

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF LARRY LEWIS WHO RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS OF DEDICATED AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 8, 2004*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Larry Lewis of the Alhambra Police Department. Chief Lewis is a 35-year veteran of California Law Enforcement having served in five municipal police agencies. Chief Lewis began his distinguished career as a police cadet in West Covina, CA.

As the police chief for Alhambra, Larry Lewis has been an exemplary leader in working with his department to strengthen its application of the community policing philosophy as well as the department's commitment to ethical and professional behavior. He has instituted effective review procedures of police use of force and vehicle pursuits and introduced less lethal weapons and in-vehicle camera systems into department operations. In 2003, as a result of Chief Lewis' efforts, the department replaced its aging information technology system resulting in a new records management and computer aided dispatch system, mobile data computers in police vehicles, and mapping system as well as improved crime analysis abilities.

An active member of the community, Larry Lewis has served on several professional boards as well as community service associations such as Rotary International and the YMCA. He has taught and lectured on topics of police use of force, sexual harassment prevention, supervision, executive leadership and community policing. In addition, Chief Lewis served as the 2002 president of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association, representing 46 municipal law enforcement agencies in the county.

Chief Lewis received a bachelor of arts degree in political science and masters in public administration from California State University, Fullerton as well as a masters of science degree in management from Cal Poly University, Pomona. He is a graduate of the POST Command College, returning as a presenter during class orientations.

Known for his charisma and sense of humor, Chief Lewis is a popular master of ceremonies for various community and charity events.

Chief Lewis celebrates 32 years of marriage to his wife, Irene in 2004. They enjoy family outings with their son, Steve, and daughter-in-law, Penny.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Alhambra Police Chief Larry Lewis on an impressive and long spanning career in law enforcement.

**HONORING ALLEN TEMPLE  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 8, 2004*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Allen Temple Baptist Church of Oakland, Cali-

fornia for 85 years of ministry and invaluable service to the community. Since its founding, Allen Temple has been a pillar of strength and leadership, and its tireless efforts have had a dramatic impact not only on the lives of its members, but on the entire Oakland and East Bay community.

Allen Temple Baptist Church began as 85th Avenue Baptist Church in 1919. The church was organized by the Reverend J.L. Allen, and was one of the first primarily African-American congregations in East Oakland. During the first several years following its establishment, 85th Avenue Baptist Church struggled to survive. However, the congregation gradually became stronger, and after moving to its current location on 85th Avenue, was renamed in 1927 in honor of its founder. In the years that followed, Allen Temple not only expanded its membership, but also began establishing the first of the many community service programs for which it is now known.

Allen Temple's current Pastor, a great and magnificent servant of God, Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., was installed as the church's leader in 1969, and brought with him the sense of energy and direction that would serve not only to rejuvenate the church's existing programs, but to initiate several new ones. The Pastoral Staff was organized, which not only increased the scope and effectiveness of the church's operations, but which today has grown to include over a dozen ministries. In the decades that followed, Allen Temple's presence within the community would become even stronger as it continued to establish initiatives such as the Allen Temple Baptist Church Federal Credit Union, the senior and disabled housing facilities at Allen Temple Arms I-III, the Radio Ministry, and the Allen Temple Hispanic Ministry. In addition, the church went on to establish the Allen Temple Community Outreach Center, the Allen Temple Family Life Center, the Leadership Institute, and Allen Temple Manor, a 24-unit building of affordable housing for persons who are disabled due to HIV/AIDS.

In recent years, Allen Temple's involvement has become increasingly vital in the support and guidance of individuals recently released from prison, and those who are HIV positive or living with AIDS. The Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. Training Academy provides job training to dozens of parolees each year. The Allen Temple AIDS Ministry works to provide spiritual support and essential medical and social services to those living with HIV and AIDS, and works with the Alameda County AIDS Interface to make these services more widely available.

