

his graduation from the United States Naval Academy. He has received orders to report on-board the new *USS Mason* (DDG-87) in Norfolk, Virginia as a Surface Warfare Officer (SWO). I am confident that Paul will be an outstanding officer in the United States Navy, and I commend him for his distinguished academic career and his self-less dedication and commitment to the service of our Nation.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
MARTIN TAYLOR WHITMER III

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to send my personal congratulations to Julie Thurmond Whitmer and Martin Whitmer on the birth of their first son, Martin Taylor Whitmer III. This is a very special young boy, as he is the first grandson of 100-year old Senator Strom Thurmond, South Carolina's living legend.

According to The State's Lee Bandy, "Martin Taylor Whitmer III was born at 1:59 p.m. Monday (June 16, 2003), at Sibley Hospital in Washington, D.C. He weighed 9 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20.5 inches long . . . Young Taylor already has a nickname—Tate."

I am so happy for the Whitmer family, grandmother Nancy Thurmond and Senator Thurmond, who's life has been full of milestones. There is no doubt that his grandson will inherit his strength, courage and patriotism.

CARL T. CURTIS NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE MIDWEST REGIONAL
HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice in support of S. 703, the Carl T. Curtis National Park Service Midwest Regional Headquarters Building Designation Act.

Carl Curtis served in Congress longer than any other Nebraskan—16 years in the House followed by 24 years in the Senate. In those 40 years, he built a strong legacy of legislative accomplishments. One of his greatest was the creation of the Pick-Sloan Plan for the Missouri basin, which was the blueprint for flood control and irrigation along the Missouri River. In addition, he came to be widely regarded as an authority on tax policy. He also transformed the Senate Republican Conference, making it the research body it is today, providing relevant information on national issues for the members of his caucus.

Politically, he was a force to be reckoned with. Having defeated two incumbent governors, one former governor, one governor-to-be, and two former House members, Carl Curtis is known by many as ending or sidetracking many a political career. But for me, Mr. Speaker, it is just the opposite. I credit Mr. Curtis with having given life to my political career by virtue of the fact that he spon-

sored me as a Senate page. I served 4 years as a page, and have since gone on to serve in a number of political positions—in the Nixon Administration, Fairfax County Supervisor, and of course my current role as the Representative for the 11th District of Virginia. Along the way, though, we all remember the person who gave us our first break. For me, that person was Senator Carl Curtis.

Senator Curtis passed away on January 24, 2000. I still owe him a debt of gratitude, and appreciate this opportunity to express my continuing appreciation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SAM
SUPLIZIO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand before this body of Congress to honor a man known as Colorado's "Mr. Baseball." Sam Suplizio of Grand Junction, Colorado has spent his life playing, coaching, and promoting the game. As he retires from his position as Director and Chairman of the National Junior College World Series, I would like to pay tribute to this outstanding leader.

Fifty years ago, Sam was one of the top amateur baseball players in the nation. Following a brilliant collegiate career in which he became the University of New Mexico's first All-American baseball player, the New York Yankees signed Sam and quickly labeled him as their top prospect. As a minor leaguer in 1955, Sam hit more home runs than Roger Maris, and the next year the Yankees called him up to the big leagues. Unfortunately, only three days after joining the team, Sam suffered a career-ending injury while sliding into second base.

Despite the setback, Sam rebounded to become a professional scout, coach, and manager with the California Angels and Milwaukee Brewers. He coached superstars Paul Molitor, Robin Yount, and Bo Jackson, participated in selecting members of the U.S. Olympic Baseball Team, and earned a World Series Ring in 1982 with the Brewers.

While his association with professional baseball lasted 50 years, Sam always took the time to give back to the community. In addition to four decades of leadership with the Junior College World Series, thousands of little leaguers, high school, and college players in Colorado benefited from the free clinics Sam frequently conducted. As co-chairman of the Colorado Baseball Commission, Sam led the effort to bring the Rockies to Colorado and was instrumental in the building of Coors Field. He was so effective in that role that Colorado's Governor appointed him to help build a new stadium for the Denver Broncos as well.

