

Red Hot Mamas performed at the 54th Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C., on ABC's "Good Morning America" and "Nightline" programs, at Philadelphia's Independence Day Parade; Hershey, Pennsylvania's Centennial Anniversary Parade; the Fiesta Bowl Parade in Tempe, Arizona; the Holiday Bowl Parade in San Diego; the Seafair Parade in Seattle and many more. Many of their performances have raised money for various charities. They soon will be traveling to England to perform in London's New Year's Day Parade—the world's largest. Once again they will be spreading the word about their beautiful home state of Idaho, and spreading joy in the process. I want to thank these unique, fun-loving ladies and let them know their efforts are appreciated.

#### TRIBUTE TO ABIGAIL RICE

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 11, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Abigail Rice from Durango, CO. Abi's life was recently cut short in a tragic accident. As her family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate to call her tremendous contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and our Nation.

Abi was an excellent student. A member of the Dean's List at Colorado State University, she was majoring in Natural Sciences. Abi was also a member of the PreMedica Club, and the Air Force ROTC. She had plans to attend medical school following graduation and her dream was to serve her country in the United States Air Force as a flight surgeon.

Abi also excelled in athletics. She was a High School Barrel Racing State Champion, an accomplished participant in 4-H, and a co-captain of Colorado State's Varsity Trap and Skeet Team.

Despite Abi's many academic and athletic talents, those who knew her well say that her greatest attribute was her loving and caring personality. Abi had an infectious love of life and her many friends and family will miss her deeply.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Abigail Rice. Abi was an amazing young woman and my heart goes out to her family and friends during this difficult time.

#### RECOGNIZING KYLE D. SNYDER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle D. Snyder, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the

three years Kyle has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 40 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, and Chaplain Aide. Kyle has also received the honor of Arrow of Light, is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow, and is a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Kyle planned and built ten blue birdhouses and one wood duck house. He then placed them along a nature trail and the pond at Riverview Park in Platte City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle D. Snyder for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JIM L. RIDLING OF MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2003*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim L. Ridling of Montgomery, Alabama, on the occasion of his retirement as President, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Southern Guaranty, a part of Winterthur Insurance Company.

Jim was born and raised in Arkansas. He began his professional career as a Management Trainee with Fireman's Fund Insurance Companies in 1967. By 1984, he was Executive Vice President of United States Operations. In 1987, he traded his ownership in Fireman's Fund for ownership in Southern Guaranty Insurance Company, then a subsidiary of Fireman's Fund, and moved to Montgomery, Alabama, as President and CEO of Southern Guaranty.

Throughout his business career, Jim Ridling has been involved in varied professional organizations. He is a member of the International Insurance Society and the National Association of Independent Insurers. He is a past member of the University of Alabama School of Business' Board of Advisors; the Advisory Board of the University of Arkansas Business School; and a graduate of Stanford University's Inaugural Leadership Effectiveness Studies Program. Currently, he is a member of the School of Business Advisory Council for Troy State University.

Jim Ridling continues to be very much involved in his community. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Montgomery Air Force Association; a member of the Board of Directors of the Business Council of Alabama; a member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of their Military Council; and a member of the Montgomery Area Committee of 100. Jim is also President of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Ballet; a member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and a Boy Scouts Board of Director.

I congratulate Jim Ridling for his accomplishments and his willingness to share of himself in service to his new adopted state. On the special occasion of his retirement celebra-

tion on November 20, I wish him, his lovely wife Cathy and their two daughters, Erin and Hannah, the very best in the future.

#### FREEDOM FOR NORMANDO HERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ

#### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2003*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform this Congress about Normando Hernández González, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Hernández, age 32, and the director of the College of Independent Journalists, has been a chronicler of truth amid the lies and deceit of Castro's villainous regime. As a journalist who exposed the ruthless repression and failed policies of Cuba's totalitarian dictator, Mr. Hernández has been continuously harassed by Castro's political police. He was detained and released miles from his home on at least two occasions and his telephone has been cut off since June 15, 2002.

Men and women who seek truth and freedom are the enemies of Castro's totalitarian dictatorship. On March 24, 2003, Mr. Hernández was sentenced to 25 years in the Cuban totalitarian gulag. According to the sham indictment "He prepared reports . . . in which he attacked the health system (and) the education provided in this country, questioned the justice system, tourism, culture, agriculture. . . ."

Mr. Hernández, for the "crime" of reporting truth instead of government mandated lies, is languishing in Castro's gulag. According to a statement by his wife, Yarai Reyes, on September 3, 2003, the food in the gulag was often rotten, Mr. Hernández had no electricity in his cell and was being refused all medical care.

Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, in his address at the 20th anniversary of the National Endowment for Democracy, President George W. Bush said "Communism, and militarism and rule by the capricious and corrupt are the relics of a passing era. And we will stand with these oppressed peoples until the day of their freedom finally arrives." President Bush went on to state, "The advance of freedom is the calling of our time; it is the calling of our country."

My Colleagues, I applaud President Bush's stirring remarks and I ask that we answer his call to advance freedom by demanding liberty for every prisoner of conscience. Today I ask the entire Congress to cry with one, united, voice for the immediate release of Normando Hernández González.

#### RECOGNIZING BRETT MICHAEL BABCOCK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brett Michael Babcock, a very special young man who has exemplified the

finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brett has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the two years Brett has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 27 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Patrol Leader, Librarian, Senior Patrol Leader, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Brett is also a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow and is a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Brett did landscaping for the courtyard at Heritage Village Assisted Living Center in Platte City, Missouri. Brett planted and mulched two trees, built a birdfeeder, and also constructed two wooden benches that were placed in the courtyard for use by the residents.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brett Michael Babcock for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO VERNA TOWNE

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Verna Towne from Mancos, Colorado was recently named "Citizen of the Year" for the Mancos Valley. I am proud to call her contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today.

