

the NAACP, and Church Women United. In the 1960's, she worked successfully to get recreational facilities for black youth. She also led a group of concerned citizens in the restoration of a 100-year-old cemetery that is now on the National Register of Historic Places. In recognition of her many achievements, the City of Orangeburg selected her as a Citizen of the Year and has erected a community center in her honor.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking these ten individuals for their dedicated service to their communities and for their prime examples of leadership to our youth.

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HONORING ELISE COGORNO

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elise Cogorno, who after devoting 34 years of her life to teaching and inspiring public school students in New Jersey, is retiring this month. Whether in her role as one of the Nation's most esteemed Spanish teachers, or as an active leader in extracurricular activities for students, or as a volunteer in community programs, Elise Cogorno has been a remarkable and committed role model to thousands of children.

Born Elise Braunschweiger in 1946, her childhood was spent in Hillside, New Jersey. She and her family then moved to Morristown, New Jersey, where she attended high school. After receiving her education from Montclair State University, Elise Cogorno spent her entire 34 years of teaching in Teaneck, New Jersey—first in Thomas Jefferson Junior High School, and later at Teaneck High School. As an extraordinarily gifted teacher, Elise Cogorno motivated her students through creativity, humor, and enthusiasm. Her love for teaching generated a love for learning among her students.

I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting one of our Nation's finest teachers, Elise Cogorno, whose outstanding teaching abilities helped and inspired thousands of New Jersey students. Elise Cogorno's successful teaching career has proved invaluable for countless New Jersey students. She truly represents the best of New Jersey.

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THE ASBESTOS CLAIMS TAX  
FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Asbestos Claims Tax Fairness Act. Asbestos liability issues have reached crisis stage. The costs of the current and potential lawsuits filed against these companies by claimants are staggering. More than 200,000 tort claims regarding exposure to asbestos are pending today, and more than 50,000 new claims are being filed each year.

Many former manufacturers of asbestos stopped using and distributing asbestos long

before 1986. However, most of these companies or their corporate descendants, are bankrupt or nearing bankruptcy. As a result, asbestos liabilities are being shouldered alone by the dwindling number of former asbestos manufacturers and distributors that remain in business. This spiraling cycle into bankruptcy means asbestos victims are faced with the decreasing likelihood that they will be compensated for their injuries in the future.

In the 107th Congress, along with more than 125 of our colleagues, my colleague from Georgia and I introduced tax legislation that would help provide compensation to victims of asbestos and help companies beset by asbestos liabilities to continue as viable employers. That bill, H.R. 1412, was the continuation of efforts begun in the 106th Congress. Since the beginning of that effort, the plight for victims has worsened and the economic viability of those entities responsible for meeting those obligations has deteriorated significantly.

Today I again introduce a bill that will help to ensure that there are funds available to pay victims of asbestos exposure.

The legislation has two components. First, it would increase the amount of resources available to pay injured asbestos victims by exempting from federal tax settlement funds established to pay asbestos victims. Hundreds of thousands of individuals rely on these funds for compensation. Under current law, these funds are taxed at the top income tax rate of 35-percent rate.

Second, the legislation would ease tax-law limitations on asbestos defendants who are emerging from bankruptcy. More than 60 companies currently paying asbestos victims have been forced into bankruptcy. Our legislation would exempt these companies from certain tax-law rules that limit use of a bankrupt company's tax assets. This relief would be provided only in situations where the company's restructuring in bankruptcy results in the company continuing as a going concern.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation I am introducing today is not intended to solve all of the problems caused by the asbestos crisis. But these measures will help companies emerge as soon as possible from bankruptcy, minimizing the potential for job losses in the economy and reducing the risk of lost benefits to asbestos claimants. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

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IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL ROBERTS  
AND THOSE WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE  
SACRIFICE IN VIETNAM

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House to remember one of Mississippi's native sons who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War, and returns to us just this year for his proper interment at Arlington National Cemetery.

This week, the brothers and sisters of Michael L. Roberts, a U.S. Navy Petty Officer from Purvis, Mississippi, will travel to Washington, DC to lay their missing brother to rest. He and eight of his colleagues on a secret reconnaissance mission in 1968 crashed and died in the Laotian jungle. Their mission had

been to drop sensors designed to detect enemy movements in our struggle with communist North Vietnam.

