

in 1976 at the age of 27. In 1980, she was elected to the Florida Senate where in 1996 she became the first woman ever elected as President of the Florida Senate. In 2000 she became the first senator ever to be elected to two consecutive terms as Senate President. Senators trusted Toni. The House leadership trusted Toni and the voters trusted Toni.

She was also the first woman Minority Leader in either house of the legislature serving two terms, from 1983–84 and from 1986–88 while in the Senate.

A former fifth-grade teacher, Toni was a strong champion of education issues in the Senate and earned a reputation as such. Toni instilled in every senator that there were no “Ds” or “Rs” in TEAM.

I am proud to say she’s the Lieutenant Governor of my state and I know Florida is lucky to have her. Congratulations, Toni.

SUPPORTING WORKERS

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the courage and strength of legal immigrant workers who immigrated to the United States to make life better. Throughout their struggles, they were filled with the promised optimism and freedom inherent in the American dream.

Today marks the two year anniversary of a unique American struggle. On March 19, 2001, Chinese Daily News workers, mostly immigrants from Taiwan, voted to select The Newspaper Guild of the Communications Workers of America to represent them for purposes of collective bargaining and to help them develop a more cohesive voice at work. I commend the tireless efforts of these workers as they continue to wrestle the overwhelming resources of a foreign employer committed to silencing their voices and thwarting their right to organize under U.S. labor law. This is unacceptable.

Foreign employers should not be given leeway to further erode the organizing rights of U.S. workers. Chinese Daily News employees put their faith in America and in U.S. labor law. At this pivotal juncture in our history, we should recognize the faith and allegiance of those legal immigrants who subscribe to our rule of law. These workers deserve our support. I urge management of the Chinese Daily News to sit down with the affected workers and immediately settle their differences.

REMEMBERING WILMA MUSGROVE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, pioneer aviation wife and South Dade avocado farmer, Wilma “Billie” Musgrove, died on March 6th in the arms of her son at the age of 86 after suffering several strokes. Born of Dutch parents in Holland, Michigan, she celebrated Tulip Time and the sand dunes and beaches of Lake Michigan. She caught the eye of aviator

Lester E. Musgrove and married him when she was 16 years old. She followed her barnstorming husband across the United States to air shows, wing walker exhibitions, air races and crop-dusting jobs. While Lester served in the U.S. Army Air Corps at the start of WWII, Billie raised their son, Bob, in Grand Rapids and worked their new property in South Dade.

After the war, the couple started their Redland avocado grove and they watched Bob grow to become a pilot. Billie purchased an air boat to hunt in the Everglades and enjoyed preparing feasts from her catches for family and friends.

Billie had a great love of the organ and piano which led her to entertain at Sunniland's Flame Restaurant and Homestead's Capri Restaurant with big band era favorites. A great joy was her immediate past presidency of South Florida's Organ Belles club and Light Aircraft Flyer's Association. Travels around the world added to her wonderful life.

Billie touched many lives and leaves great memories with those who were fortunate to know her. She will be sorely missed but always remembered with love. My heartfelt sympathies go out to her family for their tremendous loss.

THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION PROGRAM

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues that on April 26, 2003, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, DC, to compete in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program. This educational program is developed specifically to teach young people more about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and is administered by the Center for Civic Education. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by an act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that the class from Indiana Area High School from Indiana will represent the state of Pennsylvania in this national event. These young scholars have worked conscientiously to reach the national finals by participating at local and statewide competitions. As a result of their experience they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The 3-day We the People national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

The We the People program provides curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. The curriculum not only enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democ-

racy, it also helps them identify the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities, and cooperative learning techniques help develop participatory skills necessary for students to become active, responsible citizens.

The class from Indiana Area High School is currently preparing for their participation in the national competition in Washington, DC. It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles of our government, ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for future generations to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy. I wish these young “constitutional experts” the best of luck as they participate in the We the People national finals.

SUPPORT RANCHER DROUGHT TAX RELIEF

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, our Tax Code is unfairly penalizing livestock producers during the present drought that is affecting a large area of this great country. Under current law, ranchers who were forced to sell their cattle because of the drought are limited to a time period of just 2 years before they either have to pay taxes on that sale—or buy new livestock—even though the drought persists. The problem is, we are now in the third year of this drought, and there's no end in sight—experts have called this the worst drought in a century in many parts of the West, including my home, Wyoming. In fact, it is so bad out West that we had a city in Wyoming actually run out of water last summer. If the cities are out of water, imagine how hard it is for ranchers to raise their livestock on drought-ravaged land.

A good first step to help drought-stricken ranchers is to extend the period of time we allow for them to weather the drought. That's why I support the McNinnis amendment in H.R. 1308, the Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act of 2003, which would allow ranchers an additional 2 years to either replace their herd or pay a capital gains tax. The impact on the Treasury would be small, but the impact on Wyoming ranchers is huge. It is the difference between sinking and swimming. The 2-year limit in current law is unworkable in our present situation and serves as a disincentive to those who raise this valuable commodity that feeds millions of people. A poorly designed Tax Code should not force these small business men and women to choose between closing their doors or paying their tax bill.

Mr. Speaker, these are desperate times for our agricultural community, and they demand our attention. This change can provide hope to those who are on the verge of closing the barn doors for good. I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STEPHEN
PETER LYNCH

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret and sorrow that I announce to the House the passing of a good friend and former staff member, Stephen Peter Lynch.

Steve was a native of New Bedford, Massachusetts, the whaling and textile capital of the world. He was a Vietnam War Era Veteran and was recommended for the Seventh Army Commendation Medal. After his honorable discharge in 1970, he attended Saint Louis University in pursuit of a post-graduate degree in Political Science. He was a seasoned Capitol Hill staffer for almost thirty years and was an active member in the Irish community, along with many other civic efforts.

