

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL
CORDOVA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Bill Cordova of Grand Junction, Colorado, who has been a profound inspiration to all who have known him. Bill worked tirelessly on behalf of those in need for decades, and it is my honor to recognize his service here, before this body of Congress and this nation.

In his life, Bill has served his fellow neighbor in a number of capacities. Early on, Bill worked to provide adequate housing for migrant workers, which led to his working some years later for Colorado Housing Incorporated in order to provide homes for low-income families. Bill was instrumental in developing a community center in Montrose, and he has also had an enduring influence in the lives of local prisoners to whom he has ministered. Currently, Bill works six days a week at the Catholic Outreach Soup Kitchen, and serves on the board of Catholic Outreach as well.

Mr. Speaker, in his lifetime, Bill has touched the lives of many. His numerous good works are an example of the benevolence and perseverance that have contributed to the strength of this nation. I commend Bill for his dedication and commitment to the less fortunate, and it is an honor to pay tribute to his selfless work today.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE REVI-
TALIZING CITIES THROUGH
PARKS ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation, the "Revitalizing Cities Through Parks Enhancement Act," that would establish a \$10 million grant program for qualified, non-profit, community groups, allowing them to lease municipally-owned vacant lots and transform these areas into parks.

These vacant lots often are areas of heavy drug-trafficking. Parks and gardens created with the grants will not only provide safe places to gather, but will increase property values as well. The grants will be available from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to groups who have met standards of financial security, and who have histories of serving their communities. To further ensure that these grants are used to make lasting positive changes, land improved and made into open community space under this legislation must be available for use as open space from the local government for at least seven years.

WE CAN END HUNGER IN AMERICA

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we live in the most prosperous nation in the history of the world.

We have refrigeration systems to prevent food from spoiling.

We have pasteurization to prevent bacteria from poisoning our food.

And we have ways to fortify our foods with vitamins and nutrients to make the food we eat healthier.

Yet, with all these advances, people still go hungry in America.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, hunger is a political problem. But I believe it's a problem we can solve.

Thirty-seven years ago, Senator Bobby Kennedy traveled throughout America, and saw first-hand the hunger ravaging the most vulnerable in our Nation. As a result, we made a national commitment to do something about it.

Congress, under the leadership of Senators George McGovern and Bob Dole, and with the support of President Nixon, created the school breakfast program, WIC, the elderly nutrition program, and the food stamp program.

Since then, we have made great strides. But we have a lot of work left to do. Indeed, many Americans don't realize that hunger still exists in their communities.

There are 33 million hungry people in the United States—11 million of them are children. In my district in Massachusetts, I talk to food bank directors who have noticed a sharp increase in the number of families who need help.

The food bank that serves my home town, the Worcester County Food Bank, helped feed over 80,000 people in 2001. Of the 3.7 million pounds of food, almost 38 percent went to kids under the age of 18. The food bank, run by Jean McMurray, donates food to more than 260 local shelters, food pantries, senior centers, and after school programs.

The Worcester County Food Bank is doing great work, and the people who work there do their best to provide for every single person who needs help. Unfortunately, it's not enough.

That is why I am proud to stand with my colleague Congressman FRANK WOLF in introducing a resolution to recognize June 5 as a National Hunger Awareness Day. This resolution encourages Americans to recognize the issue of hunger, and to work toward ending hunger—in their own home towns and across the nation.

I'm also honored to join Congressman WOLF in sponsoring the Congressional Food Drive. I hope that we have wide participation in this drive from the Capitol Hill community. The Members and staff who work here are very blessed. It's important that we try to share those blessings with others. There are drop-off bins all across the Hill, and I hope people will fill them with non-perishable food items.

But this is just a start. Clearly, more must be done.

With that sentiment in mind, I call on President Bush to convene a White House summit on hunger. Too long has the scourge of hunger plagued the people of this nation. There is

no reason why we should not focus our efforts on ending hunger in America, once and for all time.

President Nixon convened such a summit, and the result was landmark legislation to feed the hungry people in America.

A 21st Century Summit would bring fresh ideas to this problem, and help us to focus on the challenges that face the hungry in the 21st century.

Simply, Mr. Speaker, it's the right thing to do, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort.

