

dedicated years of his life to bring joy to the men and women of the Armed Forces and for whom the dedication of the new welcome center at the Bob Hope Village is named after. The village is a compassionate place providing a home for the surviving spouses of enlisted Air Force personnel.

It is my privilege, as Mr. Gates' Congressman, to honor this great American. Since 1968, Bob Gates has lived in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, near Eglin Air Force Base. Mr. Gates is the former mayor of Fort Walton Beach, a family man, and a man who served his country by piloting Bob Hope's troupe around the world during WWII, in efforts to raise troop morale. Mr. Gates was more than just a pilot for the comedian, but he was also one of his closest friends, a confidant, and a fishing buddy.

It was through Mr. Gates' healthy financial contribution that this new welcome center is made possible. Although, Mr. Gates altruistically mentions, "It was Bob doing 12 shows here for me that raised the money to get this all started. So our little town of Fort Walton Beach has a very close affinity to the Hope family, more so than any other town." Bob Gates has done wonders for our local community. He genuinely cares about surviving military spouses, shares memories of his past adventures, and spreads warmth and joy to all he meets.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to thank Bob Gates for his leadership in Northwest Florida and throughout the world. He has dedicated himself towards helping the residents in our local community and for that we will be forever grateful. On this occasion, we honor one of America's greatest.

TRIBUTE TO THE SACRAMENTO
OBSERVER

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to The Sacramento Observer. On October 11, 2003, the Observer will celebrate its 40th Anniversary with an evening of festivities and fellowship at the Sacramento Convention Center. As the people of Sacramento gather to celebrate this momentous occasion, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing one of America's leading newspapers a happy birthday and continued success in the future.

With the help of a few committed people, The Sacramento Observer came into existence on November 22, 1962 in a small building on the corner of 21st and X streets in Sacramento with the publishing of a four-page edition. Driven by the visionary leadership of Dr. William Hanford Lee, the publisher and founder of The Observer Newspapers, and an unyielding dedication to provide the highest quality publications and media services to African American audiences in Sacramento, The Sacramento Observer has not only become a local institution, but also the most honored black newspaper in America.

Today, The Sacramento Observer has grown from its inaugural four-page issue to an average-size weekly publication of approximately 80 pages. Only a few of the nation's

Black newspapers can match The Observer's record of publishing a publication the size of 300 pages or larger. The Observer's trademark supplements help inform the community on important historical, cultural, and contemporary issues.

The weekly Observer newspapers, as well as many of The Observer's special editions, are recognized as the most stylish and educational publications published anywhere. The Observer, recognized as "The Most Honored Black Newspaper in America," has received the coveted John B. Russwurm Trophy, the highest award in Black journalism, six times—more than any other Black newspaper in the nation. It is no wonder why The Observer is widely regarded as the most important black newspaper in America.

Playing major roles in the family-owned Observer's tremendous success in its first 40 years as a modern-day Black newspaper has been Dr. Lee's immediate family. Mrs. Kathryn Lee, and sons, Larry, Billy and Roderick (deceased), all have served in dedicated leadership roles at The Observer. In addition, there have been the hardworking staff members who have been instrumental in the growth of the newspaper. People like Joe Stinson, director of advertising sales; Observer co-founder John Cole, a retired Sacramento businessman; former editors and senior writers Wilbur Miller, Dr. Joe Dear, Rick Warren, Bill Davis, Shaw Ortiz, Mel Assagi, Larry Hicks, Kevan Carter, Mardeio Cannon, Curtis Haynes, Staci Bush, have all lent their considerable talents and ideas into making The Observer what it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate The Sacramento Observer on its first 40 years of unqualified success. As the friends and fans of The Observer gather to celebrate its achievements, I would like to especially thank the Lee family and all the people, who through their commitment and hard work have given the Sacramento African American a clear and powerful voice in our community. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing The Sacramento Observer continued success in all its future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE INAUGURATION
OF COLLEGES NINE AND TEN AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALI-
FORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the inauguration of two new residential colleges at the University of California, Santa Cruz. When this university opened in 1965 it chose to undertake a bold experiment in its college system, which today is hailed as a resounding success. The University of California, Santa Cruz serves as a national model for undergraduate education within the context of a major research university.

