

In 1992 Mr. Montalvo was appointed Commissioner of the City of Long Branch Housing Authority, while also serving as a member of the Long Branch Health Advisory Board. Later he founded the Latino American Committee, on which he served as President for many years. The LAC is responsible for many great things, such as collecting funds to be used in scholarships for Latino students and organizing the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Monmouth County, which exclusively serves the needs of Latino merchants and professionals.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Montalvo on his hard work and dedication to the Latino community. I would like to thank him for all that he has done and all those that he has helped through the years. I ask my colleagues to rise with me in honoring the distinguished Mr. Dimas Montalvo.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST
JOSHUA NEUSCHE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on October 26, 2003, a memorial service in honor of Army Specialist Joshua Neusche will be held at the Camden County Courthouse Square in Camdenton, Missouri. On this occasion, participants will dedicate a tree and marker on the courthouse lawn to the memory of one of our neighbors, a young man whose life was tragically cut short while he served his fellow Americans by wearing the uniform of a citizen soldier.

Spc. Josh Neusche of Montreal, Missouri, was a member of the Missouri Army National Guard's 203rd Engineer Battalion from Joplin. He deployed to Iraq with his unit in May 2003. During this deployment, Spc. Neusche became seriously ill and passed away on July 12, 2003.

By all accounts, he was an outstanding young man and a favorite among his friends. Josh graduated from Camdenton High School in 2002. A participant in a number of extracurricular activities, Josh played in the Laker Band and the Pep Band, ran for the award winning track and cross country teams, was elected 2002 Prom King, tutored children in the A+ Program, and volunteered with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters in Camdenton. He was a member of the Buffalo Prairie Baptist Church in Montreal, Missouri.

Prior to his Guard activation, Josh attended Southwest Missouri State University while holding a full-time job and finding time to volunteer at the Boys' Club in Springfield, Missouri. He inspired loyalty and affection from his friends, as evidenced by the fact that the members of his unit took up a collection after Josh became ill which allowed his family to visit him in the hospital in Germany.

In wartime, the very best young people our country produces are asked to risk and possibly lose their lives in order to advance our national interests. In peacetime, serving as an airman, sailor, soldier, or marine also requires a great deal of hard work and sacrifice. Whether in war or in peace, those sacrifices are particularly difficult for the service members' families.

We can only imagine the pain felt by Josh's family—particularly by his mother, Cindy, his father, Mark, and his brother, Jake—as they have been forced to deal with his untimely death and this sudden, unexpected loss. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his entire family and circle of friends.

Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to Spc. Neusche for his service to our country. We also owe more than we can ever repay to Josh's family, who raised this young man and instilled in him the values that enabled him to succeed as an American soldier. On behalf of my fellow Missourians and my fellow Americans, I thank the Neusche family for their selfless contribution and immeasurable sacrifice.

HONORING WWII VETERAN TONY
VITKUS

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a veteran of World War II and a resident of Kenosha, Wisconsin, who is currently visiting our Nation's Capital for the first time in his life. His story is a remarkable one, and I'd like to share a few highlights with you.

Tony Vitkus served in the Marine Corps in the South Pacific from 1942 to 1945. He was a rear gunner in a Dauntless dive bomber and survived a crash in that airplane. That very plane is now on display at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum just a few blocks from here. This week, Mr. Vitkus went there and saw his aircraft.

Anyone familiar with the dangerous position of a rear gunner knows the immense risk that Mr. Vitkus took in serving his country in this capacity. And, as if this wasn't enough, he also served as plane captain of a Corsair fighter on the U.S.S. *Bennington*.

After the war, Tony Vitkus got married and raised six children while working in Kenosha as a milkman and later as a pool custodian. He has been an active member of the community, serving as an alderman and also on the Water Commission, and he stays active to this day.

It is because of Tony Vitkus and others like him that we prevailed in World War II. These courageous individuals and the military men and women who have followed in their footsteps are the reason we remain free to this day. We owe them our respect and gratitude for their service and many sacrifices for our country.

