

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL
RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORA-
TORY GOLDEN, COLORADO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to another achievement of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, based in Golden, Colorado. It is appropriate that on its 25th anniversary, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has garnered yet another award recognizing its contributions to the development of clean energy technologies.

In its December issue, Scientific American magazine has named NREL one of the Scientific American 50—the magazine's first list recognizing annual contributions to science and technology that provide a vision of a better future.

NREL, along with Spectrolab Inc., was selected by the magazine for its work in increasing the efficiency of photovoltaic solar cells. NREL's research into multi-junction solar cells for more than a decade has led the way to ever more efficient cells, offering the potential of cheaper electricity from the sun.

The magazine noted that all the recipients of the Scientific American 50 have "demonstrated clear, progressive views of what our technological future could be, as well as the leadership, knowledge and expertise essential to realizing those visions."

I continue to be proud of the tremendous contributions that the National Renewable Energy Laboratory had made—to Colorado, our country, and our world. Congratulations to all at NREL on this important award.

IN HONOR OF REPRESENTATIVE
DAN MILLER

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my dear friend and colleague, DAN MILLER, whom I have had the privilege of working with from the great state of Florida.

A member of the freshman class of 1992, DAN represents the Thirteenth Congressional District of Florida along the Gulf Coast areas of Sarasota and Bradenton. DAN never held public office before his election to Congress, but once here, fought for legislation critical to the future of our state. A man of his word, DAN took office with a pledge to term limit himself and has kept that promise, much to our personal dismay.

Looking back on his career, DAN has served his district and his country honorably in his roles on the Appropriations, Government Reform and Census committees. DAN has stood as a staunch fiscal conservative who is committed to reducing wasteful government spending. These beliefs have manifested themselves most notably through his efforts to curtail the government sugar program. DAN also did great things in his role as an appropriator. He was one of the original cheerleaders of doubling the National Institutes of Health budget, sensing its growing importance to the U.S. and the world health communities.

Beyond all of these accomplishments, DAN and his wife, Glenda are my neighbors here in Washington and dear friends. I will miss DAN's presence in this House as my wife, Emilie, and I will miss their presence in our home. Although the MILLERS leave Washington, I look forward to many years of continued friendship.

Mr. Speaker, all Floridians and all Americans have been better served for having DAN MILLER in Congress. This body exists so that the people of our country have a voice in their government. The votes Floridians cast to send him to Washington brought this House reasoned judgement, energetic lawmaking and strong conviction. Today we honor his service to his country and wish him well. God Bless DAN and GLENDA MILLER.

FIGHTING FOR DISABLED
MILITARY RETIREES

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, for more than 17 years, I have introduced legislation to repeal a 100 year old law that unfairly penalizes disabled military retirees. Some military retirees—individuals who are eligible for military retirement benefits as a result of a fall service career are also eligible for disability compensation from the VA based on a medical problem they incurred while in the service. Under present law, these service-disabled retirees must surrender a portion of their retired pay if they want to receive the disability compensation to which they are entitled. This issue is commonly referred to as "concurrent receipt." Congress enacted this unjust law in 1891.

My legislation to completely eliminate the offset between military retired pay and VA disability compensation has received strong bipartisan support in both houses of Congress. In fact, more than 90 percent of Members of the House of Representatives and more than 80 percent of the Senate have cosponsored legislation to repeal the current offset.

The 106th Congress took the first steps toward addressing this inequity by authorizing the military to pay a monthly allowance to military retirees with severe service-connected disabilities rated by the Department of Veterans Affairs at 70 percent or greater. These provisions were expanded to include retirees with ratings of 60 percent.

For years, I have been told that I had to get the money included in the budget resolution before action would be taken on my legislation. So earlier this year, I worked very hard with Chairman NUSSLE and other members of the Budget Committee, like Representative CHARLIE BASS, to secure funding for a partial repeal of the offset in its Fiscal Year 2003 budget resolution. While the money in the budget resolution fell short of the funding needed to completely eliminate the current offset, it would have provided for a substantial concurrent receipt benefit.

For that reason, I was particularly pleased that the House Armed Services Committee incorporated the budget resolution proposal into its authorization bill. As initially approved by the House, H.R. 4546 included a provision to authorize military retirees who are 60 percent

or greater disabled to receive their full retired pay and VA disability compensation benefit by Fiscal Year 2007. During its consideration of the authorization bill, the Senate approved an amendment to authorize full concurrent receipt immediately.