These residential colleges make it possible for students to enjoy the resources and academic vigor of a major research university within supportive living and learning communities. In addition, the colleges provide students with opportunities for social and cultural events, academic excellence including re-

search, internship programs and community-service and scholarships for academic achievement.

Colleges Nine and Ten are a welcome addition to the University of California, Santa Cruz, and their respective themes of International and Global Perspectives, and Social Justice and Community will serve as inspiration for students both today and in the future. This celebration to inaugurate the two new colleges is also a celebration of the positive effects higher education can have on issues such as social justice and international cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements of the University of California, Santa Cruz in creating an excellent learning experience through the college system and I am proud to commemorate the inauguration of Colleges Nine and Ten.

RECOGNIZING THE LINFIELD FIRE
COMPANY ON THEIR 90TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize members of the Linfield Fire Company on the 90th Anniversary of their company's founding.

Following a disastrous fire, which completely destroyed the Sanitary Company of America's foundry nearly a century ago, a group of concerned citizens met in Brownback Hall to discuss what the community could do to avoid similar disasters in times of emergency. During that meeting in October of 1913, the plans were laid down to form the Linfield Fire Company, whose purpose would be to protect people and property from any future tragedies. A year later, the Company purchased its first piece of equipment for \$600, a horse-drawn chemical apparatus with two sixty-gallon tanks. This established their permanent place in the community.

As the community has prospered over the years, so has Linfield Fire Company. It began with a saddler's shop for a station and a drawn wagon as its only apparatus. But in just four years, the Company had outgrown its humble home and made the necessary move into a larger building. Only six years later, in 1924, the Company again moved into another station which could house the growing amount of equipment they had and would continue to accumulate during the 61 years spent there. In 1985, Linfield Fire Company made one final move into the fire station that houses them today at 1077 Main Street.

The volunteers of this fine company deserve all the support that we may offer. They serve selflessly and tirelessly in order to protect their fellow citizens and, in the times of uncertainty we face today, their heroics are immeasurable. They are citizens just like you and I—teachers, students, doctors, lawyers, electricians, engineers, police officers. The list goes on and on—all willing to make sacrifices to ensure public safety. Before a member of this Company even sets foot into their first fire, they must undergo hours of training and, once completed, the education continues with advanced classes to learn vehicle rescue, firefighter rescue, pump operations and so on. As

a service to the community, they put on demonstrations that educate us on how to stay safe in emergency situations. They are an irreplaceable and integral part of our community, whether it is raising money for a cause, adding to the joy of a local parade or hosting meetings and social functions. Clearly, the members of the Linfield Fire Company have served proudly and I rise today to recognize their service over the past 90 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Linfield Fire Company on their 90th Anniversary and salute, admire and appreciate all the volunteers that have served this community for so many years.

**FREE FRANCISCO CHAVIANO
GONZÁLEZ!**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the Congress about a Cuban prisoner of conscience locked in Castro's gulag. This week I ask my colleagues to learn the name of Francisco Chaviano González.

The prevailing theme throughout the life of Mr. Chaviano González is his desire to live in freedom. First, he attempted to flee Castro's dictatorship in March 1989, but was caught and sent to prison. While unjustly incarcerated for attempting to flee the Cuban dictatorship, Mr. Chaviano González founded the Cuban Rafters Council.

Upon Mr. Chaviano González's release from prison, he and the Council began to document the list of people who have become unaccounted for in the treacherous Florida Straights as they sought refuge from Castro's repressive regime. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chaviano González compiled a list of those who perished on their dangerous journey to freedom. The Council desired that these martyrs be known, that those who died pursuing freedom be remembered by those they left behind.

As Mr. Chaviano González began to understand how the repressive policies of Castro's ruthless regime propelled these refugees into the Florida Straights, he, and other members of the Council, decided to change the name of their organization to the National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba (NCCRC). Castro's machinery of repression took notice of this pro-democracy group and Mr. Chaviano González was arrested on May 7, 1994.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chaviano González has been imprisoned in Castro's gulag since May 7, 1994. According to reports, Francisco Chaviano González is in poor and deteriorating health after 9 years and 5 months in Castro's gulag. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chaviano González has dedicated his life to the idea that the Cuban people should be free, and for that belief alone he has been imprisoned by Castro's tyranny since 1994.

