

at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and at festivals in Great Britain and Israel.

Finally, he served for many years on the board of trustees for the University of South Alabama and fought tirelessly for the interests of the thousands of students, faculty members, and staff who have been involved in the life of that institution since its founding in the early 1960s.

Mr. Speaker, during my twenty years of work in the House of Representative, both as a staffer and now as the representative for Alabama's First Congressional District, I have met few public servants as committed and dedicated to the well-being of their community as Judge Otha Lee Biggs. With a tenacity and work ethic matched only by his kindness and generosity, he truly represents the finest example of both a southern gentleman and fine public servant. I have certainly learned a great deal from him during our many years of association, and have during that time been proud and deeply honored to develop a strong friendship with him. Monroe County and, indeed, all of South Alabama have benefited greatly from his experience and wisdom, and he has been a great friend to many people.

Along with his many friends and colleagues, not only in the Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association but throughout the State of Alabama, I wish to extend to Judge Otha Lee Biggs my warmest congratulations on the receipt of the Dr. R.F. Henry Outstanding Service Award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE RIFLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to the Rifle Area Chamber of Commerce in Rifle, Colorado. The Chamber recently celebrated 50 years of service to the City of Rifle, and it is my honor to call the attention of my colleagues and this nation to all that the Chamber does for the citizens of Rifle.

The Chamber has a strong tradition of excellent leadership and a dedicated staff. Since its inception, the Chamber has focused on the organization and health of Rifle's economy and its able and dedicated staff members always greet each citizen with a smile. In addition to its traditional activities, the Rifle Chamber of Commerce has always gone beyond the call of duty to be involved in the community. This anniversary celebration also marks a milestone for the only remaining charter member since 1954, John Scalzo. John's service to the chamber and to the city of Rifle has been much appreciated and invaluable, and I know the community is thankful for his service.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise and pay tribute to the Rifle Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber works tirelessly for the betterment of the city of Rifle and I am honored to pay tribute to its contributions today. Congratulations on your anniversary and keep up the hard work.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS LUIS A. MORENO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Private First Class Luis Moreno, a Dominican American who gave his life while serving our country in Iraq.

Pfc. Moreno, who was only 19 years old, was born in the Dominican Republic but immigrated to this country with his family in 1991 in search of a better life. Hoping one day to serve as a police officer, Pfc. Moreno made the courageous decision to dedicate his life to protecting the lives of others.

Pfc. Moreno enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating from Taft High School in the Bronx. He had been deployed in Baghdad for only three months with the Army's 1st Armored Division before his untimely death.

Mr. Speaker, I was inspired by this young man's courage and conviction and sadly reminded of the high cost of war. Pfc. Moreno, like so many other young soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. As we mourn the life of this brave soldier, let us remember the sacrifices of all our service members and work to ensure that their heroic deeds are never forgotten.

For his heroism and service to his country, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Pfc. Luis Moreno.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on January 21, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote number 4.

I was also unavoidably absent from this Chamber on January 28, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call numbers 8, 9 and 11. I would also like the record to show that I would have voted "no" on roll call number 10.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HELEN HAVERSTRAW

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable woman who resides from my district, Helen Haverstraw. Helen resides in Bayfield, Colorado and has been an active member of her community and her church for many years. Helen is a gracious individual and inspires those around her and I am honored to praise her accomplishments today.

Helen celebrated her 100th birthday on December 12th. She was born in 1903 in West

Virginia on a farm during the Teddy Roosevelt era. The farm produced tomatoes, corn and other crops and her father would travel six miles to get into town to sell the fruits of his labor. Helen went on to become valedictorian of her high school. She married Ted Haverstraw in 1928 and they raised their daughters in West Virginia. Following a series of moves in the 1980's and early 90's, she returned to Colorado, where she continues to reside.