We have the foot soldiers we need in this war against hunger. The people at America's Second Harvest and Bread for the World are already working around the country to fight hunger. The Food Research and Action Center and the Congressional Hunger Center are tireless advocates on behalf of the hungry. And the dedicated people who run the food banks in this country see first-hand the need for a reinvigorated effort to end hunger.

Mr. Speaker, we live in the most prosperous nation in the history of the world. We have the resources to put an end to hunger once and for all. What we need—all we need—is the political will to do it.

HONORING LOUIS MARTINEZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize a man who exemplifies the heart, determination, and enthusiastic spirit that makes up the backbone of this great nation. Louis Martinez, a 57-year-old man from Grand Junction, Colorado, is an elementary school counselor who takes pride in helping to motivate and encourage his young students.

The lessons in Louis's life started right away, as his parents showed him the determination it takes to succeed. Louis's father worked for the railroad laying track and his mother worked in a canning factory. They worked hard to provide for their children and instilled a similar work ethic in their son. Louis was responsible for duties all over the house, including cooking and cleaning. This work ethic led Louis down a path that he never dreamed he would take. Louis left high school his senior year and joined the Navy. He served three tours in Vietnam, traveling all over the Western Pacific. Louis returned to Grand Junction and a job at City Market in the bakery department.

In the spirit of contributing to his community, Louis set his sights on becoming a police officer. His hard work paid off and he became the first Hispanic officer on the force. While on the police force, Louis decided to go back to school, enrolling at the University of Northern Colorado. It was at this time that Louis was injured in a car accident and once again was presented with the opportunity to overcome adversity. Louis was paralyzed in the accident, forcing him to work even harder to receive his degree. He continued through school with the support of his family, and received his diploma.

With his degree in hand, Louis set off to help as many young people as possible. He

ended up at Tope and Wingate Elementary Schools, where he became a school counselor. He has worked for the schools for eleven years and hopes to work there for many more. Everyday on the job Louis provides the children with a positive influence, giving them a mentor they can respect and admire.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Louis Martinez before this body of Congress and this nation. His determination and optimism are models for today's youth. I am pleased that Louis has chosen a career where he can extend his positive influence to our children. Thank you, Louis, for the outstanding example of hard work, determination, and optimism that you have given our children.

RECOGNITION OF RALPH
CLEMINGS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Mr. Ralph Clemings of Troy VFW Post 976, Illinois. Ralph recently presented two protective vests for the dogs of the Illinois State Police K-9 unit from District 11 in Collinsville, Illinois.

Ralph came up with the idea after watching the K-9 units work in the aftermath of 9-11. He thought that since these dogs are now being sent in to risk their lives in dangerous situations, they should have the same type of protective vests that the policemen have. He then contacted the Illinois State Police and found out that the state didn't have enough funding in the budget to purchase any vests for the dogs. After hearing this Ralph set out to raise the needed funds to purchase the vests. It took him nearly 7 months, but he raised the money without ever asking anyone else for help.

On April 27, 2003, Ralph presented two dog vests to Sergeant Fred Scholl and his K-9 partner "DAX" and also to Trooper Rampert and his K-9 partner "Rogune." Ralph also noted that K-9 units have been used to save thousands of lives in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and most recently in Iraq.

I would like to congratulate and thank Ralph for his hard work on this cause. This selfless act is a prime example of someone giving back to the community and the dedication that makes this country so great.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID A. LEBOW

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. David A. Lebow on the occasion of his retirement as the President of the Montebello Teachers Association. I also want to thank him for 39 years of distinguished and dedicated service to the Montebello Unified School District.

David Lebow first joined the Montebello Unified School District in 1964, as a teacher at Eastmont Junior High School. In 1971 he

began enriching the minds of students at Schurr High School in the disciplines of Music, Theater Arts, Advanced Placement American History, and Advanced Placement American Government. Over the last 33 years his service to the education community has been demonstrated through numerous positions including Fine Arts and Social Studies Department Chair, High Risk Academic Cluster Coordinator, Key Club Sponsor, National Honor Society Sponsor, Principal's Advisory Committee Chair, and Class Sponsor in 1974 and 1979.