Given the overwhelming support that repeal of the current offset has received in both bodies of Congress and the fact that the money was included in the Fiscal Year 2003 budget resolution, I am extremely disappointed that the conference report for the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act does not contain at least the House-passed concurrent receipt language. While I appreciate the efforts of Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER and others to include a benefit for some disabled retirees in the final bill, I am frustrated that we have once again failed to address this issue for the majority of retirees who have been forced to fund their own retirement for years. I have already started to hear from disabled retirees who are angry that we did not do more on this issue in the defense bill.

At a time when our nation is calling upon our Armed Forces to defend democracy and freedom, I am afraid we are sending the wrong message to our men and women in uniform. I want to remind my colleagues of a quote by our first Commander-in-Chief George Washington: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

I will continue my efforts to eliminate the unjust offset that penalizes disabled military retirees in the 108th Congress. I hope my colleagues will join me in the fight to restore military retired pay to the men and women who earn it by serving in our Nation's Armed Forces.

OUR FLORIDA COLLEAGUES:
CARRIE MEEK AND KAREN
THURMAN AND DAN MILLER

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in recognizing the contributions that three of our Florida colleagues—CARRIE MEEK and KAREN THURMAN and DAN MILLER—have made. Each brought invaluable gifts to this institution, and each are leaving with a legacy that any one of us would be proud to have.

I have known KAREN THURMAN since we both were elected state officials in the Florida Legislature. And both then and since, she worked hard and long for constituents in need. She has been a particularly strong champion of veterans' and senior citizen causes and of Florida's agricultural community. Both of us have served on the Agriculture Committee here and since then on the Ways and Means Committee. And while KAREN and I have found ourselves divided many times by partisan political issues, I have never known her once not to fight for what she believes deeply in. She's a fighter and a wonderful person, and while politics ultimately determines our fate here, there is no question KAREN will continue a

strong role in making both Florida and this nation better.

The same can be said of CARRIE MEEK. CARRIE has dedicated her professional and personal life to the people of Florida, as a public servant, college administrator and educator. CARRIE has been a true champion to her constituents. She has been a person that would reach out to the neediest and be their strongest advocate. I will always admire her commitment and loyalty to her convictions. Surely, CARRIE's contributions to the lives of all Floridians will continue to pay dividends for generations to come.

With the retirement of DAN MILLER, I am not only losing a colleague but a longtime good neighbor of mine in Washington.

DAN's dedication to public service and his commitment to the idea of less government, of conservative government, has been unwavering and will be greatly missed. Even my own sigh of relief at losing a staunch opponent of the sugar program—a program vitally needed by many of my constituents—is a testament to DAN's doggedness when he is pursuing what he deeply believes is the right course.

The years of service by all three of these Florida members—KAREN THURMAN, CARRIE MEEK and DAN MILLER—are years of contributions. And I want to join all my colleagues in thanking them for that.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JUSTICE WILLIAM COUSINS, JR.

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to the distinguished life and career of the Honorable William Cousins, Jr., Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. A scholar, patriot, and gentleman, Justice Cousins has never rested in the ivory tower that his distinguished academic and professional achievements could afford him. Instead, he has chosen at every stage of his life, to use his tremendous gifts to engage and serve his country, city, and community in the pursuit of social justice. He is truly a source of inspiration not only for the residents of the 1st Illinois Congressional District, but for all Americans everywhere.

Born on October 6, 1927 in Swifton, Mississippi, Justice Cousins moved to Chicago where he graduated from DuSable High School in 1945. After graduating from the University of Illinois in 1945 with honors in Political Science, and Harvard Law School in 1951, Justice Cousins answered the patriotic call to duty and served in the United States Army from 1951 through 1948 as a combat Infantry 2d and 1st Lieutenant during the Korean conflict. He would continue on in his military service until 1975, when he retired from the United States Army Reserve Corps as a Lieutenant Colonel.

While serving his country in the military, Justice Cousins began to build an impressive, multifaceted legal career as an attorney with Chicago Title & Trust Company. He then went on to serve as an Assistant State Attorney of Cook County, Illinois before going into private practice. Justice Cousins was then elected Alderman for Chicago's 8th Ward. He served as

a Circuit Court Judge of Cook County, Illinois from 1976 until his election in 1992 to the Illinois Appellate Court. His tenure on the Illinois Appellate Court includes service as Chairman of the Executive Committee, First Appellate District, Presiding Justice of the First District, 3d Division and 2d Division, and Chair for the Illinois Appellate Judges Annual Meeting. He was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court as a member of the Executive Committee of the Illinois Judicial Conference since 1983 and was appointed Chairman of the Illinois Judicial Conference from 1989 to 1990. Justice Cousins is also a member of the Special Supreme Court Committee on Capital Cases.

