

he has done with the Pueblo Convention Center and the Downtown Hotel. Tony's leadership abilities shine through in his position as chairman of the Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority and as Pueblo's representative on the Colorado Transportation Commission.

Tony served his country as a member of the Coast Guard in World War II. After the war, he came back to Pueblo and began a successful career operating a car dealership and as a commercial real estate investor. After his retirement, Tony generously gave to the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center and the Catholic Diocese of Pueblo Foundation. He has also helped to raise money for Pueblo Community College and serves as a member and chairman of the PCC Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Tony Fortino is a man of unparalleled dedication, evident through his efforts to improve the City of Pueblo, and his philanthropic contributions. It is his unrelenting passion for each and every thing he does, as well as his spirit of honesty and integrity that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. Tony Fortino is a remarkable man, who has achieved extraordinary deeds in his community, and I would like to extend to him my congratulations on his induction to the Pueblo Hall of Fame and wish Tony Fortino the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BASEBALL GREAT
MICKEY VERNON

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute today to legendary baseball batting champ Mickey Vernon who will be honored during Strath Haven High School's presentation of "Damn Yankees" at its spring musical production in Wallingford, Pennsylvania on Saturday, March 2, 2002. Music Director, John Shankweiler, selected this work as a tribute to Wallingford-Swarthmore School District residents Mr. and Mrs. James "Mickey" Vernon.

For the past fifty years, Mickey and Libby, his wife of over 60 years, have called Wallingford their home. However, it must be pointed out that Mickey Vernon is one of the favorite native sons of my hometown of Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania. Mickey Vernon is a hero in my hometown. Marcus Hook is a close-knit, working-class town on the Delaware River. The people of Marcus Hook have community spirit and have much cause for civic pride. One of the unifying bonds in our hometown is our great pride in the career and achievements of Mickey Vernon. In the ballparks of Marcus Hook the name of Mickey Vernon is revered. Even today, more than thirty years after his retirement, kids in Marcus Hook still play ball in the Mickey Vernon Little League.

Mickey Vernon, one of baseball's greatest first basemen of all time has earned a special place in the annals of baseball history. Mickey played twenty-one years in the big leagues, thirteen of those in our Nation's Capital where he played for the Washington Senators. He was known as a slick-fielding lefthanded first baseman with a short, compact lefty swing.

In 1946, Mickey won the first of his two American League batting titles, hitting 0.353

while banging out a league-leading 51 doubles and knocking in 85 runs. He won a second Silver Bat in 1953, when he again lead the league with a 0.337 average and 43 doubles. That year, he also smashed 15 home runs and drove in a career-best 115 runs.

For his career, Mickey batted 0.286, drove in 1,311 runs, and hit 490 doubles. He played in seven All-Star games, and held career records for first basemen in assists, put-outs, chances, and games played, 2,237. He was durable and consistent, playing 115 or more games for 14 straight years.

Typical of many ballplayers of his era, Mickey lost two years in the prime of his career, 1944-45, because he answered his country's call to service during World War II. When we honor individuals like Mickey Vernon we promote the essence of what is good and wholesome in our Nation. Individuals like Mickey Vernon represent the essence of courage and endurance—the qualities that helped make our Nation great. He is a true American hero in every sense of the word.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mickey Vernon for his outstanding career and his major league contributions to baseball, to his community, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and to the Nation with best wishes as well to his wife, Libby.

HONORING THE BORDER TEXAN
OF THE YEAR, SENATOR PHIL
GRAMM

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, the senior Senator from the great State of Texas, who on Thursday, February 28, will be named the "Border Texan of the Year."

Every year, the people of Hidalgo County, Texas, whom I represent, hold an annual Borderfest. This is a wonderful time where the diversity, culture, music and food of the region are celebrated and enjoyed. The highlight of the festival is the presentation of the Border Texan of the Year Award. I am very pleased that this year's recipient is a man of such distinction, whom I admire and respect and with whom I have enjoyed working with in the United States Congress.

Senator GRAMM has served the State of Texas with distinction both as a member of the House and as a United States Senator since 1978. He will truly be missed in Washington once he leaves us at the end of this year, but I am confident that his service to Texas will not be ending.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Senator GRAMM for many years, and we have collaborated across party lines to improve conditions throughout our state and especially in my South Texas region on such projects as transportation and infrastructure, including improving our bridges and roads.

Senator GRAMM and I have jointly introduced legislation to vastly improve the efficiency of the U.S. Customs Service along the U.S./Mexico border, thus increasing the flow of goods and services between the two countries. The residents of South Texas experience daily the long lines at our border crossings.

