

positive growth continues, we must work along side the Small Business Association and with the Small Business Development Centers and Women's Business Centers around the nation to increase accessibility to business counseling, startup packages, and loans.

Now more than ever, it is vital that we in Congress support the small business community so that in the wake of September 11th these businesses can continue to flourish. As Small Business Week 2002 comes to a close, let's remember to take time to acknowledge these Main Street businesses in our own towns and the important roles they play in maintaining a sound economy.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE RUPP

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2002

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the distinguished service of one of the nation's foremost leaders in higher education, Dr. George Rupp, who is retiring after nine years as the President of Columbia University, my alma mater.

His stewardship of this world-renowned institution has been truly commendable. He has enhanced the University's already extraordinary level of achievement across all of its mission areas: in teaching; in research; and in service. Columbia is poised to celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2004 as a leading light in the renaissance of American higher education and as an exemplary model of the creation and spread of knowledge in the service of humanity.

Through the initiatives Dr. Rupp oversaw, Columbia has become one of the most sought after universities in the world, for scholars seeking to join its world class faculty, for recent graduates seeking to enter one of its many leading graduate and professional programs, and for high school students hoping to be amongst the one in seven applicants gaining admission to Columbia College. Some of this vitality can be seen in the physical environment of the University, which has benefited from a revitalization effort widely praised for its sensitivity to the architectural history of Columbia's campuses and to the needs of their surrounding communities.

But in my opinion, Dr. Rupp's true achievement is less immediately visible. He has helped not just to assemble one of the most distinguished groups of scholars and researchers and one of the most gifted student bodies in the world; his has been one of the foremost voices reminding us that the strength of America's institutions of higher education stems from the connections they enable, between ideas and between ideas and applications. At Columbia, he has helped build the linkages that make the University a whole that is more than the sum of its parts.

A hallmark of Dr. Rupp's leadership has been the creation of innovative structures to meet the challenges posed by the increasingly multidisciplinary and interdependent nature of scientific research. In recent years, Columbia has drawn together scholars from different departments, schools and even outside institutions to develop new ways to organize the search for knowledge. These new centers in-

clude The Earth Institute, The Columbia Genome Center, The Center for Biomedical Engineering, The International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, and The Center for New Media Teaching and Learning. Such efforts will certainly further Columbia's already major role in a strong and successful partnership between the federal government and university-based research.

Under Dr. Rupp's tenure, Columbia's remarkable pool of talent and resources has been increasingly directed to the service of good citizenship. The University, the third largest employer in New York City, has been active in helping foster economic growth in its neighboring communities. For instance, Columbia helped develop the proposal for the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (UMEZ), provided ongoing technical support to the UMEZ and opened the first biomedical research and development park in New York City. The University also established a program that hires and helps train community residents, and offers "forgivable" loans to employees as an incentive for home-buying within the Empowerment Zone. Columbia also administers academic, professional and service programs that assist thousands of upper Manhattan residents, school children and businesses.

The son of German immigrants, Dr. Rupp has also emphasized the global dimension of Columbia's work and sought to develop its role in international education and research. A number of new academic programs have been created with institutions abroad including the Law School's faculty exchange program with Tokyo University and its four-year double-degree program with the University of Paris; the first American undergraduate program with the Free University of Berlin; and the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation's programs with universities in Brazil, Indonesia and Belize.

Dr. Rupp's retirement closes 25 years of service as dean or president at a major university. Before assuming the presidency of Columbia in 1993, he led Rice University for eight years of successful growth, a period which saw the tripling of applications for admissions and a doubling of federal research support. Earlier, Dr. Rupp was the John Lord O'Brian Professor of Divinity and dean of the Harvard Divinity School. Under his leadership, the School's curriculum was revised to address more directly the pluralistic character of contemporary religious life. Further developments included new programs in women's studies and religion, Jewish-Christian relations, and religion and medicine.

Dr. Rupp's accomplishments place him in the company of such other illustrious presidents of Columbia as Nicholas Murray Butler and Dwight Eisenhower.

As a Columbia alumnus, I feel a heightened pride in my alma mater. As a New Yorker, I applaud Columbia's role in the cultural, intellectual and economic life of my city. I thank George Rupp for his masterful and dedicated service to one of the greatest institutions of one of the greatest cities of the world.

TRIBUTE TO THE COLLEGE OF MARIN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The College of Marin (COM) on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. Established in 1926, the College has a long history of providing vocational, career, enrichment, and community education programs to Marin County.

From its beginning as a small campus in Kentfield, the school has added a second campus at Indian Valley in Novato and serves more than 27,000 students annually. COM offers an Associate Degree and prepares students for transfer to the most prestigious universities. With more than 70 undergraduate majors in humanities/liberal arts, science, and technical and vocational fields, the College services a student body ranging in age from 9 to 80 years old and from 80 different countries. With other activities like a Breakdance Club and the Student Nurse Association, students can participate at many levels.

Throughout its history the community college has demonstrated its responsiveness to the changing needs of Marin, fulfilling its role as a true college of the community. The faculty and staff are committed to providing a quality educational experience for all. And today, under the leadership of President James Middleton and a dedicated Board of Trustees, College of Marin is a thriving institution at the heart of the County.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize College of Marin for its many achievements during its 75 years.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING LUKE P. HIGH

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Luke P. High has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America Troop 548; and

Whereas, Luke P. High has shared his time and talent with the community; and

Whereas, Luke P. High has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Luke P. High must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Luke P. High for his Eagle Scout Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, due to a serious illness in my family, it was necessary for me to request a leave of absence

for the week of May 6–10th. As a result I was unavailable for several rollcall votes. Had I been here, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 129–133. On rollcall vote 136, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall votes 137–139, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 140, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 141, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 142, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall vote 143, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 144, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 145, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 146, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 147, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 148, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 149, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 150, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 151, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 152, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 153, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 154, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall vote 155, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall vote 156, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall vote 157, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 158, I would have voted “yea.”