Aside from his distinguished legal career, Justice Cousins has lent his immense talents to several civic organizations by serving as a board member of the Citizens' School Committee, Parkway House as well as the Chicago Area Planned Parenthood Association. He was also president of Chatham-Avalon Park Community Council, and is a founding member and former Board Member of PUSH. Justice Cousins is a Deacon at Lincoln Memorial Congregational United Church of Christ, and was an Assistant Moderator and former member of the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Justice Cousins' status as a pillar of civic and professional responsibility has not gone unrecognized, as he has been honored by well over one dozen organizations. It is only fitting that Justice Cousins be recognized and honored by the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF DR. SOPHIE C. WONG WHO WILL BE RETIRING AFTER 12 YEARS OF SERVICE AS AN ELECTED BOARD MEMBER OF THE ALHAMBRA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sophie C. Wong.

Dr. Sophie C. Wong was the first Asian American to serve on the Alhambra School Board. Elected in 1990, Dr. Wong has held to her commitment to preserve and advance the quality of education for all students. Among her many achievements as a Board Member, Dr. Wong was the founder of the Alhambra School District Educational Foundation, co-founder of the Human Relations Advisory Committee, and founder of the Asian American Association of the Alhambra School District.

Immigrating to the United States in 1956, Dr. Wong has been a resident and homeowner in Monterey Park since 1961. Dr. Wong is married to Mr. Norman J. Wong and is the mother of two daughters, Cheryl and Debbie. Dr. Wong also has one granddaughter, Blythe.

Since 1996, Dr. Wong has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of Chinese for Christ Calvin Chao Theological Seminary in Alhambra, California. The seminary is a professional graduate school for Christian leaders, pastors and missionaries. On August 7, 1985, the Seminary received authorization

from the State of California to grant M.A., M.Div., D.Min., and Ph.D. degrees, making it the first Chinese seminary to be authorized by the State to grant a Ph.D. degree.

In addition to being an active and important member of her community, Dr. Wong is a successful entrepreneur. She is the president of Sophie C. Wong & Associates, a business development, management, real estate, marketing and public relations firm, which matches people with business opportunities. She is also the co-founder, director, chief financial officer and past chairman of Golden Security Bank since 1982. Dr. Wong was named one of "ten Important Power Brokers and Emerging Leaders in the San Gabriel Valley of Southern California" in the December 1997 issue of the Los Angeles Business Journal. In 1986 and again in 1996, Dr. Wong was elected to the White House Conference on Small Businesses.

It is with pleasure that I ask all Members to join with me in congratulating the Honorable Sophie C. Wong for her accomplishments on behalf of the students and staff of the Alhambra School District as well as her leadership in numerous activities in the community.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF JAY, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the residents of Jay, Florida.

On the 30th of November, Jay will celebrate its centennial anniversary. Named after its first postmaster, Mr. J.T. Nowling, this small, Northwest Florida town near the Florida/Alabama border was established one hundred years ago primarily as a farming community. Even today, many residents of this Santa Rosa County community follow in their ancestors' agrarian footsteps.

In 1940, a small group of farmers embarked on a venture to create a livestock market in the area. Sales brought revenues of up to \$1 million by 1950 and the industry continues to thrive today. Jay boasts about their peanut buying and warehouse facility as well as Florida's only two cotton gins, making this one of Florida's finest and most progressive agricultural towns.

In the early 1970's, the discovery of oil changed the life of this small community. The Jay oil field has approximately 67 oil wells that have provided profits of more than \$400 million. The revenues generated from Jay's entrepreneurial spirit have funded a new city hall, fire department and recreation complex.

In spite of its brisk development, Jay remains steadfast in its roots, distinctive in its identity, and carries on all that America cherishes about its small towns. Much like my nearby hometown of Chumuckla, these 700 residents live in a place where life centers on church, work and family. It is a place where the people are loving, friendly and neighbors help neighbors in times of need.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate the people of Jay, Florida on their centennial and wish them the best as they continue to move and prosper through the 21st century.