

advice and kept me on schedule—she has been a confidant and a friend.

Lisa first began working with me in the San Joaquin Valley of California. She and I initially spent our time out on the campaign trail driving from meeting to meeting and event to event. I noticed right away that Lisa was intuitive and able to catch on quickly to what was going on around her. This, of course, was critical during the campaign.

Lisa was her in D.C. with me when I signed the Contract With America. During that trip, I thought at times that she was unhappy. Lisa later told me she was simply overwhelmed with D.C., but excited about the prospect of living in this city where people live and breathe politics. It was only the beginning of her Washington, D.C. journey.

During one of the most difficult times in my life, when I learned my father passed away, Lisa was there to comfort me. On a lighter note, she suffered through my single life until I met my beloved wife, Ethie. She was there when I got married and celebrated with Ethie and I when our son, King, was born. Lisa is and will continue to be an important part of my life.

In closing, I am touched to have Lisa Wallace—one of the most reliable, loyal and trustworthy people I know—be a part of my team for the past nine years. I wish Lisa all the best in her bright future.

HONORING SUZY MEYER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Suzy Meyer for her leadership and service to her Southwestern Colorado community. Suzy serves as the editor and general manager of the Cortez Journal, the culmination of a long career in journalism. In addition to being a leader in the business community, Suzy also volunteers her time for numerous community activities. It is truly an honor to acknowledge her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Prior to joining the Journal, Suzy was the longtime editor of the Mancos Times. At the Cortez Journal, Suzy has been instrumental in the planning of the paper's new state-of-the-art production and office facilities. Taking on the business responsibilities of the Journal, Suzy oversaw the transition to the new facility and the expansion of the Journal's commercial printing business. The Journal now prints the Durango Herald and other area publications, and Suzy serves as an officer of the Colorado Press Association. For her efforts, she received the 2002 Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award.

As a writer, Suzy has won numerous awards and a reputation for addressing serious community issues. For the last fourteen years she has coordinated Cortez's annual Community Christmas Dinner to ensure that none of her neighbors must spend Christmas hungry or alone. She is an elder of the Montezuma Valley Presbyterian Church and has served on the board of "Meals on Wheels" for 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Suzy Meyer for her outstanding citizen-

ship. She has taken the lead on difficult issues and projects in both her professional life and her volunteer service. Her dedication is a credit to this Nation and to her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was absent for votes on Tuesday, February 25 and Wednesday, February 26, 2003, as a result of the passing of my mother, Mrs. Eleanor Hoeffel. Had I been present, I would have cast my votes as follows: Rollcall vote No. 33, "aye"; Rollcall vote No. 34, "aye"; Rollcall vote No. 35, "aye"; and Rollcall vote No. 36, "aye".

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUNSHINE CLOUD SMITH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor the memory of Sunshine Cloud Smith of Mancos, Colorado for her lifetime of dedication to the Southern Ute Tribe. Sunshine was a leader, a veteran, a tribal councilor, a spiritual mentor, and a teacher to everyone who she touched in life. It is truly an honor to recognize her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Sunshine was the granddaughter of Chief Ouray and a relative of Crazy Horse. As a leader, Sunshine was a visionary and opened many new doors and created wonderful opportunities for all women. She went to college at the University of New Mexico, and was married in 1940. Immediately thereafter, Sunshine served as a surgical technician in the United States Women's Army until 1945.

Upon her return to the reservation in 1948, Sunshine was elected to the Tribal Council and served as vice chairman for sixteen years. Her dedication to the tribal council laid the foundation for the tribe's present success. Sunshine has received several awards in recognition of her leadership contributions to Colorado and the Southern Ute Tribe. In 1989, Sunshine was recognized by the Governor of Colorado for her political and cultural contributions to the State. In 1999, Sunshine received the Western heritage Service Award from the Durango Pro Rodeo series. Moreover, she was a founding member of the Southern Ute Committee of Elders.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I pay tribute to the amazing life of Sunshine Cloud Smith before this body of Congress and this great Nation. Sunshine was a loving and caring mother and grandmother. She passed down many of the traditions and customs of the Southern Utes, and was a spiritual guide for all women of the tribe. Her accomplishments and contributions have truly made a difference. She will be missed by her family, friends and community.

