

A TRIBUTE TO MS. NANCY STONE,
27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2002

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's most notable women during the month of March and it is my honor to not only recognize women of the past but to also recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I am honored today to pay homage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O'Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all the women of my Congressional District, whose contributions have made a profound difference in the face and fabric of our nation.

I am truly honored to pay special recognition to an outstanding woman of California's 27th Congressional District, Ms. Nancy Stone. For over 15 years, Nancy has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the foothills communities. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Nancy instantly recognize her enthusiasm and passion for helping others.

A graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, Nancy currently works part time at Salomon Smith Barney in Glendale, California. She has been married to Chip Stone for 19 years and is the proud mother of Sarah and Rob.

Her dedication to her children has manifested itself in the groups and organizations which she leads and supports. She has served as the President of the Mountain Avenue Elementary School PTA and as the Vice President of the Rosemont Middle School PTA. Noted for her involvement with Seeds of Peace, an organization she helped to create to actively nurture a caring and accepting community, Nancy has dedicated herself to working for a more peaceful neighborhood environment in which to live and raise our families.

Her outstanding work with the community's young people truly sets her apart as someone who is keenly aware that our future lies with our children and in recognizing that, she has introduced innovative program ideas to help enrich the lives of all young people. She created the Community Service Learning Project in order to extol the values of unselfishness and community caring. Today the project has 600 students who dedicate approximately 10,000 volunteer hours to the community each year. Currently, she is the driving force behind efforts to open an after school teen center for the high school students of my district.

For her efforts, the community has recognized her for selflessness and unsurpassed giving. In 2001 she was named the Glendale Youth Coalition's Woman of the Year and in the same year was named as one of the Glendale News Press's 103 Most Influential People. The Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce named her their Woman of the Year in 1995.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraor-

dinary woman of California's 27th Congressional District, Ms. Nancy Stone. The entire community joins me in thanking Nancy for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a more selfless, peaceful and accepting place to live.

IN SUPPORT OF S. 1857

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for S. 1857, Encourage the Negotiated Settlement of Tribal Claims bill.

I would like to begin by commending my friend and Co-Chair of the Native American Caucus, Representative KILDEE for introducing the companion bill H.R. 3851 and my friend NICK RAHALL, our ranking member of the Resources Committee for his dedication and work on this issue.

Through treaties, statutes and executive orders American Indians and Alaskan Natives (AI/AN) have entered into a trust relationship with the federal government. As part of this relationship AI/AN agreed to entrust the federal government with their resources such as land, natural resources, enterprises, judgement awards and investment income. Under the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has been given the authority by the federal government to manage Indian resources and other assets.

Unfortunately, the BIA has not honored this trust relationship. Instead, they have managed to "mismanage" the trust accounts of 315 Indian tribes with over 1,400 accounts worth over \$2.6 billion for many years.

S. 1857 will expand the current statute of limitations until 2005 allowing Indian tribes to postpone filing claims against the U.S. relating to the management of their trust fund accounts. It will enable the trust account holders the time necessary to identify where their money is going. This legislation will hold the BIA accountable for their mismanagement and squandering of Indian people's money. This past December my constituents of the Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache and Pueblos (over 40,000 people) did not receive their royalty checks, money they greatly depend on for rent, clothing, food and other basic necessities.

Today, the Congress has the opportunity to honor and enforce its trust responsibility to AI/AN people. I fully support S. 1857 and encourage my fellow colleagues to do the same. We must make the BIA accountable for their actions.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES T.
BANERJEE

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Frances T. (Frankee) Banerjee on twenty-five years of distinguished service to the City of Los Angeles. A very accomplished

woman, Ms. Banerjee retires as the General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation.

Ms. Banerjee has had a successful career working in many facets of transportation, including: Research Associate in the Urban Transportation Systems Laboratory at MIT, Strategic Planning Manager for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and consultant for the United States Department of Transportation.

Since joining the City, Ms. Banerjee has served in a variety of capacities. She began as Planning Manager for the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency, where she oversaw the Los Angeles Downtown People Mover Program. She then served as the Transportation Manager for the Community Redevelopment Agency before becoming the Assistant Chief Legislative Analyst in 1988.

Frankee Banerjee joined the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation in 1994. Because of her excellent record in transportation, she was appointed by Mayor Richard Riordan as the first woman ever to hold the position of General Manager. She had the task of overseeing approximately 2,000 employees, as well as directing the activities of the Offices of Transportation Programs, Operations, Parking Management, and the Office of Organizational Support. The Office is responsible for design and development of all new projects, field and systems operations of the City's traffic signal system, transportation review of all new development, operation of the commuter express and community transit serving 26 City areas, management of parking programs, intersection control, and school crossing guard services. Under her management, the Department of Transportation has received national recognition for programs showcasing the development and deployment of advanced technologies, environmental achievements, and sensitive streetscape design.

In addition to her work with the City, Ms. Banerjee has been actively involved with numerous professional associations and has received numerous awards. Such awards include being named "Employer of the Year 2001" by the Women's Transportation Seminar and "Affiliate Businesswoman of the Year 2000" by the National Association of Business Owners.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join Frankee Banerjee's family and friends in congratulating her on her retirement. I thank her for her exemplary performance, and her distinguished and dedicated service to the people of the City of Los Angeles. I wish her well in her future endeavors.

COMMENDING PENTAGON
RENOVATION PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in commending the great work that the Pentagon Renovation Program and its contractors have completed so far.

The renovation effort, also known as the Phoenix Project, is slated to be complete on

September 11, 2002—exactly one year after the despicable act of terror. I am proud to acknowledge that the Phoenix Project is running 6 weeks ahead of schedule.

