

For 30 years, Continental National Bank has been at the heart of the economic development of South Florida. With quality banking services, a skilled staff and extensive community involvement, Continental National Bank has developed a reputation for caring about its customers while extending knowledgeable and professional banking services.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I warmly congratulate Continental National Bank on this important milestone and thank all of the fine men and women who are part of Continental National for their commitment and faithful service in supporting the needs and priorities of the entire South Florida community.

HONORING RON MCNEALL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ron McNeill. On October 1, Ron is retiring from the Board of Directors of the Missouri Corn Growers Association and Missouri Corn Merchandising Council after 11 years of service.

Ron McNeill was born in Boonville, Cooper County, Missouri on November 30, 1948. He has been married to his wife Carolyn for 33 years, and they have three wonderful children in Travis, Kelly, and Ashley.

In addition to his 11 years of service as a Director on the MCGA/MCMC Board, Ron is also a past MCMC Chairman and MCGA President. At the national level, he has served as a delegate to the National Corn Growers Association and he has served as a National Corn Growers Association Production and Stewardship Action Team Member. He has also been an active member of the United States Grains Council. Ron was a seed salesman for Pioneer Seed for at least 18 years, and served on Pioneer Seed's Advisory Council from 1991–1993.

As a dedicated advocate for agriculture, Ron has been the recipient of numerous awards. In 2000 he received an Honorary State FFA Degree, and in 2003 he was named the Outstanding MCGA Member. While many of us associate Ron's service with the agricultural sector, his dedication extends far beyond it, as he served with distinction on the Keytesville School Board for 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ron McNeill, a remarkable citizen who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service.

HONORING HARRIS COUNTY
COMMISSIONER SYLVIA R. GARCIA

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harris County Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia. Aside from her hard work and diligence as an distinguished public servant, she has been an inspiration and a strong leader for the Hispanic communities of Southeast Texas. Prior to her election in 2003, Commiss-

sioner Garcia served as Controller for the City of Houston and before that served as the appointed Director and Presiding Judge of the Houston Municipal Court System.

She is not only a great Houstonian, but a proven leader and driving force in her community. As an active leader in the Houston community, the Commissioner has served on more than 25 community boards and commissions, including the San Jacinto Girl Scouts, the Houston Hispanic Forum, the American Leadership Forum, the Texas Southern University Foundation and the Institute of Hispanic Culture. She has selflessly given of herself in order to promote strength and leadership in her community.

Despite the demanding duties of being Harris County Commissioner, she has given of her time to be chairperson or honorary chairperson of many charity functions. Such functions include the kick-off for "America Walks for Strong Women", benefiting the National Osteoporosis Foundation and the "International Paella Festival and Polo Espanol" benefiting Casa de Esperanza and The Mercy Foundation.

Her honors by the media and other organizations speak volumes about her service. She was named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the National Conference of Communities and Justice and has also been honored with the Texas Woman's University Board of Regents Woman of Distinction Award, the Hispanic Scouting Distinguished Citizen Award from the Sam Houston Area Boy Scouts of America, and the Board Award from the San Jacinto Girl Scouts.

Commissioner Garcia's accomplishments should be an inspiration to us all. She has done a fine job as Harris County Commissioner and is an invaluable resource for the Hispanic communities of Texas. She is someone who continues to inspire, and I am proud to recognize her on the floor of the House today.

HONORING THE RUTH PAGE
FOUNDATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Ruth Page Foundation of dance and performing arts on more than 30 years of innovative dance and artistic excellence.

The Ruth Page Foundation was established in 1970 in order to uphold and promote the highest quality of performing arts as produced by choreographer and dance icon Ruth Page and continues to be at the forefront of innovative dance theater in Chicago.

A native Chicagoan, Ms. Page gained national recognition through her unprecedented incorporation of the era's social and political issues into her artistic performances. In addition, Ms. Page attained international prominence by becoming the first American to dance with Diaghilev's Ballet Russe. In later years, Ms. Page would go on to choreograph, commission, and dance in a string of hits such as *Polka Melancholique* and *Hear Ye! Hear Ye!*

During the Great Depression of the 1930's, Ms. Page teamed up with Bentley Stone to di-

rect the federally funded Chicago Works Progress Administration (WPA) Dance Project. The duo had significant success with their groundbreaking feminist ballet *American Patterns*, and later became the first American ballet company to tour South America.

