American workers onto the custom-made fly fishing rods that so many sportsmen enjoy. Mr. Speaker, it just doesn't make sense that Customs would charge a 6 percent tariff on a pre-finished product while levying a much-higher 14 percent duty on a good that is finished with American hands.

In my own district, REC Components of Enfield (CT) employs more than twenty highly skilled individuals to create such fly fishing rods. Mr. Speaker, REC Components and the working men and women at the company are dependent upon imported cork. The current duty being levied upon such cork jeopardizes this company and these jobs. Other manufacturers in this industry face the same problem. Whether in Wisconsin, Washington, Montana, or Georgia, small businesses are being made to bear this unfair burden for no good reason.

This is why my legislation has such bipartisan, national support, including the American Sportfishing Association, the American Fly Fishing Trade Association, and the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, It has always been my understanding that Customs duties were established to protect American industry. If cork is not available in the United States and it is the only product that can be used to manufacture the grips on fly fishing rods, I fail to see why we are charging such a duty.

At a time when many Americans are still experiencing economic insecurity, it is critical that we take steps in the Congress to create more jobs and strengthen the ones we have. While Congress is working to craft a jobs and growth package, we also must consider other measures that, although less comprehensive, similarly take steps to boost our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of small businesses, American workers, outdoor retailers, sportsmen everywhere. Support the ''Stick A Cork In The Cork Tariff Act of 2003.''

TRIBUTE TO TOMMY NELSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to one of Nevada's finest. One of the legends of the west passed on to his reward last week. Ninety-year-old Tommy Nelson came to Nevada in 1931 to help build the mighty Hoover Dam and wound up being employed forty years on the site. Tommy was an outstanding individual who was admired by all who knew him. He was also an excellent musician and played his trumpet at many patriotic ceremonies and funerals of our service men and women.

Nevada has lost a great American whose spirit will live on in the hearts of Nevadans.

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY A. CROWTHER

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, Peggy A. Crowther has served, with distinction, as the Executive Director of the Rotary Club of Sacramento since August 1991. Established in 1913, this club is one of the oldest Rotary Clubs in the world, and the 12th largest, made up of nearly 500 members representing the top business, civic, and professional leaders in the region.

In May 2003, Peggy will be retiring to enjoy the personal passions of her life . . . husband Bob, her children, and grandchild, travel, and golf . . . to name only a few of her interests. What she leaves behind is a legacy of leadership that will be missed by all who came to rely on her professionalism, graciousness, and warm smile.

Devotion to the non-profit world has always been her passion, and is reflected throughout her life. Born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, she began her career as associate director of the YWCA, and YMCA, and then continued in that capacity in Salt Lake City, Modesto and Fresno, California. For a time she worked as director of development for Central Catholic High School in Modesto, before becoming district chief of staff for a State Assemblyman. Her next move was to Sacramento where she became the director of development of United Cerebral Palsy.

It was in 1988, that Peggy joined the Rotary Club of Modesto, but her involvement with Rotary began earlier when she assisted her husband with the leadership of a Group Study Exchange Team to Melbourne, Australia. As women were welcomed into Rotary, she was one of the first to join, and with the move to Sacramento, became a member here in April 1991.

During this past 12 years, with Peggy's dedication, patience, and guidance, the Rotary Club of Sacramento has continued to grow in membership, prestige, and has been a contributor of well over two million dollars to the local and world community. Leadership within the membership changes yearly, but Peggy has continued to be the one person that we have all come to appreciate as the significant contributor of our success. None of us will forget how we have come to rely on her organizational skills, her adeptness at multi-tasking, problem solving, and talent for diplomacy as she interfaces with hundreds of volunteers . . . all of which she greets by name at our weekly meetings.

We thank you, Peggy, and wish you and your family all the blessings life has to offer.

JOHN J. MCGUIRK DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the naming of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Community Based Outreach Clinic, located on the grounds of the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, as the ''John J. McGuirk Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.''

As an enlisted salvage diver in the United States Navy during World War II, John McGuirk worked his way across the South Pacific from Pearl Harbor to Manila, Philippines aboard the USS Layson Island. For his service, John was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, American Theatre Medal, Asiatic Pacific Theatre Medal and Philippine Liberation Medal.

When John J. McGuirk's contractual obligation to the United States Navy ended with an honorable discharge, his personal obligation to his country and fellow veterans' remained engraved upon his heart and became a lifelong commitment.

His efforts helped to contribute to the VA Connecticut Healthcare system planning and operating a series of CBOC's across the state, providing primary care on a daily basis. Additionally, John played an instrumental role in the opening of the Veterans' Outreach Clinic located at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT.

John actively served in Post #9 American Legion for the remainder of his life: twice as the Legion's Commander, additionally as the Finance officer and the Service officer. He was also a member of the Disabled Veterans of America and U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc.

Mr. Speaker, John J. McGuirk was constant in his mission to serve his nation and fellow veterans. On behalf of the Members of the Connecticut House delegation, Disabled Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and AMVETS, I would like to extend the opportunity for Members of the Subcommittee to support this measure and honor the memory of John J. McGuirk.

RECOGNIZING BOULDER CITY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Boulder City on a number of awards it has received over the last year. I have had the tremendous honor of representing Boulder City as a Councilman, Mayor, and now as Congressman. The following awards show the quality of life Boulder City is famous for. These awards include: the Howland Award, given by the National League of Cities to the best small community in the country; the ''Excellence in Aquatics Award'' from the National Recreation and Parks Association. This honor was given for the exceptional quality of all the aquatic programs offered through the Parks and Recreation Department; the ''Excellence in Education Hall of Fame Award'' from the Clark County School District; the Boulder City Municipal Golf Course was recognized statewide as number 10 in top values throughout the State and best course under $100 in southern Nevada by the ''Las Vegas Golfer Magazine;'' National Geographic Adventure Magazine named Boulder City's Bootleg Canyon Mountain Bike Trail facility as one of the top 50 Favorite Adventure Places, November, 2002.

I urge my colleagues in this House and people across the country to visit Boulder City, Nevada, and see this wonderful, award-winning community first hand.