

Highland Park, Frostproof, and Lake Hamilton received relief at a critical time of need. The BERT team worked to reconstruct Poinciana's fire department and assisted with firefighting duties for the community. In addition, the team worked on debris clean-up, directed traffic, and assisted in damage assessment activities throughout the area. In the end, the BERT team accomplishments included 336 work hours removing trees from residences and roadways; 14 hours traffic control; and deliveries of 1,250 bags of ice, 450 cases of water and 150 prepared meals to hungry citizens.

I would like to express my gratitude for the BERT team's service. Their actions demonstrated the dedication, selflessness, and sacrifice of the human spirit that emerges from rubble of Mother Nature's fury. I am proud to represent the Fifth Congressional District of Florida, where members of the heroic Brooksville Emergency Response Team call home.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANCES
OWENS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the First Lady of Colorado, Frances Owens. Frances is a compassionate and intelligent woman whose dedication and commitment to her family and fellow citizens is renowned and unprecedented. Long before she became Colorado's First Lady, Frances was an education advocate for children and a dedicated servant to her fellow Coloradans. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize her many accomplishments.

Frances is a Colorado native, spending her childhood in Texas before returning to Colorado to receive a degree in Art History from the University of Colorado at Denver. She began campaigning for former Senator Bill Armstrong in the late 1970's and served as the Associate Director of the Colorado Council on Economic Education. Frances, who is married to current Governor Bill Owens for twenty-nine years, has three children: Monica, Mark, and Brett. She is actively involved in her children's academic careers.

On January 12, 1999, Frances became the First Lady of Colorado, where she has made important strides for Colorado in public service by actively volunteering her time to various charitable projects and organizations throughout the state and by serving on boards such as the Children's Hospital Cardiac Care Center, and the Colorado Opera. Frances is a dedicated advocate for children; her involvement crosses into many arenas, including support of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, Samaritan's Purse-Operation Christmas Child, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Colorado Historical Society. Frances currently serves as the Honorary Chair for Early Childhood Intervention Awareness Day, where she continues to champion important issues for Colorado's children. Frances widely promotes literacy and children's programs like the annual Easter Egg Roll. Her latest honor, given by the Republican Women Leadership Forum, was their Humanitarian Award for civic involvement.

Colorado's First Lady is involved in many long-term projects that promote the great diversity and vibrant culture of Colorado. She chairs the Colorado Commemorative Quarter Advisory Commission for the design of Colorado's new quarter, which is planned for release in 2006. Frances has also been instrumental in the privately funded renovation and restoration efforts of the Executive Residence, which was originally constructed in 1908.

Mr. Speaker, Frances Owens is a tremendous asset to the State of Colorado. Her impeccable record of dedication and service throughout her life is a high standard for any public servant to match. Frances' devotion to the State of Colorado has advanced Colorado and certainly made it a better place to live and raise a family. I want to thank Frances for all of her hard work, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ROY BRAUNSTEIN,
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS
UNION, AFL-CIO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Roy Braunstein, Legislative Director of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU).

Roy was hired in June 1973 with the United States Postal Service, and worked as both a Distribution Clerk and CMU Clerk during his postal career. He will retire on November 6, 2004.

The APWU has more than 300,000 members in every city, town and hamlet in the United States and is the world's largest postal union. Roy was first elected in 1980 as the APWU Legislative Aide, and was elected Legislative Director in 1992. He was elected nine times by the APWU membership.

Before he came to Washington, D.C. in 1960, Roy was active in the New Jersey Shore Area Local where he served as Legislative Director and Shop Steward. He was also the New Jersey State APWU Legislative Director and Editor. He served in community affairs as a member of the Barnegat, New Jersey Board of Education for three years and as a member of the Ocean County New Jersey Mental Health Board.

In Washington, Roy served as a lobbyist for the APWU and has worked on a number of issues important to the membership. During his tenure at the APWU, Roy worked to secure passage of the Hatch Act, legislation granting greater political freedom for postal and federal employees. Roy also played a key role in the eight year battle for the Family and Medical Leave Act which President Clinton signed into law in 1993.