The dedication of the government employees and independent contractors once again shows the resolve that this nation has always shown in times of adversity. In fact, initially the workers toiled around the clock to continue this extraordinary effort. They have even put up a digital clock at the site, counting down the days to September 11, 2002, to remind them of the victims who perished, with the intentions of finishing the reconstruction on September 11, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, after the terrorist attacks on September 11 on the Pentagon, 400,000 square feet of demolition work had to be carried out before the reconstruction efforts could begin. This process was expected to take 4 to 7 months, but was finished in just one month. Also, out of about 4600 displaced employees, 1500 have already returned to their old office spaces.

The speed, resiliency, and efficiency with which this project has been carried out is a reminder of the determination that our nation has, the determination that was first seen on the United and American flights, and continues to be seen in the efforts of these workers.

Mr. Speaker, before September 11, these workers were working about 5 days per week to renovate the Pentagon, but after the attack, they have put aside their own fears and returned for even longer work days. A lot of these workers lost their loved ones in these terror attacks, yet they have endured through their personal grief to offer some solace to the rest of the nation.

This reconstruction effort is more than just the rebuilding of the old Pentagon building. Additional security concerns are being addressed including updated ventilation system to guard against nuclear, biological or chemical attacks. The work continues around the clock. This is a testament to the selfless dedication that these unsung heroes have shown for the past six months.

Mr. Speaker, the workers involved with the Phoenix Project have aptly adopted the words once uttered by Todd Beamer as their motto. The sign reading "Let's Roll" now sits above the digital clock constantly reminding them and all of us of all the challenges that lie ahead and all the challenges that we have already overcome. I would like to assure everyone involved with this renovation project that we are behind them every step of the way in this monumental task that they have taken on with such grace.

A TRIBUTE TO DENISE NELSON
NASH, 27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—
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I stand today, to recognize an outstanding woman of California's 27th Congressional District, Ms. Denise Nelson Nash. Ms. Nash's passion for community and especially the arts has made the City of Pasadena and surrounding areas, a more rich and vital environment in which to live.

Ms. Nash is a graduate of Scripps College and earned her Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Michigan. She began her professional career as a professor and has since taught at Delta College, Illinois Wesleyan University, and Borough Manhattan Community College. Noted for her passion and ability as a teacher, she was invited to be director of the contemporary dance program at the Instituto de Danza in Caracas, Venezuela.

A strong advocate of the arts and especially arts education, Ms. Nash was the director of the Plaza de la Raza School of Performing and Visual Arts in East Los Angeles and in 1985 founded Bottom Line Dance Collective, a nonprofit organization providing creative opportunities for young people throughout the Los Angeles area.

For six years, Denise served as the Director of the Arts for the City of Pasadena. In this capacity she provided leadership for the Public Art Program, arts education programs in the city's schools, community arts programs, and special projects including the Pasadena Emmy Celebration and HBO Pictures Production "The Tuskegee Airmen." Currently, Denise serves as the Director of the Office of Public Events for the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

Throughout her career, Denise has focused on using her position to enhance opportunities for others. As an advocate of the arts and community events, she has opened a realm of possibilities to young and old alike and has created an environment in which art is appreciated, respected and loved.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraordinary woman of California's 27th Congressional District, Ms. Denise Nelson Nash. The entire community joins me in thanking Denise for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a more vibrant and enjoyable place to live.

AIRMAN CUNNINGHAM

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to pararescueman Jason Cunningham—one of America and New Mexico's true heroes.

Jason was one of our six brave soldiers killed during a shoot-out in the mountainous Gardez area of Afghanistan on Monday, March 4th. Jason participated in the insertion of Special Forces in the area when the heli-

copter he was a passenger in was brought down by machine-gun fire and a rocket propelled grenade. Jason and his six crewmembers were trying to rescue a Navy SEAL who had fallen out of the helicopter.

Jason grew up in New Mexico, spending most of his childhood in the southern part of the state, but he attended high school in Farmington and his parents currently reside in my district in Gallup, New Mexico.

Following graduation, Jason joined the Navy, finished his four years, and re-entered the armed forces, this time joining the Air Force and attending Pararescue School, from which he graduated in June of 2001.

It was in February of this year that Jason was sent to Afghanistan to join the front lines in the war against terror and left behind his loved ones for the call of duty.

Last week, Jason received a deserved heroes burial in Arlington National Cemetery where he took his place among the men and women who have, like Jason, courageously answered their country's call.

Douglas MacArthur once said, "the soldier above all people, prays for peace for he or she must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." However, I am sure that Jason's family, and the families of the other brave men and women who have died in service to their country also deeply feel the scars of war. Let us keep all the families with sons and daughters on the front lines in the war against terror in our thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN FLORES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize and congratulate Susan Flores on her 33 years of exceptional service to the City of Los Angeles. She has made significant contributions to the City government throughout her career, and I wish her the best in her retirement.

Ms. Flores entered her public service career in 1968 with the Concentrated Employment Program, where she directed the delivery of intense education, training and employment services to disadvantaged youth and adults in East Los Angeles.

Her dedication and hard work then led her to work with the City of Los Angeles' Community Development Department, where she was directly involved with planning and implementing programs funded through federal grants from the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Health and Human Services. From 1982 to 1989, while serving as the Director of Human Services and Neighborhood Development Division, Ms. Flores ably administered the City Human Services Delivery System that provided services to the City's neediest residents. Her work addressed a variety of needs, such as childcare, legal aid, food and nutrition, homelessness and AIDS.

From 1989 to 1999, Ms. Flores was Director of the Department's Workforce Development Division, which had one hundred full-time staff and a \$130 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to carry out the Job Training Partnership Act, Welfare-to-Work, and the