

point. Designating U.S. 54 as a High Priority Corridor will make it eligible for additional federal grants and transportation funds, which will, in turn, help upgrade the highway and improve its safety and efficiency.

As Congress prepares to reauthorize TEA-21, I strongly urge the House and Senate to support this bill and add the SPIRIT Corridor to the list of high priority corridors in our National Highway System.

ROBERT J. DOLE VA MEDICAL & REGIONAL OFFICE CENTER DEDICATION CEREMONY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD, remarks I gave at a dedication ceremony.

Thank you Senator DOLE, Secretary Principi, and distinguished guests, especially our veterans. I'm delighted to be here today on this very special occasion.

I had intended to be very brief, but I concluded that the sooner we get done, the sooner I will go home. The sooner I go home, the sooner I will see my wife, and if she sees the nightly news with me seated so closely to Cindy Close, our favorite KWCH broadcaster, I'll have some explaining to do. So I'm going to take a few moments.

This is an opportunity to pay a moment of tribute and, hopefully, a lifelong tribute, to a great Kansan. Before I do that, I would like to congratulate Senator-elect DOLE. Russell, Kansas, must be an amazing place because we have three individuals with significant ties to Russell, Kansas, who are past, present and future members of that exclusive club, the United States Senate: Senator Bob Dole, Senator ARLEN SPECTER, and now Senator-elect, ELIZABETH DOLE. We are delighted, as Kansans, to congratulate you on your success.

We're here to pay tribute not only to Senator Dole, but to what Tom Brokaw calls the greatest generation. His words are these: "They came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America, men and women whose everyday lives of duty, honor, achievement, and courage gave us the world we have today."

Bob Dole exemplifies the greatest generation. My purpose in introducing this legislation was not to recognize Bob Dole the Senator, the presidential candidate, or the majority leader. I learned today Bob Dole is the longest-serving majority leader. Senator Dole, I always thought you were the longest-serving Republican candidate for president.

But we recognize him today as that soldier from Russell, Kansas, serving in the mountains of Italy. We recognize him for the consequences of his service and for the course of action he took to rehabilitate his life, and in the process, to change the lives of others. So although we can say many good things about Senator Dole, presidential candidate Dole, and Majority Leader Dole, we are here today to pay tribute to Bob Dole, the soldier.

As you know, Bob Dole seeks no recognition. In 1969, during his first year in the United States Senate, he said, "Most veterans today

want no special recognition or attention. We did our duty, take pride in having served, and seek to live our lives as good and constructive citizens." That's Bob Dole. I have no doubt that he's uncomfortable being here today receiving this recognition.

He was also a product of rehabilitation through the VA. We are also here to pay tribute to the men and women who work for the Department of Veterans Affairs. We are here to pay tribute to the volunteers who help those employees take care of the veterans of the United States. What we do in Washington pales in comparison to what individuals do for our veterans who need health care and rehabilitation services. They also are the heroes.

The bill to designate the Wichita VA as the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center was widely supported. It was introduced in the House of Representatives and supported by our entire congressional delegation. Congressman TIAHRT and I concluded that this was a noble cause to undertake and introduced this bill in April of 2002. Our colleagues in both the House and Senate joined us. My subcommittee and committee passed it unanimously. The bill had 75 cosponsors, republicans and democrats, including the leadership of the House. This legislation was also cosponsored by a fellow Russell native, ARLEN SPECTER, who will be the new Chairman of the Senate Corp Committee on Veterans Affairs. It passed unanimously in both the House and Senate and was signed by President Bush on May 29th, 2002.

In order to get to this point, the legislation had the support of every veterans' service organization in Kansas. Before we started this effort, we made certain that our veterans' organizations were fully supportive of acknowledging Bob Dole in this manner. And, Senator Dole, every one of them said a resounding, yes, this is an appropriate honor for the soldier, Bob Dole. Many of their leaders are here today, and I thank our veterans' service organizations for their support of this legislation and for all that, they do for the veterans of Kansas.

