

and her commitment to public's right to access their government. Monterey County is a far better government because of her service. I join all the Supervisors she served under in wishing her husband Larry, her son Lance and her grandchildren a great new life together and thanking her for making the job of Clerk of the Board an exemplary one.

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL LARSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor to stand before this Congress today and honor an individual who knows the meaning of sacrifice, duty, and honor. In 1942 Russell Larson was a 17-year-old high school junior with a lot to look forward to. He was a young man who loved his country, a country that had recently been forced into World War II. Motivated by his deep sense of patriotism, Russell quit school, joined the Navy, and spent the next six years in service to his nation.

When Russell came home from the war, he married his beloved Marie and eventually settled down as a splicer for the phone company, a job he held for 31 years. Today Russell and Marie are the proud parents of two children and three grandchildren. They live in Grand Junction, Colorado, where they are retired and enjoy bowling, traveling, and staying fit. Despite all of their blessings, there is one thing that has eluded Russell—the diploma he sacrificed in the service of his country.

Russell gave up the chance to graduate from high school 50 years ago when he entered our armed forces—or so he thought. This week, at the age of 77, Russell Larson will march in ceremonies at Fruita Monument High School to receive his high school diploma. Thanks to a law recently passed by the state of Colorado, Russell and his fellow veterans who left high school early in the service of their nation can now receive their high school diploma.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Russell Larson and commend him for his service to his country. He and the other heroes of "the greatest generation" defeated totalitarianism and fascism, ensuring the freedom of all Americans. Russell left the simple pleasures of being a high school student for the serious work of defending this great nation. It gives me great pleasure to honor Russell and offer my congratulations on his graduation. We will always be grateful for his service.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S TRIENNIAL REVIEW

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the telecommunications sector of the economy has taken a real battering. Market caps are a fraction of what they were 2 or 3 years ago. Companies such as Lucent continue to lay off employees and cut back operations. Even the

large telephone companies have taken significant hits in the market and laid off thousands.

The Federal Communications Commission had an opportunity to give these companies a boost. In its Triennial Review decision, it could have eliminated some regulations that have stifled investment and created uncertainty.

Unfortunately they did not, and to make matters worse, here we are 3 months later and we still have not seen the FCC's final order. The telecom sector continues to languish under burdensome outdated regulations.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital to our nation's economy that we promote policies that will encourage investment and create jobs and reviving the telecom sector is an important part of rejuvenating the nation's economy.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RALPH W. THOMPSON III

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ralph W. Thompson III for his ongoing contributions to the Monterey Peninsula in my Central California district. On May 19th, 2003, the Monterey County Bar Association will honor Mr. Thompson with the Chief Justice Phil Gibson award. The award is named in honor of the late California Supreme Court Chief Justice and Carmel neighbor of my parents, Phil Gibson. Chief Justice Gibson served from 1939 to 1964 and was known for his comprehensive reorganization of the California court system and for his lonely stance against the internment of Japanese-American citizens during WWII. The award recognizes service in the legal profession that follows in the tradition of integrity and innovation set by Chief Justice Gibson.

Mr. Thompson has practiced law in Monterey, California, for many years. He is a graduate of Loma Linda University and California Western School of Law. He also holds a California teaching credential. His professional career has included stints with the U.S. Treasury Department, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office, and various teaching positions with Monterey Peninsula College, Golden Gate University, and the University of California. But the bedrock of Mr. Thompson's career has been his stellar legal practice helping the people of Monterey County.

Mr. Thompson enjoys the very highest reputation amongst his peers. He is known for his high ethical standards, fair client representation, and universal courtesy. He is also an innovator in his field, having founded one of the leading mediation and arbitration practices in Central California. He has served in numerous professional leadership positions, including president of the Monterey County Trial Lawyers Association, the Monterey County Bar Association, and a member of the Consumer Attorneys of California Board of Governors.

Beyond the professional achievements, Mr. Thompson has been a leader in the community. He has served in leadership roles with Legal Services for Seniors, the American Cancer Society of Monterey, the Monterey Bay Center for the Arts, Rotary, and the Pacific Grove Unified School District. The totality of this service, both professional and public, war-

rants the recognition of the Gibson award as well as this House.

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to inform this body today of a truly exceptional hospital from my district. Community Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado has recently been recognized in the 100 Top Hospitals Study for its consistent quality of care and efficient operations. The study noted that if other hospitals gave the same quality care as Community Hospital and the others on this list, about 66,000 lives could be saved every year. At the same time, healthcare costs would decrease by about \$8.9 billion.

Community Hospital has also recently won four "Patient First Awards" for its leadership in the healthcare community. These areas—inpatient services, ambulatory surgery, outpatient tests and treatment, and emergency services—are indicative of the overall high quality of care that patients receive at Community Hospital. Although this great facility won "Patient First Awards" for a hospital of its size, its inpatient services were ranked first overall for hospitals in the survey, regardless of size.

Mr. Speaker, no matter how you measure it, Community Hospital sets a standard of excellence. The hospital is a vital part of the Grand Junction Community, and I am truly honored to recognize such an outstanding healthcare provider and its outstanding team of dedicated employees here today.