CELEBRATING THE PROMOTION OF MAJOR SEBASTIAN "MIKE" CONVERTINO III TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate one of my constituents, Major Sebastian "Mike" Convertino III. Major Convertino will be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on February 28 at a ceremony in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon.

Major Convertino, who hails from my hometown of New Hartford, NY, has enjoyed a successful and meritorious career in the United States Air Force. Currently assigned to the Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate Joint Staff at the Pentagon, he began his career in the Air Force as a ROTC cadet at Union College in Schenectady. He received his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and began an exciting and praiseworthy career in the Armed Forces.

Major Convertino has been decorated with a series of impressive awards, including: Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and NATO Service Medal.

I am proud to have such a dedicated and talented individual hail from my district. Major Convertino represents the kind of outstanding individuals that man our Armed Forces. I wish Mike, his wife Kimberly, and their daughter Alexandra a great deal of success and all the best for the future.

On behalf of the 24th District of New York, as well as the entire House of Representatives, congratulations—you have made us all very proud.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JACKIE SCHICK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Jacquelyn "Jackie" Mae Schick of Pagosa Springs, Colorado for her years of dedication as a civil servant to the town of Pagosa Springs.

Jackie has given generous amounts of her time and energy over the years as a leader in her community. She has served the Town of Pagosa Springs both as Town Clerk and with the Pagosa Springs Sanitation District, as well as the Colorado City Clerks Association, the International City Clerks Association, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Through her work as a mentor, Jackie contributes significantly to the lives of young people in Pagosa Springs. She has been a member of Eastern Star for forty years and even served as Worthy Matron in 1969. And in order to further reach out to youth, she has supported Pagosa Springs' Youth Recreation Program and sponsored the "Rockies" team for twelve years.

The Town of Pagosa Springs has been forever changed by Jackie's donation of time and leadership in these various capacities. Jackie also supported the 4-H Livestock Auction and worked for the County Extension office as a 4-H Agent from 1961–1962. In recognition of her service, the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce will present her with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Jackie Schick for her continuous dedication to the Pagosa Springs community before this body of Congress and this great nation. Her tireless efforts are to be commended as she sets an example for every community member to follow. Whether Jackie is mentoring youth, serving her town, or teaching Secondary School at the Methodist Church, she is making a difference for each and every citizen of Pagosa Springs.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL PEACE
CORPS DAY

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate National Peace Corps Day on February 28, 2003 and to commend the organization and its volunteers for the important work they do around the world. Since 1961, more than 168,000 Americans have taken part in this important mission to volunteer in 136 countries. This mission is important on many levels.

The idea of the Peace Corps began in my home State of Michigan when John F. Kennedy, campaigning for President, proposed the concept in October of 1960 to a group of college students in Ann Arbor. He wanted to see how many of them would be interested in volunteering in developing countries to help in their progress and development. In March of 1961, the Peace Corps was established through an executive order signed by President Kennedy. Today, more than 40 years later, the Peace Corps remains a vital government program that helps to forge strong ties with other countries and to promote global peace.

Peace Corps volunteers give much of themselves during their assignment, and on a human level, there can be no greater service than helping to improve and making a positive difference in the lives of others. As a result of Peace Corps volunteer efforts, the ties between American citizens and those in host countries grow and remain strong long after the Peace Corps assignment has concluded. I know of no Peace Corps volunteer who has returned unchanged or unmoved by the positive work they have performed and the wonderful people they have met.

In my district, currently four volunteers are participating in the Peace Corps. They include: Ms. Kathryn L. Donahue placed in Lesotho; Mr. Brent J. Hayduk in the Ukraine; Ms. Maureen A. Magee in Gambia; and Mr. Seth W. Pickens in Haiti. I am so proud of them and the other volunteers across our nation. To all volunteers, past, present, and future, I say thank you for your dedication and for the honor you all bring to our country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NANCY
NIXON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I recognize Mrs. Nancy Nixon of Ouray, Colorado. Mrs. Nixon has helped her community in many ways, and her love for children is especially evident. She has selflessly devoted her time to giving children an opportunity to learn for more than twenty years.