Bob Dole is a role model and hero. He paid tribute, in his first year in the Senate, to one of his idols, his hero, another Kansan—General Dwight David Eisenhower. Bob Dole, talked about General Eisenhower, in 1969, upon General Eisenhower's death, about his dreams as a boy in Abilene, Kansas.

General Eisenhower could never have envisioned the heights he was to scale in his lifetime. The honesty and sincerity, so characteristic of General Eisenhower throughout his life, can be traced to his heritage of his ancestors and strong guidance of his mother. His broad grin and good humor that reflected these qualities made him a popular idol and were part of his magic. People reacted to the special qualities exuded by this man. The contributions made by General Eisenhower are legend. His success in time of war made him a great leader of men. Thereafter, his unparalleled success in politics underscored the respect and confidence he enjoyed by all Americans.

The words that Bob Dole spoke about his hero, his role model, Dwight David Eisenhower, can today be said about our hero and role model, Bob Dole of Kansas. I grew up within 20 miles of Bob Dole's hometown, and I know the dedication, commitment, love and respect that the people of Russell, Kansas, share for their hometown hero.

Let me conclude by quoting, Bob Dole's own words from Memorial Day 2002.

On the one hand, war represents the ultimate failure of mankind or at least of the politicians and diplomats entrusted with keeping the peace. Yet it also summons the greatest qualities of which human beings are capable—courage beyond measure, loyalty beyond words, sacrifice, and ingenuity and endurance beyond imagining.

Today, we pay tribute to Bob Dole's courage, his loyalty, his sacrifice, his ingenuity and his endurance. He is one of those veterans he pays tribute to.

God bless America, and God, thank you for our Bob Dole.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HUSKIES

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. I rise today here on the House floor to honor a college basketball team that has not lost a game since March 2001, the pride of eastern Connecticut, a model for our Nation's youth: the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team—the Lady Huskies.

On January 18 of this year, our Huskies won their 55th consecutive game, breaking a record that has held strong since 1982. No other NCAA Division I women's basketball team has won more games in a row. And none has recently shown the ability to put an unbeatable team on the court year after year. It is amazing to think that in two years, the Huskies are 123-4.

There have been bumps along the road. On the 15th of this month, the game against Seton Hall where they tied the streak, they shot under 30 percent and nearly lost in the final moments. But, as great teams do, they found a way to win. They rose to the occasion that day and made the shots that counted.

Coach Geno Auriemma said two days later, "Maybe I should say that I saw it coming. That's how legends are made. Isn't this the place where legends are born?"

It is the dedication of Coach Auriemma and his players—past and present—who make the court of Gampel Pavilion a place where records are set, role models emerge, and legends are indeed born. Thank you for giving us a piece of history.

Here's to 55 more consecutive wins.
U—C—O—N—N, UCONN, UCONN, UCONN.

HONORING MR. FRED HARDY

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Fred Hardy, who is being presented with the Lifetime Achievement award, and will be bestowed the title of Labor Leader Emeritus by the Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Central Labor Council and the Building Trades Council. Mr. Hardy has served

in a leadership role with the Building Trades Council since 1958 and has set an example through his dedicated commitment to my community.

For more than 56 years Mr. Hardy has been involved with organized labor, both as a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and as the Business Manager for the IBEW Local 100. In addition to his work with IBEW, he has served as the Executive Secretary of the Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Building and Construction Trades Council. For all of his leadership efforts with organized labor, Mr. Fred Hardy was recognized by the Central Labor Council as the Labor Leader of the Year in 1981.

Mr. Hardy has not only dedicated his time to organized labor efforts, he has also passionately served his community through a number of volunteer organizations. Mr. Hardy is a veteran of the United States Army and has served on numerous boards, including the Fresno City Police and Firemen's Pension Board, the Board of Directors for the Fresno County Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Valley Area Construction Opportunity Program. The people of the Central Valley have been fortunate to have such a passionate and dedicated servant for the community for so many years.

