

Lindsay on her recent injury that she endured while playing at UNC. I extend my very best wishes to Lindsay's continued success on and off the field and congratulations on her Gold medal in the 2004 Olympics.

HONORING SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION 250

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 250 for 70 years of invaluable service to the community.

SEIU 250 was chartered on September 13, 1934. On that date, the American Federation of Labor certified the local as the country's first health care union, which grew out of the struggle of a group of service workers who united to fight for better wages at San Francisco General Hospital. Since that time, the members of SEIU 250 have worked tirelessly to improve working conditions for all service employees in the health care profession, and in doing so, have dramatically improved the state of health care in California and across the country.

During the 70 years since its founding, SEIU 250 has achieved a number of remarkable milestones. In 1941, the local signed its first contract with the San Francisco Hospital Conference, an agreement that represented employees at eleven hospitals. A decade later, SEIU 250 signed its first contract with Kaiser Permanente, a partnership that continues today and represents over 20,000 caregivers. The local would go on to work even harder to meet the needs of its members by incorporating into its structure four additional divisions in the areas of homecare, convalescent care, hospitals and emergency medical services. In the decades that followed, SEIU 250's reach grew to encompass eleven districts spanning Northern California, with a membership of over 100,000.

As the local's membership has grown, so has the impact of its relentless efforts to promote just and equitable working conditions for health care employees. In 1998, SEIU 250 members created a Patient Healthcare Worker Defense Fund, a nonpartisan effort with the objective of giving health care workers a more powerful voice in government to advocate for issues such as universal access to quality care, a patients' bill of rights, nursing home reform, and strong enforcement of workplace health and safety laws. SEIU 250 has also contributed enormously to the community through initiatives such as the establishment of the Shirley Ware Education Center, which opened in 1999 to provide needed training for current health care workers and to train new workers in response to widespread health care staffing shortages.

On October 1, 2004, SEIU 250 will be celebrating its 70th anniversary in San Francisco, California. I would like to mark this occasion by commending this organization for the exceptional service it has provided to the community not only in its capacity as an advocate of health care workers' rights, but also for its consistent efforts to improve the nation's health care system. By remaining committed

to the goals of safe and fair working conditions for caregivers, SEIU has contributed immeasurably not only to the well-being of its members, but also to the quality of health care they are subsequently able to provide. I salute and congratulate SEIU 250 for 70 remarkable years of service.

IN MEMORY OF SGT. THOMAS
CHAD ROSENBAUM

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and courageous spirit of U.S. Army Sgt. Thomas Chad Rosenbaum of Hope, AR. Sgt. Rosenbaum, just 25 years old, was killed in the line of duty in Iraq on September 18, 2004. I am deeply saddened by this tragedy. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Sgt. Rosenbaum attended my alma mater, Hope High School, where he participated in a number of extracurricular activities. He was a member of the Bobcat football team, the golf team, weight lifting team, Key Club, Future Business Leaders of America and took part in the FFA rodeo. After graduating from Hope High School in 1997, Sgt. Rosenbaum enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas.

Sgt. Rosenbaum was stationed in Iraq since March where he worked as a chemical specialist and trained Iraqis in the use of firearms. His exemplary service and dedication to our country did not go unnoticed. His long list of distinguished medals includes: the Bronze Star Medal, a Purple Heart Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, two Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, two NCO Professional Medals, the Army Service Ribbon, the master parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the Weapon Qualification Badge, and the French Parachutist Wings.

America will be forever grateful for Sgt. Rosenbaum's service to our great country. He gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a terrific father, courageous son, and a hero. My deepest condolences go out to his son, Ty; his parents, Jackie and Donna Rosenbaum; and his brother, Zane. I know Sgt. Rosenbaum was proud of his service to the U.S. Army and to our country. He will be missed by his family, fellow soldiers, and all those who knew and counted him as a friend. I will continue to keep Sgt. Rosenbaum and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN
OF RICO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the 125th anniversary of the incor-

poration of the Town of Rico, Colorado. This year marks the celebration of its Quasiquicentennial, a rare and distinguished achievement. The story of Rico is one of a successful, booming mining town that thrived around the Rio Grande Southern Railroad route. As the town's residents celebrate their one hundred and twenty-fifth year anniversary, I would like to join my colleagues here today, before this body of Congress and this nation, in recognizing this impressive milestone.