Mr. Speaker, athletics teach our young people important life lessons about dedication, sacrifice, and teamwork, and I am proud to pay tribute to a man who has spent five decades imparting these values to our youth. Sam is a true public servant who has done so much for the game of baseball and the state of Colorado, and I am proud to honor him before this body of Congress today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOAN HINDE
STEWART

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who is an exceptional scholar, a renowned literary commentator and a distinguished leader at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Joan Hinde Stewart, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the USC, is leaving in July to accept a position as the 19th president and first-ever female president of Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, and I ask you to join me in commending her for a job well done.

Dr. Stewart's accomplishments during her tenure at USC have been astonishing. She has led the university's largest and most academically diverse college, and served as a member of the Provost's Strategic Directives and Initiatives Committee that financially restructured the university last year. Dr. Stewart's leadership helped the college boast the highest increase this year in funds attained through research grants at a time when the university is shifting its focus toward technological and biomedical research.

Dr. Stewart's merit not only benefits the university at-large but also touches individual students. As a professor of French, she is known for her extensive historical perspectives on French literature and for bringing her latest analysis of some long neglected writers into her classroom.

Before coming to USC, Dr. Stewart headed the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures for 12 years at North Carolina State University. She has lectured on French literature and culture at numerous universities, including Oxford, Columbia, and Yale, which is where she earned her Ph.D.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Stewart is an extraordinary example of leadership in higher education. She has excelled in academia and administration at the University of South Carolina, and her unique talents will be missed. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding Dr. Joan Stewart's contributions to USC and wishing her the best of luck in her new position at Hamilton College.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S
RIGHTS PIONEER, REP. MARTHA
CRIFFITHS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tonight we honor former Congresswoman Martha Griffiths. I appreciate this opportunity to share with my colleagues my admiration for one of Michigan's and this nation's most distinguished leaders.

Martha Griffiths is the woman most responsible for the inclusion of women in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Act was a landmark piece of legislation that outlawed discrimination on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, or religion in the election process, employment, public accommodations, or in Federally-assisted

programs. It opened the doors of opportunity to women throughout the United States and spurred women across the world to fight for similar laws in their home countries.

She was the first woman appointed to the Detroit Recorder's Court, the first woman sent to Congress from her district, the first woman seated on the House Ways and Means Committee in 1954 and the first woman chosen to serve as Michigan's Lieutenant Governor. As the first woman and the first African-American to ever represent the Dallas, TX area in Congress, I have learned a great deal from her empathetic approach to public policy and political leadership. She never forgot that the bills we considered and the policies we crafted affected real people with real families. She always considered how a bill might affect our community's most disadvantaged families.

Martha's greatest legislative victory came when she engineered the inclusion of a ban on sex discrimination in the landmark 1964 civil rights legislation, which paved the way for a number of laws and Supreme Court rulings on issues ranging from equal pay to freedom from sexual harassment.

She displayed considerable political savvy in 1970 when she employed a little-known parliamentary tactic to blast the ERA out of the House Judiciary Committee, where it had been stalled for 47 years.

As a legislator, I admire Martha Griffiths. She earned the respect of her colleagues for both her intelligence and independence; they have described her as "tough as alligator skin" with "a steel-trap mind."

Mr. Speaker, Representative Martha Griffiths has been a clear, strong and consistent voice for women and women's issues. I am proud to stand here in honor of Martha Griffiths and her legacy.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDDIE
VALENTINELLI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to the life and passing of Eddie Valentinelli of Grand Junction, Colorado. Eddie's passion for life was reflected in the time and effort that he devoted to the Junior College World Series (JUCO). As his family and friends mourn his loss, I would like to commend Eddie for his enthusiasm for the game and pay tribute to the impact that he had on his community.

Eddie attended every JUCO World Series game from the time the series began in 1958. He arrived at the ballpark at 5 a.m. every Saturday to help the grounds crew, loving to socialize with the players and coaches throughout the day. Fans have noted that the series would not be the same without Eddie's presence in his usual seat. Eddie's dedication to JUCO has extended beyond his own lifetime, as he had made the JUCO World Series Organization a major benefactor in his will. While the financial benefit from his contribution was welcomed, the sentimental value of the gesture is what individuals associated with JUCO will always remember.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to Ed-

die's dedication and commitment to his fellow Coloradans. Individuals like Eddie provide the strength of spirit and character that make this nation great. While he will be dearly missed, Eddie's spirit will live on through the lives of those whom he has touched. I extend my deepest sympathies to Eddie's family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING MISS LUCILE BLUFORD
UPON HER DEATH, PUBLISHER
AND EDITOR OF THE CALL
NEWSPAPER

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mrs. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I rise today to honor Miss Lucile Bluford, editor and publisher of The Call newspaper in Kansas City, Missouri. Miss Bluford passed away Friday, June 13. She had been an employee of The Call for 71 years and editor/publisher since 1955. She would have been 92 years young this July 1.

