

"Yea" on H. Con. Res. 94—Direct Support Professional Recognition.

# PAYING TRIBUTE TO REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a fine organization, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) which provides public transportation in the Denver metropolitan area. RTD provides a reliable and efficient service to the citizens of Colorado, and was recently recognized with the American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Public Transportation System Award. For its years of excellence and reliability, and its ongoing efforts to improve its service, I am honored to pay tribute to RTD and its employees here today.

Over the years, RTD has worked hard to serve the citizens of Denver, and continues to expand throughout the metropolitan area, serving more and more people each day. Even more impressive than its growth is RTD's commitment to safety and dependability. The administration has pursued an aggressive campaign to improve the safety of the public transportation system with stellar success: the accident rate has been cut in half and is at an all-time low. RTD is also dedicated to making public transportation available to all citizens, installing wheelchair lifts on their whole fleet and providing curb-to-curb service to people unable to use lift-equipped buses.

Mr. Speaker, the Regional Transportation District is committed to providing the people of Denver with safe and reliable public transportation. The employees of RTD continue to work hard to improve the system and to meet the needs of the Denver community. I am honored to join my colleagues here today in recognizing these worthy accomplishments.

**BURMA**

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to express my frustration with the ongoing situation in Burma. For the past three years, the United Nations, with the full support of the United States, has attempted to spur talks between 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi's political party the National League for Democracy, Burma's ruling military regime, and the country's ethnic groups.

Let me be blunt—that effort and the effort of the U.N. envoy designated to carry it out has failed. It has failed mainly because the regime refuses to participate in the talks. While the regime promises, as it has for the past fifteen years, to make a transition to democracy, there is absolutely zero evidence to suggest that this is true.

To make matters worse, the regime has been attacking and killing the very people they are supposed to be talking to. In May of this

year, the regime attacked and killed scores of Aung San Suu Kyi's supporters. Just last month, the regime attacked and killed members of the Karen ethnic group. And, just a few days ago, the regime opened fire on a demonstration of Buddhist monks, killing one and injuring many more.

We need to breathe new life into this United Nations process, and that will require a serious diplomatic effort. To start with, we need a new United Nations special envoy for Burma—the present envoy's efforts have failed and he as of late has done nothing more than provide political cover for the regime. Second, we need the United Nations Security Council to pass a resolution condemning Burma. Third, the State Department must unequivocally reject "roadmaps" that have been promised by the Burmese regime and their Thai counterparts.

I believe that democracy is possible in Burma, and we agree with Secretary Powell when he said that we need to rally international support to stand up to Burma's "thugs". We need to move quickly to ensure that these words are acted upon.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. FRANK W. BALLANCE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, due to a district commitment, I was not present for rollcall votes Nos. 597 through 601. Had I been present, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote no. 598, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote no. 599, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote no. 600, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote no. 601, I would have voted "yes."

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHINICHI KOBAYASHI

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to an extraordinary man. Earlier this year Shinichi Kobayashi traveled from his native Japan to Montrose, Colorado. He did this for one reason: to promote friendship and understanding between the children of our two nations.

A veteran educator, Shinichi has taught junior high school in Tokyo for fifteen years. He comes to the United States as part of the International Internship Program, which attempts to organize cultural exchanges in order to promote international understanding. Currently, Mr. Kobayashi is sharing the Japanese culture with students from Cottonwood Elementary School. In addition to teaching, Mr. Kobayashi has become involved in after-school activities in his local community as well. In exchange, the children have taught Shinichi about American culture and the English language, lessons Shinichi will take back with him to Tokyo.

Mr. Speaker, Shinichi Kobayashi has dedicated his time and effort to promoting mutual

understanding and goodwill between Japan and the United States. As the result of this dedication, many of Colorado's young people have had the opportunity to experience Japanese culture firsthand. For his efforts to advance understanding and promote international cooperation, I am honored to join with my colleagues in recognizing Shinichi Kobayashi here today.

## HONORING THE EFFORTS OF MR. JOSEPH SHEPP

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph Shepp, who has been awarded the AARP Andrus Award for Community Service in the State of Nevada for 2003. The Andrus Award honors the outstanding volunteering efforts of AARP volunteers and members in every state.

Mr. Shepp provides yet another example of service and volunteerism to the Southern Nevada community. He has demonstrated his service to the community through his service and commitment to organizations like Seniors and Law Enforcement Together and the Senior Assisted Living Project. We in Southern Nevada are fortunate to find yet another role model in Mr. Shepp. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and congratulate him on this well-deserved award.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, during an absence yesterday, I regrettably missed rollcall votes 602 and 603. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall No. 602: "yea" and rollcall No. 603: "yea."

## TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN AUBREY "FRANK" SPOONER, JR.

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 27, the Second Congressional District of Georgia and the entire U.S. House suffered an irreparable loss with the passing of Franklin Aubrey "Frank" Spooner, Jr., who served as a case worker in our Albany, Georgia office for the past six years.

Many people have served in this institution longer but no one could have possibly served with greater courage, commitment, or concern and compassion for the people we strive to help. Although he suffered from a life-threatening health condition when he joined our staff, and was eventually given a terminal diagnosis, Frank worked as often and as hard as he could to the end. Even when death was

near, he focused more on the needs of others than on his own, remaining the same soft spoken, good humored, down-to-earth, hard-working, bright and decent guy we had always known.

Frank was born in Macon, Georgia and raised in Fort Gaines, Georgia. He attended Mercer University in Macon. He was a newspaper reporter; managed retail businesses; operated his own small business when he turned his baseball card hobby into a profession; and served as a social worker and finally a Congressional case worker. He often said he was doing exactly what he wanted to do. For him, there was no higher calling than helping others, and he did it extraordinarily well.

