

the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Huntington Drive.

And while he did so much for others, never once did he seek any personal reward. Fortunately, Mr. Salaz's efforts did not go unnoticed. As a result of his extensive community involvement, he won the title of Honorary Mayor of El Sereno from 1998–2002.

I can truly say that Mr. Salaz was a wonderful example of community activism, and he found a true reward in helping others. Though he is no longer with us, his memory will live on through his wife, Julia, their 5 children, 13 grandchildren, and 30 great grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF
PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE
RESCUE OF DA'JOUR McMILLIAN
OF FRISCO CITY, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the family of Da'Jour McMillian and the residents of the small town of Frisco City, Alabama, have reason to be exceedingly grateful this holiday season. Through the combined efforts of emergency rescue personnel, physicians, and industrial workers from Monroe and Mobile Counties, 22-month-old Da'Jour was saved from a situation that is certainly one of the greatest nightmares that could be experienced by any parent.

On Monday, November 1, 2004, Da'Jour was playing with his brother and sister off Central Street in Frisco City when he fell into an abandoned well measuring 14 feet deep. Almost immediately, the community went to work trying to recover him, an operation that took 13 hours and required the assistance of dozens of personnel. Because of the location of the well in relation to hidden power lines and potential unmarked water lines, the recovery operation was extremely dangerous and required a great deal of careful work and planning.

Through the entire ordeal, Da'Jour demonstrated a calm not usually found in a child of such a young age. In fact, he reassured the rescue workers with waves and smiles and by often telling those at the mouth of the well, "I love you." Of the many reasons this story had a happy ending, none was more important than the positive attitude and playful nature of this little boy.

Mr. Speaker, in the difficult circumstances facing our world today, both here at home and abroad, it is important that Americans should be able to depend on their friends and neighbors in their hour of need. As the rescue of little Da'Jour McMillian clearly demonstrates, there is no obstacle that cannot be overcome without a strong sense of community and cooperation. I ask my colleagues to join with me in saluting not only Da'Jour and his family for their courage, but for the following individuals and organizations who played such an important role in his rescue: Chuck Murph, Rita Smith, Rennie Raines, and J. T. Johnson with the Monroe County Emergency Management Agency; Pastor Freddie Lindsey of the Monroeville Church of the Nazarene; Tom Lindsey of Simmons Ambulance Service; Frisco City Mayor Jim Cave; the Frisco City Volunteer

Fire Department; Chief James Maples and the Frisco City Police Department; Dr. David Stallworth of Monroe County Hospital; Allen Nall of Roto-Rooter; Sam Covert of Alabama Power Company; William Snyder of Monroeville Water Works; Chief Eddie Everette and the Monroeville Fire Department; David Coggins with the Alabama Emergency Management Agency; Chief Mike Dean and the personnel of both the City of Mobile Fire Department and USAR Task Force 1; and Ronnie Wright, Bo Bosarge, and Michael Gates with Smith Industrial Services of Mobile.

Because of their efforts, this little boy and his family will indeed have a very bright holiday season.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
SUPPORT FOR "VETERANS"
BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT
OF 2004"

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to request that a letter from Al Mansell, the President of the National Association of Realtors, regarding his organization's strong support for the immediate passage of the "Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2004," be placed in the RECORD.

As Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and as someone who has spearheaded the effort in Congress to raise the VA's home loan guaranty level so that veterans in high cost areas like New Jersey can purchase houses, I am very pleased to have the support of the National Association of Realtors for this important piece of legislation. In fact, I have enjoyed working closely with the National Association of Realtors to improve the VA's home loan guaranty limit.

Mr. Mansell's letter demonstrates his organization's strong commitment to ensuring that the men and women who have honorably served our nation in the military can obtain affordable housing. It has often been said by historians and economists—and accurately, I believe—that the development of America's modern middle class was largely facilitated by two post World War II programs: The G.I. education bill, and the VA's home loan program. A college education, combined with opportunities for home ownership, gave tens of millions of Americans a real stake in our society, and transformed it in positive ways for generations to come.

