

The CPSA has worked hard to ensure that the voice of the people is heard loud and clear among those wanting to hold public office. Because of the work of the CPSA, political candidates and elected officials have become more sensitive to the needs of the people. During the early 1980's, Dr. Aldridge led the petition to have Detroit Street, located in the inner city of Flint, renamed to Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Dr. Aldridge stated that the renamed Street would serve as "a role model for youngsters in the inner city." The change was approved by City Council in 1987. Dr. Aldridge remained President of the CPSA until 1999, when he had to resign due to illness.

Dr. Aldridge during his life held several leadership roles within the Church community. He served as President of the Wolverine State Congress of Christian Education and Convention Coordinator for the National Baptist Convention for 25 years. He was Vice President and Director General of the National Baptist Congress for 4 years, and he also served on the Board of Directors for the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and the Sunday School Publishing Board, Nashville, Tennessee. He was also a member of the Todd Philips Children's Home Board of Directors—Detroit, Mott Children's Health Center, Michigan National Bank, Flint Housing Commission Board of Directors, Advisory Board of the Flint Goodwill Industries, Professional Advisory Board Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors Girl Scout Council and of the Boy Scouts of America, and as a Commissioner on the National Holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Board. Dr. Aldridge also held the position of Instructor and Member of the Baptist Ministers Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Aldridge leaves to cherish and carry on his legacy his beautiful and devoted wife of 54 years, Dr. Mildred Aldridge, his son, Reverend Derek Aldridge, his daughter, Karen Aldridge-Eason, and nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in offering condolences to the family of Dr. Avery Aldridge, and in thanking them for sharing Dr. Aldridge with our community.

Mr. Speaker, my message to his congregation and all of our community is as follows.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble in heart." [Matthew 11:29]

It takes a strong person to be meek, a strong person to be in charge of his passions and emotions.

Reverend Avery Aldridge was such a person.

He was strong in his love of God.
He was strong in his love of the Church.
He was strong in his love of family.
He was strong in his pursuit of justice.
He was strong in his effort to eliminate injustice.

And all this deep strength, he exercised humbly, as an instrument of God's Holy Will. Because of Dr. Aldridge's strength, anchored in humility and meekness, this community is a better community.

This Church is a stronger representation of the Mystical Body of Christ.

All of us here in this Church are better people because of that strength of faith and action of Doctor Avery Aldridge.

The greatest tribute we can render to Dr. Avery Aldridge is to emulate
his love,
his dedication,

his humility, and
his Christ centered strength.

Dr. Aldridge, as a triumphant member of the Communion of Saints, please ask Almighty God to shower His Blessings upon us that we might use our strength to carry out God's Holy Will.

WARREN HEYER: PROFESSOR,
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, AND PUBLIC ADVOCATE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Warren Heyer, one of my district's most persistent and effective community advocates.

As a young man, Heyer served in World War II, where he saw combat in General George S. Patton's 3rd Army and took part in the liberation of a Nazi concentration camp. After witnessing the horror of war and genocide, he became an ardent anti-war activist. And in the mid-1960s, his activism focused on his community.

After Heyer graduated from San Diego State College in 1950, he taught in a local elementary school—where he met his first wife, Roberta Calvert, who passed away in 1996. He continued his education, receiving a Master's degree in librarianship, and worked as a librarian at both San Diego High School and San Diego City College. In 1964, he was a founding faculty member of Mesa College, where he was instrumental in developing numerous important school policies. He was the elected chairman of the Library Department, a position he held until 1979, when he retired. Retirement did not stop his service to the college: he continued to serve as an adjunct librarian, training and assisting new employees and students.

He was also a central figure in the efforts to re-zone his community of Encanto. If it were not for Warren Heyer, the quiet and inviting character of Encanto would have been lost. He served as vice-chairman of the Southeast San Diego Development Committee and went door-to-door to gain support for his efforts, without which, I am convinced, the planning measure would not have passed.

Heyer suffered a stroke in Chichicastenango, Guatemala, where he was building a church on behalf of a humanitarian organization. He died as he lived: putting others before himself and working for the betterment of society.

My deepest condolences go to Heyer's family; his wife Patricia and his three children: Kathryn, Robin, and Andrew.

William Heyer was a model constituent and his legacy will continue to benefit my district for years and years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TRAVIS THOMPSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary

talents of a dedicated young mandolin player from Pueblo, Colorado. Travis Thompson is the national champion of the prestigious Walnut Valley Festival. He provides enjoyment and inspiration to all who are fortunate enough to hear him play.

