

quality of life for people throughout his community and area.

If we're looking for true American heroes, I submit the name of Eddie James Gibson of Calhoun County. He meets all of the qualifications.

HONORING STEVE BELCHER ON HIS RETIREMENT AS THE CHIEF OF POLICE FOR SANTA CRUZ, CA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steve Belcher, retiring Chief of Police for the city of Santa Cruz. Serving for more than 32 years in the Santa Cruz Police Department, Chief Belcher will surely be missed by both his co-workers and the residents of Santa Cruz. His unyielding commitment to public service has, for the past three decades, won him the respect and admiration of the community as a whole.

A graduate of Santa Cruz High School, Steve has lived in Santa Cruz for almost all of his life. In front of his proud wife, Sisi, and two daughters, Erin and Amy, Steve will retire on November 5, 2003. After 32½ years of service, Steve, with his characteristic humility, will boast a lengthy list of accomplishments and achievements.

Chief Belcher was sworn in as Police Patrol Officer on May 26, 1971, and has been a steadfast leader in the department ever since. His poise and leadership have enabled him to rise up the ranks of the Santa Cruz Police Department, culminating in his appointment to the position as Chief of Police on September 30, 1994. Holding the positions of Sergeant, Lieutenant and Deputy Chief of Police, Steve has excelled in every facet of his job. His entire career, from police patrol officer to his current position as Chief of Police, has been with the Santa Cruz Police Department. Over the years, Steve has achieved an extremely long list of accolades and accomplishments, many of which will leave an indelible footprint on the entire community. Chief Belcher has improved training, staffing and community policing policies, and has overseen a steady decline in the overall crime rate.

Focusing on the problems facing the Beach Flats area of Santa Cruz, Chief Belcher has promoted a strong spirit of community development and civic participation. Steve has received an overwhelming amount of praise for this work, and humbly takes credit for helping the department create a Spanish Citizens Police Academy.

I am proud to call Steve a friend. A colleague in the realm of public service, Steve possesses the qualities that personify good police work. I would like to wish him well in his retirement, and thank him for the outstanding—above and beyond the call of duty—service that he has provided our community for the past three decades.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to address this proposed \$87 billion appropriation for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan.

I have been gravely concerned over the problems surrounding the reconstruction, over the poor planning for the postwar period and our inability to work productively with the international community to rebuild Iraq. The supplemental appropriation before us raises many difficult questions.

With great reluctance, I will support this funding. I believe it will both support our soldiers and help increase their safety. Sixty-five billion dollars will directly aid our troops; I feel that the additional \$18.6 billion in reconstruction aid will make them safer and get them home sooner.

While I am going to support this funding request it should not be interpreted that I am supporting all of the policies and actions to date in the war effort.

We need to do more.

We need to get more countries involved to help with the security.

We need to make the reconstruction effort more cost-effective. We need to follow the model set by Major General David Petraeus, whom I met with in Iraq. Advised by American engineers that rebuilding a cement factory to American standards would cost \$15 million, General Petraeus took the initiative to identify Iraqi contractors, who were able to bring the factory back on line for a mere \$80,000.

That example and others like it inspired me to introduce an amendment to increase competitive bidding in Iraq and to encourage the use of Iraqi contractors and subcontractors. I regret that this amendment was not accepted and urge the administration to embrace a more open bidding process in the reconstruction of Iraq and to avoid the use of sole-source contracts.

We need to be doing more to bring human rights to Iraq and Afghanistan. One measure of the success of our efforts will be the degree to which women are integrated into the political, economic, and educational life of these nations. I will offer amendments to ensure that women are fully included in the process of drafting Iraq's new constitution and to devote \$65 million from a previous authorization to programs for Afghan women, amendments which I hope this body will support.

Hundreds of my neighbors and constituents lost their lives at the hands of terrorists, some of whom were trained in Afghanistan. Twenty-five firehouses in my district lost men trying to save others whose lives were imperiled by

those terrorists. I remember all too vividly the awful consequences of our failure in Afghanistan.