On October 17, 2004, Allen Temple Baptist Church will celebrate its 85-year anniversary in Oakland, California. I would like to honor this occasion by commending the church for the vital role it has played not only as a great religious institution, but for the indispensable social and human services and support it provides to the people of Oakland. By setting the standard of service and commitment for institutions of faith and community improvement throughout its 85 years of ministry, Allen Temple has contributed immeasurably to the Oakland community, our country, and the world. On behalf of the Ninth Congressional District, I salute and congratulate Allen Temple Baptist church on the occasion of its 85th anniversary.

HONORING KATHI McDONNELL-BISSELL

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 8, 2004*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the Town of Milford, CT lost one of its strongest advocates for seniors in Kathi McDonnell-Bissell when she lost her battle with kidney disease brought on by diabetes. This month, residents and city leaders gathered to honor Kathi's memory by dedicating the newest addition to the Milford Senior Center in her honor. I am proud to stand today to join them in paying tribute to Kathi whose tireless efforts made such a difference in the lives of so many.

Senior centers play a vital role in our communities and this is especially true of the Baldwin Senior Center. All too often, what are supposed to be one's "golden years" are filled with struggles. Health concerns, increasing health care costs, the loss of independence—these are just some of the challenges our seniors face. Perhaps even more devastating is the sense of loneliness that can come as one moves through their later years. Providing invaluable programs and services, senior centers make a real difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens. That is why they are so important to our seniors and our communities. Kathi recognized this need and, under her leadership, what began as a small office in the basement the Mary Taylor United Methodist Church has grown into one of the most respected seniors centers in the State, boasting over 4,000 active members.

Kathi served as the Senior Center's Executive Director for over 30 years—even her declining health could not dissuade her from continuing efforts to improve the quality of life for Milford's seniors. I had the remarkable opportunity to work with Kathi on a variety of projects over the years and was constantly in awe of her endless energy, compassion, and drive. She was one of the most dedicated individuals I have ever had the privilege of knowing, dedicating not only her career, but much of her own time to creating a Senior Center which was a resource for area seniors as well as a source of pride for the community. While it will be the last of such examples, the completion of the new ten thousand squarefoot, two-story addition to the Senior Center is a reflection of Kathi's dedication and commitment to providing for the ever-changing needs of her community's seniors.

For her outstanding and unparalleled service, I am proud to stand today to join her husband, Robert; her children, Suzanne, Amy, and Betsy; family, friends, colleagues, and community leaders in paying tribute to Kathi McDonnell-Bissell. Her lifetime of generosity has touched the lives of thousands and left an indelible mark on the Milford community. Kathi was an extraordinary woman whom I consider myself fortunate to have called my friend. Though she will be missed by many, I believe her legacy will continue to inspire all of those who knew her—serving as an example to us all of what a community advocate should be.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 8, 2004*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 511, I was in my congressional district on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF MONCRE  
TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 8, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the MonCre Telephone Cooperative in Ramer, Al.

MonCre began operations in 1954 to bring phone service to the unserved rural areas of Montgomery, Crenshaw and eventually Bulloch and Pike counties, and was the vision of the late founder and Montgomery Advertiser columnist Mildred Smith of Ramer.

Today, MonCre employs 24 highly trained technicians and staff, and serves approximately 3,500 households. Services offered 50 years later are far different from those of 1954 and now include a wide range of telephone, internet and DSL services.

It's not often we have the opportunity to recognize the achievements and contributions of a community institution like MonCre, and I appreciate the House's attention to the matter at this important occasion.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NA-  
TIONAL SPINA BIFIDA AWARE-  
NESS MONTH**HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 8, 2004*

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans and their many family members who are currently affected by Spina Bifida. October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and I hope our colleagues will join this effort to raise awareness about this disease and recognize those Americans, including many of my constituents.

Spina Bifida is the Nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect occurring when a neural tube defect prevents the central nervous system from closing properly during the early stages of pregnancy. Each year more than 4,000 pregnancies are affected, and of these, 1,500 babies are born with the disease.

