

HONORING LARRY A. MATOS

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an ambitious and hard-working businessman, Mr. Larry A. Matos. Larry was born and raised in California's Central Valley, and was working hard on his parent's dairy at a young age. While growing up, Larry attended Turlock High School, and led his Future Farmers of America team to a 6th place finish at a national dairy competition. After graduating Turlock High School in 1992, he quickly received his Real Estate license at the age of 18.

In 1994, Larry was approached by Mr. John Melo to purchase a Century 21 Real Estate office. Always ready for a new challenge, Larry and Mr. Melo formed a business partnership, and turned a three-man office into eleven office locations in four counties, four businesses, and over three hundred employees and realtors. Currently, Larry is the President/Broker of Century 21 M&M and Associates. Not only is Larry dedicated to his business ventures, but to the Real Estate industry as well. He has served as a local Board of Director for the Central Valley Association of Realtors. This past year, Larry had the distinct opportunity to serve his fellow colleagues as President of the Central Valley Association of Realtors. He was one of the youngest to ever hold that position.

If not working hard with his business investments, Larry can be found spending time on his family's dairy, and being with his friends and relatives. He also dedicates his time to the community by serving on the Holiday Can Tree, and sponsoring a number of charitable events throughout the year. Mr. Speaker, Larry is a role model for our youth in the Central Valley. His positive attitude and work ethic have helped him achieve the American Dream. It is my honor to recognize him for his achievements, and to call him my friend.

LIFE OF MAJ. GEN. GEORGE  
RUHLEN**HON. HENRY BONILLA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Maj. Gen. George Ruhlen. Maj. Gen. Ruhlen loved this country and lived a life of service protecting the freedoms we hold dear. Maj. Gen. Ruhlen was a graduate of the United States Military Academy and completed regular courses at the Field Artillery School, the Army War College and the National War College. He was a great patriot and served this country well, commanding the Third Armored Field Artillery Battalion, 9th Armored Division during World War II. His battalion participated in the defense of Luxembourg, Bastogne, and the capture of the Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine River at Remagen. Maj. Gen. Ruhlen's actions in the capture of the Ludendorff Bridge were of extreme significance, helping to hasten the end of the war in Europe. This historic capture allowed over 25,000 American soldiers, tanks, artillery and

trucks to cross the bridge safely. In addition, Maj. Gen. Ruhlen served with honor in overseas postings in Japan, Taiwan and Pakistan. He went on to serve as Commander of the 1st Armored Division, Deputy Commanding General, Fourth U.S. Army and Commanding General, Fort Sam Houston. Maj. Gen. Ruhlen received the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action during the Battle of the Bulge. He was also the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit and the Belgian, French and Luxembourg Croix de Guerre. His leadership and valor were an inspiration to those who knew him. He was truly a great American.

VETERAN TRIBUTE FOR  
SERGEANT PIERSON**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Sergeant Tom Pierson.

Sergeant Pierson served our country during the Vietnam War in the United States Marine Corps. He received the Vietnam Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Sergeant Pierson is also a recipient of the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

At a time when we are once again at war, it is necessary to recognize the achievements of these national heroes. Due to their dedication, service, and sacrifice, they deserve our unwavering admiration and our unending gratitude.

Our country often takes for granted the freedoms and liberties our service men and women risk their lives to protect; yet by continuing to honor our veterans we preserve our nation's future by commemorating their past.

Thank you, Sergeant Pierson, for your service and sacrifice. You are a true hero.

RECOGNIZING THE OWEN J. ROBERTS  
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER TEAM**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Owen J. Roberts High School Girls Soccer Team on their victory in the 2003 Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class AAA State Championship game on November 15, 2003.

The Owen J. Roberts Wildcats set a school record for victories in a season on their way to capturing the school's first state championship. In the seven year history of the program, all under the guidance of Coach Joe Margusity, the Wildcats have compiled an amazing 138-31-6 record. The team allowed only 11 goals in 28 games this season, which was enough to earn them gold medals by shutting out Butler High School, 1-0, in the championship game at Hersheypark Stadium.

