

Fitzgerald (Victoria) of Jacksonville, Florida; six grandchildren—Wayne Tolbert, Daniel Tolbert, and Dylan Tolbert of Three Rivers, Michigan and Jessica Tolbert, Brittany Marie Tolbert, and Joshua Tolbert of Jacksonville, Florida; four sisters—Mary Ella Bender of Montgomery, Alabama, Ethel Crenshaw (John) of Chicago, Illinois, Helen Tinker of Chereville, Indiana, and Wilma Abrams (Walter) of North Chicago, Illinois; a host of nieces and nephews; a very special friend, Dr. Leroy Shelton; adopted parents, Dr. W.G. and Mary Terry; his wonderful and loving Bethel Church Family; and a countless number of friends.

CONGRATULATING JUDGE COLIE
NICHOLS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Judge Colie Nichols, Jr., on his retirement from the Santa Rosa County Courthouse.

Colie Nichols was born in Graceville, Florida on February 5, 1935 to the proud parents Colie, Sr. and Gladys Nichols. In 1955, he married Freida King and had three children, Rod, Stan, and Garth. After earning his Bachelor's of Science degree at Florida State University in 1959, Colie went on to become a probation and parole supervisor for the next eight years.

In 1973 Governor Reuben Askew appointed Colie Nichols for County Judge, and for the last thirty years Judge Nichols has been a fixture on the bench. Since 1982 he has been re-elected without opposition and now a state age limitation for judges is forcing the 69-year-old to retire this year.

His retirement is the ending of an era, an era in which any profession could be a means into the judicial sector. Judge Nichols was not an attorney, yet excelled at providing justice for all in his courtroom.

Even though Judge Nichols was busy as an overseer of justice, he also remained active in his community. He was a member of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Criminal Justice, a member of Alcoholism Rehabilitation Advisory Subcouncil, First Vice-President of the Florida Conference of County Judges, President of the Milton Lions Club, President of the United Way of Santa Rosa County, and many other educational and community centered organizations.

Today, I salute a man who has dedicated his life to protecting freedom, ensuring liberty, and defending the principles of this country. His exemplary service has guaranteed that the United States will continue to prosper as the world's greatest nation.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Judge Colie Nichols, Jr. on his retirement and wish him many more years of success and happiness.

CAFTA

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, during my nearly two decades in Congress, our country has made major efforts throughout the world to develop the growth and success of democratic governments. Because of our efforts in Central America over the years, the specter of Communism has receded and the democracies and economies of El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras are beginning to flourish. These countries have now had at least three peaceful changes of government through elections. I think we in this body should be proud of the part we have played in their success.

Mr. Speaker, much of this success is due to opening up trade between the U.S. and Central America. With the Caribbean Basin Initiative, we have helped build growing economies based on trade with the United States. More prosperity in CBI countries leads to more successful democratic governments in this hemisphere and more prosperity and security here at home.

At the present time we are undertaking a similar mission in the Middle East. Increasing democracy and freedom in that region is vital to the war on terrorism and America's security. However, we must not let our focus on Iraq and Afghanistan cause us to forget the work that remains to be done to strengthen our neighbors in Central America. We have come too far to abandon them now.

Five Central American nations and the Dominican Republic have negotiated a free trade agreement with the United States that, despite concerns voiced by some in this country, is beneficial to all concerned. The presidents of the Central American nations have approved this agreement and these nations are now waiting for us to join them in making the Central American Free Trade Agreement a reality.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue to divert our attention elsewhere, time is running out for our legislature to approve DR-CAFTA. Without this agreement, the democracies we have helped build in Central America will be less prosperous in the increasingly competitive global marketplace. Unless we allow these fledgling democracies the access they need to compete with the rising tide of Chinese imports, they will be more likely to revert to corrupt regimes that base their existence on trade in illegal drugs instead of trade in goods and services.

It would be a tragedy to abandon our Central American neighbors now. We in this body have done so much to foster democracy and economic stability in Central America—we cannot allow them to fail at this crucial moment. I urge my colleagues to support DR-CAFTA and I urge the House leadership to bring it to the floor for a vote this year.