At an early age, he was diagnosed with a congenital kidney problem that eventually led to a transplant at the age of 23. When the transplant failed some years later, he was sustained with regular kidney dialysis. Several years ago, he was found to have cancer. Eventually, his condition proved to be untreatable. He died at the age of 49 at the Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Della Spooner Bell of Albany; a brother, Robert A. McKay (Juline) of Bushnell, Florida; an uncle, R.S. Spooner of Donalsonville, Georgia, and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins. Our prayers go out to his family.

The Frank Spooner I have known would likely be embarrassed by all of the praise that has come his way in recent days from the many people who loved him, worked with him, and were helped by him. He would say he was not doing anything special—just doing his job as best he could.

Frank did his best—and left the world a better place because of it.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANCES GRAY "PEGGY" RICHARDS

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 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. Frances Gray "Peggy" Richards of Durango, Colorado recently passed away at the age of eighty-three. Peggy was very active in her community and cared deeply for her fellow Coloradans. As her family and friends mourn her passing, I am honored to pay tribute to Peggy here today.

Peggy was a powerhouse of community service, beginning in the mid-1950s when she served as the Pagosa Springs Town Clerk and Justice of the Peace. During the 1960s, she served simultaneously as an Archuleta County Judge and the Chief Judge of the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Council, while remaining active in numerous community groups. Over the years, Peggy worked as Executive Director of the Southern Ute Community Action Programs and Director of Program Operations for Up-land, Inc., promoting rural development in eleven Colorado counties and three American Indian reservations. In addition, Peggy was the Director of Economic Development for the Southern Ute Tribe, where she wrote the Tribal Comprehensive Plan and generated \$15

million in much needed funds through grants and loans.

Mr. Speaker, Peggy Richards dedicated her life to her community, and many of the successful development projects in southern Colorado can be traced back to Peggy's hard work. She was truly one in a million, and while Peggy has passed, her legacy is sure to live on. I am honored to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to the life and memory of Frances Gray "Peggy" Richards. My thoughts are with her family during this difficult time.

#### PIONEER OF THE YEAR

#### HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. SHERMAN, all from California, rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and an outstanding citizen, Michael Eisner, who will be receiving the prestigious "Pioneer of the Year" award from the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation on December 4. As Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Walt Disney Company, Michael is exceptionally deserving of this recognition. His wise stewardship of this multi-national company has led to a prodigious enhancement of its influence, reputation and scope.

Born in Mt. Kisco, New York to Lester and Margaret E. Eisner, Michael was raised in a caring environment with two successful parents as role models. His father was a famous litigator and public servant who at one time administered the Department of Housing and Urban Development. His mother was co-founder of the American Safety Razor Company and president of a medical research institute. His parents required two hours of reading for every hour of television and strictly rationed their children's consumption of sitcoms and movies.

Michael enrolled in Denison University, initially as a pre-med student. He soon changed his major, however, to reflect his interest in English literature and the theater. A summer job as a page at NBC studios in New York gave him his first taste of the entertainment industry.

Michael's meteoric rise to prominence in the entertainment industry began at ABC, where he made his mark, initially as Director of Program Development for the East Coast, then as Vice President for Daytime Programming and by 1976, as Senior Vice President for Prime Time Production and Development. Under his guidance, the network rose from third to first place among the networks.

In 1977, he took the post of President and Chief Operating Officer of Paramount Pictures, where his leadership brought the studio to become number one in box office and profitability.

Michael cemented his status as a leader in the entertainment industry in September, 1984, when he left Paramount to become Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Walt Disney Company, the position he holds to this day. His business acumen and strong work ethic helped him lead Disney through di-

versification and aggressive, but intelligent management. Under Michael's guidance, Disney grew from \$1.7 billion in assets in 1984 to over \$10 billion just ten years later.

Eisner has strongly encouraged Disney and its employees to support local communities and in 1997, he committed to one million hours of community service, helping rebuild the burned First AME Zion church in South-Central Los Angeles, and establishing GOALS—a free youth hockey program for underprivileged youngsters in Orange County, Calif. Under his leadership, Disney has developed two major television events recognizing educators and students: Disney's American Teacher Awards brings together and recognizes 35 of the nation's finest teachers annually and Disney's Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra each year assembles young musicians from North America and Europe for a two-week music camp and an opportunity to perform at a major venue.

Not content to be a master of diversification in the corporate entertainment world, Michael also serves on a number of boards of charitable and civic organizations. He is a trustee of the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), the American Film Institute and Denison University, his alma mater. He is a Founding Member of the Points of Light Foundation. His success in the entertainment industry has earned him high acclaim and his work has been recognized with many awards and honors, including the International Radio and Television Society Gold Medal Award (1992) and his induction into the Academy of Achievement's Hall of Business (1994).

Michael and his wife Jane are the extremely proud parents of three sons, Breck, Eric and Anders. The family resides in Los Angeles where they are well known for their generous philanthropy. The Eisner Foundation, which they founded in 1996 with an initial \$89 million grant, funds children's organizations, public schools, medical and dental-care programs with a special emphasis on helping Southern Californians. The Eisner Foundation is headed by Jane Eisner.

We feel extremely fortunate to have a person like Michael Eisner in our community. Southern California is a better place because of his willingness to give back to his community.

Mr. Speaker, we invite our colleagues to join us in saluting Michael for his myriad accomplishments, and in congratulating him on being named the "Pioneer of the Year" by the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation. We wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO HELENE MONBERG

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise before this body of Congress to honor the memory of a great citizen. Helene Monberg recently passed away at the age of eighty-four. Helene was the respected and well-liked former Washington Correspondent for The Pueblo Chieftain and Star-Journal. As Colorado and the larger community mourn her passing, I would like to pay tribute to her memory here today.