

Gail began her career with the Social Security Office in Idaho Falls and later moved to Durango where she eventually became the Branch Manager of the Durango Social Security Office in September 1995. She is retiring this July, having served over 32 years with the Social Security Administration.

Gail is dedicated to her job and her employees. She has high expectations of herself and her staff. Gail stresses the importance that claimants receive all the considerations to which they are entitled. She is also an active member of her community and involved with La Plata County Quilter's Guild and the Archeological Society.

During my tenure in the United States Congress, Gail Schulz provided exceptional service to constituents of the 3rd Congressional District of Colorado. She worked hard to ensure that inquiries on behalf of my constituents submitted to the Social Security Administration were addressed in a timely and thorough manner. Gail routinely demonstrated a willingness to assist beyond the standard response, demonstrating a genuine concern for the constituent while upholding the policies of the Social Security Administration.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Gail Schulz has been an invaluable resource to the Social Security Administration. It is my honor to recognize her service and dedication before this body of Congress and this nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with devoted public servants like Gail. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment she has given to the Social Security Administration and the constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for her years of enthusiastic service.

#### CONGRATULATING THE HOSPITALS OF THE TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

#### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 2004*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's official. The July 12 issue of U.S. News and World Report has named Houston's MD Anderson Cancer Center as the number one cancer treatment facility in the nation. Since 1941, MD Anderson has consistently delivered on its mission to provide innovative and compassionate treatment, cutting-edge research and educational outreach with regard to both common and rare cancers.

MD Anderson's clinical research program is the largest in the nation, allowing more than 11,000 patients access to promising and innovative therapies and diagnostic tests in 2003. This stellar reputation has attracted more than 600,000 cancer patients from all corners of the U.S. to Houston for the multidisciplinary approach to cancer treatment pioneered by MD Anderson, which has since become the established method of cancer treatment in all hospitals today.

MD Anderson is part of Houston's Texas Medical Center, which is comprised of more than thirty academic, research and patient care institutions delivering top-notch medical care to Texans and the thousands of Americans who flock to Houston each year to be treated by the best. And the recent rankings

by U.S. News and World Report prove that the Texas Medical Center continues to offer some of the best medical care in the country.

In gynecology, both MD Anderson and Methodist Hospital rank within the top twenty-five health centers for women's health. Ranking fourth in the nation, the Texas Children's Hospital continues to lead the way in pediatric care. Both the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's and Methodist Hospital rank in the top twenty for the treatment of heart disease and heart surgery. Methodist also ranks number ten in neurology and neurosurgery, and in the top forty for orthopedics.

Two hospitals in the Texas Medical Center rank within the top fifteen in urology, with MD Anderson holding the number ten spot and Methodist ranking number thirteen. Methodist shares top billing with Memorial Hermann in the treatment of kidney diseases, with both hospitals ranking in the top fifty for this speciality. Both kidney diseases and hormonal disorders are complications of the rising diabetes epidemic, and the rankings also recognized Memorial Hermann as a top hospital for endocrinology.

These rankings prove what Houstonians have known all along—the Texas Medical Center is armed with the research, treatment and patient care options to help Americans tackle whatever health condition ails them. I am extremely proud to have the Texas Medical Center in Houston and congratulate all of its hospitals on this national recognition and on all of their many accomplishments in health care.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO LESLIE KEERY

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Leslie Keery of Rifle, Colorado, for her dedication to the students of Rifle High School. As an art instructor, Leslie has positively impacted the lives of both her colleagues and students. Leslie is aiding kids in developing their artistic and creative skills for use in future careers and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing her before this body of Congress and this nation for her dedication to her students and her success in the classroom.

Leslie was recently honored with the local Walmart Teacher of the Year Award; that is awarded based upon the written essays of students and staff members. Her recognition as a special teacher was also complemented with a one thousand dollar donation to the art department, an opportunity to compete for the state competition and a nomination for the national Teacher of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, Leslie Keery has done much to enrich the lives of the students at Rifle High School and her community, and I am honored to bring her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation. Congratulations on your award Leslie, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

#### HONORING DESIREE G. ROGERS

#### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 2004*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Desiree G. Rogers on being elected President of People's Gas and North Shore Gas, two utility subsidiaries of People's Energy Corporation.

