

school of pharmacy at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, the first professional school in South Texas. She also was a driving force in securing passage of the 10 percent plan, which makes the top 10 percent of students in every high school eligible for admission to any state college or university, in the wake of the devastating Hopwood decision.

Representative Rangel grew up in Kingsville, Texas. Her father picked cotton and learned to read and write on his own and later owned several businesses. In 1952, she received a degree in business administration from Texas A&I University (now Texas A&M University-Kingsville). She was a teacher for 14 years in schools in Robstown and Alice, Texas, in Venezuela and in Menlo Park, California. She earned a law degree from St. Mary University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas in 1969; she later served as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Adrian A. Spears and as an assistant district attorney in Nueces County before opening her own law practice.

During her lifetime, Representative Rangel received many professional honors. She was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1994. Other awards include the Legislator of the Year award from the Mexican American Bar Association of Texas; Women's Political Caucus' Texas Mexican-American Woman of the Year in 1979; *Unsung Heroines Award* in 1991 from the Women's Advocacy Project; *Latina Lawyer of the Year* from the Hispanic National Bar Association; and *Texas Woman of the Century* from the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas.

Her commitment to the people and families of South Texas, especially in improving access to higher education, has left a lasting legacy. Irma Rangel will be remembered as a woman who, through her lifetime of work and service, demonstrated her commitment to community. We will all miss her.

MR. RICHARD WITTENBERG HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today we rise to recognize the achievements of Richard Wittenberg, County Executive for Santa Clara County. Mr. Wittenberg is retiring after 8 years of dedicated service to the people of Santa Clara County.

When ZOE LOFGREN was on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, she searched the state of California to find Richard. In the years that followed, Richard won the hearts of many elected officials by responding quickly to their needs, having high ethical standards and working to build consensus.

Richard came to Santa Clara County from Ventura County, California where he was the Chief Executive Officer for 16 years. During his tenure there, he held various offices of the County Administrative Officers Association of California; was a member of the Commission on California Public-Private Partnership; and a member of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Advisory Committee.

A leader in the community as well as in his field, Richard has volunteered for the United Way, as a board member for the Brandeis-Bardin Institute, Boy Scouts of America, and as a board member of the Anti-Defamation League.

Richard leaves Santa Clara County in better shape than he arrived: the County Executive now oversees a staff of 16,000 and a \$3.8 billion budget that covers the operations of parks, libraries and the sheriff's department, as well as the region's neediest residents.

Under Richard Wittenberg's dedicated leadership, Santa Clara County earned the highest bond ratings issued to any county in the state, garnering an AA+ from Standard and Poor's, and a AA2 from Moody's. Meanwhile, reserves grew from \$12 million in the mid-1990's to \$96 million in 2002.

We wish to thank Richard Wittenberg for his tireless and loyal service to the County and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Though we will miss his creativity, expertise and commitment, his dedication has left its mark on Santa Clara County.

TRIBUTE TO THE REPUBLIC OF
TUNISIA

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Republic of Tunisia, who is today celebrating the 47th anniversary of its independence. Mr. Speaker, the relationship between the United States and Tunisia is based on friendship and cooperation that dates back centuries ago. I am pleased that the ties between Tunisia and the United States continues to be strong. As the United States embarks on its quest to fight the scourge of terrorism, it is comforting to know that Tunisia is also committed to join the United States in this fight.

I also would like to take this opportunity to applaud Tunisia in its effort to promote democratic governance in the region. Tunisia is one of the leading North African countries that has increased its literacy and life expectancy rates and drastically reduced the mortality rates for Tunisian children under five.

Once again, I rise to commemorate Tunisia on its 47th anniversary. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO LEON BRIDGES

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, as I listen to the constant references to "tax breaks for the rich" and "big business" in the speeches of those that oppose the President's Economic

Growth Package, I can't help but think of my constituent Leon Bridges.

