

to pay tribute to Val's life and contributions before this body of Congress and this nation.

Val joined the Navy when he was still in his senior year at Montrose High School. At age 17, Val dropped out of high school and went to boot camp in San Diego. After basic training, he was assigned to the USS Maryland, serving as a mess cook stationed in Pearl Harbor. On the morning of the attack, two Japanese torpedoes hit the bow and stern of his ship, causing many casualties to the crew. Miraculously, Val was able to escape the attack unharmed and soon reported to a new ship preparing for war.

After World War II, Val continued to serve his country through both the Korean and the Vietnam Wars. Between wars, Val made a living as a professional boxer and won the military bantam weight boxing title. After serving in the military for 23 years, Val retired and went into law enforcement. He was the first Hispanic officer ever to serve in the Montrose Police Department. He also enrolled at Colorado University, where Val received his bachelor's degree. Today, Val lives at home in Montrose and serves as a role model and mentor to his two grandchildren, who he also wants to see graduate from college.

Mr. Speaker, it is with earnest respect that I recognize Valentino Alvarado of Montrose, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. Throughout his life, Val has served his country with the honor, distinction, and integrity that we, as Americans, have come to respect from our nation's military. His courage is a testimony to his character, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding American in this Congress.

#### TRIBUTE TO JESSICA WEHLING

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I recognize Jessica Wehling of Grand Junction, Colorado. Last December, Jessica received the highest award for a Junior Girl Scout, the Gold Award. Today, I would like to pay tribute to Jessica's commitment and accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Jessica Wehling has served her community and her country in many ways as a Girl Scout. She began her career as a Daisy Girl Scout, where she first learned the values of discipline, commitment, and goodwill that have become her hallmark. As an example of her ingenuity, when Jessica's car was hit by a truck in the Fruita Monument High School parking lot she began brainstorming parking alternatives to prevent future accidents at the school.

Through her efforts, Jessica was able to redesign the parking lot to add more spaces, a drop off area, and make it more driver friendly. Jessica also came up with an incentive program that gave preferred parking spots to students who carpooled to school. Her project displayed a great deal of ingenuity and initiative. Fruita Monument High School has now redesigned the parking lot and plans to begin Jessica's carpool incentive program in January.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the contributions of Jessica Wehling of

Grand Junction, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. Jessica's hard work and determination serves as an inspiration to us all, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding American in this Congress. I look forward to witnessing Jessica's future accomplishments and wish her all the best. Keep up the good work.

#### IN HONOR OF MURIEL SEABROOK

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Muriel Seabrook for serving the children and families of Jersey City. Upon her retirement, she was honored at Casino in the Park in Jersey City, New Jersey, on December 7, 2002.

Mrs. Seabrook began working as a parish social worker for the Trinity Lutheran Church in Jersey City, and became a caseworker for the Hudson County Welfare Board. In 1966, she began her 37 years of devoted service with the Jersey City Child Development Centers, Inc., "Project Head Start". Through her hard work and dedication, she rose to the position of assistant director in 1979. For her exceptional work, the National Head Start Association honored her as the 1999 Administrator of the Year.

She has further contributed to the community through her involvement in a variety of organizations, including: the Hudson County-New Jersey Child Placement Review Board, as chairperson; the National Review Panel for the Office of Human Development Services; and the Comprehensive Program Review Team, as an ACYF peer reviewer. In addition, she has been an organist and choir director in parishes throughout Minnesota and New Jersey for over 40 years.

Mrs. Seabrook graduated from St. Olaf College with a degree in Sociology. She is a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Muriel Seabrook for her selfless devotion to making Jersey City a better place for our children and our families.

#### TRIBUTE TO LYMAN THOMAS

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of Lyman Thomas, who sadly passed away recently at the age of 76. Lyman was a pillar of the Montrose community and, as his family mourns his loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember his life and celebrate the work he did on behalf of others.

Lyman was born to Charles and Beulah Thomas on March 22, 1926. At the age of nine, Thomas suffered the loss of his father. As a member of what has been called the "greatest generation," Lyman's life exemplifies the dedication to others embodied by many from that era. In 1944, Lyman joined the Air Force in order to serve his country during

WWII. Upon leaving the service, Lyman attended Colorado A&M (now CSU) and within a year was able to pursue a career in aviation. In June of 1948 Lyman married Lila Whitley with whom he raised two children: Lyman Jr., who sadly passed away in 1983, and daughter Lennette.