In 1981 David Lebow began dedicating his time and skills to the Montebello Teachers Association (M.T.A.), serving as High School Representative from 1981 through 1984, Vice President from 1984 through 1985 and again in 1998 through 2000. He served as Treasurer from 1991 through 1993. In 2001, the membership elected Mr. Lebow President, where he has served as the voice of over 1,600 teachers for the past two years.

Mr. Lebow has also served as the M.T.A. Lifetime Health Benefits Trust Chairperson since 1987. Additionally, David Lebow's advocacy on behalf of teachers extends to the state level, where he has served on the California Teachers' Association (C.T.A.) Board of Directors from 1990 through 2001. He has served as member and Chairperson of the Alliance of Urban Teachers from 1985 through 1989 as well as Liaison Coordinator to the C.T.A. Board of Directors.

Mr. Lebow has lead with integrity and has enjoyed the respect of many in the field of education. So it is not surprising that his skills and devotion have earned him many awards and recognitions. He has been the recipient of the P.T.A. Founders Award, the Los Angeles County Bravo Award, the C.T.A. Local and State "Who" Award for outstanding work on behalf of members, and the C.T.A. Human Rights Award for work in fostering the advancement of women and minorities in leadership positions.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I wish the very best to David Lebow as he is recognized for his years of service to the Montebello Unified School District. His strong leadership skills and devotion to the teaching profession and to children will be greatly missed. During the last 39 years of service, he certainly has earned recognition, and I call upon all my colleagues to join me in applauding his tenure in education and wishing him all the best for his retirement.

HONORING RUTH ZEMLOCK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before this body of Congress today to express my thanks and admiration for Ruth Zemlock, the winner of the May 2003 "9 Who Care Award". Channel Nine News in Denver, Colorado awards this honor to someone who strives to give back to his or her community through volunteering, something Ruth has succeeded in doing for over 14 years.

Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs, Colorado is lucky to have such a determined and hard working volunteer; a woman who

has done so much for the hospital that she has garnered the nickname "Dr. Ruth." Her fellow co-workers explain that Ruth knows "anything and everything" about the hospital, because at one time or another she has worked in every department. Today, Ruth is working at the information desk and in outpatient surgery and is a member of the hospital's Board of Directors. To date, she has amazingly given over 11,000 hours of her time, about 458 days, to the care of others.

Mr. Speaker, Ruth's hard work and determination have provided Valley View Hospital with an exemplary model of heart and kindness. Volunteers are an integral part of America's workforce. Each day, they make an impact on everyone around them. At the age of 85, Ruth's endless energy and enthusiastic spirit amaze all who know her. Thank you, Ruth, for your years of distinguished, honorable service. Valley View Hospital and Glenwood Springs, Colorado will forever be in your debt.

LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative ED CASE and I are introducing legislation to authorize certain Bureau of Reclamation activities that will have profound impacts on the future of Hawaii's economy.

The legislation is a companion bill to one introduced in the Senate by Senator DANIEL AKAKA and Senator DAN INOUE. It will expand the scope of the Bureau of Reclamation water resources study authorized by the 105th Congress as well as authorize three specific projects needed to address Hawaii water needs. This law, the Hawaii Water Resources Act of 2000, included Hawaii in the Bureau's wastewater reclamation program and expanded its drought relief programs to include Hawaii.

Although one of Hawaii's greatest assets is its tropical climate, there are vast areas where little rainfall occurs and conditions are very similar to that of the high arid regions of the mainland U.S. In addition, similar to current conditions in these U.S. areas, drought conditions have been occurring in most recent years.

The most recent projection of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply indicates that the island of Oahu will exhaust the fresh water supplies of the island by the year 2018. Seventy-two percent of Hawaii's population lives on Oahu, so it is easy to imagine the cataclysmic consequences of ignoring the dire warnings that are being sounded. There are numerous efforts underway at both the State and local levels to begin addressing problems, such as substituting recycled water for potable water when appropriate, improving storage to preserve surface water, and implementing conservation technologies.

Enactment of the legislation will help lead us to long-term solutions. There are, however, several projects ready for implementation that would begin to mitigate current and future conditions. Three of them would be authorized