Rico is Spanish for "rich", and the rich culture and history of Rico is one of its greatest charms. The wealth of Rico derives from its long history of mining. Trappers first came to the valley in 1832 to catch beaver and other fur bearing animals. Gold was discovered in 1866 by a Texan named Colonel Nash and fellow prospectors Sheldon Shafer and Joseph Fearheiler of Montana.

Rico reached its apex in 1892 with a population of five thousand, supporting several saloons, a few churches, a couple of newspapers, a theater and the Rico State Bank. In 1893, there was a silver panic that left only 811 people in Rico, but the town recovered and the mining industry rebounded in 1926. From 1953 to 1971, the mining industry then shifted its focus from silver to lead and zinc ore. Today Rico is unparalleled in its beautiful mountain scenery and outdoor recreation opportunities that include both fishing and hunting.

Mr. Speaker, after one hundred and twenty-five years, Rico, Colorado continues to experience success as a tight-knit community. The social institutions and economic infrastructure account for the town's longevity. Our nation was built upon the strong foundation of small communities like Rico. I congratulate the town of Rico, Colorado for this important anniversary and wish the community the best in the future.

HONORING CENTER FOR TRAINING
AND CAREERS' WOMEN EMPOWERED
TO MOVE AHEAD PROGRAM

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Center for Training and Careers (CTC) of San Jose for establishing the Women Empowered to Move Ahead (WEMA) collaborative program.

WEMA was created by CTC when they were approached by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) to help train women for the Utility Worker and Apprentice Lineman divisions. At that time PG&E did not have any women in those positions. With CTC's extensive experience designing non-traditional programs for under-employed and unemployed women, a program was developed that focused the curriculum on the employment process of PG&E.

Students received 325 hours of instruction over a 13-week period, and special support services were provided for the participants. WEMA also met the requirements of the Silicon Valley Workforce Investment Network (SVWIN) that emphasize programs that respond to the special needs of the employer community. SVWIN committed Workforce Investment Act funds and provided referrals through its One Stop Employment Centers.

I am proud of the caring staff whose dedication has built the WEMA program. Because of their hard work, many women in San Jose will have a better and more optimistic future. I thank the CTC for their valuable service to our community.

HONORING MR. ANDREW SWIECKI

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the State of Michigan's longest serving public officials Mr. Andrew Swiecki.

Andy was born on August 2, 1939 in the city of Wyandotte, the forth of five children of Andrew and Sophia Swiecki. He attended school in Wyandotte, and after graduating from Mt. Carmel High School he attended the University of Detroit and graduated with a degree in Industrial Relations in 1963.

He is married to the former Pat Prosniewski, and they are the parents of three children: Andrew Kenneth, Jeffrey Allen and Susan Nicole Swiecki-Radel. Andy, and his wife Pat, have three grandchildren and are expecting a fourth grandchild in 2005.

First elected to Wyandotte's City Council in 1967, Andy served on the Council for 12 years, being elected to six 2-year terms. He was then elected Wyandotte's City Treasurer in 1979 and has been re-elected to that position 10 times. Andy has served the citizens of Wyandotte for 37 years.

He is a member in good standing of many clubs and professional organizations, including: Wyandotte Goodfellows; Downriver YMCA Board; Wayne County Treasurers Association; Downriver Community Conference; Southeast Michigan Community Alliance; Municipal Treasures USA/Canada Association; Chairman of Wyandotte Employees Retirement Commission; the Polish Legion of American Veterans; St. Stanislaus Kostka Club 30; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church Ushers Club and Holy Name Society; Polish Roman Catholic Union; Knights of Columbus; and many others.

Andy was named Citizen of the Year by Wyandotte Service Clubs in 1990 and was honored as Volunteer of the Year by the YMCA in 2003.

As you can see Mr. Andrew Swiecki is well deserving of our recognition for his many years of service to his community.

PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2028) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts inferior to the Supreme Court over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2028, the Pledge Protection Act of 2003.

