

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 McClathry 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

two party monopoly over the political system by effectively disenfranchising supporters of third parties and independent candidates. While the campaign against Mr. Nader is an extreme case, supporters of the two party monopoly regularly use ballot access laws to keep third party and independent candidates off ballots. Even candidates able to comply with onerous ballot access rules must devote so many resources to simply getting on the ballot that their ability to communicate their ideas to the general public is severely limited. Perhaps the ballot access laws are one reason why voter turnout has been declining over the past few decades. After all, almost 42% of eligible voters have either not registered to vote or have registered as something other than Democrat or Republican.

The United States Constitution gives Congress the authority to regulate the time, place, and manner of federal elections. Thus, ballot access is one of the few areas where Congress has explicit Constitutional authority to establish national standards. In order to open up the political process, I have introduced the Voter Freedom Act (HR 1941). HR 1941 established uniform standards for ballot access so third party and independent candidates can at last compete on a level playing field.

The blatant attempt by a major party to keep Ralph Nader off state ballots demonstrates how restrictive ballot access laws are used to preserve a political monopoly, limit voters' choices, and deny the rights of millions of Americans who support third parties and independent candidates an opportunity to effectively participate in the political process. I call upon my colleagues to remedy this situation by supporting my Voter Freedom Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in this chamber on July 12, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 359, 361 and 362 and "no" on rollcall vote 360.

HONORING PORT OF OAKLAND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TAY YOSHITANI

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional achievements of retiring Port of Oakland Executive Director Tay Yoshitani.

Since his graduation from the United States Military Academy and the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, Mr. Yoshitani's distinguished career has included the direction of the ports of several major cities. After serving as the Deputy Director of the Port of Los Angeles for six years, he became the Director of the Port of Maryland Administration in 1995. There he served with distinction until joining the Port of Oakland in 1998

as Deputy Executive Director, and later becoming Executive Director in October 2001.

As the Executive Director of the Port of Oakland, Mr. Yoshitani directed a staff of over six hundred employees and oversaw the management of the Oakland International Airport, the Oakland Seaport, and the historic Jack London Square. He has done an outstanding job managing not only the functions of the Port itself, but has also consistently demonstrated his commitment to sustainable development as a business goal through his pursuit of social equity and environmental responsibility in addition to economic vitality. In keeping with these principles, he established a new division at the Port, the Social Responsibility Division, which ensures greater access to jobs and business opportunities for the local community. Furthermore, Mr. Yoshitani is responsible for the establishment of a variety of other ground-breaking initiatives, such as the Public Art Program and Policy, the Port's sustainability Task Force, and the Annual Good Neighbor Awards, which recognize individuals and organizations delivering outstanding community service.

During his tenure as Executive Director, Mr. Yoshitani has also presided over the completion of a number of infrastructural improvements to all three Port divisions. In addition to supporting the Estuary Plan by initiating real estate and waterfront development in underutilized areas, he also presided over the completion of enlarged marine terminals, as well as the initiation of the construction of the Oakland International Airport's Terminal Improvement Program, the largest aviation project in the airport's 77-year history. Furthermore, under Mr. Yoshitani's direction, the Port has received over one hundred million dollars in Federal funding for various infrastructural improvements.

On July 14, 2004, Mr. Yoshitani will be honored in Oakland, California on the occasion of his retirement. I would like to take this opportunity to commend his exceptional achievements not only in the areas of Port economic growth and development, but also for his role as a leader in the areas of social responsibility and sustainable business practices. Mr. Yoshitani has distinguished himself as an exceptional business and civic leader, whose contributions have greatly enriched our community.

IN MEMORY OF EDILITH ECKART

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edilith Eckart, who died June 16, 2004 in Humboldt County, California at the age of eighty-four.

Edilith Eckart was born in Brooklyn, the daughter of Norwegian immigrants. She was a teacher prior to World War II then served her country in the U.S. Navy as a WAVE Lieutenant Junior Grade during that war. After the war she moved to New Orleans with her family where she began her lifelong vocation as an activist for peace and civil rights. She was an ardent and effective environmentalist who was often called as an expert witness in court cases.

Her belief in the concept of a peaceful world was absolute. She was an activist extraordinaire, a Veteran for Peace, a columnist, a citizen diplomat, a member of Women in Black, a biologist, a devoted parent, grandparent and world traveler. She led fifteen trips to the Soviet Union, visited Israel and Palestine several times and in 1995 she went to Japan for ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Characteristically, she engaged in civil disobedience and joined international organizations to help deliver \$4 million worth of medicines to Iraqi hospitals following the first Gulf War. She was the co-chair of the Veterans for Peace "Iraq Water Project," which resulted in the building of a number of water treatment plants in rural Iraq.

She believed in the power of individuals to forcefully speak out for peace and justice, connect with the people of other countries in the pursuit of those ideals and she worked valiantly to relieve suffering wherever she found it.

Referring to herself as a contemplative activist, her garden was listed with the Sanctuary Garden Project, a nation wide network of backyard sanctuaries.

Edilith Eckart received many national awards for her friendship building in the Soviet Union, Palestine, Iraq, as well as the Veterans for Peace Presidents Award. She was also awarded the Physician's for Social Responsibility "Broad Street Pump Award." The American Association of University Women honored her during Women's History Month in 1998.

She was an inspiration; a humanitarian and she left a distinguished legacy to us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Edilith Eckart for her unwavering commitment to the ideals and values that sustain our great country.

IN HONOR OF THE BRAVERY OF THE NIAGARA FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW YORK STATE PARK POLICE

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroes of the Niagara Falls Fire Department and the New York State Park Police. Last Sunday evening, these brave first responders rescued a woman on the verge of ending her own life at the edge of the vast Niagara Falls. Without hesitation, these men put their own lives in danger to save another.

Niagara Falls is one of the greatest natural treasures on earth. One of the largest waterfalls in the world, Niagara Falls plunges a dramatic 180 feet, or 16 stories. It is a wondrous site that attracts millions of tourists every year. But with its immense beauty comes immense dangers. Over the years, police and fire personnel in Niagara Falls have performed daring rescues to save people who have gotten too close to the edge.

On Sunday evening, a suicidal woman ventured out to a ledge just a few feet from the edge of the mighty falls. Responding first to the scene, New York State Park Police officers Scott Durham and Timothy Coulombe