Their Navy OP-2E Neptune aircraft took off from Thailand on January 11, 1968, but never returned. Two weeks later an Air Force air crew photographed what appeared to be the crash site, but enemy activity in the area prevented a recovery operation. Between 1993 and 2002, six US-Laotian investigation teams interviewed villagers in the surrounding area, gathered aircraft debris and surveyed the purported crash site scattered on two ledges of Phou Louang Mountain in Khammouan Province.

Then during a 1996 visit, team members recovered identification cards for several crew members as well as human remains. Recovery missions in 2001 and 2002 yielded additional remains, as well as identification of other crew members.

Michael Roberts was a graduate of Purvis High School and Pearl River Junior College. Out of college, he enlisted in the Navy. He was twenty-four years old when his mission went missing.

In addition to Michael Roberts, his eight friends and companions were Navy Commander Delbert Olson of Casselton, North Dakota; Lieutenants Denis Anderson of Hope, Kansas, Arthur Buck of Sandusky, Ohio, and Philip Stevens of Twin Lake, Michigan; and Petty Officers Richard Mancini of Amsterdam, New York, Donald Thoresen and Kenneth Widon of Detroit, Michigan and Gale Siow of Huntington Park, California.

More than 1,900 Americans are still missing in action from the Vietnam War. While we mourn their losses, there is some joy that the families of these nine men can finally experience closure of this thirty-five year old wound.

For over two centuries, the Territory and State of Mississippi has paid the price of freedom with the blood of our sons and daughters. Whether their sacrifice still remains hidden in a foreign land, or they rest in a small country churchyard, or they are honored in our country's national cemetery, we will always remember them—we will always honor them—we will continue to fight for the dreams they gave their very lives to secure for us and future generations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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TRIBUTE TO LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law for their great work in promoting civil rights and equal justice.

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, was formed in 1963 at the request of President John F. Kennedy, to involve the private bar in providing legal services to address racial discrimination. The establishment of the Committee sought to fulfill the expectation of America's leaders that the private bar become an active force in the continuing struggles for

equal opportunity and racial equality. The principal mission is to secure, through the rule of law, equal justice under law.

The Committee's major objective is to use the skills and resources of the bar to obtain equal opportunity for minorities by addressing factors that contribute to racial justice and economic opportunity. Given our nation's history of racial discrimination, segregation, and the de facto inequities that persist, the Lawyers' Committee's primary focus is to represent the interest of African Americans in particular, other racial and ethnic minorities, and other victims of discrimination, where doing so can help to secure justice for all racial and ethnic minorities.

The Lawyers' Committee implements its mission and objectives by marshaling the pro bono resources of the bar for litigation, public policy advocacy, and other forms of service by lawyers to the cause of civil rights.

For decades, the Committee has made a lasting impact on civil rights in America. The Lawyers' Committee has continually pressed forth its mission to mobilize the bar in upholding the principles of equal opportunity and racial equality as the standards by which the integrity of American democracy is judged.

This year the Lawyers' Committee celebrates its 40th Anniversary. In celebration, the Lawyers' Committee is convening a major symposium, *The Quest for Equal Justice: Advancing a Dynamic Civil Rights Agenda for Our Times*—July 18 to 19 at the International Trade Center in Washington, DC. Distinguished participants will examine the progress that has been achieved and the many outstanding challenges presented by the persistence of racial, ethnic, gender and other forms of discrimination. The symposium hopes to address critical civil rights issues in the opening decades of the twenty-first century.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when we face the imminent danger of once again losing much of what has been gained in the national journey to equal rights it is critical that the Lawyers' Committee be given proper commendation for their continued hard work and dedication to civil rights. So, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. We wish them all the best as we acknowledge all of their accomplishments.

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TRIBUTE TO BILL WERNER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor an outstanding American from my district. Bill Werner is a real estate broker from Alamosa, Colorado who loves his country and understands that the freedoms we enjoy in this country come with a price. Bill also knows that, just as great nations must lead during difficult times, so too must great citizens. I am pleased to recognize Bill before this body of Congress as a citizen of character.