Mr. Speaker, Helen Haverstraw has lived a long and active life. She attributes her longevity to her abstaining from harmful products and a positive attitude. Helen's personality and willingness to help others have led her to the exceptional milestone she celebrates this year. Congratulations on your 100th birthday Helen, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, January 27, 2004, I was unavoidably absent due to inclement weather for roll call vote 6 on passage of H.R. 1385, and roll call vote 7 on passage of H.R. 3493. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call votes 6 and 7.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, January 28, 2004, I was unavoidably absent due to inclement weather for roll call vote 8 on passage of the Baldwin amendment; roll call vote 9 on the Schakowsky motion to recommit; roll call vote 10 on final passage of S. 1920; and roll call vote 11 on the motion to instruct conferees. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call votes 8, 9, 10, and 11.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PEGGIE FORD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Peggie Ford from Grand Junction, Colorado recently returned from a trip to Venezuela where she and a team of volunteers performed volunteer medical work for underprivileged children. Peggie's altruistic dedication to those less fortunate than herself is certainly deserving of recognition and it is my honor to call her acts to the attention of this body of Congress and our Nation here today.

Peggie is a surgery nurse with Saint Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction. She traveled to Venezuela as a member of a team of volunteers organized by Rotaplast International, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing medical help to underprivileged people throughout the world. This was Peggie's second trip to provide medical services to the needy. On the first, she traveled to Chile, where she assisted in numerous beneficial surgeries for those in need.

During her recent trip to Venezuela, Peggie and her team worked tirelessly to provide reconstructive surgery to children with cleft palates. Fueled by their intense desire to help, the team performed surgeries for 11 straight days. Each morning, they began work at dawn and continued late into the night. Those who received the surgery were eternally grateful and truly had their lives enhanced by the selfless dedication of the volunteer medical professionals.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Peggie Ford. It is truly a remarkable person that is willing to spend their vacation time to travel across the world to employ their talents for the betterment of others. Peggie is the embodiment of all that makes this country great and it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to her selfless contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, January 27, I was unable to vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 1385, to extend the provision of Title 39, United States Code, under which the United States Postal Service is authorized to issue a special postage stamp to benefit breast cancer research (roll call vote 6); and on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3493, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act (roll call vote 7). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

Similarly, Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, January 28, I was unable to vote on the Baldwin substitute amendment to S. 1920 (roll call vote 8); and on the motion to recommit with instructions the bill S. 1920 (roll call vote 9). Had I

been present, I would have voted "no" on both measures. Further, Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on final passage of S. 1920, to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of Title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted (roll call vote 10). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." And, finally, Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the motion to instruct conferees on S. 1920 (roll call vote 11). Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DON JOHNSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to the life of a remarkable life of a man from my district. Don Johnson from Aspen, Colorado passed away recently at the age of 68. Don was devoted to his wife and children, and will also be remembered for his commitment to the Aspen community.

Don will be remembered as a pioneer in the ski industry of Colorado. Throughout his 37 year career, it is estimated that he created and blazed more than 70 of the trails that skiers run every season. Don will also be remembered as a devoted husband who, with his wife Janet, raised four sons. Along with helping to raise his family, he also ran his mountain with skill and fortitude.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to the life of Don Johnson. Don was a husband, father, and friend to many who made a tremendous impact that will be felt for generations to come. The Aspen community, and State of Colorado, will truly miss Don. My heart goes

out to his loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

INTRODUCING THE FLU PREVENTION ACT OF 2004

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Flu Prevention Act of 2004 with my colleagues Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. ENGEL. This bill takes important steps to ensure that the widespread vaccine shortages of this flu season, which resulted in the deaths of 110 children will not occur in the future. The bill is an identical companion to bipartisan Senate legislation, introduced by Senators BAYH, CRAIG, LANDRIEU, and DURBIN.

This bill uses a multifaceted approach to ensure adequate flu vaccine supply and educate American families about the importance of the vaccine. It provides tax incentives for vaccine manufacturers to expand their production capacities. It also allows the Centers for Disease Control to share the financial risk of vaccine overproduction with vaccine manufacturers, so as to eliminate the current financial incentive to under-produce vaccine.

Additionally, the Flu Prevention Act provides funding for and requires CDC to implement a protocol if the flu reaches epidemic or pandemic levels. It establishes a public awareness campaign to provide education and outreach efforts on the importance of receiving the vaccine, which populations should receive the vaccine, and vaccine safety.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation as a strong preventative measure to protect our nation's children from future flu outbreaks.