

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNIE
MILLS**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, New Mexico lost a legend recently. Ernie Mills, the dean of New Mexico's political reporters, died from pneumonia on Wednesday, February 26 in Santa Fe. Ernie's career and New Mexico politics were synonymous. There was probably no one else in Santa Fe who knew more about how New Mexico politics worked. Governors, senators, and representatives and a host of elected officials from across the state knew that Ernie and his "little birdies" had the scoop on what was really happening in the state's political arena.

Ernie first came to New Mexico in 1957 when he became editor of the Gallup Independent. He had started his journalism career in New York where he worked for New York Herald Tribune. In 1958, he became the Capitol Bureau Chief for the Albuquerque Journal. He later opened his own public relations consulting firm in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, and was president of the New Mexico Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

In 1968–69, Ernie covered the activities of New Mexico servicemen in Vietnam during two tours of duty. During his tours of Vietnam, he also handed television coverage of the fighting there, first for KOB-TV and later for KOAT-TV.

Ernie was probably best known for his participation in one of New Mexico's largest news stories: the 1980 prison riot in Santa Fe. Rioting inmates requested that Ernie—and no one else—be allowed into the prison to negotiate a settlement with them. Fifteen hostages were released after his participation, all unharmed. Thirty-three inmates died in the bloody confrontation.

Ernie's career was devoted to his syndicated newspaper columns and radio and television shows. He produced a daily radio commentary Dateline New Mexico that was carried by more than 20 radio stations statewide. He also had a weekly television show entitled Report from Santa Fe that had been produced by KENW-TV in Portales, and that had aired for more than 27 years.

He received numerous awards during his career, including Broadcaster of the Year in 1995 from the New Mexico Broadcasters Association. The same organization also honored him for Special Reporting, Best News Coverage, Best Editorial Writing and Radio Newsmen of the Year.

Ernie Mills is gone, but his impact on New Mexico will be with us forever. He will be remembered for his sense of fair play, his balanced reporting, his unwillingness to report in something without first making sure of his facts, even if it meant that he was not the first to break the news. He always said it right.

Yes, he will be remembered for his "little birdies," his "gatos flacos," his "wall-leaners," and his interviews that kept his guests struggling to keep up with him. And we won't forget the "train wrecks," even if we don't remember what they were about. We will remember the man who gave his heart to all New Mexico. There was never a time that Ernie did not put people first. It was their hearts that he was

about. When asked about running for office, Ernie was fond of saying, "I'd like to run for office, but I wouldn't want to serve." It was Ernie's way of saying how much he loved being close to the people.

A memorial service for Ernie will be held on St. Patrick's Day in the State Capitol. He would have loved this. He was proud of his Irish heritage and it is fitting that he be remembered in the center of New Mexico's political world in Santa Fe.

Mr. Speaker, no one can ever replace Ernie Mills. His brand of journalism was unique and exclusively his own. More importantly, Ernie took people under his wing, to love, guide and protect. His heart was bigger than all New Mexico. On behalf of all who knew him, I can confidently say that we will sincerely miss him. I feel as though I have lost a real friend, and I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife Lorene and his children, Joy, Ken, Eddie, and Margaret.

BEECH GROVE GIRLS
CHAMPIONSHIP**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Beech Grove High School, located in the seventh Congressional District, on winning the Indiana State Girls Basketball Final. The Beech Grove Hornets beat St. Joseph's from South Bend, IN, 63–45.

Congratulations to Coach Dawn McNew who led the Beech Grove Hornets to a 27–1 record. I also want to congratulate her players whose teamwork implemented her system so well: Katie Gearlds, Emily Ringham, Joy Cromley, Stephanie Durbin, Clara Harris, Katie Ringham, Mandy Seward, Nicole Helfrich, Patty Collins, Maria Combs, Katie Lamping, and Jenni Moore.

The Hornets' stellar performance is an example of the benefits of superb teamwork and sportsmanship.

Beech Grove defeated North Harrison, Ramsey, IN, to advance to the Girls State Finals. The State Finals were played at Consecro Fieldhouse on Saturday, March 8th.

Beech Grove won its first state title, led by Hornets player Katie Gearlds, who scored a 3A title-record of 33 points. Katie, who has a scholarship to Purdue University, finished the season with 2,521 points, placing her fourth in state career scoring in Indiana.

This exceptional win by the Hornets is a perfect example why Title IX should remain as it is. Title IX has allowed the number of females participating in interscholastic sports to increase from 300,000 in 1971 to approximately 2.4 million in present day.

