

Dallas's goodwill ambassador to the world through his dedication to improving the lives of young people everywhere.

His work to aid programs for youth and children in a range of areas from student mentoring to anti-drug education to physical fitness is impressive. Among the numerous activities Smith has championed throughout his career, he has served as the Cowboys' United Way spokesman and supported Big Brothers/Big Sisters, The Kidney Foundation, Oak Cliff (TX) Little League, Buckner Children's Home of Texas, The Salvation Army, American Lung Association, the Battered and Abused Children's Foundation, B.A.D (Boxers Against Drugs) and Theater Arts for Youth. He has also worked with children through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, hosting many visits at the Cowboys' Valley Ranch practice facility during the season.

Smith also co-founded the Open Doors Foundation, a not-for-profit that supports organizations and faith-based programs to provide educational, motivational and financial services to today's youth, with a special emphasis on narrowing the digital divide. In June 2002, he was appointed by President Bush to serve on the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and educate millions of American children about the importance of staying healthy.

Mr. Speaker, for all of his record-breaking, awe-inspiring athletic achievements, for all his selfless work in the community to serve as a role model for youth and to help those less fortunate, and for his time spent as an outstanding husband, father, and citizen, I rise to salute Emmitt Smith. He is a Texas treasure and a national icon, and I join the legions of Dallas Cowboy fans in congratulating him and his family on this momentous occasion. Go Cowboys!

HONORING TED MALIARIS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ted Maliares for his efforts to promote patriotism around the Nation through music.

Ted Maliares is now touring the United States performing "A Tribute to America—A 21st Century Anthem" which was composed by his mother, Ann S. Miller in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The Anthem is dedicated to our Armed Forces, to our men and women in uniform, and all Americans who need to carry on in this time of crisis. By performing the Anthem with children's groups across America, Ted Maliares hopes to inspire and promote patriotism for our great nation through song.

Please join me in congratulating Ted Maliares for his service to America through the arts.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CORTEZ FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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 Cortez Fire Protection District based in Cortez, Colorado for their service and dedication during one of Colorado's most formidable fire seasons. Last summer, the Fire Protection District 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 Cortez Fire Protection District 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 out-buildings.

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 Cortez Fire Protection District has served the citizens of Cortez since 1886 and operates from three fire stations. The district relies on a fulltime Fire Marshall and 36 volunteer firefighters, prepared to fight fires or provide medical assistance on a moment's notice.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Cortez Fire Protection District before this body of Congress and this nation. I want to commend the Cortez volunteer firefighters and their support staff for their determination, courage, and resolve during last summer's efforts on Missionary Ridge. Without the help of the Cortez Fire Protection District and others, the added devastation to our community, environment, and quality of life would have been unimaginable. Their tireless commitment throughout the 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN MERRILLVILLE, IN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate the members of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville, Indiana as they celebrate their 88th anniversary, as well as the 11th anniversary of their present sanctuary's consecration. The festivities will begin on Sunday, November 17, 2002 with a special service, followed by a banquet to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Beckoning visitors who are traveling on Interstate 65, the golden domes of St. Sava offer an amazing spectacle. However, it is the interior of the church that the parishioners hold sacred. Built from Indiana limestone in a five-year construction project, the present sanctuary located at 9191 Mississippi Street in Merrillville replaced the original St. Sava Church, built in 1914 in Gary, Indiana, after that church was destroyed by fire. The dedicated members of the church came together to worship at the St. Sava "small hall" in Hobart Indiana while plans were made for their new sanctuary. Undeterred by the loss of their church building, the congregation demonstrated their commitment to each other and to their faith by carrying on with their services at the "small hall" for 13 years.

Mr. Speaker, St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church is led by the Very Reverend Jovan Todorovich. The Very Reverend Todorovich has been the priest at the church for 33 years, and the parishioners are thankful for the spiritual and emotional leadership he has provided during that time. Church President Michael Galich has attended St. Sava since 1946 and is proud that the church has been able to maintain the Serbian traditions and customs that make their church unique. Because the congregation has been blessed with tremendous leadership and good fortune throughout its history, it is appropriate that the celebration of the church's anniversary will be held near the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Very Reverend Todorovich, along with his Grace Bishop Longin, and Father Irinej Dobrijevic will serve the Holy Hierarchical Liturgy the morning of November 17, which will be followed by a memorial service to be conducted by representatives of a local American Legion at the adjacent Memorial Park to commemorate the fallen soldiers of all wars. The celebration banquet will conclude the festivities, led by keynote speaker Scott Taylor, a former soldier, and author of a book detailing the military action in Yugoslavia and Macedonia following the NATO occupation of Kosovo.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the congregation of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church as they celebrate the 88th anniversary of their parish. Blessed with outstanding leadership and unwavering faith, the congregation of St. Sava has enriched Northwest Indiana by bringing the proud and historic Serbian traditions to our community. May God continue to bless the parishioners and the church leaders for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pan American Health Organization, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. PAHO is the oldest international health organization in the world, and serves as the Regional Office of the Americas for the World Health Organization. It is

headquartered in Washington D.C. and has a U.S.-Mexico Border Field Office in El Paso, Texas, as well as country offices in 27 nations throughout the Americas and nine scientific and technical centers.

This year, as we celebrate the Centennial of the Pan American Health Organization, we also celebrate the notable health achievements of the countries of the Americas, with the support of PAHO.

One hundred years ago, public health in the Americas was an uncoordinated jumble, as individual countries made separate efforts to protect themselves and their people against the threat of "imported" diseases. Yet over the next century, through coordinated action, health progress unrivaled in history swept the Western Hemisphere as health leaders joined together to fight disease and to bring water, sanitation, and health services to millions.

