1987.

However, his achievement as the NFL's all-time top rusher is just one of many accomplishments that Smith can boast. Throughout his 13-year career in professional football, he has compiled an outstanding resume of accomplishments as a star running back and valued teammate. He has led the Dallas Cowboys to three Super Bowl titles while also claiming Super Bowl MVP honors. In 1993, he won the National Football League Most Valuable Player Award.

Smith is the winner of four NFL rushing titles and is the first player in NFL history to rush for over 1,000 yards in 11 consecutive seasons. He is also the NFL's career rushing touchdown leader. What's more, he has accomplished all of these goals while wearing a Dallas Cowboys uniform, making him a hometown hero for the Thirtieth Congressional District of Texas and the entire Dallas-Fort Worth area.

His performances on the field are only overshadowed by one thing: his incredible public service off the field. Smith has become