

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

included Mercer, McDowell and Cabell counties in my district. She organized home and garden clubs, 4-H clubs, and established the West Virginia State Farm Homemakers Council, under the auspices of West Virginia State College, West Virginia University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She was the district home demonstration agent and became program development leader. After 27 years in the Extension Service, Mrs. Livisay retired as a specialist in child development and human relations. A personal account of the work of the West Virginia Extension Service for African-Americans is recorded in the book, "Reaching Out with Heart and Hands—The Memories of An Extension Worker," written by Mrs. Livisay in 1994.

A diamond soror and life member, Mrs. Livisay was initiated into Nu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. in 1925. She was a charter member of Epsilon Delta Omega Chapter in Beckley, West Virginia and at the time of her death, she was a member of Eta Iota Omega Chapter, in Inkster, Michigan. Mrs. Livisay, was the proud mother of four children, Carolyn L. McGhee, Marilyn L. Stewart, Jackson P. Livisay, Jr. and Osborne Livisay.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Tanner Johnson Livisay, for her many accomplishments and achievements and the legacy she leaves for her family and the great State of West Virginia, and in particular, my third congressional district.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE BILL LIPINSKI

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate my good friend Representative BILL LIPINSKI his retirement after 22 years of dedicated service in the House of Representatives. BILL has been a close friend of mine since we were freshman together in the 98th Congress, and I know that reporting to work each day will not be the same without BILL around.

Representative LIPINSKI is a native of Chicago and works incredibly hard for the residents of the 3rd Congressional district. Even after 11 terms in Congress he still flies home nearly every weekend to address the concerns of his constituents. BILL has spent his entire career working for the people of Chicago, first in Chicago's Park District for 17 years, then as the 23rd Ward Alderman in the Chicago City Council, and then as a U.S. Congressman.

Some of BILL's greatest achievements lie in his work on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He has done an incredible amount both for Chicago and for the entire state of Illinois and has secured millions of dollars in federal funding for improvements at both Midway and O'Hare airports. For example, in 1990 Representative LIPINSKI sponsored and helped pass the Passenger Facility Charge BILL to enable both Midway and O'Hare to finance important airport infrastructure projects.

In the 105th Congress, BILL was instrumental in passing the Transportation Equity

Act for the 21st Century, under which Illinois continues to receive an average of \$885 million per year for highway funding and \$150 million per year for mass transit programs. During the 107th Congress, Representative LIPINSKI was the author of legislation to allow Chicago's Mayor Daley to expand O'Hare International Airport without consulting the Illinois Governor, an important step of autonomy for the city.

I cannot say enough about how much I have enjoyed working with BILL. Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to convey my sincerest thanks to Representative BILL Lipinski for his friendship and counsel, and congratulations to both him and his family on this well-deserved retirement. He has built an outstanding career during these past 22 years and will be sorely missed in the halls of Congress. I will look forward to working with his son, incoming Representative DANIEL LIPINSKI, during the coming years.

IN HONOR OF DR. STEVEN K. WEBSTER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Steven K. Webster, a dedicated educator and community volunteer, upon his retirement as Senior Marine Biologist at the Monterey, Bay Aquarium. Dr. Webster has diligently worked to develop and shape the aquarium's education, teacher training, and outreach programs. His dedication to the people of the Monterey Bay region has been a great benefit to the community for over twenty-five years.

As an educator at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Dr. Webster developed the Discovery Lab programs that have served over 1.5 million children to date. There is scarcely a child in Monterey County who has not participated in one of the aquarium's free education programs, thanks in great part to Dr. Webster's vision and advocacy. In addition, Dr. Webster has initiated teacher education workshops in which over 10,000 teachers have participated free of charge. He has encouraged thousands of aquarium guides and volunteers in the aquarium's nationally recognized volunteer guide training program which he developed. Dr. Webster has served as an inspiration and has offered great encouragement to those consulting him on a career in marine biology.

Beyond his extensive career in marine biology, Dr. Webster has served in numerous volunteer community and board positions, including the Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Cetacean Society, the Cannery Row Foundation, the Lyceum of the Monterey Peninsula, the State Underwater Parks Advisory Board, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and the Friends of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. An avid diving instructor and underwater photographer, Dr. Webster is a popular speaker on natural history topics ranging from the Monterey Bay to the Galapagos Islands.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Dr. Webster for his outstanding and invaluable contributions to our community, and commend him for his many accomplishments. I congratulate him on his much deserved retirement and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COL. JOHN E.
STAVAST (USAF RET.)

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to pay tribute to the passing of a great man from my district. John Stavast, a native of Denver, Colorado, recently passed away at the age of 78. Colonel Stavast dedicated 33 years of his life the armed services, in both the Army and Air Force. I am honored today to bring his contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this Nation.

John joined the Army in 1944 and served in Europe during World War II as a gunner on B-17s. He was discharged in 1946 and enlisted again in 1949 earning his pilots wings. John trained Japanese Self Defense Force pilots in the USAF Air Training Command. While flying over North Vietnam in 1967, Colonel Stavast and his crewmate were shot down near Hanoi. Both men safely ejected and were taken prisoner. He endured torture for seven full days after his capture and remained a POW until 1972. During his time in the POW camp, the colonel, as the senior ranking officer, was responsible for over 200 American POW's at the prison near the Chinese border.

Colonel Stavast suffered numerous injuries during his imprisonment including broken bones in his back, arms and legs, and a skull fracture. He had over 6,000 flying hours when retired from the Air Force in 1980, and was awarded many medals for his service. These include three Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star for Valor, and six Air Medals. After his retirement he was a member of the Military Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, VFW, American Legion, and others. He was also a dedicated volunteer at the Veterans Administration Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, John Stavast was a dedicated patriot that selflessly served his community and country, and I am honored to pay tribute to his memory. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN LA
MONTAGNE—A TRUE PUBLIC
SERVANT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John La Montagne, Ph.D., Deputy Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who died suddenly on November 2, 2004. He was a true public servant who worked tirelessly to improve public health in the United States and across the world. He is sorely missed in the public health community, by Elaine, his beloved wife of 37 years, his family, and the many persons in his community who were blessed to be able to call him friend and know his warmth, compassion for others, humor, and quiet modesty and dignity.

Dr. La Montagne's contributions to the national and international effort against infectious