Miss Bluford, as she was known by everyone, was a trail blazer and pioneer for civil rights and equality for African-Americans. She fought both personally and professionally to end segregation and advance opportunities for our community. Through her fight to access graduate journalism school for herself and other minorities and her leadership in the civil rights and journalism communities, Miss Bluford left an enduring mark in her advocacy for equality.

Miss Bluford graduated from the University of Kansas School of Journalism in 1932 and joined The Call shortly thereafter as a reporter. In 1938, she filed a mandamus suit against the University of Missouri Graduate School of Journalism for being denied admittance because of her color. Miss Bluford wrote and fought for racial and social justice ever since. She reported about the plight of those unfortunate enough to help themselves, the poor and disenfranchised. Miss Bluford had an effect on making our community and nation better aware of the inequalities existing.

Miss Bluford had the ear of those who were wealthy and those who were not, and conversed with the common citizen or those of stature. I met with Lucile many times and I always treasured her company and conversation. I invariably would leave with a much more valuable insight on the issues of the day as well as the rich history she lived—especially her struggles in the civil rights movement.

Miss Bluford's leadership and accomplishments have been recognized on numerous occasions, including receiving the Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism from the University of Missouri. Last fall she was honored by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce as "Kansas Citian of the Year for 2002." Awards she received throughout her career include the Distinguished Service Award from the national NAACP, an Honorary Doctorate degree from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Martin Luther King Award, University of Missouri Distinguished Service Medal of Honor, and the Rec-

ognition Award for Unsurpassed and Dedicated Service to the Community by the Northwest Missouri Division of the African Methodist and Episcopal Church.

One of the honors she cherished most was the University of Kansas establishment of the Lucile H. Bluford Scholarship Fund for students interested in studying journalism. This lasting legacy to Miss Bluford will provide future generations with the opportunity to fulfill their dream of journalism.

Miss Bluford has been recognized for her service to our community and nation. She had served as a juror Pulitzer Prize for Journalism, was a member of the National Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and had been selected to make a trip to Israel in 1972 with a group of American newspaper editors. Miss Bluford served on the Governor's Committee for "Jobs for Missourians," was a board member and Secretary of the Missouri Commission of Human Rights from 1957 to 1969, and served on the Governor's Task Force on the role of Private Higher Education in Missouri. She served on local boards of United Way, NAACP, Kansas City Council on Crime Prevention, Kansas City Cancer Society, Kansas City Area Hospital Association, Model Cities Day Care Corporation, Legal Aid and Defender Society, and the University of Missouri at Kansas City Cockefair Chair Board of Directors.

As publisher and editor of The Call newspaper, she elevated the awareness of the African-American community in relation to its role in the broader majority society. Miss Bluford was a dedicated journalist from her humble beginnings as a reporter to the position of publisher and editor—she never forgot her roots. I fondly remember how she would dutifully take notes on her reporter's pad with her ever present red pen. As a role model and a journalist, I remember Miss Bluford for her fairness and unassuming manner. She was never one to seek out the spotlight or glory. She spoke her mind to the powerful and stood by her beliefs without hesitation.

Miss Bluford has been an inspiration to me. Her dedication and commitment to public service served as an example to all of us who work to make our community better. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring her for her service to our community and the nation.

Miss Bluford can never be replaced, but her ideals and principals will remain as a fundamental foundation for our community. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family members, co-workers, and friends. All of our lives are richer for having known Miss Lucile H. Bluford.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATION-
WIDE GUN BUYBACK ACT OF 2003

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am encouraged to introduce the Nationwide Gun Buyback Act of 2003, NGBA, by the actions of the District of Columbia residents on Father's Day last Sunday. Citizens who had lost relatives and representatives of 20 advocacy and victim-support groups gathered at Freedom