Lyman began his career with Monarch (Frontier) Airlines, eventually moving over to Delta, where his ability and dedication allowed him to assume a managerial position in the Delta Chamber of Commerce. It was while he held this position that Lyman and fourteen others founded Club 20, designed to unify the voices of over 20 counties, earning it the nickname the "Voice of the Western Slope." It was Lyman's passion for his community that caught the eye of two governors of Colorado. Lyman was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Board and later, due to the efforts of Club 20, to the committee charged with selecting a location for Interstate Highway 70. In 1953 most roads connecting Western Slope towns were dirt or gravel. It was Lyman's efforts on this committee, and the important contributions of Club 20, that were instrumental in the paving of local roads.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to the life of Lyman Thomas, a man whose character and impact on others is evident in the lives of all who have crossed his path. It is with admiration, respect and a sense of sadness that I recount Lyman's 76 years of life before this body of Congress. Although Lyman has left us, his good-natured spirit lives on through the lives of those he has touched. I would like to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to Lyman's family and friends during this difficult time.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH PADDILLA

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Mr. Joseph Paddilla of Denver, Colorado. Mr. Paddilla's efforts have helped countless members of the Colorado community. Through his construction work, Joe has made a difference in the lives of others.

Joe began his career in construction while still in high school, helping his father to build and remodel kitchens. Following high school, he attended the University of Florida. In 1982, Joe started his own business, Town & Country Kitchens, designing and manufacturing custom kitchens. In his role as owner, Joe was a pioneer in the construction of handicapped accessible kitchens even before building codes had mandated their construction. It was for this kind of forward thinking that Mr. Paddilla was awarded the Mayor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Disabled Community in 1983.

Mr. Paddilla's efforts to help the handicapped community have been innumerable. On behalf of Police Officer Toby Bethel, who was injured in the line of duty, Joe was instrumental in designing and financing a kitchen

that Officer Bethel could use. Joe worked diligently with the Denver Home Builders Foundation to assist Officer Bethel. I would like personally to thank Mr. Paddilla for all of his hard work on this project. He and his company have also designed and built a \$1.5 million, state-of-the-art home as a donation to Cherish the Children, an organization that provides educational assistance to children. He is currently the president and chairman of the Costuyendo Education Network, a program that educates minority and immigrant construction workers through bilingual education, teaching them how to start their own businesses in Colorado. Mr. Paddilla has helped his community in many ways, and continues with his active involvement in various philanthropic organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize Mr. Joseph Paddilla before this body of Congress and this nation. Through his efforts to help his community, Mr. Paddilla has served others in an exceptional manner, and I feel honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to him.

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IN HONOR OF ALEX ANTÓN'S AND  
ROGER E. HERNÁNDEZ'S PUBLI-  
CATION, CUBANS IN AMERICA

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the publication of Cubans in America: A Vibrant History of a People in Exile, by Roger E. Hernández, and Alex Antón. A documentary of four centuries of Cubans living and thriving in America, the book follows the history of Cubans in America from the 16th century, with the settlement of St. Augustine, to the present day.

Mr. Roger E. Hernández, a nationally syndicated columnist writing on Hispanic-American issues, along with Alex Antón, published Cubans in America in May of 2002.

Mr. Hernández writes for a weekly op-ed column distributed by King Features Syndicate to some 40 daily newspapers across the nation. He also writes articles for other newspapers and magazines, is a frequent guest on televisions and radio political talk shows, travels the country delivering lectures, and wrote several books that make up part of a series about South America for 4th through 6th grade students.

Mr. Hernández left Cuba with his parents at the age of nine. He quickly established himself in the United States and earned a BA in Journalism at Rutgers University in 1977. Currently, he lives with his wife and two children in Boonton, New Jersey.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Roger E. Hernández and Alex Antón for the publication of Cubans in America: A Vibrant History of a People in Exile. I commend these authors for celebrating the importance and influence of Cubans in our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL D. SERZEN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I recognize Mr. Russell D. Serzen of Durango, Colorado. Russell was a man of absolute integrity and strength. His conviction and dedication to Fort Lewis College's Community Concert Hall was a great asset, and yielded great benefits to his community. At this time, I would like to pay tribute to Russell's life and accomplishments.

