

It was through this foresight that the Arlington County Fire Department was able to so effectively deal with the terrorist attack on the Pentagon. Chief Plaughter and his firefighters were commended for their quick and organized response to the tragedy. Without the leadership of Chief Plaughter and the dedication of the men and women of the Arlington County Fire Department and other Northern Virginia fire departments more lives would have been lost on that tragic day.

I would like to thank Chief Plaughter for his distinguished service to Arlington and Fairfax Counties. His leadership and vision have helped create some of the premier fire departments in the nation. He is highly deserving of this honor. I wish Chief Plaughter and his family the best as he begins his much deserved retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MRS. ALMA MURR

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to mourn the life of a remarkable lady from New Castle, Colorado. Alma Murr passed away at the age of ninety-seven this past May. She left a strong impression on all those whom she met, and her life is an example of the constant change and growth that our great country made in the past century. I am honored to stand here with my colleagues before this body and this nation to recognize her life.

Alma was born in 1906 in Madison County, Nebraska, and at a young age began to deal with big changes and responsibilities when the family moved to Lander, Wyoming. When Alma was ten years old, her father died of pneumonia, which put her in charge of raising her younger brothers and sisters while her mother worked as a cook at the Shoshone and Bannock Indian reservations. In 1917, the family moved in a covered wagon to Meeker, Colorado, where Alma attended and graduated from high school. At twenty-one, Alma married Orel Murr and the couple farmed on Beaver Creek, and Rifle before finding their true home near New Castle on Colorado's Western Slope.

Alma and Orel had a working fruit orchard with apples, plums, nectarines, apricots, peaches and all sorts of berries. They sold their produce at their family-run Peach Valley Market, or at a second family-run market in the Fort Collins area, and to wholesale markets in nearby states. When they had to close the fruit market, the couple turned to raising hay. With their hard, painstaking work, Alma and Orel raised three children on the eighteen-acre Peach Valley Homestead where Alma has lived for sixty-nine years.

Alma was a caring person who leaves behind a large family that loved her for her spirit, and kindness—she was the type of person with whom it was easy to become friends. She is survived by her sons Robert and Richard, her daughter Phyllis, her sister Evelyn, fourteen grand children, eighteen great grand children, and one great great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, Alma Murr was a kind and generous soul who touched the lives of many

of the people who met her. She was a strong woman that led by example and helped to nourish the members of her Colorado community with great devotion and satisfaction in her work. I am honored to recognize her life before this body of Congress and this nation. My thoughts and prayers go out to Alma's family and friends at this difficult time of bereavement.

IN HONOR OF DAVID MEYERS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Meyers, a dedicated member of the Monterey community. David will be retiring from his current position of General Manager of the Monterey Waste Management District, where he has worked diligently for twenty-five years overseeing the burying and recycling of the peninsula's waste.

During his years of service, David has gone above and beyond his normal duties by playing a leading role in turning the Marina Dump into an innovative recycling and waste management center. While Meyers was working there, the center was one of the first to siphon methane and carbon dioxide gases for electrical uses in 1983. Then, in 1989, when the state passed legislation requiring cities and counties to divert 50 percent of their solid waste from landfills by 2000, David spurred the waste management center into action. Under his leadership the district grew from 10 employees who buried trash to 130 employees whose duties range in a wide variety of recycling tasks.

David's innovation did not stop there. He created a thrift store on the site called the Last Shop Mercantile that sells items that would otherwise have been thrown away. It brings in \$400,000 annually and pays for itself.

Under his stewardship, the Monterey County Waste Management District has been honored with the first ever "Best Solid Waste System in North America" award by the Solid Waste Association of North America. Meyers himself has been given two awards by the Solid Waste Association of North America: the Planning and Management Technical Division's Distinguished Achievement Award and the Robert L. Lawrence Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate David on his much deserved retirement and thank him for his contribution to our community. David has continually gone above and beyond the roles bestowed asked of him and his innovation has lead to a cleaner, healthier community. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CLIFF McDUFFIE OF ZEPHYRHILLS

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Cliff McDuffie of Zephyrhills in my 5th Congressional District.

