

In 1999, the Panpaphian Association established the Evagoras Pallikarides award, honoring the memory of Pallikarides, a Cypriot hero who was killed in 1956 while fighting for his country's freedom. Dennis C. Droushiotis, the Trade Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus, has been selected as the honored recipient of the 2003 Evagoras Pallikarides Award of Merit.

Among his many accomplishments are the establishment of the first Cyprus Trade Center in the United States and the implementation of many successful exports and investments programs, leading to the exponential growth of Cypriot exports to the U.S. The Trade Center's bilateral initiatives were a crucial factor in the United States becoming the main exporter to Cyprus and the growth of two-way trade.

Mr. Droushiotis is also the founding member of the Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce, inaugurated in 1998 by President Glafcos Clerides and Minister Nicos Rolandis. He has served as a delegate to the World Trade Organization, the United Nation 33rd and 37th General Assembly Sessions, and other such prestigious gatherings. His many civic involvements include work with the European Travel Commission, the Cyprus Olympic Committee, and the Cyprus Children's Fund.

Throughout his life, Mr. Droushiotis has been committed to the cause of justice, peace, and prosperity for Cyprus. He has been honored by the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce, and in 2000, he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his work in international trade. As an individual who has contributed greatly not only to his nation but to both the Cypriot and Cypriot American communities, he is truly worthy of the Evagoras Pallikarides Award.

The organization has also chosen Charles Socrates as 2003 Member of the Year. Mr. Socrates, who originates from a small village in Cyprus, immigrated to the United States and, despite limited resources, developed a successful career while establishing an extensive network of family and friends. The Panpaphian Association honors Mr. Socrates today for his hard work and pride in his ethnicity.

In recognition of the Panpaphian Association of America's many contributions for the Cypriot American community, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this organization and all of tonight's honorees on the fourth anniversary of their annual Evagoras Pallikarides Award of Merit.

TRIBUTE TO LINUS TRUJILLO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Linus Trujillo of Pueblo, Colorado for the selfless act of courage he displayed on November 8, 2002. Linus' quick actions, along with the efforts of other students from Centennial High School, helped Edith Lichtenberg to safety after flames engulfed her home.

On November 8, 2002, billowing smoke one block from Centennial High School prompted a group of students—Prince Speights, Clint Albrecht, Nick Pino, Kathy Ortiz, Linus Trujillo,

and Taylor Proctor—into action. Driving toward the smoke, the group quickly discovered the bushes and trees in 86-year-old Edith Lichtenberg's yard ablaze and used a cell phone to contact emergency dispatchers. The flames rapidly spread to the house and the group moved swiftly to make sure no one was in the home. With the fire engulfing the front of the house, the students jumped the locked fence around the backyard to warn anyone who might still be inside. Noticing the back door open and seeing Ms. Lichtenberg still inside, they caught her attention and guided her outside away from the flames. Linus courageously assisted in getting Ms. Lichtenberg out of the house, and the group moved her to safety.

The youths maintained their composure during a time of adversity and conducted themselves in a fashion that has brought honor to themselves, their families, their school, and the entire community of Pueblo. It is always heartening to see young Americans meet such an extraordinary circumstance successfully. Courage like theirs strengthens and protects our communities everyday.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and recognize the heroic efforts of Linus Trujillo before this body of Congress and this nation. Linus' quick actions, coupled with those of his fellow students, prevented a terrible fire from ending in great tragedy. Their selfless actions are an inspiration to us all, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

HONORING TONYA MITCHELL: A HEROIC PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of Florida's heroes, Tonya Mitchell. Tonya Mitchell, a valiant public servant, was abducted on January 31, 2003, while driving a mail truck across northwest Miami-Dade County. Tonya Mitchell, extraordinarily composed, drove throughout Miami North-Dade and Broward Counties at gunpoint while dozens of patrol cars and news choppers followed. For five terrifying hours, including a two-hour standoff, Tonya Mitchell, unlike most people facing a life or death situation, maintained a remarkably calm demeanor until she was finally released to safety.

Tonya Mitchell, a 32-year-old mother of two from Miramar, Florida, is an example of true courage. The target of a very dangerous situation, she overcame fear and convinced her abductor, after the two-hour standoff, not to commit suicide. Because of her committed faith, she persuaded a man who put her life in grave danger to turn himself in to the authorities. Tonya Mitchell, a deeply religious woman, is not only a survivor, but a model of bravery.