Mr. Serzen was born in Chicago, in 1933. He attended the University of Illinois, where he played hockey and baseball. He was named Most-Valuable-Player in baseball in 1954, and that same year he signed a contract with the New York Yankees. His baseball career was cut short in 1956, as he entered the Army. He was the first baseball player to be introduced into the University of Illinois's Hall of Fame. On September 19, 1950, Russell married Elizabeth Hanson. The two were blessed with three children. During his youth, Mr. Serzen was a medical supply salesman and a founding member of the Institute for Orthopaedic Enlightenment.

In 1989, Mr. Sezen retired to Durango, Colorado. Once he was there, he became a strong supporter of Fort Lewis College's Community Concert Hall. He was always doing something to promote the community's interest in the Concert Hall, from organizing pledge drives to helping with the program planning. While living in Durango, his passions included jazz and handball. It was this passion for jazz that lead him to become so involved with the Community Concert Hall. Through his many efforts, Fort Lewis College's Community Concert Hall has grown in strength and in renown.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Mr. Russell D. Serzen before this body of Congress and this nation. His advocacy for the Performing Arts in Western Colorado has helped establish a strong tradition of music and its appreciation. His memory will live on in the lives of his family, his friends, and the many people who were touched by his life.

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TRIBUTE TO POSADA AGENCY

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Posada Agency of Pueblo, Colorado for their outstanding commitment to Southern Colorado's homeless citizens. Recently, the Posada Agency held an open house celebrating the opening of the newly remodeled Elko Motel. The Posada Agency renovated the building to provide a safe living area for Pueblo's homeless families. Today I would like to pay tribute to their service before this body of Congress and this nation.

The Posada Agency for the homeless is a non-profit organization that provides for the immediate needs of the homeless while simultaneously working to overcome the problems that have led to their homelessness. The

agency incorporates the services of many philanthropic groups, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to provide the resources necessary for the fight against homelessness. Through their transitional housing and employment assistance programs, Posada has been able to serve over 37,000 homeless in Southern Colorado.

The Elko Motel was purchased by the Posada Agency two years ago with financial contributions from the El Pomar foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Since then, the Posada Agency has been completely renovated. Today, the hotel has new plumbing, wiring, and carpeting, providing a structured and safe environment for Pueblo's homeless families.

Mr. Speaker, it is with earnest respect that I recognize the Posada Agency for the homeless before this body of Congress and this nation. I would like to commend all the men and women of the agency for their tireless commitment to such a noble endeavor. Through their dedication and goodwill, the Posada Agency has been able to help countless numbers of homeless get back on their feet, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

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IN HONOR OF NORTH HUDSON  
REGIONAL FIRE AND RESCUE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue (NHRFR) and its outstanding professional firefighters and rescue personnel who are the pride of the five northern New Jersey communities that they serve with such great distinction—Union City, Weehawken, North Bergen, West New York and Guttenberg.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, there is renewed national appreciation and respect for the heroic men and women who put their lives at risk in the line of duty every day in every American community. These are truly the heroes in our midst, each and every one an authentic profile in courage. I share the pride of my fellow Hudson County citizens in the outstanding performance of NHRFR fire and rescue personnel in support of their NYFD and NJ-based colleagues on 9/11, and each and every day preceding and following that horrific tragedy.

Prior to my Congressional service, I had the privilege of being the mayor of Union City, New Jersey. As a mayor, I learned a lot about what it takes, in terms of money, management and leadership capability, and training time to develop and maintain a fire and rescue fire-responder team that is prepared and equipped to handle every conceivable emergency situation in a community. I am grateful to have had that experience, because I gained a great deal of understanding and insight about what we, as a nation, must now do to ensure that our fire and rescue first responders have the tools and the training to meet the growing demands and dangers of their public safety mission.

Since 9/11, the mission of our local fire and rescue first responders has expanded exponentially, and is now elevated to the level of