I am very grateful for the National Association of Realtors' support and hope the House moves expeditiously to pass a final version of the "Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2004," when it is scheduled for floor consideration tomorrow.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2004.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER SMITH,
Chairman, House Veterans' Affairs Committee,
House of Representatives, Cannon House
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: On behalf of the one million members of the National Association of Realtors®, I am writing to urge the immediate passage of S. 2486, the "Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 2004." This legislation passed the Senate under

unanimous consent in October, and similar legislation passed the House in June. S. 2486 includes language to increase the veterans' maximum guaranty from \$60,000 to \$83,425; effectively permitting veterans to purchase homes up to \$333,700. The legislation would also index the loan guarantee limit to 25% of the conforming loan limit. These changes are sorely needed to maintain the VA Home Loan Guarantee program as a vital homeownership tool that provides veterans with a centralized, affordable, and accessible method of purchasing homes in return for their service to our nation.

Under current law, the Department of Veterans Affairs will guarantee loans up to \$60,000 for a total home purchase price up to \$240,000. Because of this limitation the VA loan guarantee is not fully useful in a growing number of areas—especially in high-cost states. In states such as California, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts, the median price of housing in certain areas of these states far exceeds this limit. Due to the high price appreciation being experienced in many states, combined with a relatively slow pace of income growth, many veterans residing in high-cost housing markets have found homeownership unattainable. S. 2486 would address this anomaly and make this important entitlement available to many more qualified veterans regardless of where they chose to live.

The National Association of Realtors® thanks you, Chairman Smith, for your leadership in this area. With your help our veterans will receive the gratitude and assistance they well deserve. We strongly support S. 2486, and urge its quick passage.

Sincerely,

AL MANSELL,
2005 President.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NORMANDY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 150th year of existence of the Normandy United Methodist Church of Normandy, Tennessee. The congregation will celebrate the church's 150th anniversary on Sunday, November 7, 2004, with a special homecoming and luncheon.

Changing its name from the Methodist Episcopal Church South to Normandy United Methodist Church in 1968 is only one way the church has changed in order to positively serve its members and its surrounding community. My parents, Robert and Margaret Gordon, were married at this church in 1947, and the church has fostered ongoing relationships with several others within the community and its congregation since its beginning.

Normandy United Methodist Church has served the community and its congregation for well over a century and a half. Just as the church has renovated and expanded its physical structure, so have they also renovated people's lives by expanding their ministry throughout the neighborhood and around the world.

Normandy is a better place because of the work of Normandy United Methodist Church and its congregation. I am sure the church will continue to make a positive difference in the

community for the next 150 years and congratulate the congregation and Reverend De Hennessy for all the good they have done.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUE
SHELTON**

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sue Shelton, a talented and respected teacher at Rocky Ford High School in Rocky Ford, Colorado. Sue has diligently worked to educate the region's youth for 21 years and is considered a strong leader in her community. It is a privilege to recognize her impeccable service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Teaching is a family tradition in Sue's family that has involved her mother, grandmother, and most recently, her sister. Sue teaches Language Arts and English at Rocky Ford High School, winning several awards for her excellence in teaching including honors by her fellow faculty members and the student body. Sue makes learning fun for her students and encourages patriotism in the classroom by implementing the Voice of Democracy essay contest into the curriculum. The contest requires students to keep research logs about patriotism and write speeches about what patriotism means to them before submitting their essays to the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post that annually chooses a winner.

Mr. Speaker, Sue is a devoted and compassionate teacher that has made learning an exciting and rewarding experience for her students. I am honored to recognize her commitment to teaching Colorado's children for 21 years before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thank you for your service Sue, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

**INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO NAME THE DONALD G.
BROTZMAN POST OFFICE BUILD-
ING**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill which will name the post office at 4985 Moorhead Ave. in Boulder, Colorado the Donald G. Brozman Post Office Building.

Mr. Brozman served in this body during the Vietnam War and the Nixon era. Even though our country was highly divided, he rose above partisan politics and reached across the aisle to work in a bipartisan manner. He was the kind of public official I admire.

