

The optimism he felt for every American, our nation and the world was evident to all. His "glass half full" mentality guided us through times of peace and times of uncertainty; through the end of the Cold War and rough economic times. No matter what our nation faced, President Reagan's sense of patriotism, togetherness and hope for the future—was infectious.

His love of country made us believe that America was blessed to do great things for so many people. Sadly, this was probably best communicated in what has come to be known as his Letter to the American people when he told the world he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, when he wrote:

"I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life. I will know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead."

Everything he did, he did with grace. He will be remembered—even by those who may have disagreed with him—with respect for his willingness to work together and negotiate, with humor. He and Democratic Speaker Tip O'Neill used to joke that we are "all friends after 6:00 p.m." meaning that at the end of the day, politics was put aside and friendships could grow.

I like to think of President Reagan as a flexible conservative, one who was willing to listen to all sides of an argument, even if he didn't agree, for the chance that he might learn something new or understand a different angle. He didn't pretend to be an expert on all issues, and that is why so many politicians and the American people respected him. He wanted to turn the issue on all sides to see if there were any new approaches that could be taken. Yet at the same time, he was deeply rooted in his beliefs of smaller government, lower taxes and personal responsibility—which continue to guide the Republican Party today.

President Reagan is considered the modern day father of the Republican Party and his long legacy and sunny optimistic spirit will live on in all Americans. And as we all gather today to celebrate the man who meant so much to our country, I would like to invoke the words he used in bidding good-bye to the passengers on the Space Shuttle *Challenger*—"We will never forget them, not the last time we saw them—this morning, as they prepared for their journey, and waved goodbye, and 'slipped the surly bonds of earth' to 'touch the face of God'."

The Gipper, the Great Communicator, the Flexible Conservative and the Great Conciliator has gone home. But his legacy will never be forgotten.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRED A.
LUNDIN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the life and memory of Fred "Fritz" Lundin of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. I personally knew Fritz well, and he was a man of the highest integrity

and ethics and a natural leader in the community. As his family mourns his passing, I believe it appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man.

Born and raised in Brady, Nebraska, Fritz first moved to Colorado when he attended the University of Denver to study accounting on an ROTC scholarship. As a fighter pilot, Fritz honorably served our country in both Korea and Vietnam. For his service in Vietnam, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Following his military service he received his MBA from the University of Colorado.

In 1950, Fritz married Bette Coad with whom he had four children. Fritz retired from the Air Force in 1973 and moved to Glenwood Springs. During the years Fritz spent in Glenwood Springs, he became active in the community as a supporter of high school athletics. An avid sports enthusiast, he enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren participate in athletics, and he enjoyed outdoor activities with his family. In 1980, Fritz remarried Cindy Dollins with whom he shared a successful accounting practice and with whom he had a son.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Fred "Fritz" Lundin and pay tribute to his life as a valuable citizen of Glenwood Springs. Fritz held both himself and others to the highest standards. His competitiveness was contagious, making people around him better. I wish to express my deepest sympathies to his family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD AND ENCOURAGING
GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF FATHERS
IN THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, we often hear negative comments about fathers and fatherhood, about "deadbeat dads" and absent fathers.

It's easy to forget that there are millions of American fathers who love their wives and their children.

They get up every morning and go to work to support their families.

They go to baseball games and ballet performances and school plays.

They help their kids with their homework, chaperone proms and mow the lawn.

They treat their wives with respect and model healthy relationships.

They make sacrifices and invest in the next generation.

Current research shows that these daily acts of responsibility and faithfulness have a major impact on child well-being.

Statistics show us that marriage is the foundation of responsible fatherhood, and that fathers who are married to the mothers of their children are more likely to be involved in their children's lives.

But, we don't need statistics to tell us that committed, involved fathers are essential to the preservation of the family.

On Sunday, thousands of families in my district will celebrate Father's Day.

Amid all the distractions of our society, many will stop, for just a minute, to honor "Dad."

It seems that politics and social change and the faddish nature of our culture have not been able to erase the enduring value of fatherhood and the imprint that fathers have in my district and across this great nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present yesterday during rollcall No. 232, I would have voted "aye." During rollcall No. 233, I would have voted "aye." During rollcall No. 234, I would have voted "no." And, on rollcall No. 235, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING CAROLYN
RUBENSTEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary individual who has made a difference in the lives of so many young children. Carolyn Rubenstein, herself just a teenager, started Carolyn's Compassionate Children (CCC), a non-profit organization that links critically ill children with their healthy peers through a pen pal program. Started 5 years ago when Carolyn was 14 years old, the program has connected over 500 children with pen pals in almost every U.S. state and countries around the world, including Canada and England. This excellent program helps children suffering from life-threatening or chronic illnesses connect with their healthy peers. Most of these children are shut in and do not have the ability to interact with others their age or live normal lives. CCC gives them the opportunity to develop friendships and connect with children or teens their age.

In addition to the pen pal program, CCC has awarded 21 college scholarships to cancer survivors. Because of their illness, many of these children who do not have as impressive a resume as their healthy peers and would, otherwise, not qualify for a scholarship. More recently, CCC has set up a scholarship program in the arts for cancer survivors.

I cannot say enough about Carolyn. At a time when our country is asking our young men and women to make sacrifices, Carolyn is a shining example for others to follow. Her compassion, drive and desire to help others has made this world a better place. I commend Carolyn and CCC for making a difference in the lives of so many young people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in this chamber on June 14, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 234 and "yea" on rollcall votes 232, 233 and 235.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KENT LINDSAY

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 Kent Lindsay and thank him for his dedication to Colorado as a two-term Montezuma County Commissioner. His dedication and tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for his constituents. As Kent celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Montezuma County and the State of Colorado.