United States postal employees have a visible presence in our community. My district, and districts across our country, function more effectively because of their invaluable work. Tonya Mitchell is a three-year veteran of the postal service who often fills in on her colleague's routes. She is a devotee to her community and as seen through last week's experience, a devotee to human kind. Mr. Speaker,

the South Florida community is very proud of Tonya Mitchell. Clearly seen through the dedication she has in her work and through her extraordinarily bold composure, she is truly a hero and a role model to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed roll call votes 18 and 19 on February 5, 2003. I was on my way to attend the funeral for a family member who passed away earlier in the week. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on the Motion to Re-commit H.J. Res. 18 and voted "yes" on H. Res. 51, expressing the House of Representatives condolences to the families and crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CITRUS GIRL SCOUT TROOP 378

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Heart of Florida Girl Scout Troop 378 in Citrus County, Florida for their service to the Community and to the people of my district.

The troop recently learned about the importance of voting and about the functions of American government as part of the 'I-Count' Voter Education program and each Troop Member participating in the program received a patch upon completion.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, those in the Girl Scout program measure their accomplishments and award merit based on the number of patches they accumulate. As part of earning this patch, the girls studied intently and listened to a speech I gave about the importance of voting—and how one vote can be the deciding factor in some instances.

It was when I spoke to the girls and had the chance to meet them and hear about all they'd done in the community that I realized the tremendous amount of work they'd done and their intense dedication to the Girls Scout program.

Mr. Speaker, let me briefly mention just a few of the things this group of girls has done throughout their years of involvement with this program.

As Daisies the girls learned to do crafts and learned the Girl Scout promise. They went on campouts, marched in parades and sang at Surry Place Nursing home.

As Brownies, the troop went to nursing homes to sing, volunteered at various events and continued to appear in local parades.

As Juniors, they collected old, unused cell phones to benefit battered women, helped at the local "Relay for Life," which benefits the American Cancer Society, and presented the local volunteer firefighters with cookies to thank them for their work in the community.

Now that the girls are Cadets they are still collecting cell phones and will be continuing

their involvement in the "Relay for Life" program. This past Holiday Season they "Gift Adopted" a local under-privileged girl, and donated money and new gifts to make her Christmas brighter.

Currently they are saving the proceeds from the sale of their Girl Scout cookies for a trip to Savanna, Georgia to see where Juliette Gordon Low, the Girl Scout founder, was born.

Amber Auth, Nicole Bruno, Melissa Fonczak, Emily Stanton, Rebecca Rose, Kimberly Carbonari, Rebecca Morse, along with troop leader Mimi Rose and assistant troop leader Nora Auth, deserve to be commended for their service and dedication, I am proud to have them as my constituents and am honored to be their representation in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO KATHY ORTIZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Kathy Ortiz of Pueblo, Colorado for the selfless act of courage she displayed on November 8, 2002. Kathy's quick actions, along with the efforts of other students from Centennial High School, helped Edith Lichtenberg to safety after flames engulfed her home.

On November 8, 2002, billowing smoke one block from Centennial High School prompted a group of students—Prince Speights, Clint Albrecht, Nick Pino, Kathy Ortiz, Linus Trujillo, and Taylor Proctor—into action. Driving toward the smoke, the group quickly discovered the bushes and trees in 86-year-old Edith Lichtenberg's yard ablaze and used a cell phone to contact emergency dispatchers. The flames rapidly spread to the house and the group moved swiftly to make sure no one was in the home. With the fire engulfing the front of the house, the students jumped the locked fence around the backyard to warn anyone who might still be inside. Noticing the back door open and seeing Ms. Lichtenberg still inside, they caught her attention and guided her outside away from the flames. Kathy courageously assisted in getting Ms. Lichtenberg out of the house, and the group moved her to safety.

The youths maintained their composure during a time of adversity and conducted themselves in a fashion that has brought honor to themselves, their families, their school, and the entire community of Pueblo. It is always heartening to see young Americans meet such an extraordinary circumstance successfully. Courage like theirs strengthens and protects our communities everyday.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and recognize the heroic efforts of Kathy Ortiz before this body of Congress and this nation. Kathy's quick actions, coupled with those of her fellow students, prevented a terrible fire from ending in great tragedy. Their selfless actions are an inspiration to us all, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

IN SUPPORT OF MR. ESTRADA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of a fellow member of the Hispanic community and nominee to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Miguel Estrada.

