

received their paramedic training through Stanford University and graduated in 1978. The five other firefighters to receive their training in that inaugural season were Dave Mellow, Skip Rains, Jon Treebotich, Joe Baez and Tony Balsa, who were schooled in Southern California.

As the call volume increased, so did the need for another paramedic unit. In 1992, the department decided that the most effective way to deliver paramedic services was by attaching them to engine companies rather than as a stand-alone unit. In 1994 three paramedic engine companies were put into service. In July 2003, the city's paramedic capability increased with the addition of a fourth paramedic engine. The new fire station for Engine Company 4 will open in January 2004.

Mr. Speaker, in a city of 74,000 people where more than 60 percent of the emergency calls require paramedic intervention, the Napa City Paramedic Program provides an invaluable service to our community. It is therefore appropriate that these men and women be honored and acknowledged for their commitment to the well being of the citizens of Napa, California.

TRIBUTE TO SALLIE WATKINS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and educator from my district. Sallie Watkins, a physics teacher from Pueblo, Colorado, has worked tirelessly to teach and inspire her many students. I am honored to share her story here today.

In 1946, Sallie began teaching at Notre Dame Academy in Cleveland, Ohio. Her dedication and commitment toward the betterment of humanity came through in her work within the church. Leaving the convent, Sallie came to Pueblo in 1966 to continue her work. She took a position at Southern Colorado State College. Through the years, she has continued to teach and inspire countless students.

In addition to teaching, Sallie has been very involved with the local community. She helped found the Girls Club, which became part of the Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo. She also oversaw the creation of the Pueblo Program, a program to improve science teaching and curriculum in the local schools. Many community organizations, such as the American Cancer Society, the YMCA, and the Colorado Association of Mental Health, have benefited from Sallie's involvement.

Mr. Speaker, Sallie Watkins has dedicated her life to serving others. She is an inspirational teacher and a loving volunteer. Sallie's students hold her in such high regard that they are currently creating a physics scholarship in her name. Sallie is an inspiration and a person of the compassion. I am honored to join with my colleague in thanking Sallie for all her hard work and wishing her the best of luck in the future.

IN HONOR OF ESTUARY DAY 2003

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Elizabeth's Estuary Day 2003. Estuary Day was held on Saturday, September 20, 2003, at the Marina in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Estuary Day 2003 provides families from the city of Elizabeth and surrounding areas the opportunity to learn about and celebrate the importance of the Elizabeth River and the Arthur Kill. In addition to providing recreational uses for residents, these two estuaries have a unique historical significance to the city of Elizabeth.

Elizabeth's Estuary Day is part of National Estuaries Day, which seeks to promote awareness about the importance of estuaries. The National Estuary Program has been critical to administering the goals of the Clean Water Act, and to improve the quality of estuaries nationwide. This program mandates the protection of public water supplies and the protection and propagation of indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife.

Estuary Day provides an opportunity for many residents to become aware of the natural wonders present in their backyard. As estuaries are some of the most important ecosystems on the planet, it is important for residents to view our waterways as part of the community, and to maximize their recreational and environmental uses.

Estuary Day presents the importance of protecting and appreciating our natural resources to the people of Elizabeth, by providing fun and educational activities. Such interactive environmental educational opportunities, presentations and environmental boat rides, allow for an in-depth and hands-on approach to learning about life within and around estuaries.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Future City Inc., in conjunction with the city of Elizabeth's staff and Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, a committed member of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Management Committee, for planning Estuary Day 2003 in Elizabeth.

HONORING ALEX KAZMIERCZAK,
JR. ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable craftsman and community leader from my District on the southwest side of Chicago, Illinois. I would like to honor Alex Kazmierczak, Jr., on achieving two milestones in his life, celebrating his 65th birthday and retiring after forty-one years in the plumbing service.

Mr. Kazmierczak has been employed by C.J. Erickson Plumbing Company since 1959. He is a man dedicated to his field. Alex has spent his career involved with such prominent organizations as the Plumbers Union Local 130 and the National Underground Contractors Association, as well as affiliated with the

Ground Hog Club and the South Side Master Plumbers Social Club.