Leon is not rich and his business is not big, but like millions of hard working Americans he is the heart and soul of the American Economy. Leon Bridges is a homebuilder and developer who employs carpenters, mason, and laborers to build homes that shelter families in my district. He borrows money to build from our community banks, and guarantees its repayment through the long hours he works. When his houses and lots sell and he makes a profit, he pays the taxes that fund the government we in this House oversee.

Leon Bridges and the millions of taxpayers like him deserve the President's Economic Growth Package and the tax reductions it includes. While some choose to demonize those who work hard, take risks, and provide jobs, I believe we should reward them—for it is they that make America prosper.

WHEN WAR COMES

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of the sad events leading up to this war, I have fought as a U.S. Congressman and with an enduring sense of duty and compassion for all Americans, to oppose a war that I believe is unjust and unnecessary at this time.

Now that the fighting has begun and the brave men and women of our armed forces go forward into harm's way, we must honor their sacrifices and we humbly salute their service.

As Americans we are united in prayers for their safe return. And we hope that a victory will lead us to a different era when violence will be replaced by a new vision of justice, tolerance, security and peace, for all people.

As I support our troops' dedication to service and commitment to getting the job done with as little loss of life as possible, as a Congressman and as an American I remain convinced that diplomacy should always be primary and war secondary.

Sometimes the course of history cannot be changed and nations on a collision course cannot be diverted from each other. This is one of those times. However, this too shall pass.

As we look toward the future, as we pledge to help rebuild a post-war Iraq, I would sincerely urge the Bush Administration to also work to rebuild our relationship with the people and countries that comprise the United Nations.

Already, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan is offering his hand in cooperation. Today, he said, "Let us not dwell on the divisions of the past. Let us confront the harsh realities of the present, however harsh, and look for ways to forge stronger unity in the future.

Also, he said, "The peoples of the world . . . have made clear that . . . they want to see power harnessed to legitimacy. They want their leaders to come together, in the United Nations, to resolve the problems shared by all humanity," the Secretary-General said.

And I agree.

It is only through mutual respect and cooperation between nations that we can mount a sustained fight to end global acts of terrorism.

And at the same time we must fully address those problems and political ideologies that breed terrorists so this problem will end.

As the last remaining superpower on earth—a giant among nations—I believe we must err on the side of caution rather than risk undo injury to smaller nations that are hapless before the will of a giant, a superpower.

Again, Mr. Speaker . . . now that the fighting has begun and the brave men and women of our armed forces go forward into harm's way, we must honor their sacrifices and we humbly salute their service.

And as Americans we are united in prayers for their safe return.

God bless all the people of this earth and may the peacemakers who emerge from this conflict carry the future, for the good of all humankind.

HONORING DEBBIE ULIBARRI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Debbie Ulibarri of Trinidad, Colorado. A teacher at Trinidad State Junior College, Debbie is an inspiration to her students, and a reminder of the important opportunities our community colleges provide. She has done much to promote the importance of higher education in my district, and today I would like to highlight her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Debbie's story demonstrates the influential role of community colleges in our nation's communities. She arrived on the campus of Trinidad State Junior College in 1992, apprehensive about returning to school after twenty years in the workforce. Debbie found a welcoming attitude at TSJC that assuaged her fears and opened up worlds she had never dreamed of. Debbie earned her GED and two associates degrees at TSJC, and began teaching math in TSJC's Math Lab while still a student there. Debbie went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in mathematics from New Mexico Highlands University and a masters degree from Regis University. As one of the school's success stories, Debbie returned to TSJC as a full-time math instructor. She has been an innovative teacher of algebra, trigonometry and statistics, seamlessly incorporating technology into her classroom and creating on-line classes for students from all over the country. Debbie has also stepped into a leadership role at the college, serving as TSJC's accreditation coordinator as well as the math and science division chair. In recognition of her efforts, Debbie was selected at TSJC's Faculty of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, our nation's community colleges are learning centers for a wide variety of both traditional and non-traditional students, helping them achieve their goals. Debbie Ulibarri is a perfect example of how these institutions can help enhance and change a life, and it is a great privilege to salute Debbie before this body of Congress and this nation for her achievements as both a student and teacher.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN F. CORESSEL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman, and good friend, from Ohio. Justin Coressel will turn 100 this Monday, March 24th. At the young age of 100, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Coressel is one of the most active and most recognized people in Northwest Ohio.

