

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VERONICA  
VASQUEZ

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Veronica Vasquez and thank her for her years of service she has given to the Colorado school system. At the end of this year she will retire after devoting thirty years of her life to educating students in Alamosa Colorado. As she celebrates her retirement, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize her distinguished career before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Veronica decided on a career in teaching after thinking about pursuing a career as a reporter or a social worker. She began as a substitute teacher in the Alamosa School District before taking her first full time teaching position as a bilingual kindergarten through fourth grade teacher. She was employed at several of the elementary schools in Alamosa until she was offered a five-year position as a parent community liaison, where she worked with at risk families and students coordinating crisis prevention and intervention teams. After her five-year position she went back to teaching for three years before becoming Principal of Polston Primary School.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Veronica Vasquez before this body of Congress and this nation. Veronica's willingness to provide her time and experience to Alamosa's children is something truly special and worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE LAKE  
OSWEGO DYNAMO BLUE BOYS  
TEAM AS THEY ADVANCE TO NA-  
TIONALS

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Lake Oswego Soccer Club's Dynamo Blue boys' team who will be competing in the U-12 bracket of the U.S. Club Soccer Nationals tournament held in Cary, North Carolina July 22 through July 25, 2004.

These Lake Oswego Soccer Club members will represent the region of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Northern California: Ryogo Asai, Cale Begelow, Brandon Blackmore, Jacob Campbell, Jack Cowan, Kyle DeVos, Ben Dugoni, Alex Haagenson, Ben Handy, Thomas Iwasaki, Erik McAdams, Nick Nelson, Bennett Savage, Luke Thompson, and Tyler Webster and are coached by Michael Harn.

As a former physical education teacher and coach, I know the positive benefits of giving students the opportunity to participate in team sports. Whether working together as a team, exercising good sportsmanship skills or developing pride in playing one's best, team sports teach our children valued lessons they will carry throughout life.

We also know that childhood activity improves child health which, in turn, is beneficial

to adult health. When children have the opportunity to live an active life through programs such as soccer, children have a much higher propensity to live as active adults which reduces their health risks.

I would also like to commend U.S. Club Soccer, a non-profit organization, committed exclusively to the support and development of competitive soccer clubs. With close to 8 million youth soccer players in our country and growing, it is safe to say that U.S. soccer players pose a significant challenge on the world's playing field.

Again, good luck to the Dynamo Blue boys' team from Lake Oswego. I know that you will play your best and carry the pride of representing our community, our state and the region at Nationals.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLONEL  
MICHAEL V. PALATAS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and passing of Colonel Michael Palatas of Pueblo, Colorado. Michael was one of Colorado's most decorated veterans and as his family mourns his passing, I think it is appropriate to remember his life of dedicated service before this body of Congress and this nation.

Michael bravely answered his nation's call to service in 1941, when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. As a Second Lieutenant, he fought battles in the Pacific theater during World War II. During the Korean War he served as a platoon leader in five major battles. A few years later, Michael served as a commanding officer for the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines and later an executive officer for the 9th Marine Regiment in the Vietnam War. In recognition of his valiant actions on the battlefield, Michael received several awards from the military, including: a Silver Star, a Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, six Presidential Unit Citations, a Combat Action Ribbon, a Good Conduct Medal, two Navy Unit Commendations and a Meritorious Unit Commendation. After thirty-four years of dedicated service, he and his family settled on his ranch in Lake George, Colorado. Later, they moved to Colorado Springs and eventually to Rye, Colorado. Outside his military life, he actively participated in his church.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Palatas was a pillar of his community and he will be sorely missed. His pride for his nation was demonstrated in the many years he spent in active duty for our nation's military. At this difficult time of bereavement, I express my deepest regrets and sympathies to the family and friends of Michael Palatas.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4755) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this rule.

Unlike most appropriations bills that this House debates, this bill will be considered by a structured rule that had blocked me from offering two amendments.

Two amendments that, according to the parliamentarian, were germane and not subject to a point of order. In other words, if this appropriations bill was any other appropriations bill, I would of had the opportunity to offer my amendments.

My first amendment would have prohibited the use of funds on any vote that last longer than 17 minutes.

It is not bad enough that they will hold the vote open long enough to have it their way. What is worst is that they would not even let us debate the amendment in the first place. What are they so afraid of?

The second Amendment would have required conference committees to meet before the House can vote on a conference report.

Since they did not allow me to offer my amendment, I plan to introduce a bill to restore democracy to the House of Representative. Some of the key sections of the bill deal with what my amendments would have also addressed.

In all, this legislation will offer ten specific changes to the way this House has been operating under the Republican Majority. Like my amendments, these changes will help restore democracy to the United States Congress.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOU  
ROLLENHAGEN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Lou Rollenhagen, and thank him for his dedication toward educating our youth in the Palisade, Colorado community. As the principal of Palisade High School, he has guided thousands of students toward their future aspirations. It is with great satisfaction and pride that I pay tribute to Lou for his many contributions to his community and state.

Lou attended Michigan State University and then went on to Western State College, where he became certified as a teacher. He took his first job at Palisade High School teaching Life Science before going on to become the counselor, the assistant principal, and the head football, wrestling, and basketball coach.

He has served as the Principal for over fifteen years and has succeeded in making many improvements for the school including

the addition of advanced placement classes and upgrading the music and athletics programs.

Mr. Speaker, Lou Rollenhagen maintains that the greatest reward in his job was knowing that his career has produced good teachers and students. He has demonstrated a love for public service that resonates in his compassionate and selfless service to the Palisade High School community. Lou's enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. Thanks for all your hard work Lou, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE TEXAS DELEGATION TO THE 2004 YMCA YOUTH CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Texas delegation to the 2004 YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs. The Youth Conference on National Affairs brings together the best and brightest students from across the country that was involved in the YMCA Youth and Government program. Youth and Government seeks to teach teenagers the process of learning about government through hands-on experiences and in-depth learning.

The YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs was held last week in Black Mountain, NC, and I am proud of each and every one of the delegates that did a wonderful job in representing the Lone Star State: Nathan Ball of Sugar Land, Skylar Brogdon of Fort Worth, Gina Bullock of Fort Worth, Spencer Colglazier of North Richland Hills, Rashad Deckard of Palestine, Whitney Ferguson of Houston, Delores "DeDee" Fowler of Beaumont, Michael Foley of Palestine, Garret Gibson of Damon, Morgan Gibson of Damon, Nathan Gonzalez of Benbrook, Kathleen Gully of Sugar Land, Stephanie Hinds of Houston, Jacob Holt of Katy, Melissa Hooper of Midland, Joshua Jemente of Ft. Worth, Robby Johnston of Roanoke, Cody Kilmeyer of Azle, Michelle McClathy of Ft. Worth, Holly Nichols of Sugar Land, Hunter Patterson of Garland, Anna Peters of Houston, Jillian Sheridan of Weatherford.

I would also like to sincerely thank the adult advisors that are accompanying the delegates at the conference. Without the kind service of these adults that give up so much of their free time, the conference would not be the stunning success that it is year in and year out. I would like to thank the Texas YMCA Youth and Government State Director Suzanne Mabie, John Reyes of the Houston YMCA, and Sue Six of Lake Country Christian School.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARGIE WILBUR

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life

and memory of Margie Wilbur who recently passed away. Margie was a devoted mother, and a valuable citizen to her Meeker, Colorado community. As her family and community mourn her passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional woman, and her many contributions to the community in which she lived.

After attending college Margie became a nurse and served during World War II. On a 1944 trip, stopping through Meeker, Colorado, she met George Robert Wilber and were married a year later. After moving to Meeker and giving birth to three daughters, Margie went to work for the Rio Blanco County Clerks Office. In her twenty-eight years working for the courthouse, she was both a deputy county clerk and county vital statistician.

Margie was a very active and devoted member of her community. During her life she was an active member of the St. James Church, and a past president of both the Meeker Woman's Club, and the Moffat District of the Federated Woman's Clubs. Margie served as president of the Rio Blanco County Historical Society. She worked tirelessly on the Meeker Community Concert Board, was a board chairman for the Last Frontier Group and a member the Meeker Library Board, as well as the Three Rivers Library System.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life and memory of Margie Wilbur. My heart goes out to her family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement. Margie lived an extraordinary life and she will be sorely missed.

IN HONOR OF LA SOCIEDAD HIJOS DE PALMEIRA

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira for its numerous contributions to the community, and its dedication to the City of Palmeira, Spain. On Wednesday, July 14, 2004, the members of La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira will celebrate the 75th anniversary by traveling to the City of Palmeira, Spain.

La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira was established in April 1929 by a group of immigrants from Palmeira, Spain. The original members of the organization were: D. Andres Paisal Ramos, President; Vicente Franco Paisal, Vice-President; Jesus Gonzalez, Secretary; Andres Santiago Gomez, Vice-Secretary; Antonio Rodriguez Martinez, Treasurer; and Pedro Gomez Pazos, Andres Santiago Rodriguez, Andres Gago Fernandez, and Francisco Blanco. La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira was founded to establish a support network for those who had made the journey from Palmeira, Spain to the United States, and also to preserve their culture and customs.

In its 75 years of existence, La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira has been a pillar of community service throughout Newark. As the city continues to diversify, La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira has served as a center for promoting Spanish culture, and has provided a place to keep Spanish cultural and traditions alive.

La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira has not only been active in the United States, but also in

Palmeira, Spain. Through the hard work and dedication of the past and present members, La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira was able to establish a state of the art recreational center in their native city. This center has provided the City of Palmeira with resources that were previously not available to its residents.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring La Sociedad Hijos de Palmeira for its distinguished public service, its dedication to promoting Spanish culture in the City of Newark, and its continued efforts to assist the people of Palmeira, Spain.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RALPH WADLEIGH

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise and pay tribute today to Otero Judge Ralph Wadleigh of La Junta, Colorado. After sixteen years of dedicated service, Judge Wadleigh is retiring from the bench. I would like to join my colleagues in honoring Ralph's work before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Although he will be remembered for his time spent overseeing the law as a county judge, he spent many years prior to his tenure on the bench as a faithful civil servant. He previously worked as the deputy district attorney, the city attorney, and the attorney representing the local school board. Recently he announced he would step down from full time service as an Otero County Judge, but Ralph still desires to remain an active civil servant. He has accepted a part-time position to serve as a senior judge for parts of southeastern Colorado. This position will provide him an opportunity to serve sixty days per year, where he will work as a substitute presiding judge for several counties throughout his area.

Mr. Speaker, Ralph's dedication to justice and the people of Otero County certainly deserves recognition before this body of Congress and this nation. Over the years, he has shown he is a friend of justice, and I am grateful for his commitment to his fellow citizens. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

SUPPORT VOTER FREEDOM ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, political operatives across the country are using state ballot access laws to deny voters the opportunity to support independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader. For example, one New York election lawyer has publicly stated that partisan election lawyers should take advantage of New York's complex and costly ballot access procedures to keep Mr. Nader off the New York ballot. Meanwhile, a state party chairman in Arizona has hired a team of lawyers for the sole purpose of keeping Mr. Nader off the Arizona ballot.

The effort to keep Mr. Nader off the ballot shows how ballot access laws preserve the