The strength of this man is measured by his love for his wife, family, faith, friends and community. Alex and his wife, Rosemary, have been married for 41 years and they have been blessed with a wonderful family of four children and seven grandchildren. The family has been a part of the St. Gerald Parish for over 36 years.

The commitment, dedication and energy given by Alex Kazmierczak to his community have been an inspiration to many individuals. For 12 years, Alex served as Commissioner for the Oak Lawn Park District. He has coached youth hockey and baseball teams in Oak Lawn and even initiated the District's T-ball program.

His civic duties are still called upon him today as he sits as a member on the Oak Lawn Board of Appeals, Service Commission, and as chairman for Oak Lawn Parks Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Alex Kazmierczak, Jr., on his achievements and wish Alex many years of future success.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHARON K.
VALASEK, THE FIRST HONORARY
CONSUL FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC
TO REPRESENT KANSAS,
MISSOURI, AND NEBRASKA

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the historic appointment of Sharon K. Valasek as the first Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic to represent Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Czech Republic Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Martin Palous, who officially announced her appointment, will take part in the installation ceremonies September 24-26, 2003, in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan area. Sharon K. Valasek holds a Masters of Business Administration Degree from Avila College. As Honorary Consul, she will incorporate her education and her expertise in business and trade to facilitate United States commerce with the Czech Republic. She has valuable telecommunications and marketing experience from working for a global provider of broadband and wireless services. Her marketing and developmental skills will be of great value to the business partnership between the United States and the Czech Republic.

Honorary Consul Valasek is committed to supporting local relationship building initiatives. She has a strong base for fostering new partnerships in the Czech Republic since her relatives live in Moravia. She serves as a board Member for the People to People International, Club President of the Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City, member of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, and Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International.

Ms. Valasek will serve as an advocate of educational and cultural initiatives while preserving customs and traditions.

The importance of an Honorary Consul in our region stems from shared heritage and our

combined histories that provide a foundation for exchange. Immigrants from the region of Czechoslovakia migrated to the United States since the 1800s, many finding their way to Missouri and a home in the Kansas City area. In the Fifth District, Sugar Creek has a rich heritage fostered from their Czechoslovakian immigrants, many who found work at the oil refinery.

In 1989, we witnessed the overthrow of communist totalitarian rule in Czechoslovakia with the Velvet Revolution, a modern day revolution for independence, which brought a new beginning for the people of Czechoslovakia.

In 1993, Czechoslovakia evolved into two independent states: the Czech Republic and Slovakia. On March 12, 1999, the Czech Republic became an international member of NATO. Today, Prague is the capital of the Czech Republic, a tourist destination with its rich architectural treasures, educational opportunities and the center of activities and events.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in proudly recognizing Honorary Consul Valasek's appointment as an opportunity for cultural exchange and economic advancement to further our shared goals for both of our nations.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES B. FORBES

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the sad passing of Charles B. Forbes, who leaves a lasting impact on the district I represent. Charlie is survived by his wife Barbara Cameron Forbes, known to all as Cam. While the passing of this fine man saddens me, I am grateful for the 80 years he lived, many of them publishing local newspapers and serving community organizations. This morning, the Times-Review papers on Long Island published an obituary on Charlie's life. I'd like to submit this piece for the RECORD.

CHARLES BOWMAN FORBES

Charles B. Forbes, former publisher of Long Island's first Sunday newspaper, The Sunday Review, and the state's largest newspaper, The News-Review of Riverhead, died Sept. 22 at his home in Hampton, N.H., at age 80.

The youngest of five sons, he was born in New Rochelle, N.Y., on May 24, 1923, to T. Harold and Carrie Forbes.

Mr. Forbes was a graduate of Manhasset (L.I.) High School and Colgate University, and served with the U.S. Army during World War II. He started his newspaper career at the New York Daily News. After he sold The Sunday Review and The News-Review to Cowles Communications in the 1970s, Mr. Forbes worked for The Traveler-Watchman in Southold and WRIV Radio in Riverhead.

Mr. Forbes was a longtime member of the Riverhead Rotary Club and Riverhead Chamber of Commerce, a former president of the Quogue Board of Education and a member of Quogue Fire Department. He and his wife, Barbara (known to all as "Cam"), were among the early members of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in Westhampton Beach and are the only husband and wife to be honored and named, separately, as grand marshals of the popular parade. He later relocated to New Hampshire and worked with his son, Tom, founder of

Forbes Marketing Group, an advertising specialties business.