The charitable acts that culminated in Verna's recognition as "Citizen of the Year" are too numerous to list. She is an active member of the VFW and Lioness clubs, volunteers her time at the Mancos Senior Center, and is instrumental in the organization of the USDA Commodity Give-Away. Although she donates her time in many ways, Verna is best known for her excellent cooking. She often serves meals at a church breakfast club for teens, the Good Samaritan Center, and 9 Health Fairs as well.

Verna always extends a hand to those in need. She can often be seen shoveling snow from a friend's driveway, or delivering food to those in need of a home-cooked meal. Verna's dedication can best be described as tireless altruism and her hard work on behalf of others often extends late into the night. Verna is truly a compassionate and loving woman and Mancos is lucky to have her.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to Verna Towne. Verna's selfless dedication to serving others is a shining example to all Americans. The many charitable events Verna has supported over the years are a testament to her vibrant and altruistic spirit. On behalf of the countless people she has helped, and a grateful nation, I would like to thank Verna for all she has done, and congratulate her on the receipt of a well-deserved award.

HONORING THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS ON THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESTORATION TO FEDERAL RECOGNITION

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2003*

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians as they celebrate their 26th anniversary of the Restoration to Federal Recognition on November 15, 2003.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians is a confederation of 27 tribes which originally ranged from Northern California to Southern Washington. In 1954, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians were one of many tribes whose federal status was terminated by Congress, and all their lands were taken away. The Siletz reservation, which once exceeded 1.1 million acres was completely gone, and the confederation was no longer recognized.

While nothing could destroy the tribes' culture and traditions that were passed from generation to generation, the lack of federal recognition and support hurt the Siletz.

In the late 1960s, a group of tribal members which recognized the severe effects that the termination was having on the tribe began to work to reverse the effects. They restored the tribal cemetery and created programs for drug and alcohol rehabilitation, job training, and other social services. As they worked to fight against the ills that termination had brought on, the group realized that it must regain its federal recognition.

After many years of intense lobbying, the tribe regained its federal recognition on November 18th, 1977 when President Carter signed an act of Congress restoring the Siletz. The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians were the second tribe in the United States and the first in Oregon to have their federal recognition restored.

Since being restored, the tribe has blossomed and re-established nearly all of its institutions of government. This re-establishment of tribal government has led to better service programs and economic growth which in turn has led to greater preservation of tribal history and tradition.

With its recognition restored and tribal government re-established, the tribe began to grow, and that growth continues to this day. In 1983, a community center was built, serving as an all-purpose gathering place for tribal and non-tribal activities. 1991 brought the addition of a community health clinic which serves all members of the community, tribal and non-tribal. An administration building was developed in 1995 which provides many services to tribal members on the reservation and in eleven surrounding counties in Oregon.

In 1995 the tribe developed its biggest economic project to date, the Chinook Winds Casino and Convention Center. This venture, combined with the other tribal projects, made the tribe one of the largest employers in Lincoln County.

This growth didn't end with the creation of the casino and convention center. Since 1995, the tribe has built a Dance House, the Siletz Tribal Business Corporation, and most recently the Siletz Valley School. The school, a

public charter school that serves 170 children from the surrounding community, was opened after the local school closed due to budget cuts.

As you can see, since their successful fight to regain federal recognition, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians have been dedicated to improving the lives of their 4,000 members as well as the lives of the people of Oregon. One of the best examples of this dedication to improvement is the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, which has distributed more than \$1.5 million to projects in Oregon.

Today it is my pleasure to honor and recognize the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians as they celebrate their 26th anniversary of their Restoration to Federal Recognition.

#### RECOGNIZING MR. FRED SALEM

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2003*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the accomplishments of my longtime friend Mr. Fred Salem. Fred Salem is a child advocate and philanthropist. His hard work and dedication to the people of Genesee County is without doubt commendable. On November 12, 2003, the community along with his family gathered to say thank you during a party held at the Ramada Inn located in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Fred Salem has been a resident of Mt. Morris Township for 35 years. If one could sum up the character of Fred Salem, it would be said that he is a concerned, compassionate, loyal and dedicated citizen. Fred is a humanitarian. Fred has dedicated numerous hours and dollars toward worthy causes. Through his efforts many children and organizations have been able to fulfill dreams that would have otherwise been dismissed. Fred is currently affiliated with a number of organizations, those organizations include but not limited to, the Whaley Children's Center, St. John Vianney Day Care, New Life Childcare & Preschool, Girl Scouts and Brownies Troops of Genesee County, Boy Scouts, The Sylvester Broome Center, Big Brothers and Sisters Organization. Fred is also involved with the Flushing Community Church of the Nazarene, Dr. John Socey and staff, Dr. Chambers & Staff, St. Pius Church and Bible groups, St. George, New Life Christian Fellowship, St. Robert's Pre-K classes (all), St. Robert's Kindergarten classes, Flushing Kindergarten, St. Agnes Church, 96.1 and 93.7 radio stations' picnic, Johnny Burke Birthday Party, and the Northern High School Class Reunion.

On a personal note, each year Fred and his wife Cindy host the annual Community Fourth of July fireworks display in their backyard. Fred steps up when the Government can't. At his residence Fred has transposed his backyard into a miniature Disney Land. Children from ages 2 and beyond come to partake in the fun festivities that are held there year around. One attraction that children enjoy is the go-cart course he had installed and also the historical walkthrough, which includes an old fashion store, antique cars and trucks.

Aside from being an outstanding leader and role model, he is a wonderful devoted family man to his wife Cindy.