TRIBUTE TO EAST HIGH SCHOOL TEAM IN THE WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CON- STITUTION 2003 NATIONAL FINALS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, on April 26–28 2003, more than 1200 students from across the United States visited Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by an Act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that the class from East High School in Denver, representing the State of Colorado won the Mountain/Plains Regions award at the finals. This award is presented to the school in each of five geographic regions with the highest cumulative score during the first two days of the national finals. These outstanding students competed against 48 other classes from throughout the nation and demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of America constitutional government. 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 students are Nate Allen, James Berry, Andrew Brown, Ryan Buescher, Susan Creighton, Patrick Cunningham, Ashley Eppler, Kari Fulton, Joseph Garvin, Steve Harlor, Russell Hedman, Alex Home, Ali Kimmell, Eimear Lynch, Suzanne McCartney, Jacob Pearson, Emily Schulman, Joseph Tabano, Marta Thompson, Maria Velazquez and Trevor Wolfson. Kudos to them and their leader, East High teacher Edna Sutton. I would also like to recognize the State Coordinator Jackie Johnson and District Coordinator Loyal Darr whose hard work and dedication helps make it all possible.

The three-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 democracy, 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.

Independent studies by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) revealed that students enrolled in the We the People program at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels "significantly outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests taken." Another study by Richard Brody at Stanford University discovered that students involved in the We the People program develop greater commitment to democratic principles and values than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches.

The class from East High School is currently preparing for their participation in the national competition. 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 at the We the People national finals.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH GUYTON GIRCH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Elizabeth Guyton Girch of Rocky Ford, Colorado. Elizabeth gave selflessly of her time and her money in order to help the developmentally disabled. Elizabeth also distinguished herself and made Colorado proud as one of the first women in the state to become an attorney. Several years ago, Denver University honored Elizabeth's achievements, presenting her with the first Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award for excellence and accomplishment by female attorneys.

It is not Elizabeth's accomplishments as a woman that I wish to extol here today; though they are a testament to her tenacity. Instead, I wish to honor a life that helped protect some of the most disadvantaged members of our society, the developmentally disabled. Elizabeth was instrumental in establishing the Arkansas Valley Community Center, which serves people in the counties of Otero, Bent and Crowley. This was the culmination of her many years advocating for the developmentally disabled.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Elizabeth Guyton Girch, but we take comfort in the knowledge that Elizabeth's legacy of compassion, courage and selflessness overshadows our grief. Elizabeth's life embodied both the resolve and the empathy that makes this country great, and I am deeply honored to be able to recognize Elizabeth's life before this body of Congress.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1527) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board for fiscal years 2003 through 2006, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my deep frustration with the Majority's refusal to bring legislation to the Floor that will extend unemployment benefits for the nation's unemployed workers.

Two point seven million jobs have been lost in the first two years of this Administration. Millions of working men and women are facing difficult budget decisions in their own homes everyday. Parents are wondering if they will be able to send their children to college. They are wondering how they will pay their bills without spiraling further into debt. Yet the Republican Majority and this White House insist on more tax cuts. Mr. Chairman, our constituents have to balance their checkbooks each month. We could learn a lot from their example.

New York City has faced especially difficult times during the past two years. I have heard countless stories from my constituents who cannot find jobs in this uncertain economy. The effects of 9/11, especially on New Yorkers, cannot be ignored.

Why can't the House leadership bring to the Floor legislation that will actually help workers? It's time to help thousands of New York families and families across the country keep their homes, put food on the table, and avoid a devastating financial crisis.

It's time for the leadership to get serious about unemployment relief and to give us the opportunity to vote for legislation that will make a difference in the lives of workers.

I wholeheartedly support legislation introduced by Congressman RANGEL which would extend Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation for an additional 6 months. We must provide this necessary relief to America's unemployed.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a "no" vote on the previous question.

CONVEYANCE OF DECOMMISSIONED COAST GUARD CUTTER

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Teusday, May 13, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 517, and to honor the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Bramble* and her crew for its many years of faithful service. Commissioned in 1944, the *Bramble* began her service in San Diego providing navigational assistance.

In 1957, the Coast Guard Cutters *Spar* and *Storis* joined the *Bramble* for a historic journey around the northern coast of Canada from the Pacific to the Atlantic. This trip lasted 64 days and made the trio the first surface ships to circumnavigate the continent of North America.

After her historic and successful mission, the *Bramble* was relocated to Detroit in 1962, and Port Huron in 1975, where the *Bramble* would finish her career. Through her primary mission of aiding navigation, the *Bramble* has assisted merchant and private vessels as they navigate the Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron, and Lake Erie. The *Bramble* has also provided much needed assistance with law enforcement operations, ice breaking, and by serving as the Patrol Commander for the Port Huron to Mackinac Sailboat race.

The *Bramble* will now be placed in the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History, and will open its doors to allow the public a glimpse of history. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I would like to again honor the BRAMBLE and her for her many years of service in the Great Lakes.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SGT. JOE GARZA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to another fallen soldier who gave the last full