

sustainable agriculture. Their life stories since participating in CASS make clear that this program is effectively achieving its mission.

In light of the fact that the bill also provides an additional \$50 million for Haiti through the Economic Support Fund, I hope that the Committee will join me in encouraging USAID to commit a portion of those additional funds specifically to expanding the CASS program in Haiti. The success of the program there and its strength in training individuals in fields which can truly make a difference in Haiti's future: infrastructure repair, environmental management, sustainable agriculture, among others, offer an opportunity to see that these additional funds are put to work quickly through a program that will, no doubt, bring quick returns in terms of enhanced economic and social well being for the people of Haiti.

Again, I appreciate the Committee's attention to this particular program, and I hope that through CASS and other programs, we will seize the opportunity to assist our neighbors through the promotion of economic and social development in Latin America. I appreciate the Committee leadership's commitment to work on further increasing funding for the Latin America region during conference and I lend my support to that effort.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MONTEREY ROWE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Monterey Rowe and thank her for her work as the Acting Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office of Congressional Relations. 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.

Monterey began her service in the Immigration and Naturalization Service as a Data Transcriber in the Record Services Division in 1980. Her efficient and productive work led to three promotions as Staff Assistant to the Assistant Commissioner, Secretary to the Director of the Information Services Division, and Immigration Information Officer. At the Director's request she was assigned to the Legalization Project that helped implement the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Monterey's diligence earned her an additional detail on the Examination Branch that handles special requests from the public, the White House, Congressional, and State and Local government agencies regarding immigration benefits. As result of that experience, Monterey went on to become the Senior Immigration Officer for the Congressional Relations office and was assigned to the USCIS department in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Monterey Rowe has been an invaluable resource to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Congressional Relations Department and 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 Monterey. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment she has given to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for her years of enthusiastic service.

HONORING JOSE M. HERNANDEZ

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor NASA engineer Jose M. Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez is an exceptional individual who worked hard all of his life in accomplishing his ultimate goal of becoming an Astronaut. On May 6, 2004 NASA announced the "Next Generation of Explorers," and all of us in the 18th Congressional district of California were very proud to hear Jose Hernandez as one of the 11 named in the new class of astronauts.

Mr. Hernandez was born in French Camp, CA and as the son of farm workers, he grew up in the fields of the Central Valley. Mr. Hernandez dreamed of becoming an astronaut, and knew that in pursuing his dream he would face many challenges. However he also knew that life as a farm worker was not for him. He worked hard and obtained his education from the University of the Pacific and then a Masters from UC Santa Barbara.

Mr. Hernandez worked as an engineer for Lawrence Livermore Lab and then moved on to become an engineer for NASA. He applied to become an Astronaut three times never giving up hope that one day his goal would be fulfilled. On May 6 his dream came true.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Jose Hernandez for his accomplishments. I am delighted to recognize all of his achievements, and thank him for being a role model in his service to our community, and our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for debate on the Stock Options Accounting Reform Act (H.R. 3574) rollcall vote 394, an amendment by SHERMAN; rollcall vote 395, an amendment by MALONEY; rollcall vote 396, an amendment by KANJORSKI; rollcall vote 397, final passage of H.R. 3574.

I was not present for debate on Appropriations for the District of Columbia for Fiscal Year 2005 (H.R. 4850), rollcall vote 398, an amendment by HEFLEY; and rollcall vote 399, final passage of H.R. 4850.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for rollcall votes 397, 398, and 399.

I would have voted "nay" for rollcall votes 394, 395, and 396.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TAGE PEDERSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated sports-medicine pioneer and U.S. Ski-team trainer from Aspen, Colorado. Tage Pederson has helped to train athletes and promote the sport of skiing in Colorado for years, and I am privileged to stand here today before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize his accomplishments.

Tage initially immigrated to Aspen from Denmark in 1956 where he became the assistant director, and then director of the Aspen Institute Health and Fitness Center until 1983. While at the Institute, Tage's Danish schooling in physical education to develop ski training and physical therapy regimens caught the attention of several Olympic racers. He believed that motion was a requirement for a speedy recovery from injury and is actually responsible for many of the early rehabilitation programs that existed before orthopedics and medicine.

In 1968 Tage was invited to become the official U.S. Ski Team trainer and worked with the U.S. Alpine team until 1980 and the Nordic Team until 1985. He accompanied the teams to four Olympic games and four World Championships as an unpaid volunteer. One of the biggest moments of his career as a sports-trainer was aiding Billy Kidd to overcome back problems in the 1970 Amateur World Championships to win the gold medal in the combined event that contained the longest slalom in the history of the sport. Tage was recently inducted into the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame for his service to the sport of skiing for over four decades.

Mr. Speaker Tage Pederson has committed decades of his life to rehabilitating hundreds of Roaring Fork Valley skiers and getting them back on the slopes. He is a caring and humble individual who I am honored to recognize before this body of Congress and this nation. Congratulations on your induction Tage, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAS VEGAS DAILY OPTIC

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Las Vegas Daily Optic, a newspaper in San Miguel County, New Mexico, on its 125th anniversary. On August 21, 2004, citizens throughout the area will celebrate this remarkable achievement.

The Optic, owned by Russell A. Kistler, was founded shortly after the railroad arrived in Las Vegas in July of 1879. Mr. Kistler, who had been publishing a newspaper in Otero, New Mexico, felt that Las Vegas would be a more lucrative location. So he packed his bags, moved there and set up the Optic's first office and a printing press at the building on the corner of Grand and Douglas.

At the time, Las Vegas—or rather what is now known as Las Vegas—was thriving. Indeed, in 1890 the population of Las Vegas far exceeded that of Albuquerque; Las Vegas had 5,273 people compared to Albuquerque's 3,785. It wasn't until 1910 that Albuquerque's population surpassed that of Las Vegas.