Travis is only the fifth Coloradan to receive this prestigious title since the addition of the mandolin competition to the festival in 1976. He began playing the instrument at age 11 after meeting his idol, Chris Thile of Nickel Creek, at a music festival. Several years later, Travis made his first of three attempts to reach the finals of the contest. His diligence and persistence have placed Travis on the path to eventually joining the ranks of bluegrass icons such as Alison Krause.

Travis hails from a family of musicians. His father, sister, and mother play the guitar, fiddle, and bass respectively in the performance group Second Wind. Not only does this young man pursue excellence in the entertainment field, but he also runs track and maintains a 3.6 grade-point average at Rye High School.

Mr. Speaker, Travis Thompson's gift motivates other citizens to follow their dreams. His devotion and enthusiasm certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. It is my privilege to pay tribute to Travis for his contributions to the Colorado community.

THINNING ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH TO PROTECT HOMES FROM FOREST FIRES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the Senate recently passed a revised version of H.R. 1904, the "Healthy Forests" bill and the administration has made plain its desire that action on this legislation be completed soon.

The bill deals with several other matters, but most attention has been focused on Title I, which deals with forest-thinning projects on federal lands.

I support well-designed thinning projects that are focused where they will do the most good—but I do not think such projects, alone, will be enough.

To illustrate what I have in mind, I want to bring to the attention of our colleagues a story from the Boulder, Colorado Daily Camera.

The story focuses on the efforts of homeowners in Boulder County to protect their homes and the way that their efforts paid off during wildfires. Such "defensible space" measures, based on common sense can be readily adopted by homeowners, and there are many available sources of assistance. For example, in our state the Colorado State Forest Service has a program to help private property owners assess their property for fire and develop a plan to help reduce risks. These and other programs—such as actions by local government to require the use of fire-resistant materials and other steps to reduce fire risks—can go a long way to help prevent and reduce the losses from wildfires. It would also be desirable for the nation's insurance industry to lend its assistance to encourage people whose insured property is in forested areas to take some responsible steps to make their homes more defensible from fire.

We cannot stop all fires—nor should we, because fire is a natural part of many forested ecosystems. But we can work together to reduce the risks to lives and property. We need to look beyond jurisdictional boundaries and help encourage all techniques—such as defensible space—that will make homes, communities and watersheds more resistant to the more catastrophic and damaging effects from fire when it inevitably does come.

[From the Daily Camera, Nov. 4, 2003]

FIRE PRECAUTIONS SAVE HOMES

FIRE-RESISTANT MATERIALS, THINNED TREES
CREDITED

(By Mary Butler)

All his neighbors told David Mitchell that they thought his house had burned in last week's Overland Fire outside of Jamestown. "But when I drove up to the place the next morning," he said, "about a 2-foot ring around the house wasn't burnt."

The 2,800-square-foot home on County Road 87, where several other homes burned to the ground, was unscathed.

Mitchell credits efforts made to create "defensible space," such as thinning trees, how his home was positioned and his driveway's alignment, for helping to spare the house from the fast-moving fire's path Wednesday.

Even if flames came close enough to lick the home's exterior, he said, fire-resistant materials such as Rastra concrete, Styrofoam blocks and steel roofing used to build the house would have delayed its ignition.

"The fire was so hot, if we had made the building from wood, it would have caught fire anyway," he said.

Since the early 1990s, Boulder County has required new homes and large additions to homes in unincorporated mountain communities to be built with wildfires in mind.

"When you build a new house, you're required to have a fire mitigation plan," said Eric Philips, county wildfire mitigation coordinator.

For instance, cedar shake shingles are banned from use on mountain homes. In some areas, "noncombustible" materials such as stucco, stone and cement siding are required. Tree thinning is also a must.

A site-by-site evaluation is made to determine what mitigation efforts ought to be made, Philips said.

Taking such precautions is thought to have saved at least one neighborhood in Southern California, where wildfires ravaged thousands of homes in recent weeks.

The New York Times on Sunday dedicated a front-page story to the Stevenson Ranch neighborhood. The story described the neighborhood's streets as wide, the homes' roofs as fire retardant, the landscaping as moist and the surrounding hillsides as irrigated and cleared of brush.

Some of the homes' features include double-glazed window panes that resist heat and breakage, stucco-sealed eaves to keep sparks from getting into attics and oversized address numbers for easy identification. Even some of the swimming pools are equipped with valves that allow firefighters to draw the water, the article said.