HONORING OWENSBORO SOUTHERN
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Owensboro Southern Little League Baseball Team for their remarkable season and recent participation in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. They demonstrated great sportsmanship before a national audience, representing competitive values that make Kentucky proud.

The hours of extra practice under the leadership of Manager Vic Evans, Jr. brought this impressive distinction to the State of Kentucky and City of Owensboro. I want my colleagues in the House of Representatives to know of the pride that I have in representing these athletes and their families.

I would like to commend Owensboro Southern for their magnificent season—an effort that epitomized team work, sportsmanship, and persistence. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these young athletes for their achievement and wish them continued success in seasons to come.

IN HONOR OF DAVID W. HOLMES

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to David W. Holmes for his twenty years of service as a SCORE Counselor in Delaware. Dr. Holmes, born and raised in Fremont, Ohio, earned a Bachelor's degree from Amherst College and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Michigan. After completing his education, Dr. Holmes began what would become a thirty-seven year career with the Dupont Company.

During the course of his career with the Dupont Company, Dr. Holmes took on assignments in research, sales, and manufacturing. In addition, he spent his final twenty years with the company handling senior management responsibilities in manufacturing and worldwide sales. Upon his retirement from Dupont, Dr. Holmes spent three years working in the small business world. It was during these three years that he was able to gain valuable experience in various different business environments, from the small to the very large.

In 1983, Dr. Holmes joined SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives). SCORE, an organization that counsels the small business community, is staffed entirely by volunteers. These volunteers give their time and energy to assist others in both starting up and effectively operating small businesses. Specifically, Dr. Holmes' service to SCORE and the small business community has centered around counseling, training and information sessions for small businesses throughout the State of Delaware. He has assisted with entrepreneurial educational projects and presented a plethora of business training workshops.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Dr. Holmes on reaching the tremendous milestone of twenty years of volunteer service with

SCORE in Delaware. Also, I would like to point out that as he celebrates twenty years of volunteer service, Dr. Holmes is also celebrating his ninetieth birthday. The time and effort that Dr. Holmes has given to his fellow Delawareans is both commendable and much appreciated. He is certainly an inspiration to those around him. I am truly proud that he is a Delawarean.

IN RECOGNITION OF RENE F.
RODRIGUEZ, M.D.

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to a very dedicated physician, Dr. Rene F. Rodriguez, who has been devoted not only to his patients and the underserved, but also to the improvement of America's healthcare system by breaking barriers, improving access to medical services, treating all patients equally, and integrating Hispanic doctors and other Hispanic healthcare professionals to these efforts.

Dr. Rodriguez has been recognized as an excellent advocate for the underserved in America and has been the recipient of a very distinguished award, "The 2004 Freddie-Public Service Award".

He has been an enthusiastic and compassionate physician who has done admirable work throughout years of advocacy. His distinguished medical career spans years of commitment to public service and he has been a leader with numerous achievements.

He studied medicine at the University of Salamanca in Spain, and is licensed to practice medicine in several states in America. He was a Colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, and retired after more than 35 years of service in the Military. While on active duty, he directed the Orthopedic Clinic at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He was appointed to the Council on Graduate Medical Education of the Department of Health and Human Services, the President's Commission of the National Medal of Science, the Surgeon General's National Workshop on Hispanic-Latino Health Executive Planning Committee, the NIH Office of Minority Program Fact-Finding Team, the Hispanic Advisor Task Force to the U.S. Senate, and the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

He is a member of the American College of Surgeons and the American Medical Association, and is the Founder and President of the Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons, which is the largest and oldest organization of Hispanic doctors. He founded the National Hispanic Youth Initiative to encourage High School students to study careers in sciences and research, and has been the founder of medical journals for Spanish speaking doctors and patients, such as "Medico Interamericano", "Medico de Familia", and the book "Usted y su Medico". He is currently the Chief of the Orthopedic Section at the Veterans Medical Center in Miami, Florida. Please join me in recognizing Dr. Rodriguez for his outstanding accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL G.
WHITESIDE

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carol G. Whiteside, an individual who has dedicated her life to public service at the local, state, national, and international levels. Her impressive career deserves recognition, and her years of dedicated service to her local community of Stanislaus County, the State of California, and our nation, warrants tremendous respect. Throughout her successful life, Carol has remained equally committed to her family. She is married to Superior Court Judge John G. Whiteside. Carol and John are the proud parents of two adult sons, Brian and Derek.