A lifelong resident of Montezuma County, Kent is the third generation owner of El Grande Cafe in Cortez. He is very active in the community, serving for fifteen years on the local fire department and is currently the Fire Chief. As a county commissioner, Kent was instrumental in rewriting the Land Use Plan and in creating the Stewardship Committee involving rangeland and grazing. He also worked closely in the development of the Dolores River Valley Plan, and plans to stay involved in the issues affecting Montezuma County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Commissioner Kent Lindsay 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 all the best in his future endeavors. Thanks for your service.

HONORING JUDY BENTLEY

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judy Bentley, the President and CEO of Community Health-in Partnership Services (CHIPS) in St. Louis. Ms. Bentley was recently selected as a 2004 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader. She was one of just ten people nationally to be selected for this prestigious award, which includes a grant of over \$105,000 to enhance her work.

A nurse practitioner and native of St. Louis, Ms. Bentley was inspired to enter the healthcare field after her diagnosis of uterine cancer in 1975.

Ms. Bentley founded CHIPS in 1990, and it remains the only free health clinic serving the

mostly uninsured residents of north St. Louis. In its first year, CHIPS served about 250 clients in its meager facility in the basement of a local church. In 1991, the clinic moved to a new 5,600-square-foot facility. Currently run by a staff of 10 full and parttime employees, along with a core of 19 volunteer professionals, CHIPS provides health screenings and primary-level health care to about 1,000 clients a month through both its outreach and in facility services.

Ms. Bentley has also implemented a unique outreach program to provide prevention and health education in non-traditional community settings including banks, grocery stores, beauty salons, barbershops, and homeless centers. Ms. Bentley also promotes workforce development by hiring and training lay health educators to go door-to-door, enrolling clients, and has implemented an intergenerational program in which teens in the youth development program work with senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Bentley for this national award, and express my gratitude for her determination and leadership. Her work among the medically underserved has undoubtedly inspired many others in St. Louis and elsewhere to take action. It is an honor to recognize her today for her important work and this well deserved award.

IN HONOR OF SHARON KELSO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to commend an amazing woman from my congressional district, Sharon Kelso. Sharon has been one of the most positive forces in Fairfax County throughout the years and I am proud of all that she has accomplished to help those less fortunate throughout the county. She is a friend and someone that I admire greatly. Sharon will be retiring after faithful and selfless service to United Community Ministries and the people of Fairfax County.

The main legacy Sharon will leave behind is her work as Executive Director of United Community Ministries. When she first began working for UCM, the agency had not existed for long, and its focus was smaller than what Sharon thought it could accomplish. With her vision and dedication, UCM has grown into one of the most important organizations in northern Virginia. One of her most lasting contributions was to establish the first walk-in clinic for the uninsured using volunteer doctors, nurses and technicians. Since that time, the citizens of Fairfax County have seen additional clinics open up for those without health insurance.

While her work for UCM would be enough to fill anyone's time, Sharon wanted to give even more assistance to her community. She has served on numerous boards and committees to help better Fairfax County for all who chose to make it their home. As Co-Chair of the Homeless Oversight Committee, Sharon has helped to implement strategies to prevent homelessness throughout the county. Knowing that affordable housing is one of the most important issues in this area, she has worked on the Affordable Dwelling Unit Task Force which

ensures that the affordable dwelling ordinances are effective, and through her service on the Fairfax Committee of 100 Board of Directors she has helped evaluate the lack of affordable housing for those who need it.

Sharon Kelso has also taken on an advocacy role and was often lobbying for issues relating to human services needs, childcare, child abuse and neglect, health and mental health care and homelessness. She also worked with her local Chamber of Commerce to lobby the Fairfax Board of Supervisors to maintain affordable housing. It is through her efforts that these issues have been brought to the forefront for the leaders and community activists of Fairfax County.

While Sharon is retiring from UCM and moving out of the area, I am certain she will continue to work on behalf of those who need help the most. Her work has vastly improved the lives of thousands of families throughout the community and Virginia. Sharon's vision and dedication has touched many people and will ensure a bright future for generations to come. I congratulate Sharon on her retirement. More importantly, I say thank you for making such a difference in the Northern Virginia area.

ON THE PASSING OF BUDDY BRACKIN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of Newman C. "Buddy" Brackin. Buddy had a tremendous impact in my district over nearly 28 years as Okaloosa County Clerk of the Circuit Court.

The son of a former Florida Senate president, Buddy came into politics with a solid base of knowledge. He had taught middle and high school in Northwest Florida and worked in real estate, but he knew it was time for him to run for the Okaloosa Clerk's office in 1976, and his win in that election reaffirmed his belief. His successive re-election was a clear indicator that Buddy was the right man for the job. Indeed, it was not until his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer that he decided not to seek an eighth term.

Buddy's tenure as County Clerk saw the office of the Clerk nearly triple in size, and with his help the office saw much-needed improvements in the smoothness of its day-to-day operations. It is doubtful that many would have disagreed with his intent six months ago to seek an eighth term, so respected was he on both a professional and personal level by all who knew him.

My prayers go out to Buddy's wife Blanche, his sons Mark and Bryan, and all others who mourn the loss of a great public servant. He loved his family as they loved him, his loss will have a vast impact on so many.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with no small amount of sorrow that I tell of the passing of Buddy Brackin from this world, and his family is in my thoughts and prayers.