

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLOTTE BOBICKI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Charlotte Bobicki and thank her for her dedication to Colorado as an Alamosa County Commissioner. Her dedication and tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for her constituents. As Charlotte moves on in her career, let it be known that she leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Alamosa County and the State of Colorado.

An Alamosa native, Charlotte worked for thirty-six years in the Alamosa Public School System as both a teacher and an administrator before being elected a county commissioner in 1996. During her tenure as a commissioner, Charlotte has been very active in health and human welfare issues. She serves on the Colorado State Board of Health, regional Workforce Committee, and Colorado Counties Incorporated. She also is a founding member of Action 22 in southern Colorado and serves as the San Luis Valley representative to the executive board of Action 22. Last year, Charlotte served as Chairman of the Board of Alamosa County Commissioners, working to enhance relations between the county and other local and state agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Commissioner Charlotte Bobicki before this body of Congress and this nation, and to congratulate her on an outstanding career of public service. Her selfless dedication to her community and the people of Colorado as an Alamosa County Commissioner is truly remarkable. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

WHIRLIE SOCCER DYNASTY CONTINUES

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as the 2003–2004 academic school year comes to an end, I would like to take a moment to congratulate a high school in the Sixth District of North Carolina that won a state girls' soccer championship. The Whirlies had extra incentive in the final game as they faced a Raleigh Broughton team that had defeated the Grimsley girls (by a score of 2–0) in the finals just 1 year ago. This time around the score was again 2–0, but it would be the Whirlies who walked away with the state title. This game capped off a perfect post-season run in which Grimsley held all playoff opponents scoreless; a remarkable feat that was last accomplished by the Whirlies in 2002. Indeed, the Grimsley girls' soccer pro-

gram is no stranger to championships as this became their sixth title since 1990.

Despite a convincing playoff performance going into the final game, Grimsley Head Coach Herk DeGraw was weary of the Whirlies' sluggish first few minutes against a formidable Broughton adversary. "The slow start scared me because I thought if they sneak one in and we don't get going we're going to have a problem," DeGraw told the Greensboro News & Record. But with 19:53 remaining in the first half, freshman Holly Cresson's goal began to assuage DeGraw's concerns. A left-footed player, Presson used her right foot to shoot the ball past the Broughton goalkeeper putting the Whirlies on top 1–0. "The look on her face was the funniest thing I've ever seen . . . It was total disbelief," DeGraw told a local reporter about Presson's post-goal expressions. After the Whirlies secured the lead there was no looking back as they powered their way to a 2–0 victory.

This was a memorable win for the Whirlies who were led by a number of senior players. Laura Hanson, Erin Graham, Whitney Andringa, Marie Bobalik, Jenny Cauble, Arden Dwyer, Melissa Ellisen, Anna Betton, and Ashley Newsome all finished their careers with a state championship. These girls had a strong supporting cast comprised of Anna Rodenbough, Michele Driver, Carey Goodman, Alex Leeder, Heidi Andringa, Carra Sykes, Lauren Atkinson, Casey Warmath, Holly Presson, Catherine Rierson, Lucy FanCourt, and Camelyn Dillon.

After such a strong season congratulations are in order for the Grimsley coaching staff. Head Coach Herk DeGraw and Assistant Coach Kevin Conaway deserve much credit for leading the Whirlies on their title run. Recognition should also be given to Athletic Director Neal Hatcher, Principal Rob Gasparello, Athletic Trainer Kris Dickens, and team managers Lauren Chambers and Rachel Goans. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate the Grimsley Whirlies for winning the 4–A girls' soccer championship.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RAMÓN VÉLEZ JR.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ramón Vélez, an extraordinary community leader who has played an important role in improving housing opportunities for the people of the Bronx.

Ramón was born in Colon, Panama but raised in Puerto Rico and the Bronx, NY. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration from InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico in 1978, a Masters in Public Administration from John Jay College

of Criminal Justice in 1985 and a Master of Science in Real Estate Development and Finance from New York University in 1992. He is also a graduate of the Minorities Developers Program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Today, Ramón serves as the President of the South Bronx Community Management Company, Inc., a property management company responsible for the management and operations of approximately 2,200 units of housing. Under his leadership, the company has been able to develop over 1,300 units in the South Bronx. Recently, they successfully completed a scattered site project consisting of 18 two and three family homes in the South Bronx for first time home buyers.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly appreciative of the work Ramón Vélez has done for the people of my district. As a result of his strong leadership and vision many people have been able to achieve a higher standard of living in the Bronx. For his outstanding service to the people of my community, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable man.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY JESSIE GONZALEZ ROQUE

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a very special woman, Mary Jessie Gonzalez Roque, known by her friends as "Susie." Susie is a valued employee of mine who is retiring after thirty-three years of dedicated service to the federal government. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge this important milestone in her life, and to also express my appreciation for the impact she has made on the lives of the constituents of the 20th District of Texas.

Susie's parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico before she was born so that they might have a piece of the American dream. They raised Susie, their first born, and her four siblings in San Antonio. Susie exhibited her value of education throughout her elementary, high school, and college careers. She parlayed this love of education and her skill of helping others into a job as a teacher at Burbank High School in San Antonio during the 1970–1971 academic year.

In 1971, Susie obtained a summer job in the District Office of my father, former U.S. Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez. She was hired full-time to handle casework for the 20th District of Texas and her summer job turned into a thirty-three year career.