History teaches us that, when America turned its industrial and economic might toward the cause of helping others around the world who sought to rebuild after bitter conflicts—for the reconstruction of a Europe ravaged by World War I; for the creation of democracies in Germany, Japan and Italy after the devastation of World War II; and for the political and economic rebirth of Central Europe after the Cold War—we truly succeeded in making our mark as the greatest nation on earth.

Before us stands that opportunity once again. But we need to do a better job of winning the peace then we have been doing. We must work more productively with the international community to secure Iraq's transition to a stable democracy.

I will support this budget request but with the understanding that we need to do better.

Let us remember the past. Let us not repeat its failures.

We do not have a choice to leave or to fail in Iraq. We must succeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 20, 2003, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 563, 564, and 565. The votes I missed include rollcall vote No. 563 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 356, Expressing the Sense of the House Regarding the Man-Made Famine in the Ukraine; rollcall vote No. 564 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended to H. Res. 400, Honoring the 25th Anniversary of Pope John Paul; and rollcall vote No. 565, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3288, Making Technical Corrections to Amend Title XXI of the Social Security Act.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote Nos. 563, 564, and 565.

TRIBUTE TO GLEN YOUNGER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this Nation today to pay tribute to an exceptional athlete from my district. Glen Younger of Grand Junction, Colorado made a name for himself as a young man with skill and prowess as a wrestler and today passes on this athletic tradition by running a rodeo school. For his work and dedication, Glen's alma mater, Western State College, is honoring him by inducting him into the Community First National Bank and Insurance Mountaineer Sports Hall of Fame. Glen has accomplished much in his life, and I am honored to share his story here today.

Glen began wrestling as a high school student in Grand Junction, continuing to compete

in the sport when he went to college at Western State College in Gunnison. Glen had great success while at Western State, including an NCAA championship, two Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championships, and a Mountain Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Title. After graduating from Western State, Glen joined the military and continued his winning tradition by winning several more awards, including the 1968 Interservice Freestyle Championship and the second place award in the 1969 Interservice Greco Roman Competition. Today, Glen has retired from wrestling but remains active in sports by running a rodeo school that teaches bull riding and bareback riding.

Mr. Speaker, Glen Younger is a talented athlete and a valued member of the Grand Junction community. As he prepares for induction into the Western State College Hall of Fame, I am honored to join with my colleagues in congratulating Glen Younger here today. Thank you for your service to the community, Glen. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LA
MIRADA GIRL'S ALL STARS

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on August 3, 2003, the La Mirada Girl All Stars won the Girls 16-Under "Class B" Fast Pitch West Finals by defeating the Bullets from Idaho 7-2 for the title of 2003 Amateur Softball Association National Champions.

The La Mirada Girl All Stars, also the California state champions, in their respective age bracket, started the four-term Western Pool Playoff with a 7-2 win over Blue Thunder from Florissant, Missouri and a 9-2 victory over the Waverly Heat from Lincoln, Nebraska.

Founded in 1933, the Amateur Softball Association is a nationwide, volunteer driven, non-profit organization that has evolved in the largest softball organization in the country. The Amateur Softball Association has grown from a few hundred teams to over 250,000 teams, representing a membership of more than four million athletes. The goal of the Amateur Softball Association's youth program is to help aspiring young softball athletes learn a sport they can enjoy for a lifetime in a positive, safe and supportive environment.

The Amateur Softball Association National Championships begin at the local level with league championships, state championships and eventually culminates with national qualifiers from around the country.

The La Mirada Girl All-Star Team was made up of players from eight teams from La Mirada's 16-under division, who played a three-week season prior to their selection.

The La Mirada Girl All-Star roster included: Andrea Belluz, Amanda Fernandez, Nikki Johansen, Tiffany Johnson, Keena Levert, Jaimee Montanez, Nicole Morales, Sara Randall, Jayme Smith and Meghan Thorpe with coaches Steve Randall and Randy Tyler, and manager Laurie Montanez.