Congratulations to the Beech Grove Hornets! You have made us proud!

COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORIC RESCUE OF
50,000 BULGARIAN JEWS FROM
THE HOLOCAUST

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, during the Holocaust, the Jews of Europe were subjected to persecution and, ultimately, targeted for total genocide—not only by foreign occupiers, but also at the hands of erstwhile friends and even their own governments. In the face of this atrocity, Bulgaria stands out for protecting its indigenous Jewish population from the evil machinery of the Holocaust. Despite official allied status with Nazi Germany, Bulgarian leaders, religious figures, intellectuals and average citizens resisted pressure from the Nazis to deport Bulgarian Jews to certain death in the concentration camps of Eastern Europe. Thanks to the compassion and courage of broad sectors of Bulgarian society, approximately 50,000 Jews survived the Holocaust.

Once an ally of Nazi Germany in March 1941, the Bulgarian Government and Parliament came under pressure from the Nazi regime and enacted legislation severely curtailing the rights of the Jewish population. In February 1943, a secret meeting between, Hitler's envoy to Bulgaria, and Bulgaria's Commissar on Jewish Affairs, established a timetable for exporting to Germany the Jews in Aegean Thrace and Macedonia, territories then under Bulgarian administration, and deportation of Jews from Bulgarian cities. The deportations were to begin on March 9, 1943.

Trains and boats to be used in the deportations were in place, and assembly points in Poland had already been selected when word of the plans was leaked. Almost immediately, 43 members of the Bulgarian Parliament led by Deputy Speaker Dimitar Peshev signed a petition to condemn this action. This, coupled with widespread public outcry from active citizens, political and professional organizations, intellectuals, and prominent leaders of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, led the Minister of the Interior to stay the deportation orders. Later that month, Peshev again took a bold step in drafting a letter, signed by members of the ruling coalition, which condemned the possible deportation of Jews, calling this an "inadmissible act" with "grave moral consequences."

In May 1943, the plan for deportation of the Bulgarian Jews was finally aborted. King Boris III resisted Nazi pressure to advance the plan, arguing that the Jews were an essential component of the workforce. While some 20,000 Jews from Sofia were then sent to work camps in the countryside for the remainder of the war and subjected to squalid conditions, they nevertheless survived.

Tragically, there was no such reversal of fate for the estimated 11,000 Jews from Aegean Thrace and Macedonia, who did not have the protection afforded by Bulgarian citizenship. Already driven from their homes in March 1943, these individuals were transported through Bulgarian territory to the Nazi death camps. Madam Speaker, this month marks the 60th anniversary of Bulgarian resistance to the Holocaust. The people of Bulgaria

deserve our commendation for their selfless efforts to preserve such a threatened religious community, and in fact, the number of Jews living in Bulgaria actually increased during the Holocaust.

Bulgaria's record of tolerance was distorted by 40 years of communist misrule which culminated in the 1984–89 forcible assimilation campaign against its largest minority, the Turks. One of the first initiatives of the government following the fall of communism in November 1989 was the reversal of this brutal campaign. A return to the wholesale suppression of minority groups as exemplified by the forcible assimilation campaign is inconceivable today, and Bulgaria is a democracy that promotes respect for fundamental rights.

Last year, Bulgaria's Ambassador to the United States, Elena Poptodorova, testified before the Helsinki Commission regarding the ongoing efforts of her government to promote tolerance, consistent with Bulgaria's historical traditions. I have been particularly encouraged by Bulgaria's initiatives, in cooperation with leading non-governmental organizations, to promote the integration of Roma and non-Roma in schools. This work deserves the full support of the Bulgarian Government.

I am disappointed, however, that the Bulgarian Government has not yet adopted and implemented comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, even though it pledged to do so in early 1999 in a platform of action on Roma issues, and committed to do so in the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit document. Four years have come and gone since Bulgaria made those pledges, and it is past time for those pledges to be honored.

I am hopeful the Bulgarian Government will do more to combat violence motivated by racial or religious intolerance. Two cases of such violence, against Romani Pentecostals in Pazardjik, appear to have received only superficial attention from the authorities.

Madam Speaker, I also was disappointed to learn of the recent passage of a new religion law in Bulgaria. Several drafts of a religion law had laid relatively dormant until the last months of 2002, when the process was expedited. As a result, it is my understanding that minority faith communities were excluded from the drafting process and assurances to have the Council of Europe review the text again were ignored. The law is prejudiced against certain religious groups and falls well short of Bulgaria's OSCE commitments. The law also jeopardizes the legal status of the Orthodox synod not favored by the Government and its property holdings, as well as threatens fines for using the name of an existing religious organization without permission. New religious communities seeking to gain legal personality are now required to go through intrusive doctrinal reviews and cumbersome registration procedures, and co-religionists from abroad have been denied visas based on poorly written provisions.