However, Ms. Page is probably best remembered for her assiduous efforts in creating and operating numerous dance companies throughout the Chicagoland area. From her first association with the Ravinia Opera in 1926, to her production of *The Nutcracker* at McCormick Place's Arie Crown Theater in the mid 1980's, Ms. Page contributed to the city's cultural scene by taking on the roles of prima ballerina, choreographer, director, financial backer, and visionary. Ms. Page, who passed away in 1991, is still considered the grand lady of Chicago dance.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the people of Chicago in congratulating the brilliant Ruth Page Foundation, a company that continues to uphold the quality and discipline that was embodied by its namesake. I am proud of their numerous achievements both on and off the stage and wish them continued growth and success into the future.

HONORING PAUL TUDOR JONES II

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Paul Tudor Jones II for his passionate dedication to conservation techniques and land stewardship practices of his Blue Valley Ranch located in Grand County, CO.

Mr. Jones was the 2004 recipient of the Middle Park Land Trust Land Steward of the Year Award. This annual award is given to the Grand County, CO landowner who most exemplifies the mission of the Middle Park Land Trust in land management and conservation practices who help preserve Grand County's scenery, agriculture, water, wildlife and biodiversity for today and future generations.

Mr. Jones first purchased a portion of the Blue Valley Ranch in 1994, he re-acquired the water rights and began a holistic approach to ranch management which includes wildlife conservation, agricultural production, stream enhancement, recreational activities and in essence, the preservation of our local heritage. The Blue Valley Ranch now encompasses 25,000 acres and is thriving.

The primary focus of the Blue Valley Ranch is wildlife conservation. The ranch has worked in partnership with the Colorado Division of Wildlife on many projects including the reintroduction of antelope south of the Colorado River, sage grouse monitoring and habitat restoration, and wild turkey transplants on both public and private land.

Habitat improvements for both wildlife and livestock have been prescribed burns, forest treatments, crops, and a rotational grazing system.

Many miles of the Blue River and adjoining tributaries that were vulnerable to low flows, high temperatures, and predators have been restored to a more natural condition.

It is a credit to Mr. Jones that agricultural production continues on the Blue Valley

Ranch. Each year, the Ranch puts up hay and runs cattle as well as buffalo.

On behalf of the residents of Grand County CO, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Paul Tudor Jones II for his dedication and commitment to land management and conservation practices and for being selected as the 2004 Middle Park Land Trust Land Steward of the Year Award.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DEVIN GRELLA

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Devin Grella, a constituent from the 16th District of Ohio, who sacrificed his life fighting for our country. Private First Class Devin Grella of the 706th Transportation Company of the Army Reserve died when incendiaries exploded near his convoy.

A graduate of Medina High School, Pfc Grella was an Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop 503 and was active in choir and athletics, participating in both cross-country and lacrosse. Everyone who knew him regarded him as a happy, gentle, and caring man. After his term of service, he planned to go to college in Utah and join ROTC in order to become an officer.

This exceptional young man exhibited valor and a commitment to serving our country. Without people of Pfc Grella's quality, the Nation would fail to carry out its task as a protector of freedom.

My deepest sympathy and prayers are extended to his family and friends who are now in mourning. I pray for the safety of our servicemen and women and thank them for their dedication to the defense of our Nation.

IN HONOR OF LANCE CORPORAL JACOB RAUL LUGO

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lance Corporal Jacob Raul Lugo, who was killed while defending our Nation on August 24, 2004 in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

For the past year, Lance Corporal Lugo has rendered faithful, conscientious, and valuable services to the U.S. Marine Corps and to the United States of America. Lance Corporal Lugo will be remembered for his commendable service and dedication to this great Nation.

Lance Corporal Lugo was a native of Flower Mound, Texas and a recent graduate of Marcus High School. At Marcus High the future Marine was an exceptional student, participating in both the Marching and Symphonic Bands and excelling academically as a member of the Spanish Honor Society.