Mr. Hardy has contributed to the improvement of the community through his work in and out of organized labor. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Fred Hardy on his retirement and on his much-deserved Lifetime Achievement award.

THE 155TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF
GUADALUPE HIDALGO

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, Sunday February 2nd marked the 155th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. This is a treaty between Mexico and the United States guaranteed former Mexican citizens who remained in the United States certain property rights. One essential promise was to secure and protect the property rights of Mexican and Spanish citizens that had been given land grants from the Spanish and Mexican Governments.

In turn, the United States paid Mexico \$15,000,000, and among other things, agreed to recognize prior land grants issued by Spain and Mexico to individuals, communities, and

indigenous pueblo people. Thus, during the 50 years that followed the signing, numerous procedures were developed to evaluate and validate the land grants. However, the 1848 change in sovereignty brought together two different legal systems—the Spanish/Mexican and the Anglo-American. These competing legal systems resulted in the inability of the United States to properly recognize and honor the important role that custom played in preserving the lands and waters in accordance with Spanish and Mexican law.

My good friend, then-Representative, now New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson introduced legislation that would create a Presidential Commission to study the claims of the land grant heirs. In the 107th Congress, my predecessor, Mr. Redmond, introduced similar legislation in this body. With tremendous bipartisan support, the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Land Claims Act of 1998 passed overwhelmingly. Its supporters and co-sponsors included not only the current Speaker of the House, but former Speaker Gingrich and members of the leadership of both parties.

With the passage of this bill, the House of Representatives sent a clear message that it was time to undo 150 years of injustice. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the legislation never made it through the Senate.

During the 106th and 107th Congress I picked up the mantle that my predecessors carried in the House of Representatives to remedy the situation and to correct these injustices. I was pleased that I had the full support of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in this regard.

Senators PETE DOMENICI and JEFF BINGAMAN, along with myself, asked the GAO in 2001 to undertake a study of whether the United States fulfilled its obligations under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo with regard to land grants made by Spain and Mexico. Although I had intended to introduce this legislation again today to coincide with the 155th Anniversary, I am withholding this important legislation until the GAO study regarding the treaty is released.

Mr. Speaker, the issues that have evolved from the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo center on the concept of fairness and justice. Thus, I ask that all Americans acknowledge the 155th anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, by recognizing the many issues that remain to be properly addressed in order to assure a fair evaluation of the land grant claims.

Once the final GAO report is released and all stakeholders have had the opportunity to review and comment on the findings I look forward to working with the entire New Mexico Congressional Delegation and stakeholders in

starting the long process to resolve these disputes and to bring our government in line with its treaty obligations.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GREATER AWARENESS OF
NEED FOR YOUTH MENTORS AND
INCREASED INVOLVEMENT WITH
YOUTH THROUGH MENTORING

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Mentoring Caucus, I am pleased to join my colleagues today in supporting House Resolution 25. This important resolution commends those who contribute their time and talents to mentoring programs and supports efforts to promote greater awareness of the need for mentors. As we recognize National Mentoring Month, we should all celebrate the positive effects that mentors make in assuring brighter futures for young people.

Children who have mentors have a better chance of succeeding and are more likely to make positive choices. Young girls who have supportive mentors can grow up to be confident and powerful women by learning to make healthy decisions at an early age. The GirlVenture program in my home state of Minnesota has successfully connected more than 500 youth and 100 girls and their mothers with mentors who help them prepare for the workforce, become financially competent and make healthy life choices. GirlVenture also offers classes to help parents, educators and youth workers instill future-focused values in finances, relationships and leadership.

GirlVenture is just one example of the countless mentoring programs that are making a difference in the lives of young people. Unfortunately, there are far too many at-risk children who are on waiting lists, hoping to soon be matched with a caring mentor. According to the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, there are an estimated 75,000 young people who want and need an adult mentor in Minneapolis and St. Paul alone.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to honor mentors and encourage others to give their time and guidance to a child. And I wish to commend those mentors who are currently helping to shape the lives of young people through mentoring.