Mr. Forbes is survived by his wife; his son; five daughters, Susan Lilley, Cameron Howard, Lisa Ryan, Shelley Natalie and Melissa Forbes; and four grandchildren.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FERN DOHERTY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Fern Doherty of Trinchera, Colorado has worked tirelessly to promote and preserve a Western heritage, the ranching way of life. Fern is an active and devoted member of her community who donates her time to numerous community groups. For her tireless efforts and years of service, I am honored to pay tribute to Fern here today.

For eighty-two years, Fern has been an active member of the Las Animas County community. She has molded the community's youth by serving as a 4-H leader and by remaining active with the local Parent Teacher Association. An active member of the ranching community, Fern has served as President of the Las Animas County CowBelles, an organization devoted to advancing the interests of the beef industry, and was recently named the Las Animas County Cattleman of the Year for 2003. In addition, Fern was the 2000 Silver Queen for the Trinidad Round-up, which honors the courageous outlook on life and youthful spirit of a senior in that community.

Mr. Speaker, Fern Doherty exemplifies the true spirit of the American West. She is devoted to her family, committed to her community, and active in her support for the ranching way of life. Her dedication and hard work keep the tradition and heritage of the West alive, and I am honored to join with my colleagues here today in extending my thanks to Fern and in wishing her the best of luck in the future. Thank you, Fern, for your service to Colorado.

IN HONOR OF MARIA NOLFO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Nolfo for her 32 years of leadership and dedication to the students of Bayonne. Ms. Nolfo will be honored with the Italian-American Educator Award by the Bayonne Columbus Committee at the 2003 Honoree Dinner-Dance on September 27, 2003, at the Chandelier Restaurant in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Since 1972, Ms. Nolfo has been an exceptional educator in Bayonne's public schools. She began her career in the school system teaching English as a Second Language, helping children adapt to a new language and new environment. Her dedication and gift for teaching led Ms. Nolfo to teach courses in conversational Spanish for fellow teachers in the Bayonne school district.

In 1974, Ms. Nolfo became a teacher at Bayonne High School, where she remained until her retirement in 2002. In her final year, she was voted Bayonne High School Teacher of the Year by her students and peers.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Ms. Nolfo attended the Academy of Saint Aloysius and received her bachelor's degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ms. Nolfo received a master's degree from Rutgers University.

Ms. Nolfo is not only an inspiration in the classroom but a leader in her community. A member of Our Lady of Assumption Parish, she is a mass lector and former director of the Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults program. Ms. Nolfo was also president of the Bayonne Italian American Committee for Culture and Education.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Maria Nolfo for her tireless work in educating the youth of Bayonne and leading them towards a brighter future.

LET TAIWAN BACK IN THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Republic of China on Taiwan's re-admission to the United Nations. For the last 32 years, Taiwan's people have had no representation in the United Nations. It is incongruous that a world body founded on the principle of universality and self-determination excludes a free, democratic and independent nation of 23 million people—a population larger than three quarters of the U.N.'s current member states.

Let's be clear. Taiwan does not seek the expulsion of the People's Republic of China from the United Nations, but asks only that it be given a voice at the U.N. There are well-established precedents for parallel representation of divided nations at the U.N. East and West Germany, now unified, and the still divided Republic of Korea and Democratic People's Republic of Korea are the outstanding examples.

Taiwan's participation in international bodies is well documented as shown by its membership in the Asian Development Bank, its admission to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group as a full member, and its membership in the World Trade Organization.

Taiwan possesses ample resources to contribute to the work and funding of the U.N. as shown in its many contributions of humanitarian aid. Such projects by Taiwan include relief supplies for Iraq and Afghanistan, AIDS prevention in Africa, the dispatch of rescue teams following natural disasters in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Turkey and assistance to victims of the 9/11 disaster here in the United States.

Taiwan's accession to the United Nations is long overdue. Its 23 million people deserve this important vehicle to full participation in the global community.

As Taiwan bids to return to the United Nations, I wish to say that I totally support Taiwan's aspirations to be a member of this global body. Taiwan has all the qualifications: a