The American flag is a symbol of liberty and justice, of freedom of speech and expression, as well as the other freedoms we cherish which are guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. But even more important than the symbol are the ideals and principles that the symbol represents. I believe the best way to honor the American flag is not to wrap ourselves in it, but to respect and honor the values for which it stands. That our nation can tolerate disrespect for our flag is proof of the enduring strength of our nation.

As a veteran who served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves, I know how deeply our veterans love and revere our flag. I share those feelings for our flag and all that it represents.

Our democracy has withstood many tests over time, and has been strengthened as a result. There is no more important protection provided by the First Amendment than its protection of political speech and expression.

In a letter to Senator PATRICK LEAHY of Vermont dated May 18, 1999, now-Secretary of State (then General) Colin L. Powell wrote, to express his concerns regarding a constitutional amendment banning flag burning, "the First Amendment exists to insure that freedom of speech and expression applies not just to that with which we agree or disagree, but also that which we find outrageous. I would not amend that great shield of democracy to hammer a few miscreants. The flag will still be flying proudly long after they have slunk away."

I agree wholeheartedly with Secretary Powell's statement, and believe it applies here as well. The Pledge of Allegiance is an invaluable part of our national heritage, but we must also bear in mind the immeasurable significance of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Finally, I have deep concerns about current efforts to deny the federal courts, including the Supreme Court, the ability to review the constitutionality of our federal laws. I believe preserving our three-branch system of government is in our nation's best interest.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JAMES SULLIVAN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to James Sullivan and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as a Douglas County Commissioner. A county commissioner since 1989, James is a dedicated public servant and leader in his community and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

James is the president of the Douglas County Water Resource Authority, where he dedicates his time to preserving underground water supplies and building support for the use of renewable water resources. He is a past president of Colorado Counties, Inc., an active participant in the National Association of Counties, and has served as a commissioner on the national panel for the Joint Center for Sustainable Communities. James is also the first commissioner in 22 years to be placed on

the Douglas County Fair Board. Some of the additional commissions and boards he served on include: the Board of Trustees for the Southeast Business Partnership, Colorado Governor Bill Owens' Commission on Saving Open Spaces, and the E-470 Public Highway Authority Board.

In 2002, Governor Owens appointed James to the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, where he will serve a 4-year term representing local government. In addition, the Governor also appointed him to the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund Board of Directors, which uses State lottery proceeds to buy and improve recreation areas, parks, and wildlife habitats in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that James Sullivan has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his country and the people of Colorado as a Douglas County Commissioner. I am honored to bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this Nation today. Thank you for all your dedication and service, James. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION COMMENDING NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE 2004 WINNER ANDREW WOJTANIK

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of his proud neighbors in Kansas' Third Congressional District, and particularly on behalf of the students and teachers at Lakewood Middle School in Overland Park, Kansas, I am honored today to introduce a resolution congratulating Andrew Wojtanik for winning the 16th Annual National Geographic Bee. I have been joined in this effort by Representatives JIM RYUN and JERRY MORAN of Kansas, and by Representatives MAJOR OWENS, EARL BLUMENAUER, and MAX BURNS.

On May 26, 2004, Andrew won the 16th Annual National Geographic Bee when he correctly answered a question about the Khyber Pass in Northern Pakistan.

While Andrew's comprehensive knowledge of geography is an inspiration to students everywhere, studies suggest that most of Andrew's peers would be unable to find Pakistan on a map, let alone be aware of the significance of the Khyber Pass. Only 13 percent of young adults in the United States between the ages of 18 and 24 can correctly identify Iraq on a map of Asia and the Middle East. Year after year, American students are consistently outperformed in geographic literacy by students in Sweden, Germany, Italy, France, Japan, Great Britain, and Canada.

The truth is that many students in the United States receive only a minimal amount of geography education during their educational careers. In 2001, Congress acknowledged the importance of including geography education in school curriculums when it designated geography as a "core subject" in the No Child Left Behind Act; yet, geography remains the only core subject identified in that act without a federal program designed to improve educational performance.

Congress must honor its commitment to the children of the United States and address the