People's Energy has, for 150 years, been committed to providing gas service to residential and business consumers in northeastern Illinois. Today, it serves an estimated one million people in Chicago and northeastern Illinois.

Based on Ms. Rogers' immense contributions to People's Energy since joining in 1997, I am confident that Ms. Rogers' new role will prove to be very beneficial to the company. In the past, Ms. Rogers has exhibited tremendous leadership skills by successfully taking on many of the company's difficult tasks.

As president of People's Gas and North Shore Gas, Ms. Rogers will have responsibility over the utilities' field operations, customer functions, and gas supply management. She will also continue to be in charge of customer relations, an area in which she has demonstrated to be very experienced.

As the former senior vice president of Customer Service of the utilities, Ms. Rogers was able to improve the company's financial results while establishing strong customer ties. Ms. Rogers first joined the company in 1997 as Vice President of Communications, and was named Chief Marketing Officer in 2000. She oversaw community affairs and governmental relations, in addition to operations and marketing of the company's utilities.

Ms. Rogers' leadership extends beyond her work with People's Energy. She is involved in several community organizations, including the Lincoln Park Zoo, of which she is the Vice Chairman, the Museum of Science and Industry, and the Executives' Club of Chicago. She was also the chairman of the Chicago Children's Museum for 3 years. Ms. Rogers has admirably used her success as a means to contribute to philanthropic organizations, such as the Y-Me National Breast Cancer Organization, of which she is a trustee. Ms. Rogers' contributions to the Chicago community are truly commendable.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Desiree Rogers on her well deserved promotion to President of People's Gas and North Shore Gas, and wish her and the company continued success in the future.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAM WILSON

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Pam Wilson and thank her for her work as Fire Information Officer with the San Juan Lands Center, a joint office of the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in Durango, Colorado. Her years of commitment and dedication as a public servant is certainly commendable and worthy of

recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. I, along with my fellow Coloradans, am grateful for all that she has accomplished during her years of service.

Pam has worked as a Fire Information Officer for the last three years, but started her career with the Forest Service in Colorado in 1979. Over her years with the Forest Service, she has worked as a draftsman, landscape architect, planning assistant, visitor information specialist, and now a public affairs specialist.

In 2002, as Pam was still training, she was thrown into the role of being the first fire information officer to work on the Missionary Ridge Fire. Pam did an incredible job of providing accurate fire information and working with the hundreds of people that were evacuated from their homes during the fire. It was her interpersonal skills and empathetic feelings and responses that made the difference. Pam remained on scene for the duration, taking only minimal breaks away from the 16-hour work days experienced during a fire that burned for 39 days. She also worked on the fire information effort with the Bear Creek Wildland Fire Use fire. Pam excels at providing timely and constant flow of fire information. Residents of southwestern Colorado are kept informed of ongoing fires but more importantly, know what to expect in terms of fire potential and how they might take responsibility for protecting their health and property. Pam works very closely with the counties, State Forest Service and others to explain how private parties can mitigate fire risk, and to develop and implement plans for reducing these risks.

The San Juan Public Lands Offices have what is widely recognized as one of the very best fire information and fire education programs. Pam Wilson plays a very large role in that. Fires such as Missionary Ridge often tear a community and intergovernmental relationships apart, but the work of Pam, and of course a few others, prior to and during that fire resulted in as smooth of an operation as could be imagined. Her efforts, as much as anyone else on that fire, made it possible for firefighters and managers to focus without distractions on the safety of the public and firefighters and the protection of property.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Pam Wilson has been an invaluable resource to the San Juan Public Lands Office. It is my honor to recognize her service and dedication before this body of Congress and this nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with dedicated public servants like Pam Wilson. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment she has given to the U.S. Forest Service and the constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for her years of dedicated service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARTHA G.  
SPEARS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Martha Spears and thank her for her work as Congressional Liaison with the Homeland Security Department. Her years of commitment and dedication as a public servant is certainly commendable and worthy of

recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. I, along with my fellow Americans, grateful for all that she has accomplished during her years of service.