Don Brozman died in September at the age of 82. During his lifetime he admirably served both his country and the state of Colorado. Born in Sterling, Colorado, he was an All Conference lineman at the University of Colorado in the 1930s. While attending the CU-Boulder he joined the military and served as a first lieutenant with the 81st Infantry Division in the South Pacific.

When he returned to the United States he finished his degree in both business and law and opened a law firm in Boulder, Colorado. Between 1945 and 1954 he served in both the Colorado State House of Representatives and Senate. In 1959 he was appointed by President Eisenhower as U.S. Attorney.

In 1963, as the nominee for the Republican Party, he was elected to serve the 2nd Congressional District of Colorado in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his five terms in office he served on the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. He was instrumental in the passing of the Indian Peaks Wilderness Act, a national program to help runaway youths and establishing a tax credit for higher education expenses. He also helped shape the Clean Air Act and the Public Broadcasting Act. Mr. Brozman was an early champion of stronger environmental oversight at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, and due to his efforts, the Johnson administration commissioned a scientific study which led to the eventual cleanup and closure of this site.

He was also one of the first members to call for an all-volunteer Army and the end of the draft during the Vietnam War. After serving in Congress, Mr. Brozman was able to assist in the establishment of the all-volunteer Army when he was named Assistant Secretary to the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs by President Ford. He served in this position for 2 years and explained his job as making "the all-volunteer army work."

In the Colorado State Legislature, Congress and two Republican administrations, Mr. Brozman served our country and Colorado well. His dedication to acting on his conscience and working on both sides of the aisle to better serve Colorado made him a leader in Congress. I hope my colleagues will join me and the Colorado delegation in honoring this outstanding Coloradan and support the naming of the Donald G. Brozman Post Office Building.

**HONORING ROBIN COX FOR HIS
SERVICE AS A COUNTY COMMIS-
SIONER OF SUMTER COUNTY**

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Robin Cox for his service as a County Commissioner for Sumter County.

Mr. Cox has served the residents of Sumter County with distinction and devotion since 1996. He has tirelessly worked to the fullest of his abilities to provide county residents with the best possible representation. He can without a doubt say that he has raised the level of service provided by the board. Robin's commitment and vision have made Sumter County a better place. We will all miss him greatly. I wish Robin the best in the future and hope that he succeeds in all his endeavors.

**RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF
THE CALUMET COUNCIL**

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of the Girl Scouts of the Calumet Council throughout its 50 years of service to the Northwest Indiana community. The special black tie gala celebration and fundraiser will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2004 at the Ville Cesare in Schererville, Indiana.

The Girl Scouts is an informal educational organization of more than three million girls. The organization was founded in the United States by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912. The Girl Scouts of the Calumet Council is one of 319 councils nationwide whose sole mission is to help all girls reach their fullest potential. This group emphasizes the values of fairness, self-respect, community service, high standards of conduct, and appreciation for diversity, which contribute to the girls becoming successful citizens and future leaders in their communities. Through a value based informal education and recreation program, the Girl Scouts of the Calumet Council also teaches girls how to set and reach goals, improve decision making skills, become leaders, develop values, and contribute to society.

The Calumet Council currently serves over 4,800 girls with an additional 1,700 adult volunteers in Dyer, East Chicago, Griffith, Hammond, Highland, Munster, St. John, Schererville, and Whiting, Indiana and Burnham, Calumet City, Lansing, and Lynwood, Illinois. With the help of the many adult volunteers, girls in the Calumet Council participate in a variety of activities and programs. Over the last 50 years, Girl Scouts of the Calumet Council has helped mold thousands of young women in Indiana's First Congressional District into responsible, dynamic, and successful leaders in the community. The Girl Scouts of the Calumet Council has achieved success in inspiring and enabling young females to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Girl Scouts of the Calumet Council, as well as its staff and community leaders, on their 50th anniversary. Their many accomplishments and service to Lake County, Indiana will forever be cherished and commended.

**RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE NEW EAST LOS ANGE-
LES CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY**

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of the East Los Angeles Civic Center Library. For too long the East Los Angeles community has been deprived of a quality library.