served as Chairman of the San Mateo County Council of Mayors and the Co-Chairman of Redwood City's Aesthetics and Beautification Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to have known Dick Claire for over thirty years and to call him my friend and my colleague in public service. He is a source of great pride to our entire community and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and thanking Mayor Claire for his extraordinary service to Redwood City, to California, and to our country. Because of him and his distinguished service, we are a stronger community and a better people.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I will vote for this supplemental spending bill because I believe we have an obligation to support our troops. I am proud of our brave men and women in uniform, but I am disappointed that the President has not assembled a greater international coalition to share the cost of policing and rebuilding Iraq. American troops and taxpayers should not bear this heavy burden alone. We are spending nearly $1 billion each week and 2 to 3 American lives each day to continue this effort.

Mr. Chairman, our military personnel are putting their lives on the line to maintain order in Iraq. Nearly 200 soldiers have died in bombings, ambushes and other hostile incidents since the President declared an end to major combat operations. We owe our brave men and women a deep debt of gratitude. But we also owe them a sustained diplomatic effort to ensure that our allies will share the peacekeeping burden in Iraq.

I also believe it is wrong to ask the American taxpayers to bear the full financial burden of rebuilding Iraq. That is why I supported an amendment which would have converted half of the reconstruction aid to a loan. That is also the reason I have consistently urged the President to involve our allies in the reconstruction effort. We should help the Iraqi people rebuild their country. But we shouldn't do it alone.

Mr. Chairman, I am also concerned about the future costs of the Iraq effort. It is imperative that the Administration provide Congress with a realistic estimate of future reconstruction costs. Congress and the American people need this information in order to assess the impact our Iraq programs will have on our 2004 budget, which is projected to be more than a half trillion dollars in deficit.

Mr. Chairman, I support this legislation because I support our troops. These funds will help to ensure that our military personnel have the equipment they need to complete their mission in Iraq. But in the long run, the best thing we can do for our men and women in uniform is to more fairly share the peacekeeping burden with our allies.

TRIBUTE TO BOB KUUSINEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this Nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Bob Kuusinen of Steamboat Springs, Colorado recently announced his retirement from the Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation. Bob has been a faithful and dedicated member of the Steamboat community, and I am honored to pay tribute to his accomplishments here today.

Bob began his career in Steamboat over thirty-one years ago as a cook at Thunderhead Lodge. Over the years, Bob's hard work has helped him to make his way up the ranks. Today, he retires as the Senior Vice President of Steamboat Ski Area Operations. In this role, Bob was responsible for overseeing the operations and functions of one of Colorado's best-loved ski resorts.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Kuusinen stands as an example of the American Dream: if you work hard and remain dedicated and steadfast, there is no limit to what you can accomplish. Bob has helped make Steamboat Springs one of the premiere ski resorts in the nation, and I am honored to join with my colleagues in wishing Bob the very best as he prepares to begin his retirement.