Look up the word "humanitarian" in the dictionary—and you will see Justin's picture. He has dedicated the better part of his life to making this world a better place for others.

Justin F. Coressel was born on March 24, 1903, in Defiance County's Richland Township. He is the son of Frank and Anna Coressel. Mr. Coressel graduated from Jewell High School and attended The Ohio State University.

Mr. Coressel was the area representative for a Paulding sugar refinery and was associated with United Appraisal Co. and J.B. Cleminshaw Co., both of Cleveland. Justin worked in their farm appraisal departments, and did right-of-way appraisals for the Ohio Highway Department. He also served as an adjuster with Federal Crop Insurance Corp. and as a farm income tax consultant. He was also farm operator for many years and is a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker, Justin served as President of the Board of Directors at Jewell Grain Co. and was Defiance County Chairman for the Ohio Council for Education. He is a former member and Vice-President of the Board of Directors at the Home Saving and Loan Association of Defiance and was a member of the Board of Directors at Hudson Products, Inc. Mr. Coressel is also a former member of the Board of Trustees at Defiance College. The Justin F. Coressel Football Stadium at Defiance College was named in his honor. Mr. Coressel has also provided lead gifts to fund the football stadium at Tinora High School and the Defiance County Human Shelter, both of which are named in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, Justin Coressel was a Richland Township Trustee for three terms, Secretary of Defiance County Township Trustees and Clerks Association, and Commissioner of Jurors in Defiance County. His lifetime memberships include the Ohio Historical Society, Defiance County Historical Society, Defiance County Humane Society, Jewell Volunteer Fire Department, and the Tinora Athletic Boosters. A member of Defiance Rotary, he served two terms on its Board of Directors, was the first Chairman of the Defiance Rotary Student Foundation, and was the first Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International in District 660. Mr. Justin F. Coressel also organized Rotary 65 and served as its first President.

A member of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, he was appointed delegate to the International Rural Life Conference in Rome, Italy, in 1967. He is a member and past Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus

Council 1039. Currently, Mr. Coressel is providing numerous student college scholarships and serves as Chairman of the Justin F. Coressel Charitable Trust.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Justin F. Coressel. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Justin, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Justin all the best as we pay him tribute on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

H.R. 1104, THE CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1104, the Child Abduction Prevention Act, which strengthens the punishment and consequences of criminals who dare to harm our children. An important provision in H.R. 1104 doubles the authorization level for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), which serves as the national resource center and clearinghouse to aid missing and exploited children and their families.

The Center is a private, non-profit organization, mandated by Congress, working in cooperation with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention within the U.S. Department of Justice. It is a critical resource for aiding over 18,000 law enforcement agencies throughout the nation in their search for missing children.

According to statistical data from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, from its inception in 1984 through the end of 2002, the Center handled 1,718,784 telephone calls through its national Hotline, 1-800-THE-LOST; trained 179,685 police and other professionals; and distributed 27,834,762 free, issue-based publications. The Center has also worked with law enforcement on 87,513 missing child cases, resulting in the recovery of 71,141 children—an incredible success rate of more than 80 percent.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is uniquely positioned to access vital information to aid in the search and recovery of missing kids. It is the only child protection non-profit organization with access to the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Missing Person, Wanted Person, and Unidentified Person Files; the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS); and the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS). Additionally, it is the only organization operating a 24-hour, toll-free Hotline for the recovery of missing children in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice. It is also the sole organization operating a 24-hour, toll-free child pornography tip-line in cooperation with the U.S. Customs Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Clearly, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children does our country and our nation's families a great service, and I urge my colleagues to assist the Center by supporting H.R. 1104.