Bill's son, Billy, helped keep America safe and free by serving as a paramedic with the 3rd Infantry in the Iraq conflict. This fact made it particularly difficult for Bill to watch war protestors march past his Main Street office.

Rather than watch in silence, Bill decided to give the "silent majority" of Alamosans who support our troops a chance to be heard. Bill organized a parade that included a police honor guard, veterans groups and other citizens who wanted to take part. Our troops deserve to know that our country is behind them and that they will not be forgotten.

Bill followed the parade by collecting books and candy for U.S. troops in Iraq at his real estate office. He will distribute these goods to the Red Cross who will then dispense them to the troops. Bill hopes that the parade along with the gifts will show that Alamosa is a patriotic town, one where the citizens support the troops that protect their freedom.

Mr. Speaker, it would have been easier to not get involved, but Bill Werner had the courage and conviction to stand up for what he knew was right, and I applaud him for that. It is people like Bill who have helped make America great, and I am proud to tell his story before this body of Congress today. Thank you, Bill, your support and optimistic enthusiasm provide an example for us all.

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TRIBUTE TO MARGARET YOUMANS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to the memory of a remarkable woman from my district. Margaret Youmans, who passed away recently at the age of 104, was the oldest resident of Gunnison County in Western Colorado, with a life spanning parts of three centuries.

Born in 1898, Margaret was the second of eight children born to Lake City businessman Charles Mendenhall and his wife Manetta. Margaret graduated from high school in 1918 and began a career as a teacher. Eight years later she was elected as a write-in candidate for Superintendent of the Hinsdale County Schools. Margaret also worked as a cook and for a newspaper, spending more than 60 years on a ranch, growing nearly everything her family ate.

Mr. Speaker, Margaret was a tough, self-reliant, and determined woman who attributed her long life to her love of family, good genetics, and plenty of good, hard work. Her "cando" attitude exemplified the qualities that helped make this nation great, and I am honored to pay tribute to her memory here today.

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TRIBUTE TO TOM PEIRCE

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise before this body of Congress today to recognize the life and passing of Tom Peirce of Aspen, Colorado. Tom recently left us after a battle with cancer. As his family and friends mourn their loss, I think it is fitting to remember a few of Tom's contributions to the Aspen community.

Tom lived in Aspen nearly his entire life. After graduating from Aspen High School and

Colorado State University, he formed a travel company that focused on natural history and cultural trips. Although he traveled extensively, Tom loved Aspen and gave back to the community. Six years ago, Tom joined the board of the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, and, before his health failed, launched a bid for the Aspen City Council.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the life and selfless dedication Tom Peirce demonstrated throughout his life. People like Tom who get involved in the community, create jobs, and work to improve our government, are the bedrock of this great nation. Tom is survived by his father Everett, sister Melanie, and brother Fred, and our thoughts are with them during this difficult time. Tom will be missed by his family, friends, and the many people in the Roaring Fork Valley who knew him.

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TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF  
BAYAUD INDUSTRIES

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a group of people who create hope and opportunity for those who are challenged with disabilities. The people of Bayaud Industries have helped the mentally ill and disabled find meaningful work in my home state of Colorado since 1969.

By providing jobs for people with disabilities, the people of Bayaud reach out to a group with the highest unemployment rate in the country. Bayaud is funded under the government's JWOD program to identify jobs for some 300 people a year who might otherwise not be able to find work. They do this by partnering with public and private organizations, from Coors to the EPA, helping numerous Coloradans lead more meaningful and productive lives. In addition to this, the people of Bayaud help a number of their employees move on to private sector jobs every year.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to the people of Bayaud Industries and their work under the JWOD program. By giving the disabled a hand up instead of a handout, they help numerous people realize the satisfaction that comes with meaningful employment. I commend their efforts to serve Colorado's disabled community.

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TRIBUTE TO ELLA MOON

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to Ella Moon of Fruita, Colorado. Ella Moon is the person behind Moon Farm, a remarkable place where thousands of kids have gone to play and learn for nearly four decades.

It all began in 1954 when Ella and Wallace Moon moved from Utah to an old hog farm in Western Colorado. Their children needed something to do during the summer so they built a tree house. The following summer, the