On October 2, 2002 Ernesto Roque published portions of a letter by Mr. Chaviano on the website CubaNet. The haunting words of this letter included the plea "Humanity, don't forget us, they are killing us!" Mr. Speaker, this Congress should never forget what happens each day in Castro's gulag; each day, Castro's machinery of repression is delib-

erately murdering Cuban citizens whose only crime is their desire for freedom.

My Colleagues, we must stand up for those who seek freedom from tyranny. We must call now, and we must call everyday, for the release of Francisco Chaviano González and all the prisoners of conscience dying for freedom in Castro's gulag.

**HONORING INFANT OF PRAGUE
ADOPTION SERVICE**

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Infant of Prague Adoption Service for its 50 years of dedication and commitment to children and families. The agency will celebrate the anniversary at an event on October 11th, with live music and a live and silent auction.

In 1953, Infant of Prague was founded by priests and lay people affiliated with the Catholic Diocese. The name was taken from a popular devotion to the Infant Christ Child of Prague, Czechoslovakia, dating back to the 16th century. The devotion stressed special blessings for children and families. The name fits the agency well and today, Infant of Prague serves 11 counties in central California.

Infant of Prague Adoption Service, guided by the belief in the preciousness of life, builds healthy families and serves the needs of children through adoption. The lifelong best interest of the child has always been the cornerstone of the agency's practice. Emphasis is also placed on community outreach, where schools, churches, clinics, and other organizations are provided information on adoption. Staff is also available to provide adoption in-service for professionals who work with families in crisis, particularly pregnant and parenting teens.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Infant of Prague Adoption Service for its 50 years of dedication to children and families. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Infant of Prague many successful years to come.

**HONORING FRANK BIERWILER OF
SPRING HILL, FLORIDA**

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great public servant, a charitable giver, and a selfless hero in my Fifth Congressional District, Mr. Frank Bierwiler.

Frank Bierwiler first served his community in New York for many years as a State Police Officer. Then, after a multiple sclerosis diagnosis in 1974 forced him to retire from the force, Frank Bierwiler pledged to do something good with his life.

It was a few years later, Mr. Speaker that he moved to Florida and started DayStar Hope Center, an organization giving food, clothing, and assistance with bills to central Floridians in need.

For nearly 20 years, the center has served as an example of the power and impact of benevolence and kindness. Its doors have welcomed thousands of Floridians in need and Mr. Bierwiler's perseverance and generosity have for so long ensured that those doors stay open.

Unfortunately, after 20 years of helping so many, the DayStar Hope Center is closing.

While it is unfortunate that the center is ceasing operations, many other charitable organizations, came into existence because of the success of the DayStar Hope Center. Frank's leadership fostered these other organizations and he always worked well with them.

I want to take this opportunity today to first commend Frank Bierwiler for his work in my district and to, second, draw attention to the extraordinary things can happen when one determined, individual pledges himself to greatness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues in this body to join me in honoring Frank Bierwiler and offering our sincere admiration for his work, life and accomplishments.

**A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
STEVE SCHUMACHER**

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Steve Schumacher has demonstrated a high level of commitment and ingenuity towards increasing forest landowners' knowledge of timber marketing; and

Whereas, Steve Schumacher, as a Belmont County Extension Agent, has developed a program to educate forest landowners on selling and marketing their lumber to companies; and

Whereas, Steve Schumacher has received regional and national recognition for his unique extension program; and

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in recognizing Steve Schumacher for his achievements in promoting the forest industry.

**AWARDS RECOGNIZE COLORADO'S
LEADERSHIP IN HISTORIC PRES-
ERVATION**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call the attention of the House to recent recognition of Colorado's leadership in preserving significant parts of our state's colorful past.

As reported by the Denver Post, that recognition came in the form of awards by the National Trust for Historic Preservation related to four Colorado sites—the 1878 Central City Opera House and historic district, 1886 Beaumont Hotel in Ouray, the 1905 Kit Carson Carousal in Stratton and the 13th-century Ute Indian Porcupine House at the Ute Mountain Tribal Park in Towaoc.

I agree with Mr. Richard Moe, the President of the National Trust, who said, "That Colorado was voted a total of four awards is a real