Mrs. Nixon grew up in Kansas City, and lived in Los Angeles, before she and her husband, John, moved to the beautiful mountain community of Ouray, Colorado in 1975. Nancy and her husband have two children, both of whom are attending college. Since she first moved to Ouray more than twenty years ago, Mrs. Nixon has not stopped helping her community. In 1976, just one year after relocating, she was the first president of the Friends of the Library. She organized and chaired various community events, most notably Ouray Days. Now, Nancy and John and are both active with Ouray's Performing Arts Guild and Arts Council. Helping in her community seems to come as second nature to Nancy, from coaching the Speech Team and working with the swimmers, to organizing the community's parades and rummage sales.

Working with children is one of the many things for which Nancy has a special gift. She has been a teacher in all three levels of Ouray's School District. She was originally hired to teach middle school, but soon after, began to teach at the elementary school level as well. Years later, Nancy taught English in the high school, and now she runs the Ouray School Library. Using her position in the library as a springboard to help children, Mrs. Nixon has created KURA, a non-profit radio station broadcast from the school and involving many students. She has given many hours of encouragement and support to the kids whom she teaches and helps.

Mr. Speaker, it is with much honor that I recognize Mrs. Nancy Nixon before this body of Congress and this nation. Her spirit of caring is one that has given many gifts to Colorado, and will continue to do so. Ouray is lucky to have such a resource among its citizens.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PENSION
SECURITY ACT OF 2003

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join Chairman JOHN BOEHNER in the reintroduction of the Pension Security Act. Last year, the House acted quickly in the face of corporate scandals to protect American workers' pensions by passing the Pension Security Act. Unfortunately, the Senate did not consider this bill in the last Congress which makes reintroduction necessary.

Pension protection remains a key priority for all of us, and with the new Congress, we have

a real opportunity to send President Bush a comprehensive pension security bill he can sign into law. We should not have to wait for another corporate scandal before we empower workers with new protections that can help them enhance and protect their retirement security. We are committed to addressing the pension security of American workers. Workers must be fully protected and fully prepared with the tools they need to protect and enhance their retirement savings.

The Pension Security Act gives millions of Americans new tools to help them better manage and expand their retirement savings. The Pension Security Act gives workers new freedom to diversify contributions of company stock three years after receiving it in their 401(k) accounts; expands worker access to high quality, professional investment advice; allows workers to purchase retirement planning services with pre-tax dollars; empowers workers to hold company insiders accountable for abuses; and gives workers better information about their pension plans. It also includes a number of provisions to make it easier for small businesses to start and maintain pension plans and would further protect rank-and-file employees by ensuring that statutory stock options will not be subject to payroll taxes.

Last year, the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations held a combined total of three hearings over four days to examine the collapse of Enron and to examine how to better protect pension participants. We heard testimony from Administration officials, pension experts, and rank-and-file employees.

One theme that emerged from the testimony was that pension plan participants need more tools to effectively manage their retirements. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao stated: "Partnered with the proposed increased ability for workers to diversify out of employer stock, investment advice services will be more critical than ever." We also heard testimony from Tom Padgett, a former Enron employee. During a hearing, Chairman BOEHNER asked Mr. Padgett: "Did you receive any information, or as I would describe it, investment education from your employers or others talking about the need to diversify your account?" Padgett responded without hesitation: "No sir."

Enron, like most U.S. companies today, did not provide its rank-and-file workers with access to investment advice. The Pension Security Act would fix outdated federal laws to allow employers to provide their workers with high-quality, professional investment advice as an employee benefit while making advice providers personally liable for any advice not provided in the employee's best interest. Millions of employees who have seen their 401(k) balances dwindle might have been able to preserve their retirement savings if they'd had access to a qualified adviser who would have warned them in advance that they needed to diversify.

I am concerned, as many of my colleagues are, about protecting workers and preparing them with the tools they need to protect and enhance their retirement savings. Congress made important steps forward last year with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act regarding corporate governance. That law incorporated two provisions from the original version of the Pension Security Act dealing with notice and trading during blackout periods.