Despite heroic sacrifices by Customs personnel, who work long hours and enormous amounts of overtime, there are just not enough people to make our southern border work efficiently. Before Senator GRAMM leaves the U.S. Senate, I am hopeful that we can win our fight to bring much-needed resources to our southern border.

Infrastructure is vital for economic growth and prosperity and Senator GRAMM has recognized this and has worked hard to improve border infrastructure. His dedication to secure highway funding and particularly his efforts to help secure a Presidential permit for the construction of the new Anzalduas International Bridge is greatly appreciated by all border Texans.

As Senator GRAMM leaves the Senate, I wish him much success in his future endeavors.

HONORING SYDNEY ALDERMAN
PERRY FOR OUTSTANDING
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven in honoring an outstanding member of our community and my good friend, Sydney Alderman Perry. Sydney has been the Director of the Department of Jewish Education for over a decade and has made many invaluable contributions to the Jewish Federation during her tenure.

I have often spoke of our nation's need for talented, creative educators ready to help our children learn and grow. Sydney is a true reflection of this ideal. In the twelve years that she has served as the Director of the Department of Jewish Education, Sydney has worked diligently to improve the synagogue supplementary schools and has initiated a number of education programs for both adults and teens.

In developing "A Taste of Honey" and its offshoots, "A Taste of Milk and Honey" and "A Taste of Apples and Honey," Sydney created new and exciting educational programming for adults and teens. She spearheaded the Israel Experience Savings program, which helps young people travel to Israel and she initiated Talmud Torah Meyuchad, an individualized Jewish education program for children with special needs. She is also responsible for the development of Midrasha, a new adult institute, and the successful community Hebrew High School, MAKOM, which serves three hundred and fifty teens throughout the New Haven area.

In addition to her work in education, Sydney has also dedicated her time and energy to the Jewish Federation. For the past six years, she has served as the Associate Executive Director of the Federation and is presently the Acting Director. In this position, Sydney serves on the Long Range Planning committee; helps staff the Community Relations Council and leadership development; supervises the Holocaust Education-Prejudice Reduction Project, Stepping Stones, and the new library at the Jewish Community Center; and acts as an advocate for Jewish continuity. She has served as a consultant to the community on educational endeavors, including the Anne Frank

Project, Shepherd '92, Jerusalem 3000 and the celebration of Israel's 50th Anniversary. Sydney is an extraordinary scholar, often called upon nationally to give workshops and has served as scholar-in-residence for several communities.

Sydney has shown an unparalleled dedication to Jewish education in our community and throughout the nation—a commitment that is reflected in the myriad of awards she has been honored with over the years. I am proud to join her husband, Ted, her children, grandchildren, family, friends, and colleagues in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sydney Alderman Perry for her outstanding service to our community. She is a true inspiration!

COMMEMORATION OF THE MUSLIM HOLIDAY OF EID UL-ADHA

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the completion of the Hajj, I want to extend my heartfelt greetings to the nearly seven million Muslims in America and the more than one billion Muslims worldwide celebrating a blessed Eid ul-Adha.

This most sacred holiday reminds us all of an important lesson. The Eid commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael in obedience to God. God, in His great wisdom and mercy, allowed the angel Gabriel to substitute a lamb as Abraham's offering, and Ishmael was spared. I am told the meat of the sacrificed lamb prepared for this feast is to be divided three ways: one third for the household, one third for relatives, and one third for the poor. It is this spirit of mercy and generosity that is most needed today.

As millions of faithful around the world join together for the conclusion of yet another remarkable pilgrimage to Mecca, there is also great reflection as we all seek to better understand the turmoil of the past few months. We all share grief and sorrow over the attacks of September 11. But partly as a testament to the hard work of the American Muslim community, I believe Americans are growing increasingly aware of Islam as a great religion of tolerance and peace.

This has been a difficult time for all Americans, especially Muslims. Not only did the Muslim community lose loved ones in the attacks like every other community in America, but they also suffered a backlash of suspicion, bigotry and violence. As time passes, it becomes increasingly clear that our nation has rejected such intolerance.

However, our struggle for justice continues. As we work to oppose secret evidence, profiling, and the disparate impact some of the measures adopted after September 11 have had on the Arab American and American Muslim community, we are working to protect the very ideals on which this great country was founded.