In 2001, Mr. Lugo decided to join the Marines, where he served exceptionally in his career. He honored our great country and defended freedom as a member of the Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment,

Weapons Platoon where he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon Second Award and the War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. Lance Corporal Lugo was on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of this young American hero.

HONORING "MOTHER FAIRFAX" MARTHA PENNINO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on September 17th, Fairfax County, Virginia lost one of its most important and influential citizens when Martha Pennino, known as "Mother Fairfax", passed away. Through her leadership, Mrs. Pennino helped oversee the development of Fairfax County into one of the most prosperous and diverse jurisdictions in the Nation.

From 1968 to 1991 Martha Pennino served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, including 17 years as the Vice Chairman. As the representative of the Centreville District, Mrs. Pennino worked tirelessly for her constituents. During her tenure she was involved in most of the major decisions affecting the County, and was instrumental in seeing Reston develop into a successful planned community. Her work also saw the development of projects including the Dulles Toll Road, South Lakes High School, and the Reston Regional Library. She helped create a sense of community for all those living in her district.

Martha Pennino will best be remembered by the citizens of Fairfax County for her commitment to the poor and homeless in her community. She opened her office at night for people without a home and provided them a bed and a warm place to rest. She created a homeless shelter in her district and ensured that with the enormous development occurring in Fairfax County there would be low-cost housing options for those who needed it. Martha Pennino also helped establish the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission to help fight discrimination throughout the County. While Fairfax County grew, she wanted to ensure that every person could be a part of this vibrant community.

In honor of her work to help all the residents of Fairfax County and for being an instrumental part in the growth of the County, I ask that the Reston Post Office be named after Martha Pennino. It is imperative that we honor and remember this remarkable woman.

FREEDOM FOR MIJAIL BARZAGA LUGO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about Mijail Barzaga Lugo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Barzaga Lugo is an independent journalist in totalitarian Cuba. He believes in writing and publishing the truth, including about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. In his quest to disseminate the facts about the politics of repression practiced by the tyrant, Mr. Barzaga Lugo has written for various publications, including Cubanet. However, the dictatorship mandates propaganda and the tyrant's thugs arrest and imprison the brave independent journalists who peacefully publish the truth about the decrepit regime.

In March 2003, as part of Castro's brutal crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Barzaga Lugo was arrested. In the sham trial that followed, he was sentenced to 15 years in the abhorrent totalitarian gulag.

According to Amnesty International, the sham trial verdict read, in part, "Mijail Barzaga Lugo, in 2002, wrote, as an independent journalist, in different websites like Cubanet, Cubaliberal, and Payolibre, different articles of a subversive and counterrevolutionary type." Let me be clear, this sham verdict only confirms that Mr. Barzaga Lugo is languishing in the infernal gulag because he heroically wrote the truth about the totalitarian dictatorship.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that anyone, anywhere, is imprisoned in sub-human gulags simply for their belief in truth, freedom and democracy. At the dawn of the 21st century, mankind must no longer tolerate prisoners of conscience in any form, in any place, in any country. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Mijail Barzaga Lugo and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

RECOGNIZING TEN YEARS OF OPERATIONS AT PREMIUM STANDARD FARMS' MILAN PROCESSING FACILITY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Premium Standard Farms Milan Processing Facility. On September 19, 2004 Premium Standard Farms celebrated 10 years since the Milan plant first began operations. When the plant began its operations in 1994, there were only 200 employees. Today, the Milan facility employs more than 900 people and produces more than one million pounds of fresh pork per day.

The Premium Standard Farms Milan Processing Facility has received numerous awards since 1994. Just last year, the plant was named 2003 Food Plant of the Year by Refrigerated and Frozen Foods magazine. This prestigious award recognizes the company's exceptional record for not only food safety, but worker safety as well. Premium Standard Farms sets high standards to provide an all around safe product. During 3 of the last 4 years, employees at the facility have worked over one million combined hours without a lost-time accident of any kind, a feat that many plants have not achieved even once. This spring, the Milan Processing Facility received the American Meat Institute's highest safety award: the Award of Honor. The Award of Honor is presented to those facilities that