Mr. McDuffie is an amazing gentleman who through his years of dedication to public service has continually helped make the city of Zephyrhills a better place. I had the pleasure of honoring him at his retirement on August 27, 2004, in Zephyrhills, FL.

Cliff's tenure as a public servant began at the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce. There, he ran the small-business and personnel divisions and was operations manager. Cliff took over in Zephyrhills as the Executive Director of the city's Chamber of Commerce in 1997 after more than 20 years with the Tampa Chamber of Commerce. Despite his retirement, McDuffie will remain active and visible in the Zephyrhills community as the city's mayor.

Cliff McDuffie is a shining example of what a public servant should aspire to become. I join the rest of Florida's Fifth Congressional District in thanking Mr. McDuffie for his years of service and wish him the best of luck with his retirement. I am proud to call him my constituent.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PALISADE, COLORADO

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Palisade, Colorado. This year marks the celebration of its first centennial, a rare and distinguished achievement. The story of Palisade is one of success, a farming town that thrived around the mouth of a river. As they celebrate their one hundred year anniversary, I would like to join my colleagues here today, before this body of Congress and this nation, in recognizing the town of Palisade, Colorado.

Settlers first started establishing homesteads on the land in the early 1880s. The land that would become the town of Palisade was desirable because it was located close to the mouth of Rapid Creek, making irrigation easier for the fruit farming that would soon thrive. The town of Palisade began to prosper, and with sufficient growth, Palisade became an incorporated town in 1904.

Over the last hundred years, Palisade has seen many of the same changes and attributes of growth characteristic of similar American communities. With the advent of the industrial revolution in America at the turn of the twentieth century, the town saw a boom in its coal mining industry. However, Palisade is primarily known for its fruit orchards. During prohibition, the grape farmers and wine makers suffered hardships, but found success once again when prohibition was lifted. The community infrastructure has grown strong over the years as new friendships were established through common threads by the formation of many social organizations.

Mr. Speaker, after one hundred years, Palisade, Colorado continues to experience success as a tight-knit community. The social institutions and economic infrastructure account for the many years of existence. Our nation was built upon the strong foundation of small communities like Palisade. I congratulate the city of Palisade, Colorado for this important

anniversary and wish the community the best in the future.

IN HONOR OF DAVID PENNISI

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David "Rowdy" Pennisi, who disappeared at sea on June 22, 2004. Commercial fishing was not only his profession, but also his passion in life. He will be lovingly remembered by family and friends for his generous and kindhearted nature.

David Pennisi was raised on a ranch near Hollister, and was an active member with Future Farmers of America. He moved to Monterey when he was fourteen and quickly adapted to his new life on the wharf. Fisherman's Wharf has long been the center of a vibrant fishing and canning industry, made famous in Steinbeck's Cannery Row. David eagerly continued this tradition when he became a commercial fisherman himself.

While David was respected around Monterey for his abilities as a fisherman, he was better known for the kindness and love he showed to all who knew him. In a profession dominated by stereotypes of loud, brash men, David, like his father, was regarded as a gentleman. A good friend of the family, Pat Flanagan, spoke about David at his memorial service, "He died in a dying industry, with dignity and respect."

Mr. Speaker, David Pennisi was dedicated to a profession that is neither easy nor safe, but he loved it nonetheless. Not many people choose to become fishermen in this day and age, but David will continue to provide a shining example for generations to come. He has made a lasting impact on our community and the people with whom he worked. I join the communities of the Monterey Bay, his friends and his family in honoring this truly commendable man and all of his lifelong achievements.

TRIBUTE TO THE DADE CITY SENIOR LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR TEAM

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dade City Senior Little League All-Star Team.

The Dade City All-Stars gave a stunning performance in the World Series Games this year. After capturing the Southeastern Regional U.S. championship, the team ended the season with a batting average of .370 and only six strike-outs. The dedication the players have shown to their team members has made them one of the most successful teams in years.

I commend Manager Dale Maggard, who has worked with some of these young men for almost a decade. I also congratulate our Dade City Senior Little League All-Star Team, for representing our community in Bangor, Maine with an unparalleled level of professionalism and maturity.