I was honored to be a part of the 16th Annual Roast for Spina Bifida on September 26th. During that dinner, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, Redskins owner Dan Snyder, and I roasted former CNN Anchor Bernard Shaw. I am pleased to report that even under fire, a now retired Shaw was as cool, calm, and collected as he had been during his time on CNN. He was truly a fantastic sport.

The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for over 30 years, work tirelessly to prevent and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect. There are approximately 60 chapters serving over 125 communities nationwide and I would like to acknowledge and thank SBAA and the Spina Bifida Association of Tennessee for all that they have done for the families in my state affected by this birth defect. I would especially like to thank Scott Price of Nashville, a Spina Bifida Association Foundation Board member for his great work.

In closing, I would like to thank the Spina Bifida Association of America for allowing me to be a part of their roast and wish them the best of luck in their endeavors throughout the year. I urge my colleagues here in the House to support the important efforts of the SBAA and to remember those affected by Spina Bifida, particularly during this month.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DORA  
VALDEZ**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 8, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dora Valdez, a dedicated employee of Delta County, CO who was recently honored for 25 years of impeccable service with the County. Dora is a responsible employee who engenders the trust of everyone she encounters, and it is an honor to recognize her many years of service to her community before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Dora was born and raised in Delta and has been an active member of her community her entire life. She has worked with four county clerks and managed all areas within that domain including motor vehicles, recording, election, cashier, and birth and marriage license departments. Dora is bilingual and aides many members of the Spanish community by translating for other offices. Dora enjoys her work, and has helped to many citizens in times of need.

Mr. Speaker, Dora Valdez has spent 25 years serving her local government in Delta County. Her dedication to her community is highly commendable and I am honored to recognize her many years of service before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thank you for all your hard work, Dora, and I wish you, and your family all the best in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING  
EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GREATER  
CIVIC AWARENESS AMONG PEOP-  
LE OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 2004*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the majority leader, Mr. DELAY, and Chairman BOB NEY for bringing this timely resolution, H. Res.

796, to the floor today. I also want to thank the cosponsors for their interest in this bipartisan bill.

H. Res. 796 recognizes and supports efforts to promote greater civic awareness among the people of the United States. The resolution recognizes those organizations and groups that actively promote voter registration and participation, as well as those communities and schools that have instituted civic awareness programs.

The resolution also encourages local communities and elected officials at all levels of government to promote greater civic awareness among the electorate and greater participation in the upcoming elections.

The Constitution of the United States establishes a representative form of government, and throughout our Nation's history, many groups of people have fought, protested, rallied, and died for the right to vote. The 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments to the Constitution represent some of those hard-won voting privileges.

The percentage of Americans registered to vote unfortunately has declined in the last 10 years. There is no better time to make citizens more aware of the importance of exercising their right—and their responsibility—to vote. Voting is fundamental to our representative form of government—and as Members of Congress we must support and promote civic awareness and participation.

Our democracy is a government of all the people, by all the people, and for all the people. All those eligible to vote have an equal voice in determining the future of our great Nation. H. Res. 796 promotes greater awareness of one of the greatest privileges we have as American citizens—the right to vote—and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in supporting this timely measure.

## HONORING J.D. ROGERS

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 8, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to Mr. J.D. Rogers, III, who on September 18, 2004 was honored during the UAW Local 599 Walter Reuther award ceremony in Flint, Michigan for his contributions as the longest-serving production committeeman in the history of the Local.

J.D. Rogers began his leadership career within UAW Local 599 in 1976 when he was elected as Alternative Committeeman. One month after assuming his post he was elected to fulfill the position of the recently resigned Committeeman. His superior leadership skills and support of the union membership granted him several unopposed elections to this post.

J.D. is committed to fulfilling Walter Reuther's mission of helping people, and ensuring human dignity and social justice for all. His hard work and dedication to the duties of his elected position is commendable. His deeds are self evident in the faith the members of 599 have bestowed upon him in allowing him to be re-elected. His service to the UAW extends many years and is highly regarded.

Mr. Speaker, many people have greatly benefited from the leadership and service of