Carol began her career by earning a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Davis in 1964. Dedicated to her education, she pursued postgraduate studies at Golden Gate College in San Francisco and continued her studies abroad through the University of Southern California in Ramstein, Germany. She entered the business world as a Personnel Manager for Emporium Capwell Company in Santa Rosa, California in 1964, but it was not long before returning to Germany, this time to serve as an Education Counselor at the Army Education Center in Landstuhl.

By the mid-1970's Carol returned to Modesto, California and began to build what would become one of the most reputable careers in public service known to our community. For the past three decades, Carol Whiteside has held various positions with the City of Modesto and the State of California. In all arenas of service, and with tremendous commitment, Carol rose through the ranks of public office. She began her service in the City of Modesto in 1979 as a Modesto City School Board Trustee, and by 1987 she was elected the City's Mayor, having served as Modesto City School Board President, and as a member of the Modesto City Council before her Mayoral victory.

Continuing to pursue greater and grander opportunities, Carol moved on to California State Government in 1991, being appointed to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Intergovernmental Relations, Resources Agency where she specialized in resource conservation, land use and growth management issues. Within two years, she became the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for California Governor Pete Wilson on issues of land use, finance, restructuring and economic development.

Throughout the years, Carol has also been extremely involved and held numerous positions with countless associations, boards, organizations, political committees and international entities. She has served as Chairperson for committees within the League of California Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities. Over the last twenty years, Carol has been involved in the National Women's Political Caucus, as well as several other political committees at the state and national level.

In addition to her tremendous achievements, Carol has found time to serve as a Board Member for more than 15 groups which in-

clude the United Way of Stanislaus County, the American Red Cross, High Speed Rail Authority, California Center for Regional Leadership, and the Public Policy Institute of California.

It appears that there is no existing realm of public service that Carol Whiteside has not touched. Her career is not limited to the San Joaquin Valley, California, or the United States. Since Carol resided in Landstuhl, Germany in 1972, she has remained actively involved abroad. Her international endeavors have taken her to Poland, Ukraine, the Baltic States, Morocco, and Korea.

It is without question that Carol Whiteside is a remarkable individual, professional businesswoman, and motivated entrepreneur, characteristics that were most recently demonstrated by her latest accomplishment. Today, Carol is the President of the Great Valley Center, an organization she founded in August 1997. This organization's primary focus is to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of California's Central Valley. Under Carol's leadership and guidance, the Great Valley Center has elevated the region's identity throughout our state and nation.

Carol's work ethic, professionalism, and dedication have earned her many honors throughout the years, which include the 1990 Soroptimist Woman of Distinction in International Relations, the California State Assembly Woman of the Year 1991 for the 27th Assembly District, the Civic Entrepreneur of the Year in 2002, and the 2004 Excellence in Public Service Award. Most recently, the American Legion Post 74 honored Carol by naming her the 2004 Woman of the Year.

This recognition that I am offering today before the House of Representatives for Carol Whiteside is clearly deserved, and well overdue. She is an invaluable member of the community, an exemplary civil servant, and an outstanding human being who will leave behind a legacy to be admired for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in honoring Carol G. Whiteside for her many years of dedication to public service, for her countless contributions to the economic vitality of the San Joaquin Valley, and for her continued commitment to a brighter and more prosperous tomorrow. I am most certainly honored to call her my friend, and it is my pleasure to recognize all of her accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF LAURA MUÑOZ-
VELAZQUEZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Laura Muñoz-Velazquez, who was named (LULAC) League of United and Latin American Citizens Woman of the Year. Mrs. Muñoz-Velazquez is one of several outstanding women who were nominated for this prestigious award.

Mrs. Muñoz-Velazquez was born in Colusa, California to a family of farm workers. Her parents, Juanita Castañon Muñoz and Lucas Placencia Muñoz, always stressed the importance of education and encouraged her to go to college. Laura heeded her parents, and in 1973, graduated from California State University Chico with a Bachelor of Arts degree in