La Mirada fought its way to the National Championship by defeating teams from Over-

land Park, Kansas; Kirksville, Missouri; Coachella, California; Omaha, Nebraska; Augusta, Kansas; and Parma, Idaho. La Mirada outscored its competition 60-11 and went undefeated at 7-0, during the course of the tournament.

La Mirada won the championship tournament with brilliant pitching, an explosive offense and an unmatched defense. The National Champion La Mirada Girl All-Star Team will be celebrated by the players, coaches and family members not only for the games played, but also for their shared memories of their time together.

RECOGNIZING THE HOMENETMEN
ARARAT CHAPTER'S 25TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Glendale/Ararat Chapter of Homenetmen. Homenetmen is an organization that provides Armenian communities around the world with moral, physical, and social education. In the 25 years since its inception, the Glendale Chapter of Homenetmen has grown from a seven member volunteer group to a thriving community organization with over 1800 members. The Ararat Chapter is now the largest in the United States, and conservatively estimates that it has provided services to nearly 10,000 adults, children and seniors since 1978.

For the last quarter century, the Ararat Chapter has been a guiding light for the growth and success of Glendale's Armenian community, and the community as a whole. Ararat's efforts to form lasting bonds with community and government organizations, regardless of race or religious affiliation, have made a lasting positive impact on the community. They provide numerous supervised weekend and after school programs that afford a healthy and safe environment for children and young adults. The Ararat Chapter's volunteers also play a vital role in contributing to drug awareness education throughout the community. The Homenetmen-sponsored 5K/10K run/walk attracts over 1,000 participants annually, and includes pre-and-post race events tailored to drug and alcohol awareness. The Ararat Chapter also works closely with local hospitals, churches, and local governments on a variety of beneficial community events such as graffiti clean-ups, scouting events, holiday luncheons with the Salvation Army, and blood drives with the Red Cross.

Ararat volunteers blanket our community with goodwill and friendly hands. Schools, children, hospitals, and many other groups are buoyed by the charity of this outstanding community organization. They are a tribute to their Armenian heritage, and a jewel of their home city of Glendale. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Homenetmen Ararat Chapter for their 25 years of dedicated service to the Glendale community.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVER-
SITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA
CRUZ'S LONG MARINE LAB ON
CELEBRATING ITS 25TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of California, Santa Cruz's Long Marine Lab on celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary on October 25th, 2003. The Joseph M. Long Marine Laboratory is a research and education facility of Institute of Marine Sciences and is known throughout the world for innovative research on marine mammals, marine ecology, and issues relating to ocean health. The Long Marine Lab has grown from a few marine scientists into a research institute with more than 170 scientists and research associates, 130 graduate students, and \$12 million in annual research funds.

With its collaborative interdisciplinary approach to programs and facilities, Long Marine Laboratory enables students from the University of California, Santa Cruz to engage in hands-on research, and to have the opportunity to work with professionals in their field of study. The site is also home to the California Department of Fish and Game Marine Wildlife Center, the National Marine Fisheries Service's Southwest Science Center, and plans are underway to bring coastal and marine scientists from the United States Geological Survey.

The Seymour Marine Discovery Center houses the lab's public education and visitor programs and brings marine research to life for 50,000 schoolchildren and other public visitors every year. Programs such as this are vital to teaching children about conservation and the marine environment, and ensuring that they will continue the struggle to save and preserve our oceans.

The President of the University of California has chosen this day to name one of the original Long Marine Laboratory buildings the William T. Doyle Research Building in honor of Bill Doyle, founding director of the Institute of Marine Sciences, for his great vision, wisdom, and persistence in the establishment and early development of the Long Marine Laboratory.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Bill Doyle's memory and the dedicated work of the many staff and researchers at the University of California, Santa Cruz's Long Marine Laboratory. Through their commitment to marine research they are able to offer new solutions and approaches to conservation and preservation of our oceans. The lab's twenty-fifth anniversary is a tribute to the role it plays in our community, and I wish the Long Marine Laboratory the best successes for the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 15, 2003, I missed rollcall vote number 543.