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Small Business Week.

It is a time to celebrate the contributions that America's small businesses make to our economy.

Small business is the engine that drives this nation, producing 75 percent of new jobs, accounting for almost 98 percent of all employers and 53 percent of the private work force.

It is our small businesses that will continue to lead us to economic recovery.

In particular, small tech businesses are on the front lines of the digital revolution. They have led the way in advances from broadband deployment to software development.

My state of Texas ranks second nationally in high tech workers, employing more than 411,000 with an annual payroll of about \$25 billion. Many of those employees are working for small businesses.

And my new congressional district contains thousands of small, innovative high tech centered businesses.

One such company is SecureInfo in San Antonio. SecureInfo was founded in 1994 and has 64 employees.

SecureInfo allows companies and government agencies to learn about and fix their existing cyber vulnerabilities before they can be exploited by hackers. Exploiting known vulnerabilities is the weapon of choice for cyber terrorists.

SecureInfo battles these electronic attackers with vulnerability intelligence methods that were developed while its founders were working for the United States Air Force Emergency Response Team.

SecureInfo is just one of the thousands of small technology businesses around the country connecting rural America, developing next generation hardware and software, protecting our electronic assets and keeping America on the forefront of technological advances.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2002

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of National Nurses Week.

Every year, National Nurses Week is celebrated from May 6 to May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing as a modern profession. During this week, we recognize the accomplishments and tireless efforts nurses make in order to improve our healthcare system.

Nurses are devoted to their profession and to people in need. They serve our country on the front lines of care in our doctor's offices, hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and schools.

As we in Congress work to strengthen Medicare and ensure that all people have access to first class healthcare, we are reminded of the long hours of hard work that nurses endure, the sacrifices they make everyday to contribute to the health and well being of our communities.

With a large population of Americans aging, the continuing expansion of life-sustaining technology, and the explosive growth of home health care services, the nursing profession will become increasingly important. In fact, it is estimated that our country will need more than one million new nurses over the next decade. In order to encourage individuals to enter the nursing profession and support care for our loved ones, we must promote education programs, provide information to recruit individuals and highlight the role of nurses in the community.

As such, I ask you to join me in honoring nurses for their commitment to the principles we value. While they serve as the foundation of our Nation's healthcare system, nurses' dedication to their work and compassion for all patients exemplify the best of America's spirit.

TRIBUTE TO WALDO GIACOMINI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Waldo Giacomini, a prominent West Marin citizen and rancher, who has just died at the age of 88. His life has left a strong imprint on the community.

Mr. Giacomini bought 1,100 acres of mudflats in 1944 which he developed into a thriving dairy. In January 2000, he sold the bulk of this property to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area for a nature preserve to be named the Waldo Giacomini Wetlands. In 1959 Mr. Giacomini co-founded the West Marin based organization, the Resource Conservation District, to promote good land stewardship in local agricultural areas by focusing on the prevention of erosion and water pollution.

He was also known for his participation in local organizations such as the West Marin Lion's Club, Sacred Heart Church, and Sonoma County Trailblazers and was supportive of cultural and service groups such as

the Dance Palace Community Center and Permill Creek Children's Corner, his neighbors in Point Reyes Station. He was frequently seen walking around the town, greeting his many friends.

A dedicated family man, Mr. Giacomini is survived by his four children as well as siblings, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, several of whom continue in the ranching business.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Giacomini leaves us a legacy of caring for the community he called home. In remembering his frequent rendition of the tune, “You are my Sunshine,” I echo the words of that song in bidding him farewell: “(He) made us happy when skies were gray.” Waldo Giacomini will be missed!

HONORING MR. JOSE AND MRS. ANTONIETA VARGAS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2002

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize two wonderful Americans, Mr. Jose and Mrs. Antonieta Vargas, on the joyous and momentous occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. On May 3, 1952, Jose and Antonieta Vargas joined in holy matrimony and commenced their marvelous journey together, a journey which we celebrate and reflect upon today.

Jose Vargas was born on December 19, 1918, in El Paso, Texas, during the Mexican Revolution. His mother, Atilana Castillo de Vargas, had traveled to El Paso to escape the violence of the Revolution while his father, Guadalupe Vargas, stayed in Chihuahua, Mexico. Atilana returned to her home in Chihuahua with her children after the violence had ended. Jose completed six years of primary education before going to work in the mines of Chihuahua and on the railroad; he also became an accomplished carpenter. He is the second of six children; his elder sister, Natividad, and younger brother, Jesus, have passed away. His siblings Maximo, Lazaro, and Guadalupe live in Chihuahua and Los Angeles, California.

Antonieta Valverde was born in the mining town of Santa Eulalia in the Mexican state of Chihuahua on December 27, 1927, and was raised in Ciudad Chihuahua. She is the eldest of six children, including Leobardo, Alicia, Concepcion, Damaso and Berta. She completed college before going to work at the Coca Cola bottling facility in Chihuahua.

Jose and Antonieta met in their neighborhood, Santa Niño de Antocha, while riding the bus to their jobs. After a year-long courtship, they married and moved to El Paso, Texas. There, the first five of their children were born: Jose and Fernando in 1952, Jorge in 1954, Maria Antonieta in 1958, and Arturo in 1962. Fernando died shortly after birth.

In 1962, while working on a construction site, Jose was injured, falling from the second story of a building being razed. The family survived through the kindness and charity of neighbors and family. In 1964, Jose left for Los Angeles to find employment, and upon doing so, moved the family to the South Central and then the Pico-Union areas of the city.