Steve's work on Capitol Hill began in the fall of 1973, where he served as a research assistant to the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Criminal Justice. There, his research on the Federal Rules of Evidence and the development of Special Prosecutor legislation were to hold the key to his work on Capitol Hill for the remainder of his professional career. In addition to his research duties, he also assisted in the investigations of the firing of Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, the pardon of President Richard M. Nixon, and the subsequent attempt to reopen the pardon investigation. This work also included being a special assistant to the Subcommittee Chairman on the impeachment investigation of Richard Nixon and serving as a Committee representative to the staff and security force of Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller during his Vice Presidential confirmation hearings.

His other service on Capitol Hill included: Staff Director on the Regulatory Agencies and Export Opportunities Subcommittees of the House Committee on Small Business (1975–1983); Minority Professional Staff Member on the Subcommittee on Export Opportunities and Special Small Business Problems, House Committee on Small Business (1984–1991); House Committee on Small Business, Minority Staff Director (1991–1993); and House Committee on Small Business, Majority Director of Special Projects (1994–1996).

In 1998, after a short retirement, Steve returned to Capitol Hill to serve on the House Judiciary Committee's staff on the Impeachment investigation of President Clinton, where he conducted research analysis and acted as the archivist for the Committee until 2001. His consummate knowledge of the history of the Nixon investigation made him invaluable to the committee.

As an active member of the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee of Washington, D.C. since 1983, Steve was instrumental in getting many prominent individuals to serve as parade Grand Marshal, including House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill (1986), the First Lady of the American Theater, Helen Hays (1987), and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Carmencita Hederman (1988). As Chairman of the Parade Committee (2000–2002), Steve expanded the parade's visibility nationally. He began by having a web site created, reorganizing and expanding the Committee, and establishing the office of Chairman Emeritus in tribute to past

parole chairmen and naming Cecilia Farley as the first Emeritus.

Steve's participation in the Irish-American community went beyond his parade activities. He was a founding member of the American Foundation for Irish Heritage with the late John O'Beirne. Since 1990, Steve served as Secretary on the Board of Directors. The American Foundation for Irish Heritage was instrumental in getting Congressional legislation passed to designate March as "Irish-American Heritage Month" by Presidential Proclamation.

In addition to pursuing his Irish roots, Steve also shared his love for people and history by volunteering with other organizations. He served as co-chairman of the Friends of the Negro League Baseball Players Association, as well as historian for the Capitol Hill Philatelic Society.

Steve passed away on March 9, 2003, at his home in Takoma Park, Maryland. He is survived by his sister, Diana L. Coyne; his niece, Elizabeth Coyne; his nephew, Michael Coyne; brother-in-law, Jay Coyne, and half-brother, Frank Lynch.

All of us who knew Steve enjoyed his warm and caring spirit. We will miss him. I conclude with the old Irish Blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
Godspeed, old friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall numbers 65, 66 and 67. I was unavoidably detained and was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall numbers 65, 66 and 67.

HONORING PHILLIP HALLE

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Phillip Halle, a community leader, political activist, loving family man, and a great Floridian. Born originally in New York, Mr. Halle moved to Florida after practicing law in New York City for many years.

Mr. Halle will be long remembered by residents of Plantation for his staunch commitment to civic affairs in the town and in the greater region of South Florida. Over the years, Halle fulfilled numerous civic posts. As a prominent member of the Lauderdale West community in Plantation, Halle served as their representative to the city and to the Broward County Commission.

In addition to representing his local community, Phillip Halle was once named chairman of the Broward County Consumer Protection Board and the Sanitary and Health Control

Board. Clearly, Halle felt passionate about serving his community and helping his neighbors.

Halle volunteered his time and resources to various causes, including acting as president emeritus of the Broward Coalition of Condominiums, a group representing 67 condominium groups, and being director of the Jewish National Fund, B'nai B'rith, and Temple Beth Israel.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a special occasion for me to honor Mr. Halle. His earnest efforts to assist his neighbors and be active in the community serves as an example to us all. His enthusiasm and dedication to many causes will be a legacy that stands to last forever.

Mr. Halle is survived by his wife of 71 years, Kate Halle, along with son Michael Halle and daughter Gilda Siegel, in addition to seven grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHE-
VILLE MEN'S BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of the University of North Carolina at Asheville Men's Basketball Team. In the University's rich seventy-six year history, the 2002–2003 Men's Basketball Team is the first to represent the school in the NCAA Tournament.

This accomplishment was achieved through the incredible effort the men's team demonstrated during the Big South Conference Tournament. The team had three consecutive wins and defeated Radford University, 85–71, to clinch the Big South Conference title.

Not only did the men's team win their division championship, but they continue to represent the school well in the NCAA Tournament. The UNC-A Men's Team, on Tuesday, March 18, 2003, defeated Texas Southern, 92–84.

This proud moment in the University's history could not have been achieved without the leadership and effort of several individuals. Coach Eddie Biedenbach and his assistant coaches, Thomas Nash and Nicholas McDevitt, have done an incredible job guiding these outstanding men. In addition, the support of Chancellor James Mullen, Athletic Director Dr. Joni Comstock and her staff, and Drs. Eric Iovacchini and Kevan Frazier with the Office of Student Affairs have been instrumental in the success of the program.

Finally, I would like to mention the Senior leadership of the men's basketball team. Andre Smith, Alex Kragel, and Ben McGonagil have devoted themselves to this team, to this effort, and to this University. On behalf of North Carolina's Eleventh District, I would like to congratulate the team, the staff, and the student body on their success, both present and future.