Bulgaria's leadership on these various issues would be welcomed, especially in light of their plans to serve as Chair-in-Office of the OSCE in 2004. The United States is particularly appreciative of Bulgaria's firm stand against terrorism at this time, and we look forward to continued strong relations between our countries. The proud heritage stemming from the days of the Holocaust serves as a good reminder of the importance of taking stands which are right and true. Mr. Speaker,

I am pleased that this Congress is able to recognize that heritage and historical fact.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY BOGER, 29TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2003

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March. It is my great honor to recognize extraordinary women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today, to recognize an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Mary W. Boger. Ms. Boger's passion for community volunteerism, especially on behalf of children and education, has made the City of Glendale and surrounding areas a better place in which to live.

A product of the Glendale Unified School District, she attended Pasadena City College, then had a successful career in the business world. Mary and her husband, Dr. Donald Boger have raised eight children in total: JoAnn, Terry, Debbie, Scott, Elizabeth, Melanie, David, Charles, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A strong advocate of education, Ms. Boger has served on numerous school committees and task forces, including Citizens for Glendale Community College, and the School Facilities Bond Committee. In addition, she has volunteered with the Glendale Parent Teacher Association, Glendale Healthy Kids, Verdugo Hills Visiting Nurse Association, Safe Places and Glendale Youth Coalition. She is currently a member of the Glendale Unified School District Board of Education, serves on the Glendale YWCA Board of Directors, and is President of Las Candelas.

Mary has received many awards, including the Glendale News Press Woman of Achievement Award in 1998, the California Legislature's 43rd Assembly District Woman of the Year in 2000, and the Glendale Community College Alumni Association's Award of Merit for Career Achievement and Community Service.

The time, energy and love she gives to our community is extraordinary, and the residents of my district have benefited greatly from her dedicated service.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mary W. Boger. The entire community joins me in thanking Mary Boger for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a healthier and safer environment, especially for children, in which to live.

FAMILY FARM AND RANCH INNOVATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, I am again introducing legislation to help en-

sure our nation's family farms and ranches continue to produce the agricultural products that have made us the breadbasket for the world.

Small family farms and ranches helped build the foundation of America. Thomas Jefferson once wrote in a letter to George Washington, "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness." Today many small farms and ranches have disappeared. This is in part because the smaller farms and ranches have not been able to change to more profitable means of production. To continue as a viable business in agriculture farmers and ranchers need to be able to use modern techniques that increase profitability, and do it in a manner that is environmentally sound.

The Family Farm and Ranch Innovation Act (FFRJA) would provide necessary tools for small agriculture businesses to modernize and become more competitive in today's market, access to credit and a plan to turn the credit into increased revenue.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Commission on Small Farms report titled *A Time to Act* found, "The underlying trend toward small farm decline reflects fundamental technological and market changes. Simply put, conventional agriculture adds less and less value to food and fiber on the farm and more and more in the input and post-harvest sectors. We spend more on capital and inputs to enable fewer people to produce the Nation's food and look primarily to off farm processing to produce higher value products. Sustainable agriculture strives to change this trend by developing knowledge and strategies by which farmers can capture a large share of the agricultural dollar by using management skills to cut input costs—so a large share of the prices they receive for their products remain in their own pockets—and by producing products of higher value right from the farm." (In context of the report farms include ranches.)

The innovation plans in FFRJA, to be developed with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, would provide the blueprints to increase the value of farm and ranch outputs.

The report also found, "Agricultural operations require high levels of committed capital to achieve success. The capital-intensive nature of agricultural production makes access to financial capital, usually, in the form of credit, a critical requirement. Small farms are no different from larger farms in this regard, but testimony and USDA reports received by this Commission indicate a general under-capitalization of small farms, and increased difficulty in accessing sources of credit." If small farms and ranches are going to use improved technologies laid out in innovation plans they will need capital. The Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan program has a long history of helping small businesses and would be a great tool for small farmers and ranchers to implement their plans.

America's small farms and ranches need a hand up to remain viable in our rapidly changing marketplace. Often today's small agriculture businesses are family owned and have only a very small profit margin. The combination of low market prices for raw agricultural commodities and the rising cost of land means that many of these businesses cannot afford