Led by Head Coach Joe Margusity, and assistant coaches Josh Hoyt, Joe Baccille, and

Chris Strango; the members of this championship team include Laura Ginnona, Becky Lesh, Brittany Bench, Julia Cupp, Jen Michener, Jess Carbo, Anna Bevan, Brooke Dotterer, Kristen Kaufman, Kim Roncase, Beth Stephens, Heather Manorak, Kristi Moltz, Kate Moltz, Ashley Nespor, Amber Cumins, Gayle Exley, Amber Hawkins, Rachel Michener, Jillian Morgan, Kristine Preski and Megan Levengood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Owen J. Roberts High School Girls Soccer Team, the 2003 PIAA Class AAA State Champions.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ST. MICHAEL'S  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Saint Michael's Orthodox Christian Church located in Pueblo, Colorado. St. Michael's recently celebrated its 100th anniversary and it is my honor to rise and recognize the contributions that this church has made to the Pueblo community.

St. Michael's was founded by a number of Pueblo's ethnic Greek families in the early 1900s. Over time, the church has been a wonderful place of worship for many Puebloans. The creation of a place of worship speaks to the very essence of what our country was founded on. As we celebrate St. Michael's 100 years of existence, it is important to call attention to the fact that the American Values which led to the church's existence continue to this day.

The 100th anniversary of St. Michael's falls at a time of great renewal and triumph for the church. Over the last five years, the church has been undergoing significant renovation under the guidance of its devoted pastor, The Reverend Chris Stanton. The small church is truly a beautiful place of worship.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to call the attention of this body of Congress and our nation to the St. Michael's Orthodox Christian Church. Over the last 100 years, the church has provided a great deal to its parishioners and the community of Pueblo, and it is my honor to call attention to its service here today.

SAFE HOMES: CHILD  
IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM**HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, a child abduction is every parent's worst nightmare. Yet all too often, we hear chilling stories of boys and girls taken from their rightful guardians; stolen by strangers or even by members of their family. Today, I want to recognize a program in my district that is working to prevent these awful occurrences.

In Weirton, volunteers have organized an initiative that is called WINK: Watching Its

Neighborhood Kids. This two-part program is bringing the community together to help keep children safe—and to help recover them if they should ever be lost or taken.

Under the WINK Program, safe houses are being established across the city. These are homes and businesses, screened by the Weirton police, that volunteer to open their doors to children who are lost, hurt or threatened. The goal is to eventually have one on every block.

The approved safe houses are given a logo sign to post in their windows. They also are given information on helping children in danger. Children are told about the program in school, and parents are encouraged to show them where safe houses can be found in the neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of vigilance and communication is a good way to protect our children. But sometimes, no matter how careful the precautions, young people are lost or missing. That is why the second part of this program is vitally important as well.

In addition to the safe houses, WINK has established a child identification program. It sponsors free registration events across the community. Parents bring in their children for digital photos, for fingerprints or footprints, and for a DNA mouth swab. All of these items—these key identification tools—are given to parents to take home, and keep close at hand.

Experts tell us that when a child is missing, an immediate response is the best response. It helps to increase the odds of a successful recovery. Thanks to the child I.D. program, parents have up-to-date information ready to give to police should the unthinkable happen.

Mr. Speaker, the safety of children is a concern that we all share. Today, I am pleased to salute a special group of people who truly take this concern to heart, and have channeled it into real community action. I ask the House to join me in recognizing the caring volunteers who are behind Weirton's watching its neighborhood kids.

**A BILL TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT AND TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE BERING SEA CRAB RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM**

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to make a number of changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. I believe there are three areas of the current Act that need to be changed. While the language I am proposing may not be the best way to address these concerns, I would like these proposed changes to spark a debate in the coming months.

In addition, I am including language to amend the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab rationalization program to address what I believe was an oversight in the plan. I believe this plan to rationalize the Bering Sea crab fishery is a living plan which will continue to be modified as changes are needed. I believe

that the safety issues of this fishery necessitate some action, and I don't believe that no action is an option. Congress asked the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to give the Congress a proposal and they did so. We have studied this fishery for too long without doing something to make it safer. Having said that, I also believe that the plan to rationalize this important fishery needs to be dynamic and we need to be able to make adjustments as we see how the plan works. Everyone involved in this debate has good intentions, but we need to be mindful that good intentions sometimes cause unintended consequences. We need to watch the implementation of the plan very carefully.