Mr. Estrada personifies the success and achievement of our beloved community. His legal expertise will add a profound dimension to the court that is considered to be precursor to the Supreme Court. As an attorney, he has argued 15 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, and has tried 10 cases as a prosecutor for the Southern District of New York.

A native of Honduras, Miguel Estrada is an American success story. During his first years in the U.S., Mr. Estrada spoke virtually no English. His commitment to education and improvement of the individual is demonstrated by the excellence of his academic record. As a graduate of Columbia College, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa, and Harvard Law, Miguel Estrada's legal experience exceeds that of the average nominee.

If confirmed, Miguel Estrada would be the first Hispanic judge to serve on the court. President Bush served the Hispanic community well by nominating a man of such character and devotion to the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, Miguel Estrada has my full support and best wishes on his nomination.

ELIMINATION OF CAP ON MEDICAID PAYMENTS TO THE U.S. TERRITORIES AND COMMONWEALTHS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce legislation which continues to be the highest health care priority for the more than 4 million residents of our country's off-shore areas—the elimination of the cap on Medicaid payments to the U.S. Territories and Commonwealths.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, it saddens me as a physician, to report to you once again that our fellow indigent Americans living in American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands who qualify for Medicaid, receive less than adequate health care because the amount of federal Medicaid dollars we receive falls far short of meeting their needs. Because we face depressed economies with high unemployment rates, as well as, a growing indigent population, the ever-increasing cost of health care coupled with the federal cap means that our local governments have to bear a significantly greater cost of the Medicaid program than their counterparts in the states. This means, that for the bare bones Medicaid program in the Virgin Islands, the federal government contributed only \$5.59 million of the \$14,394 in fiscal year 2000 total cost of the program. In Guam, the local government spent three times more than the \$5.4 million they received from the federal govern-

ment to run their Medicaid program also in fiscal year 2000.

Mr. Speaker, this is my fourth term as a member of the House of Representatives. Every year I have been here, fighting to eliminate the cap on Medicaid for the insular areas has never been far from my focus.

Since becoming Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, I have garnered the support of my fellow Caucus members in calling attention to this problem and have made lifting the Medicaid cap for the off-shore areas a central item in the CBC's overall health care agenda. I thank my colleagues for the support they have given me on this issue.

In 1997, we were successful with the help of the previous administration to secure important increases in our cap for which we were grateful but that was almost five years ago and the problems have gotten worse not better.

It is time that our country ends this inequity and, in this one area—health care—treat all Americans alike, whether they live in a state or not. We must end the practice of residents of the territories and commonwealths having to leave their homes to seek more and better health care services on the mainland, often splitting-up families all because our Medicaid program is under-funded and our local governments can't afford to pay the difference.

Mr. Speaker President Bush recently announced a proposal to modify and improve the way Medicaid works in the states. My colleagues from the off-shore areas and I look forward to working with the President, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson as well as every member of this body to impress upon all of you the urgent need to end this unequal treatment of health care funding for the American citizens living in the territories and Commonwealths.

I urge my colleagues to join my cosponsors and I in supporting this bill. All Americans deserve the same health care program that their government provides, regardless of where in the country they happen to live.

TRIBUTE TO CLINT ALBRECHT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Clint Albrecht of Pueblo, Colorado for the selfless act of courage he displayed on November 8, 2002. Clint's quick actions, along with the efforts of other students from Centennial High School, helped Edith Lichtenberg to safety after flames engulfed her home.

On November 8, 2002, billowing smoke one block from Centennial High School prompted a group of students—Prince Speights, Clint Albrecht, Nick Pino, Kathy Ortiz, Linus Trujillo, and Taylor Proctor—into action. Driving toward the smoke, the group quickly discovered the bushes and trees in 86-year-old Edith Lichtenberg's yard ablaze and used a cell phone to contact emergency dispatchers. The flames rapidly spread to the house and the group moved swiftly to make sure no one was in the home. With the fire engulfing the front