The outstanding young men who comprise the first and only All-Stars team from Pasco County to compete in the Senior League World Series and its coaches are as follows: Dominic Brown, Rashaun Capehart, Jamie Cruz, Julian Juarez, Gerald Mathis, Lance Roberts, Hunter Hedman, Zachary Maggard, Will Pullin, Steven Roe, Robbie Shields, Matt Wells, Coach Raul Cruz, Coach Dale Maggard, Coach Tony Karpee, and Coach John Shields.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANN GORSUCH BURFORD

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to mourn the death of Ann Gorsuch Buford, who recently passed away at the age of sixty-two after a long bout with cancer. She possessed a strong intellect that she utilized to become an eloquent and passionate environmental advocate. President Ronald Reagan appointed her as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency where she brought economic and fiscal discipline to the agency. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation to recognize her many accomplishments.

Ann was born in Casper, Wyoming, but spent most of her life growing up in Denver, Colorado. She earned both her masters and law degrees from the University of Colorado by the time she was twenty-one, and went on to study in India for a year on a Fulbright Scholarship. After completing her studies, Ann served as an assistant district attorney in Denver and Jefferson counties before being elected to the Colorado state House of Representatives in 1976. She spent 4 years leading the initiative to cut the grocery sales tax and stiffen criminal sentences, and was named outstanding freshman legislator. In 1980, when Reagan was elected president, Ann was selected to be the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), making her the second highest-ranking woman in the Reagan Administration.

At the EPA, Ann was able to efficiently cut-down on government waste inside the executive agency while enforcing environmental regulations. When she left Washington, Ann returned to a Denver law practice working primarily on children's advocacy. She is survived by her mother, Dorothy O'Grady McGill, her children, Neil, Stephanie, and J.J. Gorsuch, five grandchildren, her brother, Joe McGill, and her sisters, Mary Edwards, Theresa Peace, Dorothy McGill, Veronica Urban, and Rosie Binge.

Mr. Speaker, Ann Gorsuch Burford was a diligent public servant of this Nation, who worked to improve the quality of our air and water in Colorado and the Nation. I am honored to recognize her before this body of Congress today. My thoughts and prayers go out to her friends and family at this difficult time of bereavement.

IN HONOR OF DR. RAY CLIFFORD

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Ray Clifford, a long-time Salinas resident and Chancellor of the Defense Language Institute. Dr. Clifford is retiring from the Defense Language Institute after 24 years of dedicated service, leadership and mentorship to his students and country.

During his years of service, Dr. Clifford honorably fulfilled the Institute's mission to educate, sustain, evaluate and support foreign language specialists, ensuring that our military forces are prepared to meet ever-changing global foreign language requirements. As the academic leader of the world's largest language school, he has represented the Institute in national, international and professional forums including regular briefings to members of Congress and senior leaders in the Department of Defense.

Under his leadership, the Defense Language Institute has been continually regarded as one of the finest schools for foreign language instruction in the world. Specifically, Dr. Clifford has improved the language performance results four-fold in over 80 percent of major programs, created and implemented the first standardized language proficiency testing program for the Department of Defense and spearheaded the Institute's response to terrorism with the addition of new instructional and testing programs for military personnel.

In addition to his commitment to the Defense Language Institute, Dr. Clifford served in the United States Army, worked for the Bureau of Land Management and the Central Intelligence Agency. His dedication to national service is embodied in his overall belief in community service and education. He has published many papers and articles on teacher development, language proficiency assessment, curriculum design and educational program administration.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Dr. Clifford on his retirement and thank him for his contributions to our community and country. Dr. Clifford has dedicated his life to public service and his contributions to the Defense Language Institute have been instrumental in the Institute's recognition as a world renowned language instruction institute. I wish him the best in his retirement.

EXTENDING THE BAN ON MILITARY STYLE ASSAULT WEAPONS

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, Congress has three legislative days to vote before the ban on military assault weapons expires and weapons of terror, like the AK-47, will be legal in America. The Republican leadership won't even allow the 136 bipartisan supporters of the ban a vote on the House floor.

Just last night, Congress could have voted to extend the ban, but instead Republican leaders decided it was more important to