RECOGNIZING FATHER MIGUEL
VIRELLA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of Father Miguel Virella, a man dedicated to the advocacy of a solid educational foundation for the Latino youth. Father Miguel is being honored as a mentor and role model to the Latino

Community's youth by the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County, Inc., for his positive influence and many contributions to the Latino community. In my mind there is no one more deserving to receive this award.

Through a strong family, Father Virella was taught that determination and compassion were imperative parts of living a devout life. His religious and academic journey was influenced by the teachings of his friends and family. It was his devotion to his faith that motivated him to pursue studies of a religious nature and eventually to join the priesthood.

In 1976 Father Miguel graduated from Juan Rios Serpas High School, in his hometown of Ciales, Puerto Rico. Soon after, he traveled to New Jersey with his family where he was introduced to the Religious Order of the Society of the Divine Word. His participation in this community led him to develop a deep interest in working with the poor and minorities of other countries. He could relate to the hardships endured by those who were starting a new life in America and his compassion for those in need compelled him to do all that he could to help.

In 1984, Father Miguel decided to continue his studies in Dubuque, Iowa at Divine Word College. Later, he enrolled at the University of Saint Louis, Missouri and was awarded a Bachelors degree in Sociology with a minor in Spanish. Father Miguel decided to continue his studies in Theology, for which he received a Masters degree in Divinity. He was ordained as a priest in the Society of the Divine Word shortly thereafter.

Following his ordination in 1995, Father Miguel was asked to minister at St. Anthony Claret parish in Lakewood, NJ where he remained for two years. Due to the large number of incoming Hispanic parishioners, he was later called to serve at St. Rose of Lima in Freehold. He remained there for four years serving as minister to his fellow Hispanics before moving to our Lady of Providence in Neptune, NJ, in January of 2001. Father Miguel still serves as the minister to that parish which is composed of over four hundred families.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Father Miguel Virella is an asset to the Hispanic community and should be lauded for his accomplishments. I ask that my colleagues rise up and join me in honoring this most respectable man, Father Miguel Virella.

HONORING DAN ECKSTROM FOR
HIS PUBLIC SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO PIMA COUNTY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated himself to public service and serves as a shining role model in our community. I speak none other than of Mr. Dan Eckstrom who recently retired from serving on the Pima County Board of Supervisors in Arizona.

Dan is a native of South Tucson and a 1965 graduate of Pueblo High School. In 1969, he graduated from the University of Arizona, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Government. In addition to his duties as County Supervisor, he has more than 30 years of progressive business management experience.

Currently, he is the principal owner of a management consulting firm that provides marketing and management services to a variety of businesses. He formerly served for more than eight years as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer with Ruiz Engineering Corporation/Maya Construction Company, where he was responsible for managing and directing business activities relating to corporate planning, finance and business development.

Dan has worked on more than 50 local, state, and national campaigns, both on a partisan and non-partisan basis. His first measurable involvement in a campaign was at the age of 13 when he successfully assisted a group of neighbors who were running for the South Tucson Town Council by preparing a campaign slogan and printed literature. In 1991, he was very instrumental in organizing the successful Pima County campaign which helped to elect Ed Pastor as the first Hispanic in the state to serve in Congress. In 1994, he served a key role in the campaign of Democratic gubernatorial nominee, Eddie Basha. He has also provided valuable leadership and guidance to area non-partisan voter awareness and educational projects sponsored by the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project and the Labor Council of Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), of which he is an associate member. He is currently a member of the National Association of the Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO).

Dan has earned numerous award and honors for his community service. In March 1996, he received the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) National Presidential Citation and Community Service Award. In 1993, we were both presented with the prestigious Montemayor-Barraza Award which is the highest national honor given by the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA). In 1992, Dan was inducted into the Arizona Democratic Party Hall of Fame. In 1991, he received the Distinguished Citizen Award by the University of Arizona Alumni Association. In 1988, his service to the City of South Tucson was best acknowledged when the Mayor and City Council named the newly constructed municipal complex in his honor.

