

reach their dreams. He could not abide well-paid intellectuals who regularly derided unions as dinosaurs, and he told them so, over and over.

It is one of the highest callings of spiritual leaders to force those who live happy and comfortable lives to consider their obligations to those heavily burdened by injustice and deprivation. It is a great loss when such prophetic voices are stilled by scandal and the cynicism it breeds. Fortunately, that never happened to Higgins. He never had to shut up about injustice and, God bless him, he never did.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVE SARTON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Dave Sarton for his contributions to the State of Colorado. As a member of the Board of Directors of the South-eastern Colorado Water Conservancy District for sixteen years, he is moving his talents and experience to other endeavors. Dave has been an integral part of securing and distributing Colorado's most precious resource, water. As he reflects on his service to a grateful board, community, and state, I would like to commend him for his efforts to improve the lives of his fellow Coloradans.

Dave has proven himself a valuable community, business, and governmental leader over the years and has served on countless committees in support of his community and state. He has served on the Colorado Springs City Council, on the Energy and Environment Committee of the National Association of Regional Councils, as director of the Colorado Springs Department of Public Utilities, as director and chairman of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Government, as president of Sunset Sertoma Club, as chairman of the El Paso Task Force on Alcoholism, as chair of the ARK Board of Directors, and as vice-chair of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce. In addition to his community duties, he is a proud business owner and operates a quality service for Colorado Springs as the president of Sperry & Mock/The Floor Store, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring the accomplishments and achievements of David Sarton before this body today. His leadership, hard work, and dedication to improving the lives of his fellow Coloradans is an example for all aspiring community leaders and it is for this reason that I wish to bring his accomplishments before this body of Congress, and nation. Thank you for all your hard work Dave, I wish you all the best, and good luck in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN KIRK

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, as Mary Ann Kirk prepares to leave Maryland to join her family in Colorado, I salute her lasting con-

tribution of public service to our State during the past fifty years.

Standing side by side with her children throughout their educational process, she also provided top leadership in the Montgomery County Heart Association; chaired numerous political and charitable fund raisers; and tutored elementary school children and political refugees in the ways of freedom in American democracy.

In 1978, she spearheaded landmark legislation in the Maryland General Assembly which created the Maryland Values Education Commission, and, as Vice Chairwoman, chaired its subcommittee work for four years. This Commission devised a list of 18 Character and Citizenship values affirmed by the Maryland Attorney General as Constitutionally sound for teaching in our schools, and served as a foundation, an impetus, for character/citizenship education efforts across our Nation. Today, there is an Office of Character Education within the Maryland State Department of Education and flourishing, growing, programs throughout the State—a direct result of Mary Ann Kirk's visionary work.

In 1978, when the Maryland General Assembly passed this landmark legislation, Senator Jennings Randolph (DWP) noted its passage in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. He ended his remarks with these words: "The State of Maryland will be the first to create a Values Education Commission. The flame of faith is now aglow in 'The Free State.' May other States see the light and feel its warmth."

In 1986, she organized and coordinated Maryland's observance of the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution with the establishment of the FEDERALIST Foundation. This private/public partnership with Maryland State Archives recreated the beautiful, seaworthy Federalist, a 15-foot ship built in 1788 to honor Maryland's role as the seventh state to ratify the Constitution, and later sailed to Mount Vernon as a gift to George Washington. Two hundred years later, a horse drawn Federalist represented Maryland in Philadelphia's national Bicentennial parade; and, today, when not traveling to communities across the State to teach about the Constitution, resides under the dome of our State capitol in Annapolis—ever ready to convey our rich history to this and future generations.

In 1997, Mary Ann Kirk was honored by Governor Parris Glendening and the Maryland General Assembly as Maryland's Mother of the Year. She leaves Maryland as immediate past president of the Maryland Association of American Mothers, Inc., the official sponsor of Mothers Day.

We will miss her and wish her well. Maryland's loss is Colorado's gain.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO PROVIDE IMPACT AID FUNDING FOR MICRONESIAN CHILDREN

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill to provide Impact Aid funding for Micronesian children living in the United States. You might ask why should we? What is their special status that justifies this payment?

The Compact of Free Association negotiated by the DoD and the State Department with the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia in 1985, and with the Republic of Palau in 1986, enhanced the security of our nation. The Compact of Free Association gives the United States authority over security and defense matters in this region. It prevents other countries from entering into military alliances with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. Such military alliances could threaten the security of our nation.

In the period between 1918 and 1941, foreign powers did occupy these islands. And as history will recall, many WWII battles were fought in the islands fortified and occupied by Japan. After WWII the United States took over jurisdiction, and we inflicted grave harm to many of the islands' residents when the U.S. military tested 66 atomic and hydrogen bombs between 1946 and 1958. The long lasting effects of these tests are still felt by people living at Bikini, Eniwetok, and other atolls, and many have moved to the United States to live and to find health care.

In exchange for the sacrifices they have made in the Compact of Free Association, the United States allows citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau to freely enter the United States without visas as nonimmigrant residents within the parameters laid out in the Compact of Free Association. Their status is as "habitual" residents which places them in limbo and for example, they can not qualify for food stamps.

According to the 2000 Census, 115,247 Micronesians are living in the United States. Many of these families live in low income or public housing, which does not provide local schools with the funds they need to educate Micronesian children. Our public schools accept the financial burden for educating Micronesian children, even though the federal government created this obligation and should pay for it.

Our nation is responsible for the education of these children in exchange for the military benefits our nation currently receives from Micronesia. Our government must take a more active role and help pay for these children's education. It's unfair to make these innocent children unwelcome pawns of our national defense policy.