The Optic began as a weekly—its first issue published July 31, 1879. But just four months later—on Nov. 4—it began publishing daily.

From the beginning, the Optic earned a reputation for getting out local news and for providing vivid accounts of noteworthy events. Mr. Kistler and his assistant wrote firsthand articles and editorials about political rallies, school programs, church services, sports, theatre performances and many other social events. Another popular staple in the Optic's news coverage was crime—from shootings and hangings to robberies.

The stories featured in the pages of the Optic over the past 125 years capture the colorful history of Las Vegas, a history that is the stuff of legends.

There were stories of gunfights, public hangings and notorious outlaws from the "Wild West" days. Also detailed in those early issues of the Optic were the births of some of the area's most beloved and critical institutions, among them what is now known as New Mexico Highlands University, Montezuma Castle and the Las Vegas Medical Center.

And then there are the chronicles of the struggles, among them the 91-year struggle to consolidate old town and new town into municipality and the political struggle for dominance between the local Republican and Democratic Parties.

The Optic also published the comings and goings of legends such as Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday and Jesse James. In December of 1879, it noted that Jesse James had been a guest at the hot springs the previous summer.

The Optic has changed significantly over the 125 years it has been published. Ownership of the paper has changed hands nine times since its founding, but it has remained in the Beck family for 35 years.

When brothers Robert and Stuart Beck purchased the Optic in 1967, it had a circulation of 1,200. Today, its circulation is 6,000.

The Optic reached another milestone in April of 1998, when after the death of beloved Optic Publisher Stuart Beck, his widow was appointed publisher. Until Delia Romero Beck became publisher, no woman had served in that capacity.

Each publisher, editor and writer at the paper has left his or her mark on the Optic. Through the years, its pages have narrowed, the manner in which it is printed has eased, and the typewriters that once dominated its newsroom have disappeared in favor of computers. The Optic has undergone countless format changes, and the editorial style found in the paper's early editions bears little resemblance to today's.

But one thing has remained constant: The Optic's commitment to its readers and to the people and institutions it covers and its commitment to being fair and accurate in its reporting.

In the years since the Optic began publication, other newspapers have come and gone. But for more than a century, the Optic has survived and triumphed, each day capturing in its pages the stories of Las Vegas and its people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to rise and recognize the Las Vegas Daily Optic and the citizens of San Miguel County on this truly momentous occasion. Their commitment to community spirit represents the finest qualities of New Mexico.

HONORING TOM MCKIBBAN, CRNA, MS, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding Kansan, Tom McKibban, CRNA, MS. Mr. McKibban will soon complete his year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am very pleased that this son of Kansas was tapped as the 2003–2004 president of this prestigious national organization.

Founded in 1931, the AANA represents more than 30,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). As you may know, CRNAs administer approximately 65 percent of all anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered including hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and the plastic surgeons.

More importantly, CRNAs are the sole anesthesia providers in approximately two thirds of all rural hospitals, affording these medical facilities obstetrical, surgical and trauma stabilization services. In some states, such as Kansas, CRNAs are the sole providers in nearly 100% of the rural hospitals.

Tom earned his master's of science degree in nurse anesthesia from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas, and his bachelor's degree in healthcare administration from Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kansas. He is currently a practicing nurse anesthetist and partner of the Butler County Anesthesia Services, LLC, which provides anesthesia services for Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital in El Dorado, Kansas.

Tom has held various leadership positions in the AANA as president-elect, treasurer, and regional director before becoming the national president of the AANA in 2003. In addition, Tom has served terms as president, president-elect, treasurer, and secretary for the Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

During his AANA Presidency, Mr. McKibban has testified before committees of Congress on healthcare topics including nurse anesthesia education and the importance of nurse anesthetists to the U.S. Armed Forces and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Under McKibban's leadership, the AANA opened an important, new line of communication with the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). These organizations of anesthesia professionals have not always seen eye-to-eye. The recent joint efforts of the two professional organizations would not have been possible without the initiative of Tom McKibban and his ASA counterpart.

Even with his demanding schedule as a practicing nurse anesthetist, Tom has found

time over the years to volunteer in his community. He has served as president and vice president of the Board of Education for Unified School District 490, and has been an active member of the board of education since 1999. He has also served as a member of the Endowment Board of Butler County Community College and board member for the American Red Cross Bluestem Chapter too.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Tom McKibban, CRNA, MS, for his notable career and outstanding achievements.

INTRODUCTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES EXPORT REFORM ACT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing The Controlled Substances Export Reform Act, legislation to create and maintain U.S. jobs by reforming our Nation's outdated pharmaceutical export control laws.

Current law allows U.S. companies to export most controlled substances only to the immediate country where the products will be consumed. Shipment to central sites for further distribution across national boundaries is prohibited.

Mr. Speaker, foreign competitors labor under no such restrictions and can readily move approved medical products between international drug control treaty countries without limit or restriction. The exclusive prohibitions imposed by U.S. law on American manufacturers place them at significant disadvantage in international markets, creating powerful incentives for domestic companies to move production overseas, damaging local economies and costing U.S. jobs.

The legislation I have introduced today, along with a bipartisan group of my colleagues, authorizes the Attorney General to permit carefully regulated pharmaceutical exports to our international drug convention partner countries.

The bill retains full Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) authority over all shipments of controlled substances and establishes strict procedures to ensure these products are used solely for legitimate medical purposes. While the DEA's authority over exports is undiminished, by creating new parity for U.S. companies with their international competitors, the legislation encourages domestic production and job growth.

The Controlled Substances Export Reform Act supports American jobs and protects U.S. interests. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this important legislation.

MAINTAINING THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON CYPRUS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today on the tiny Mediterranean island of Cyprus,