

## 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.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT  
GEORGE HERBERT WALKER  
BUSH ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 653, a resolution honoring President George Herbert Walker Bush, a true statesman and American hero, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

President Bush has devoted his life to the service of our nation. As a highly decorated Navy pilot in World War II; a distinguished Congressman and Ways and Means Committee Member from Texas's Seventh Congressional District; a successful Ambassador to the United Nations; Liaison to China; Director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Vice President; and President of the United States—George Bush has ably served our country for over 50 years.

During that time, President Bush has exemplified the very highest values and principles of public service—honesty, integrity, responsibility, loyalty and patriotism. This is the Bush legacy and the example he set for all of us.

As a staff member who served in the Bush White House, I was privileged to learn this firsthand. His leadership as President was critical to resolving the challenges of that time: the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany; the end of Communism and beginning of democracy in Eastern Europe; a free trade policy and the lowering of trade restrictions and tariffs during the GATT talks; and of course, the success of Desert Storm. At home, he supported and signed the historic Americans with Disabilities Act; and the important amendments to the Clean Air Act, arguably the most important environmental legislation ever passed.

In his retirement, President Bush is still making history. I had the privilege of being present in College Station last weekend for his most recent birthday parachute jumps, for which he earned parachutist's wings from the Army's Golden Knights. The wings included a small bronze star, echoing his unplanned jump during World War II, when his torpedo bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire south of Japan.

Mr. Speaker, all of us congratulate President Bush on his birthday, and express our gratitude for his remarkable and unselfish public service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STEVE  
WARDELL

**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 Steve Wardell and thank him for his dedication to Colorado as a Mineral County Commissioner. His tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for his constituents. As Steve celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy

of commitment to the people of Mineral County and the State of Colorado.

During his tenure as commissioner, Steve worked on a number of issues for his Mineral County community. He was instrumental in putting together maps and a tabulation for the public rights of way in Mineral County. He also was involved in the approval of the preliminary plat of the Village at Wolf Creek, began the process for building a new Health Clinic in Mineral County, and pursued donations and grants to help repave the local airport runway.

As a dedicated member of the community, Steve volunteers his time to numerous civic organizations. He does the maintenance work on the county's ambulances, saving the Ambulance Board money to use on needed upgrades and equipment. He also is a volunteer fireman, and is always willing to help wherever he is needed.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that County Commissioner Steve Wardell has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his county and the people of Colorado as a County Commissioner for Mineral County. I am honored to bring his hard work and achievements to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service Steve, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF  
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2004*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to Mrs. Reagan and her family as our nation mourns the loss of President Reagan.

Our nation has lost a leader. President Reagan inspired Americans to a higher purpose. He believed, and led all Americans to believe, that our country could be the "shining city on the hill." It was his spirit and faith in American values that helped reinforce America's faith in itself.

I was serving in the North Dakota Legislature on the day President Reagan was shot. I remember the somber atmosphere and deep concern from Republicans and Democrats alike as legislators gathered around a television anxiously awaiting word on the President's condition. With characteristic optimism, President Reagan went on to recover from his wounds and continue to lead the nation as our President.

President Reagan's passing brings us sadness at the loss of an American leader, but reminds all of us of his lasting legacy of service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING CAROL CAROTHERS  
(EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NAMI  
MAINE)

**HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2004*

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carol Carothers, who was recently

named a 2004 national Community Health Leader by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for her work to prevent inappropriate incarceration and improve the treatment of people with mental illnesses. Ms. Carothers was one of only ten people nationally to be selected for this prestigious award, which includes a grant of more than \$105,000 to support her work.

Ms. Carothers is executive director of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Maine. During her tenure, Ms. Carothers has dedicated herself to assisting families of people who have mental illness. Under her leadership, NAMI Maine has become a respected source for information on effective practices in treatment and diversion of the incarcerated mentally ill. Ms. Carothers has successfully assembled a broad-based coalition of families, inmates, providers, corrections and law enforcement professionals, State officials, and advocates to identify problems and solutions for inmates with mental illness. The program Ms. Carothers pioneered in Maine has become a model for other States seeking to train prison personnel to recognize the signs of mental illness and provide appropriate responses.

The suicide of an 18 year-old man in a maximum security prison 3 years ago inspired Ms. Carothers' interest in the plight of the incarcerated mentally ill. She now assists the State government in assessing the quality of prison programs, and provides education and training to law enforcement and corrections officers to promote more humane treatment.

NAMI Maine's Assistant Director put it best by saying, "[Carol is] propelled by the personal situations that illustrate the inhumane and immoral quality of inadequate treatment in the criminal justice system."

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more. I'm honored to recognize Ms. Carothers for this national award, and express my gratitude for her determination and leadership. She has inspired many others in Maine and elsewhere to take action. This well-deserved award is confirmation of the importance of her work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2004*

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, on June 8th and 9th, 2004 I was not able to be here for three roll call votes.

On rollcall number 229 regarding H. Res. 663, expressing the profound regret and sorrow of the House of Representatives on the death of Ronald Wilson Reagan, former President of the United States of America, I would have voted "yea".

On rollcall number 230, approving the Journal, I would have voted "yea".

On rollcall number 231, regarding H. Res., honoring the late Honorable Ronald Wilson Reagan, I would have voted "yea".