Susie has expressed pride in working for my father, a notable figure in Texas and U.S. politics. He was celebrated in San Antonio as being a man who gave a voice to those who could not speak for themselves. Susie was vital to my father's efforts in this endeavor because she worked in close contact with people

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who could not navigate through the often convoluted systems of federal bureaucracies by themselves.

I was blessed to be elected to represent the 20th District of Texas in 1998. Like my father before me, I recognize the value of providing good constituent services to those whom I represent. Therefore, I hired Susie to continue in her casework position so that she could continue to provide important services for constituents. Her many accomplishments led me to promote her to be my District Office Director.

In the five and one-half years that Susie has worked for me, she has proven herself invaluable to me, my staff, and the constituents of the 20th District of Texas. She assists people with a wide variety of problems that they experience with federal government agencies, and sometime state and local agencies. These problems include, but are certainly not limited to, immigration cases, military matters, housing problems, health and social services inquiries, and federal workers compensation claims.

I am sincerely proud to count myself among those who have had the opportunity to know and work with Susie. Her steadfast dedication to her job has had an impact on many individuals' lives. Also, her knowledge and skills have enabled those of us who have worked with her to do our jobs better. I wish her many blessings and the very best for her retirement. She will be greatly missed.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, President Ronald Reagan was a warm thoughtful leader who governed by the Golden Rule of caring for others. Many speakers have paid eloquent tribute to his role as both a world leader and a best friend of the American people. Because of our shared love of land I developed a personal relationship with President Reagan that I will always cherish.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KELLY
WILSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Kelly Wilson and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as a Montezuma County Commissioner. A two-term commissioner, he will always be remembered as a dedicated public servant and leader of his community. As Kelly celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment and service to the people of Montezuma County and the State of Colorado.

Kelly comes from a family with a rich history of political activism. His grandfather served as

a county treasurer for fourteen years, his uncle as a county assessor, his father as a party chairman, and his sister was State Senator Jim Isgar's campaign manager and a former employee of Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL. During his time as a commissioner Kelly has been very involved with the Canyon of the Ancients National Monument and helped to develop the comprehensive land code for the county. He also helped make the unpopular yet important decision to move the county fair in order to fight the Mesa Verde fire of 2000. Kelly plans to stay active in his community after his term, as well as working on the sixty-five acre farm he shares with his sister.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Commissioner Kelly Wilson before this body of Congress and this nation, and to congratulate him on an outstanding career of public service. His selfless dedication to his community and the people of Colorado as a Montezuma County Commissioner is truly remarkable. I wish him and his wife Diane all the best in their future endeavors. Thanks for your service.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE RONKONKOMA
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my sincere congratulations to the Ronkonkoma Fire Department in celebration of their 100th Anniversary.

In September of 1903, after a tragic fire at a resort complex took the life of one individual and injured fourteen others, twenty-four men from the Ronkonkoma area volunteered to join a fire-fighting group to replace the existing neighbor bucket brigade system. This group quickly developed, and on June 15, 1904, Ronkonkoma Hook and Ladder Company #1 was officially born.

Ronkonkoma Hook and Ladder Company #1's first truck was a horse-drawn vehicle carrying one hundred feet of hose. The alarm system consisted of a locomotive tire, which resembled a huge iron ring, and a hammer, which was chained to the tire so that it could not be carried away. There were no fire wells or hydrants.

While there have been many developments since 1904, including a name change in 1933 to the Ronkonkoma Fire Department, the mission still remains the same. The men and women of the Ronkonkoma Fire Department are proudly serving their community by saving lives and protecting property.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE
HON. WILLIAM HENRY
MCDERMOTT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County, AL, and indeed the entire First Congressional

District, recently lost a dear friend and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Judge William Henry McDermott was a devoted family man and dedicated public servant throughout his 50-year career in public service.

A former member of both the Alabama State House and Senate, Judge McDermott turned down an appointment to the bench in Mobile County in 1970, feeling called instead to devote his time to a law practice that would enable him to support his large family. Thirty years later, he ran for—and won—election to a six-year term on the circuit court and until his untimely death, served with distinction in this position.

Unfortunately, Judge McDermott was only recently diagnosed with cancer. However, even in the face of such difficult news, his first thoughts were of selecting the best possible replacement to ensure that the judicial system would not be adversely affected and that the wheels of justice would continue to turn.

In addition to his distinguished career in the state legislature and on the circuit court, Judge McDermott also served with pride in the United States military and was, for a time, the city attorney for Chickasaw, AL.

At the time of his passing, I remarked that Judge McDermott had a heart as big as the state of Texas and that his death would create a large void in the fabric of the Mobile community. In the days since his death, those sentiments have in no way lessened.

The Judge and his lovely wife, Katie, were fixtures in the life of our community for many years and together, they worked in numerous ways, both publicly and behind the scenes, to make life much better for the people of south Alabama.

Not surprisingly, the dedication and care Judge McDermott devoted to community service was constantly on display in his service on the bench. In fact, his attention to even the smallest detail in the cases he heard became legendary around the courthouse, and he was always striving to render a fair decision to all concerned.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant and long-time advocate for all of south Alabama. Judge McDermott will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Catherine O'Brien McDermott; his daughters, Elizabeth O'Neill, Annette Carwie, Jeanne Marie Cruthirds, Michelle Mayberry, Mary Claire Wacker, Catherine Williamson, and Maureen McDermott; his son, William Joseph McDermott; and his two brothers, Charles L. McDermott and Edward B. McDermott—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

STROKE TREATMENT AND
ONGOING PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3658 Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act. I urge the Secretary