Dan has been married for more than 30 years to Mary Alice Rosales. They reside in South Tucson with their two children, Jennifer, age 26, and Daniel, age 22. The Eckstrom family is very active in the community. His wife served four terms as President of the League of Mexican American Women. His daughter, at the age of 18 was elected to the South Tucson City Council and has the distinction of being one of the youngest elected officials in the state. His son serves as a Neighborhood Reinvestment Coordinator for the City of South Tucson and was a participant in the National LULAC Youth Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me today in honoring Dan Eckstrom for all his hard work and dedication to the people of Pima County.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WHIT EASTMAN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the life and memory of an outstanding citizen from my district. Whit Eastman of Gunnison, Colorado recently passed away at the age of sixty-seven. Whit was a kind, generous man who cared greatly about his community. As his family and friends mourn his passing, I would like to take this opportunity to remember Whit today.

A life-long resident of Gunnison, Whit had deep roots in the community. Whit has given much to his country and his community. He served a tour of duty in Korea during the Korean War. Upon returning home, he became the Financial Director for the City of Gunnison and, later, the President of the First National Bank. He actively strengthened the local Masonic Lodge, as well as serving as the President of the Rotary. Whit also served on the Western State College Foundation Board of Directors at his alma mater, Western State College.

Mr. Speaker, Whit Eastman was a beloved member of the Gunnison community, and he will be deeply missed. His love for life and dedication to his friends and neighbors touched many lives. While Whit has passed on, his legacy will continue to live. I am honored to join with my colleagues in honoring Whit here today. My condolences go out to Whit's family and friends during this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to call attention to the Population Institute's annual World Population Awareness Week, which will focus on "Water: Our Most Precious Resource."

This event is one of great importance, and its topic, water, is one that demands immediate action. Currently, 1.2 million people worldwide lack healthy and abundant water. As a member of the world community, the United States has a commitment to aid our fellow human beings in obtaining their natural right to water. And, even more importantly, the United States has a commitment to itself, to ensure that no American will ever be without water. Many regions in America have a water supply that is strained beyond its capacity, leaving many Americans vulnerable to massive shortages of water.

Unfortunately, the water supply problems are only becoming more prevalent, as currently there is a trend to turn water into a commodity through the privatization of the supply. Multinational companies that contract to supply developing countries focus on profit, not access. Their use of cost recovery measures

increases profits for these companies through the additions of annual fees on water, but force many people to go without the essential and natural right to water because of burdensome costs.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the importance of water to our world community and in recognizing the Population Institute's World Awareness Week.

RECOGNIZING EDWIN R. HILL FOR HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AS EAST CALN TOWNSHIP MANAGER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edwin R. Hill for his 30 years of service as manager for East Caln Township in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Edwin R. Hill has served as one of only two full-time employees for East Caln Township for over three decades, where he took on many duties under his title of Township Manager. With his retirement, Mr. Hill leaves behind a legacy any public official would be proud of, and East Caln Township will be hard-pressed to replace such a fine individual.

In addition to his position as Township Manager, Edwin R. Hill was a past President of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, a role and an honor in our state that truly illustrates his tremendous leadership abilities. Mr. Hill made it a point over the years to pass his tremendous knowledge and experience on to others. He was a part-time instructor for the Governor's Center Municipal Training Classes where he taught such courses as Road Masters Class, Commercial Drivers License Training and orientation courses for newly-elected officials. Mr. Hill also served on the Chester County Planning Commission, as well as various other local committees to resolve issues in municipal government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me today in recognizing and honoring Edwin R. Hill for the hard work and dedication he has demonstrated over the years in making East Caln Township, Chester County and all of Pennsylvania a better place to live.

HONORING MAYOR ALFONSO GEREFFI

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Alfonso Gereffi, former mayor of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida. A distinguished leader and great Floridian, Mr. Gereffi was also a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Mr. Gereffi moved to South Florida in the late 1960's from Pittsburgh and quickly took an active role in the community. An outspoken advocate, Mr. Gereffi served on the Lauderdale Lakes City Council for nearly three decades. He served as a City Council member from 1973 to 1980 and as Mayor from 1980 to