Over the years, Roy worked diligently to help win passage of the Federal Employees Retirement System Act, the Spouse Equity Act, the Postal Employees Safety Enhancement Act, the Veterans Employment Opportunity Act, and many other legislative initiatives to help working families.

Roy fought to protect the viability of the Postal Service. He was a leader in the fight against Postal Privatization, and the move-

ment to take the Postal Service off-budget during the 1960s in an effort to stop congressional attacks on the Postal Service. APWU is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, and Roy worked closely with other labor leaders for the goals of this nation's working men and women.

Roy's wife of 36 years, Marilyn, is also an APWU member, and they are the proud parents of two young men, Rick and Daniel. He has an A.A. Degree from Kinsborough Community College in Brooklyn, New York, and a B.A. Degree from Richmond College in Staten Island, New York.

Roy will be retiring to the Phoenix, Arizona area where his sons are living. He plans to retain full APWU membership, and to become actively involved with the Phoenix Metro Area Local (Arizona) and the Arizona Postal Workers Union relating to legislative issues. He also will be spending time traveling and relaxing with family and friends.

HONORING LATE REPRESENTATIVE
WILLIAM NATCHER

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to a remarkable man of this House, the late William Huston Natcher, on the occasion of The Kentucky Museum and Library's opening of the William H. Natcher Political Collection, a compilation of artifacts from his storied life and career.

Congressman Natcher served in this body, preceding me as representative of the Second District of Kentucky, from August 1, 1953 until his death on March 29, 1994, having cast an astonishing 18,401 consecutive votes, a record most historians believe will never be matched. Through the years, he earned a reputation as an exceptionally hardworking and honest public servant, becoming one of the most highly-respected and influential members of congress in recent memory.

As years passed and his congressional seniority increased, Natcher received several important committee appointments, namely within the powerful House Appropriations Committee. From 1961 to 1979, he chaired the Appropriations District of Columbia subcommittee, exercising control over spending in the Nation's capital. He later moved on to chair the subcommittee on labor, health and human services, influencing major legislation to advance education and promote public welfare throughout the 1980's. He was elected Chairman of the full House Appropriations Committee in 1992, a position he held until his death in 1994.

Congressman Natcher became a legend not only for his effectiveness as a legislator but for his uncompromising dedication to the responsibilities of public service. Not only did he cast an unbroken chain of roll call votes over a 41-year career, he also exercised a sincere reverence for the opinions of his constituents, personally reading and responding to his own mail. Though he attained a position of national influence, he maintained a modest, responsible lifestyle, never accepting political contributions, driving himself to and from work in his aged Chevrolet. He was a model citizen-legislator worthy of an honored place in our Nation's history.

After several years of processing, the William H. Natcher Political Collection will open to the public Friday, October 1, 2004, at the Kentucky Library and Museum on the campus of Western Kentucky University. The collection will display volumes of correspondences, photographs, awards and memorabilia, accumulated throughout Congressman Natcher's distinguished life and career.

I would like to extend the collective gratitude of the U.S. House of Representatives to the Natcher Family and Western Kentucky University for assembling a collection that will allow future generations to appreciate and learn from Congressman Natcher's exceptional life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PETE LARSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to mourn the death of Pete Larson, who was killed in an all-terrain-vehicle accident while conducting land health assessments for the Bureau of Land Management near Grand Junction, Colorado. Pete was an active, enthusiastic individual, who loved his job and was a loyal friend to Colorado's Western Slope. I am honored to stand here today before this body of Congress and this nation to celebrate his life and recognize his many accomplishments.

Pete married Rita Graham in 1966, and they raised their family in Grand Junction, where Pete was very active in the community. He taught science for twenty-nine years at Grand Junction High School where his natural curiosity and wide-ranging interests allowed him to connect with students of every personality. His students recall his enthusiasm for explaining chemistry, physics, biology and botany to generations of Grand Junction students.