The achievements of the countries of the Americas, led by the Pan American Health Organization over the last century, tell a story of ongoing progress: Measles, smallpox and polio have been eradicated from the Americas.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001 and with the threat of bioterrorism, the countries of the Americas are enhancing their emergency preparedness capabilities, improving their surveillance and response to outbreaks of infections, and expanding their laboratory capacity to diagnose agents used in bio-terrorism. Disaster and public health experts are being trained to prepare for and manage biological, chemical and radiological incidents.

A new "Building Blocks Model for HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Care" program is improving care for the 2.6 million people in the Americas who are infected with HIV.

Life expectancy at birth rose from less than 50 years at the start of the last century to 69.8 years in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to 76.9 years in North America today.

Efforts to promote quality control in blood services in the region have reduced the risk of diseases transmitted by blood transfusion by one-half.

Water supply and waste disposal services have improved significantly in many countries, with coverage exceeding 90 percent in some of them.

Progress is on track toward elimination of onchocerciasis, targeted for 2007.

Regional information systems have been developed for epidemiological surveillance of food borne diseases and for food legislation and regulations that both protect and favor international trade.

Progress toward the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease has been stepped up, and the original date for achieving eradication, 2013, has been advanced to 2007.

There has been a 65 percent reduction in leprosy in the region since 1992.

A health information system now enables front-line health workers to analyze health trends and health inequities between and within countries and, on the basis of that analysis, to target the most needy.

Laws have been passed on a broad spectrum of health issues, including health of the elderly, mental health, adolescent health, safe motherhood, vaccination, blood banks, and health insurance.

Intense work in emergency preparedness enabled countries to prepare for and mitigate the effects of many natural disasters, including

Hurricane Mitch and the deadly floods in Venezuela.

Eighteen countries of the region have established national plans to fortify food with micronutrients such as iron, iodine, and vitamin A.

I would like to commend Sir George A.O. Alleyne of Barbados, for his eight years of exemplary service as the Director of the Pan American Health Organization. The reputation that PAHO now enjoys with the U.S. Congress and the Executive branch is a direct attribute to the steadfast efforts by Dr. Alleyne and the excellent work by the entire organization.

I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Mirta Roses Periago of Argentina on recently being elected to be the new Executive Director of PAHO. She will be the first woman and first Argentine to lead the world's oldest international health organization.

As PAHO enters its second century of service, I hope we can continue the path of achievement. The region certainly faces numerous ongoing challenges, but together, across regional and national lines, we can join in this great effort to improve the lives of everyone living in the Americas.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING AUTUMN FRONTZ

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Autumn Frontz is a heroine who saved her baby sister, Samantha Lynn, from choking; and

Whereas, Autumn Frontz acted quickly, without hesitation, proving herself to be remarkably responsible and caring; and

Whereas, Autumn Frontz is an asset to her family and the entire New Philadelphia community in her willingness to help others;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Autumn Frontz for her selflessness and heroism.

IN HONOR OF JOHN C. BANUELOS FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO OUR NATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to John C. Banuelos, in memory of his service to the community as a loyal citizen and as a proud member of our Armed Services during World War II.

Mr. Banuelos was born on January 26, 1921. He and his three brothers were Pioneer Farmers from Orange County. The four brothers went on to serve together in the Army during World War II. John served in the South Pacific theatre of operation where he led reconnaissance missions in the jungles of the Philippines and Japan. Some of his most notable experiences included personally meeting General Douglas MacArthur and befriending his family. Toward the end of the War, he participated in the guarding and transportation of gold and currency shipments seized from

Japan. As ground force squad leader "761," John led a group of 12 men who escorted generals from Tokyo to camps, inspected quarters for families of military personnel, and made reports on inspections.

Always proud but reserved and modest about his military experiences, John was awarded the expert M-1 classification in February of 1945, later receiving a personal letter on behalf of the United States from President Harry Truman. In addition, Staff Sergeant Banuelos' meritorious achievements included receiving the Victory Medal of Honor, the Asiatic Campaign medal, and a Good Conduct medal. Mr. Banuelos and his family are truly a distinguished part of our nation's military history.

Mr. Banuelos will be remembered for his service to our country and the community. As his Representative in Congress and as a member of the Armed Services Committee, I am proud to recognize John C. Banuelos for his contributions to our nation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4546, BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, while there may be many worthwhile provisions in this bill, I strongly oppose the unnecessary and unwarranted exemption contained in Section 315 for the Department of Defense (DOD) from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, our Nation's oldest conservation law. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act provides protection for over 850 species of migratory birds, including many that are threatened or endangered. The Act also sets forth U.S. obligations under four separate treaties to protect migratory birds and guide cooperative conservation management with Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia.

The provision which was inserted at the Bush Administration's request will effectively give the Defense Department license to bomb and destroy at will the natural habitats of migratory birds, endangering more than one million birds and curtailing the enjoyment of more than 50 million bird enthusiasts in this country. The provision will also provide an exclusive legal immunity from third-party lawsuits which challenge DOD non-compliance with the Act.

I have dealt with the military for years and they constantly seek to get out from under environmental laws. It is despicable that they are now using the threat of September 11 and al Qaeda to get unprecedented environmental immunity. We have fought two World Wars, the Korean War, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf War with this law in place, and there is no demonstrated need to exempt the Department of Defense now.

I raised concerns about this provision when H.R. 2456 was being considered and passed by the House. This environmental exemption was rushed through without significant public scrutiny. No hearings were held on the specifics of the proposal. Only one hearing was held in the House Armed Services Committee on the general issue and only the DOD and