

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

Psychology. Mrs. Muñoz-Velazquez also obtained an Elementary Teaching Credential and began teaching kindergarten for the Marysville School District. Soon after her time there, she moved to San Benito County with her husband, Felipe Velazquez, and has been teaching for the Hollister School District since 1975. They have four sons: Richard, Adrian, Alejo, and Junior.

While she was growing up, Mrs. Muñoz-Velazquez attended a school system that did not support maintaining Spanish language while learning to write and speak in English. Because she recognized the value of having a good grasp of two languages, she purposely chose to become a bilingual teacher, allowing her to reclaim her primary language and culture. Mrs. Muñoz-Velazquez truly believes in providing and promoting bilingualism and biliteracy, which she feels is instrumental in the success of children learning a second language.

Of course, with her giving nature, Mrs. Muñoz-Velazquez knows how significant it is to give back to the community and has been involved with multiple organizations such as the United Way, American Cancer Society (ACS), Children with Attention Deficit Disorders (CHADD), Mexican American Community on Education (MACE), and League of United and Latin American Citizens Council (LULAC) #2890. She has also taught religion classes at Sacred Heart Church, preparing many young ones for Holy Communion.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Laura Muñoz-Velazquez for the outstanding work she's done in my district. I would like to honor and congratulate her on her accomplishments and express my sincere gratitude for her commitment to the community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AL AND JOANNA LACY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Al and Joanna Lacy, a retired Baptist minister and his wife who have authored numerous educational books for children. The research and historical background that Al and Joanna present in these books have helped educate kids about American history and simultaneously encourages them to read. Today I have the privilege of recognizing their service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

After retiring from thirty-two years of traveling as a pastor, Al decided he wanted to write novels. Al first started with Western themes and expanded into narratives that covered religious experiences, the Civil War, the gold rush era, immigration through Ellis Island, and the lives of orphan street children. Joanna also contributed to her husband's work with her extensive background in nursing. They have spent countless hours traveling, researching, and talking with people to learn more about the local cultures and customs for the settings in their books, which makes them a source of education and excitement for young readers. Together they have made the best seller list numerous times in publishing over 102 works.

Mr. Speaker, Al and Joanna Lacy have contributed much toward the education and learning of numerous children all across the country, giving parents a reliable source of entertainment for their kids. I am honored to recognize the accomplishments of Al and Joanna before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thank you, Al and Joanna for all your hard work, and I wish you both all the best in your future endeavors.

NATIONAL HUNGER AND HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and to pay tribute to the countless shelters and staffs throughout the country who tirelessly work to address this ever-growing problem.

Throughout our nation help is increasingly needed to create safe places for people to call home. The face of homelessness does not have an age, race, or creed. Over one million of our nation's homeless are children and families comprise of nearly 40 percent of the entire homeless population. There is no question that homelessness is a serious problem, and we must ensure that our shelters are provided with the necessary assistance.

One particular shelter that is truly making a difference is the Emergency Shelter Service Inc., of Benton Harbor, Michigan. The service, care, and opportunity that this shelter provides for the homeless folks of Southwest Michigan is tremendous.

I recently had the chance to visit with the staff and residents of the shelter. It was heartwarming to see firsthand, individuals getting back on their feet, ready to start anew. The shelter provides the helping hand that many folks need.

The nine-bedroom shelter, a 100-year old house along Pipestone Street, currently houses 35 people, many of which are children. Residents stay for a maximum of 30 days, and the shelter staff work with them to find affordable, appropriate housing.

I am pleased to report that the top floor of the house was recently insulated for the winter which will allow a few more people to have shelter during the coldest months of the year. But the unfortunate reality is that more people seek assistance than the shelter can provide for, and folks seeking a warm bed and a roof over their heads must find shelter elsewhere.

On behalf of the Sixth District of Michigan, I pay tribute to the great service of this admirable shelter. I commend the selfless efforts of Alysia Babcock and her staff who dedicate themselves to provide a safe haven for those in need. Southwest Michigan is better off for their efforts.

As we approach the holiday season, it is vitally important that our communities and cities get involved to raise awareness and work to combat the problems of hunger and homelessness. Any contribution to the Benton Harbor shelter will be greatly appreciated, whether it be a blanket, some food or even a couple of dollars. Even the smallest donation makes an impact.

CONGRATULATING SHARON HAMMERSLA UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER 32 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the 108th Congress, Sharon Hammersla will be retiring from government service after thirty-two years as a dedicated and distinguished public servant.

Sharon has served as the Information Resource Manager for both the House Committee on International Relations and the House Committee on the Judiciary under my chairmanship. In fact, Sharon worked for the House Judiciary Committee during the impeachment of President Clinton. Her efforts at that time toward making the Committee's work on related events accessible to the public will be instrumental to historians when studying that period of our Nation's history. Prior to working on the Judiciary and International Relations Committees, she served seventeen years with the House Science Committee.

Just because Sharon is leaving The Hill doesn't mean that she won't be busy. She will maintain her position in history-making and continue to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Museum in Bryantown, Maryland, where she has been a docent, and she will be publishing her first book on her family's genealogy early next year. Most importantly, however, she will be joining her husband, Don, in catching up with family and friends and enjoying life with their grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Sharon Hammersla has served her country with honor and distinction. Please join me in congratulating her on an illustrious career in federal service and wishing her well as she embarks on new adventures.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. TANNER JOHNSON LIVISAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. RAYHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who had a very distinguished career as a State extension specialist in the State of West Virginia Mrs. Tanner Johnson Livisay. Mrs. Livisay was a retired State extension specialist and associate professor at West Virginia University and was a resident of Princeton, West Virginia. Mrs. Livisay graduated in 1923 from the former Douglas High School in Huntington, West Virginia and later went on to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in home economics from West Virginia State College in 1927. She then taught in Jefferson and Wyoming counties for the next 14 years. Mrs. Livisay earned her Masters degree from West Virginia University and completed further studies at Merrill Palmer Institute in Detroit, Michigan, University of Michigan, University of Cincinnati, Cornell University and Colorado State University. In 1941, Mrs. Livisay began her work as a home demonstration agent in West Virginia. Her territory