My bill will treat Micronesian children living in the United States as military dependents and consequently allow schools to count them for the purpose of obtaining Impact Aid funding. It will give local schools the extra funds needed to ensure other children in their district do not pay for the cost of our defense strategy.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and fulfill the obligation created by the Compact of Free Association.

THE 121ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Clara Barton, a true visionary in American history, once stated: "I have an almost complete disregard of

precedent, and a faith in the possibility of something better. It irritates me to be told how things have always been done. I defy the tyranny of precedent. I go for anything new that might improve the past." Her motivation as well as her devotion to humanity led Clara Barton to found the American Red Cross in 1881.

Today we celebrate the 121st anniversary of the American Red Cross, which is one of the most renowned charitable organizations in our nation. It is made up of over a million Red Cross volunteers who provide much needed relief services to families, communities and countries around the world in times of crisis.

When unexpected disasters hit, the Red Cross is prepared. For example, the American Red Cross coordinates the collection of blood and ensures that the safest blood is available to save the lives of our armed service members and lives in over 5,000 hospitals across the country.

Internationally, the Red Cross has been active in helping millions of people fight malnutrition and communities gain access to such basic and vital needs as safe drinking water.

Each year, the American Red Cross quickly responds to more than 67,000 disasters, including transportation accidents, house fires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and tornadoes.

One instance of the Red Cross's exemplary and timely response to a disaster was after a lethal tornado tore through my District in Southern Maryland on April 28th. Without delay, the Red Cross was on the scene to provide help after one of the fiercest tornado disasters ever on the East Coast.

Approximately 230 Red Cross volunteers poured in from across the nation to join 100 local volunteers. They worked tirelessly to help community members in their time of need by quickly erecting shelters and administering food, clothing, emergency medication and grief counseling.

As I walked through the streets of La Plata, stepping over the wires, rubble and debris of the once vibrant community, it was evident that there was a lot of work ahead for residents to overcome this tragedy. Fortunately, as a result of help from service organizations like the Red Cross, government officials and agencies, and citizens, it is clear that La Plata will rebuild and come back stronger than ever.

The Charles County Red Cross Chapter is a shining example of the dedication of the Red Cross, and why La Plata will persevere and once again thrive. The same evening that the tornado completely wiped out the Chapter building and all of their resources in La Plata, the Red Cross leaders and volunteers set up a temporary Disaster Operation Center in a vacant store building in Waldorf.

Since 1917, the county's Chapter has been instrumental in providing disaster preparation and care services. The Chapter plans to rebuild, just like the La Plata community will rebuild, and continue to dedicate time and energy to the citizens of La Plata.

The American Red Cross, since it was founded, has been instrumental in relieving the suffering and the saving lives of our local, national and international communities.

And thus it's with great gratitude and honor that I commend the American Red Cross today on its 121st anniversary. On behalf of the citizens of the 5th Congressional District of Maryland, who were affected by this most re-

cent natural disaster, as well as the millions of Americans whose lives have been bettered by this wonderful organization, I wish it only the best in the years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor I take this opportunity to recognize St. John Neumann as an institute of education, dedicated to providing a firm foundation for its community's youth. Established in 1977 in Pueblo Colorado, St. John became the new beacon of light for all who sought to provide their children with the option of a private education. It is with highest praise that I recognize St. John's 25th year of operation.

Each day, 230 students convene to mature and study in an atmosphere which embraces every child's eagerness to learn. Instructors provide a one-on-one relationship with students, tailoring the instructor's dexterity to the child's ability. Additionally, St. John promotes parental involvement in their child's education, and seeks to provide an atmosphere comparable to that of a family gathering.

Marking St. John Neumann's 25th anniversary of operation, this year's graduating class will be prepared for the journey ahead, confidently supported by a firm education at an extraordinary school. Many senior administrators have watched St. John grow and develop into a distinguished, highly acclaimed establishment within its community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I applaud an institution which provides its community with the groundwork to build a better future. St. John Neumann strengthens the integrity and character of each of its students. I commend the hard work and diligence which the faculty, community, and students have contributed to place St. John Neumann Catholic School amongst the leaders in education today.

VETERANS APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the hundreds of thousands of men and women who have bravely served their country in the Armed Forces, protecting freedom for all Americans.

Veterans earn a great number of positive qualities through their service, including experience, maturity, leadership and loyalty, which make them valuable and competitive candidates for employment.

The residents of the State of California and I are committed to ensuring that our nation's Veterans are treated with the respect that they deserve, and to promoting employer interest in hiring those individuals who have selflessly given their time in service of their country.

In my home state, May 2002 is "Veterans Appreciation Month," and I would like to take

this opportunity to bring the benefits of hiring veterans to the attention of all American employers.

I thank our country's veterans for their sacrifices, applaud employers who hire these courageous men and women, and I yield back the balance of my time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 20, 2002 I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 171, 172, and 173. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 171 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Con. Res. 314; rollcall vote 172 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Con. Res. 165; and rollcall vote 173 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Con. Res. 309.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 171, 172, and 173.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my District on Tuesday, May 20, 2002, and I would like the record to indicate how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote No. 171, the resolution recognizing the members of AMVETS for their service to the Nation and supporting the goal of AMVETS National Charter Day, I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote No. 172, the resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that continual research and education into the cause and cure for fibroid cancer be addressed, I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote No. 173, the resolution Recognizing the Importance of Good Cervical Health and of Detecting Cervical Cancer During its Earliest Stages, I would have voted "aye."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRUITA MONUMENT HIGH SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Fruita Monument High School in Fruita, Colorado for their incredible acts of patriotism and loyalty. After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Monument High honored the bravery of our American citizens by creating a beautiful, patriotic mosaic. Today I applaud the spirit and dedication of the students and faculty of Monument High, and I recognize the efforts and achievements of such artists.