Finally, I am asking the Secretary of State to determine whether the retired U.S. staff of two international fisheries commissions who worked in Canada were unduly harmed by exchange rates and to what extent their retirement packages have suffered as a result of the exchange rate.

**THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT**

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, partisan divisions are common in the Congress, but a few issues regularly escape those boundaries. International trade typically is one of them. Although the votes that gave President Bush Trade Promotion Authority confirm that even international trade can be an intensely polarizing issue, it frequently garners support across the political spectrum.

I first traveled to Africa in 1961 with Operation Crossroads to build a school in Ghana. Africa in the '60s underwent a vibrant surge of optimism as independence from colonial rule spread throughout the continent. My experience in Ghana changed my view of the world, and many Members of Congress have had experiences similar to mine. Many Members also believe, as I do, that when the United States opens its markets to poor countries, we extend an enormous opportunity to create jobs and raise living standards, and also provide greater value to American consumers. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), signed into law by President Clinton in 2000, underscores the common goals that Republicans and Democrats can share.

By any measure, AGOA is a resounding success. It is spurring economic growth and bolstering economic reforms. It is fostering stronger ties between sub-Saharan Africa and the United States, and it is reaffirming Africans' conviction that they can compete in any market.

AGOA, which provides temporary benefits, requires periodic review by the Congress to assess its effectiveness. It was designed this way in part because policy makers, like myself, did not know the precise recipe to attract the type of investment in sub-Saharan Africa we were seeking. We made a few good guesses in this regard, but we probably missed the mark in other areas.

We guessed right when we decided that we should provide sub-Saharan Africa greater access to the U.S. textile and apparel market.

Over the last three years, tens of thousands of jobs were created in this industry, thanks to AGOA benefits. Expiring next year, however, is the provision in AGOA that allows Africa's poorest countries to buy fabric outside the region—where it is inexpensive and high in quality—to create finished apparel products for export to the U.S.

Today, I join several of my colleagues, like Representatives ED ROYCE, AMO HOUGHTON and CHARLES RANGEL, to introduce legislation to extend AGOA and spread its benefits to other sectors of sub-Saharan Africa's economy. The AGOA III Act, H.R. 3572, marks the beginning of another bi-partisan effort to develop a plan to improve U.S.-Africa trade.

When my colleagues and I set out to write this bill, we saw the need to address four key issues. First, the third-country fabric provision available to Africa's poorest countries through AGOA expires at the end of next year, at the very same time as worldwide quotas on apparel disappear due to the WTO's Multi Fiber agreement. Third-country fabric must be extended to allow sub-Saharan Africa to participate in a market dominated by the Asian giants. There will be robust debate about how long Congress should extend this provision. We suggest in the AGOA III Act that these benefits should last as long as four years.

Second, the United States needs to provide technical assistance to African farmers to enable them to export their products to America. To do this, the AGOA III Act places dozens of American agricultural experts throughout sub-Saharan Africa to work with farmers and their governments.

Third, the biggest barrier to investment in sub-Saharan Africa is the lack of infrastructure. But building roads, ports, energy grids, telecommunication and water systems solely to increase trade flows is simply not feasible. It is the "chicken or the egg" dilemma. We cannot increase trade flows without adequate infrastructure, yet why build infrastructure if trade capacity is not at a level that requires it? We must find ways to develop and maintain new infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa as trade capacity improves. One way we can do this is by fostering sustainable ecotourism in sub-Saharan Africa. This industry is expected to grow 30 percent over the next decade. We can help sub-Saharan Africa position itself to take advantage of this because the region enjoys an international comparative advantage with its extensive protected areas that host a variety of ecosystems and cultures. National parks and reserves in sub-Saharan Africa can become a basis for regional development, involving the communities living within and adjacent to them. The infrastructure used to support an ecotourism industry can also be used to increase trade flow. There are several initiatives in the AGOA III Act that seek to help sub-Saharan Africa develop its infrastructure, in part by helping build a viable ecotourism industry.

Fourth, we must address AIDS, which is not just a health crisis. AIDS is an economic catastrophe. In the 1990s, AIDS reduced Africa's per capita annual growth by nearly 1 percent. In the most heavily affected countries, 2 percentage points will be sliced off per capita growth in coming years. This means that after two decades, many economies in sub-Saharan Africa will be about 20–40 percent smaller than they would have been without AIDS. That is an enormous decline that no trade policy