Pete was always ready to help a friend or a stranger and willingly shared his knowledge of the environment. He knew its plants and its animal inhabitants, its soils and its water, its weather and its moods. Pete's love of the land and the people of Mesa County led him to continue his service to others as he worked to combat tamarisk while working at the Colorado National Monument. He was instrumental in creating the Tamarisk Coalition and served on their board of directors. After ten years of dedication to the National Park Service, Pete took a job as a biological technician for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field office in Grand Junction where he worked for three years before his unfortunate accident on August 2, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call the attention of this body of Congress to the life of Pete Larson. He always had a bright outlook on life and his curiosity and love of learning inspired those who knew him. The Grand Junction community and the State of Colorado are a better place as the result of his many contributions. Pete was a great man who dedicated his life to helping others, and I know that he will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Rita, his two daughters Kristen Kasel and Kari Larson, and his son Tor Larson at this difficult time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STOUGHTON HOSPITAL

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Stoughton Hospital located in Stoughton, Wisconsin. Since 1904, Stoughton Hospital has provided high quality individual healthcare to the people of Stoughton and the surrounding communities.

Stoughton Hospital was founded by Dr. Michael Iverson in 1904 as the Stoughton Surgical Hospital. The hospital was purchased by the city in 1924 upon Dr. Iverson's retirement. Over the years, the hospital has seen many renovations and improvements, but Stoughton Hospital's core values have remained the same. The Norwegian born and educated Dr. Iverson was committed to a small hospital that offered personalized care to each of its patients. Today, a century later, Stoughton Hospital is still firmly committed to that same philosophy.

The hospital offers a variety of services to the community in its facility that include an urgent care complex, intensive care unit, medical and surgical inpatient units and both outpatient surgery and rehabilitation facilities. At Stoughton Hospital, state-of-the-art care is provided for each patient. In addition to providing care for community members, the hospital also meets the needs of the community by offering community education courses and service programs.

Today, I proudly join the Stoughton Hospital staff and volunteers, residents of Stoughton and the surrounding communities in celebrating Stoughton Hospital's 100 years of quality healthcare and personalized service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2004, and September 21, 2004, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 441, 442, 443, 457, 458, 459, and 460.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB NERO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to mourn the passing of Bob Nero from my home state of Colorado. Bob, who recently retired as the head of Public Relations for the University of Colorado system, passed away at the age of fifty-nine after battling pancreatic cancer. He was known for his fun-loving nature, excellent wit,

and abiding sense of professionalism. As his family and friends mourn this loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Bob and pay tribute to him for his contributions to the state of Colorado.

Bob worked for the University of Colorado for nineteen years, most recently as the Assistant Vice President of Institutional Relations. He was an effective and professional communicator who passionately worked to build an understanding of the University of Colorado's mission and its educational contributions to the state.

However, Bob's legacy reaches far beyond the University of Colorado. He was a multi-talented individual who had a diverse career working as a consultant to the cast of *The Lives of the Rich and Famous* in Europe; as an assistant editor in the reference book division of Thomas Y. Crowell Publishing Company; and as the West Coast Bureau chief for the New York Herald. Earlier in his career, Bob served as an oral historian at the American Film Institute and was the Director of Communications at UCLA's Graduate School of Management.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Bob Nero, though take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed only by the legacy of dedication that Bob has left with us. I am honored to pay tribute to such a devoted public servant, one who has given many years in service to the state of Colorado. I know that many throughout our state who had the chance to benefit from his experience and dedication will miss Bob Nero. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family during this time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE LINDY BOGGS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the former Representative and Ambassador Corrine Claiborne "Lindy" Boggs on the acceptance of her portrait into the House collection. While I did not have the pleasure of serving with Lindy Boggs, I am a great admirer of hers. Her Southern charm is infamous. Her legislative and political knowledge is vast. As a champion of education, women's issues, and civil rights, her accomplishments are many and need not be enumerated. Indeed, it is impossible not to admire, to like, and to respect Lindy Boggs, as we are all beneficiaries of her advocacy.

However, I do want to highlight that she shared my commitment to this institution and a love of history. Lindy Boggs believed that a recorded history was important and helped Americans understand the institution of Congress and the House. She successfully worked to establish the Office of the Historian in the House, which was created to collect, preserve, and interpret the documents of the House for Congress, the public and the press. In addition, she chaired the Joint Committee on Bicentennial Arrangements. It is also noteworthy that she served on my Committee, the Committee on House Administration, before taking a seat on the Committee on Appropriations.