Whether homeowners' fire-prevention measures made a difference in the Overland Fire, Philips said, has yet to be assessed.

But many Lefthand Canyon-area homeowners, including Mitchell, say they did.

"Thinning trees gives us a fighting chance," said Nolan Farmer, whose Overland Road home was within 40 yards of the 3,500-acre blaze.

He credits tree thinning a team of Boulder County inmates did on his property seven

years ago for saving his property. The work was well worth the \$50 he paid then, Farmer said.

Farmer also built his house with a metal roof, sealed redwood siding and without decks in the event that flames might come up against his home of 12 years.

John and Susan Bernart's Overland Road home, which overlooks the hillside blackened in the blaze, wasn't directly threatened by the fire.

But John Bernart says he had peace of mind knowing that its straw-bale and stucco construction could hold its own against wildfire. Besides being energy efficient, the insulating materials are also extremely fire resistant.

"There are straw-bale houses that are 500 years old in Europe," Bernart said. Still, he said, "We're hopeful we won't have to face this kind of threat again. Our strike of lightning has come and gone."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL PORTER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. Recently, the Colorado Trappers Association recognized Bill Porter as "Trapper of the Year." Not only is Bill a talented and dedicated trapper, he is also an outstanding steward of wildlife, and I believe that it is important to pay tribute to his contributions here today.

Bill began trapping at the age of eleven in order to supplement his family's income. Over the last 25 years, he has refined his skills to become one of the best trappers in Colorado. Bill approaches trapping with the importance of preserving wildlife in mind. He focuses exclusively on capturing destructive and threatening animals.

Bill is good-natured and has a great sense of humor. He often uses these positive character traits when teaching students and young trappers the importance of legal and ethical trapping. Aside from technical knowledge and ethics, Bill also stresses the importance of working closely with the Division of Wildlife in a combined effort to assure the conservation of animals and their habitats.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation the accomplishments of Bill Porter. Bill is a man who has spent his life in harmony with nature. His dedication to his trade, and willingness to pass along his knowledge and morals to the next generation, is truly admirable. Congratulations, Bill.

**CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN
BURMA**

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to address the current state of affairs in Burma. For years, Burma's military rulers have retained control through the use of rape, murder, torture, and imprisonment. Many of my

colleagues and I co-sponsored the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, H.R. 2330, in an effort to sanction this regime for its egregious human rights violations and to shed light on the atrocities being committed.

Another action taken to help bring about change in Burma was the assignment of a United Nations envoy to this chaotic region. Unfortunately, many of my colleagues and I now feel that the United Nations process put in place to help bring about change in Burma is seriously flawed. The UN envoy to Burma has done more to diffuse international pressure on the junta than he has to improve human rights conditions there.

Conditions are not improving, they are worsening. Aung San Suu Kyi, 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner and leader of the country's true government, remains under house arrest while the people of Burma are being slaughtered. Just a few days ago, members of Burma's military regime shot at a crowd of demonstrating monks, killing at least one and injuring many more.

In addition, Thailand, Burma's neighbor, has become increasingly friendly with the SPDC, the regime responsible for this bloodshed. Thai authorities deport Burmese migrant workers and other refugees with little concern for their welfare, turning a blind eye to the oppression that awaits them and in violation of international law. The UN has done little to change the relationship between these two nations.

As we approach the next meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, we must be cognizant that the process has failed. We need to strengthen the authority of the UN envoy and replace him with someone capable of rallying international support for change. The present system is not working—let's fix it.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT EUGENE RUARK'S RETIREMENT FROM SOLANO COUNTY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Robert Ruark, whose retirement from his position as Chief Criminal Investigator of the Solano County Health and Social Services, Special Investigations Bureau will commence on Thursday, November 6, 2003. During his fourteen year career with the county, Chief Ruark has established himself as an extraordinary leader in law enforcement. At his retirement, his many accomplishments and hard work will be recognized within the community of his colleagues and friends.

Robert Eugene Ruark was born in Turlock, California on November 4, 1946. After graduating from Turlock High School in 1964, Robert went on to attend Modesto Community College where he earned an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. He then attended Chapman University in 1968 where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Sciences. Desiring to put his education to work, Mr. Ruark entered the U.S. Army as a Military Policeman and then served in the Republic of Vietnam as a Military Police Investigator. In 1969, Mr. Ruark graduated from the