Mr. Speaker, as Muslim families celebrate Eid ul-Adha, let us remember the strength and discipline that faith offers each of us, and recommit ourselves to the sacrifices that life and justice might demand in the coming year.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN W. RAWLINGS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor an extraordinary man who embodied the spirit of my district in Colorado and whose contributions to society have gone unrecognized for far too long. John W. Rawlings was a pillar of the Las Animas community but far too few remember his services. Fortunately, a donation recently made by this man's loving son will ensure that John W. Rawling's accomplishments and generosity will never be forgotten.

Robert H. Rawlings, the current Pueblo Chieftain Publisher, remembers his father, John, as a kind, generous, and distinguished man. In order to preserve John's memory Robert has donated \$150,000 in John's name to the Las Animas museum project. The project will help to move the Kit Carson Museum from outside of Las Animas to Main Street in this historic district. The new museum will be named in John Rawlings' honor.

John Rawlings spent his childhood in Monte Vista in Colorado's beautiful San Luis Valley. In high school, John was a star football player, basketball player, and a top student. In the evenings, he worked as a janitor for the school to help support his family. John's hard work paid off and he won a full scholarship to Colorado College. After college, John served his country in World War I and was honored with officer training. He served in France in the 341st Field Artillery 89th division and was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant.

John's career in banking began in 1920, and 21 years later he became the president of First National Bank of Las Animas. John's hard work and leadership skills were honored during his lifetime with roles in many organizations including the Southeastern Colorado Clearing House Association and the Colorado Bankers Association. John also served his community as the president of the Las Animas Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Las Animas Lions Club, and a commander of the Monte Vista post of the American Legion.

After John's death in 1959, he was named "The Outstanding Citizen of the Area" and was greatly mourned by a loving family and grateful community. His dedication to excellence and his fellow man certainly deserves the attention of this body of Congress. Although it is certain that John's family and his community still miss him dearly, we hope that the new museum will keep the memory of this kind and generous man alive and intact for the future. Thanks John for your contributions to this nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CLEOTILDE "DING" GOULD

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, Chamorro culture lost one of its most ardent advocates with the recent passing of Cleotilde "Ding"

Castro Gould at the age of 71. An inspiring mentor who touched a lot of people through her kindness, warmth, and humor, Mrs. Gould was a woman who lived by a set of lofty ideals and a firm commitment to the island she loved so much.

Primarily known as an educator and as a specialist on Chamorro language and culture, Mrs. Gould played a key role in the formation of the Guam Department of Education's Chamorro language and Culture program. She served as the program's director until her retirement several years ago. The program, which greatly progressed under her guidance, has rekindled interest on Chamorro culture as well as the recent rebirth and rejuvenation of the Chamorro language on Guam. It was under her leadership that the Chamorro language program became part of the curriculum of the public schools in Guam. She was the advocate who spoke to the political leadership about requiring the teaching of the Chamorro language. She was the expert who used the Chamorro language in ways no one else could match. She was the teacher whose enthusiasm inspired an entire generation of Chamorro language teachers.

In addition to her administrative capacities, Mrs. Gould also made significant contributions to the body of Chamorro music and literature that we have today. Her many talents included that of singing, songwriting and creative writing. In addition to having been an accomplished performer of Kantan Chamorrta (Chamorro Songs), she has also been credited for several compositions made popular by local island personalities. In the 1980's, she also produced a video documentary of the Kantan Chamorrta song form which is the ancient call-and-response impromptu song form practiced today by only a few remaining artists.

Mrs. Gould was also the writer and creator of the Juan Malimanga comic strip. A daily feature in the Pacific Daily News, Guam's daily newspaper, the strip and its characters embody the Chamorro perspective and our local tendency to use humor either to get points across or to express criticism in a witty and non-confrontational manner.

It was, however, her talent as a storyteller that endeared her to many. For more than four decades, her captivating voice and gestures enthralled the imagination of her audience. Her great talent in conveying ancient Chamorro legends to the younger generation has placed great demand on her skills throughout the island's many schools. Mrs. Gould also represented the island as a storyteller in a Pacific islands tour sponsored by the Consortium of Pacific Arts and Cultures and she employed the same talent in 1988 as part of the Guam delegation to the Pacific Festival of Arts in Australia. She has been honored by the people of Guam as a master storyteller, a great honor in Pacific island cultures.

Through her song lyrics, the comical situations she had developed, and the lessons brought forth by her storytelling, Mrs. Gould touched a generation of children, young adults and students. Her exceptional ability to communicate with people from a wide range of age and educational backgrounds enabled her to pass on the values and standards of our elders to the younger generation. Dedicating her life towards the preservation of our island's culture and traditions, she became one of my