Marty Spears began her career with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in 1983 as the Legal Assistant in the office of the District Counsel, Atlanta, Georgia. Her service was interrupted while she followed her military husband to Panama in 1986, and three years later resumed her position before becoming an Immigration Inspector in 1993. She was promoted three times to the Supervisory Information Officer position in 1997 and the District Adjudications Officer in 2000 and most recently to the position of Community Relations Officer. In March 2003, when INS was abolished and three new agencies were formed that became part of Department of Homeland Security, Marty became the Community Liaison Officer under the Office of Citizenship within U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. She has served as the Denver District's congressional liaison since April 2001, responding to a monthly average of 200–300 congressional inquiries including the states of Colorado, Wyoming and Utah that are also in the District.

During my tenure in the United States Congress, Martha provided exceptional service to constituents of the 3rd Congressional District of Colorado. Martha worked hard to ensure that inquiries on behalf of my constituents submitted to the Denver District were addressed in a timely and thorough manner. Martha routinely demonstrated a willingness to assist beyond the standard response, demonstrating a genuine concern for the constituent while upholding the policies of the Homeland Security Department.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Martha has been an invaluable resource to the Department of Homeland Security. It is my honor to recognize her service and dedication before this body of Congress and this nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with dedicated public servants like Martha Spears. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment she has given to the Department of Homeland Security and constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for her years of dedicated service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GRETCHEN  
MITTERER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Gretchen Mitterer and thank her for her work as a Government Liaison with the Internal Revenue Service. Her years of commitment and dedication as a public servant is certainly commendable and worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. I, along with my fellow Americans, am grateful for all that she has accomplished during her years of service.

Gretchen began her career with the IRS in January of 1986. Her attention to detail, her people skills and her professionalism have led to rapid career advancement. Gretchen has been the Colorado Governmental Liaison since January 2001. She began as a Group

Secretary and held various positions over time including: Branch Secretary, Tax Auditor, Administrative Assistant, Public Affairs Specialist and Communications Specialist.

During my tenure in the United States Congress, Gretchen provided exceptional service to constituents of the 3rd Congressional District of Colorado. Gretchen worked hard to ensure that inquiries on behalf of my constituents submitted to the IRS were addressed in a timely and thorough manner. Gretchen routinely demonstrated a willingness to assist beyond the standard response, demonstrating a genuine concern for the constituent while upholding the policies of the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Gretchen Mitterer has been an invaluable resource to the Internal Revenue Service. It is my honor to recognize her service and dedication before this body of Congress and this nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with dedicated public servants like Gretchen. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment she has given to the IRS and constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for her years of dedicated service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PETE  
DAWKINS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Pete Dawkins of Vail, Colorado, a truly outstanding individual. Throughout his life and his career, Pete has received many prestigious distinctions and awards as a prominent athlete, scholar and leader, but his commitment to the citizens of this country through his record of military service stands out. Pete spent many years dedicated to the service of our country and contributed tremendous leadership during his tenure. I would like to join my colleagues in recognizing the achievements of Pete Dawkins before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Pete's ability to persevere was tested at the young age of eleven, undergoing physical therapy to treat the potentially debilitating disease of polio. He not only overcame polio, but he went on to become a star running back in college at the United States Military Academy. His performance during his senior season on the field led Army to an undefeated season and he was recognized individually as the college football player of the year winning the Heisman Trophy.

After graduating near the top of his class from West Point, Pete chose to study at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, instead of pursuing an opportunity to play professional football. Pete began his service to the military after he completed his study in England. Throughout his twenty-six year tenure in the military he served in Vietnam, received his doctorate from Princeton, was selected as a White House Fellow, and ascended to the rank of Brigadier General.

Following his military service, Pete has enjoyed a successful career in the private sector. He is currently working as the vice chairman of the Citigroup Private Bank. In his spare