

has also attended the National Scout Jam-boree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia and the Junior Leader Training Conference at the Pony Express Council.

For his Eagle Scout project, Derek built a new sign for the Alta Vista Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Derek Scott King for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO FRUITA MONUMENT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise before you today to pay tribute to the students of Fruita Monument High School who recently devoted their time and efforts toward improving the lives of others. Last year, 25 students joined the Committee for a Merry Christmas For All to construct, collect and distribute Christmas toys to needy children in Colorado. Their actions serve as a valuable model of community service, and I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their tremendous contributions to the State of Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation.

The Committee for a Merry Christmas For All was established 17 years ago. Since the committee's beginning, the Grand Junction Free Press reports that "Students have designed and constructed nearly 5,000 toys . . . and they've collected another nearly 6,000." This past year, under the tutelage of their teachers Ed Reid and Mel Crider, the students constructed and distributed a variety of toys. On the Saturday preceding Christmas, the students and their teachers met at Fruita Monument High School and distributed the collection of toys to children in need throughout the Grand Junction community. This is an amazing group of young citizens, and I am proud to highlight their amazing actions here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, it is a high honor to rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to each member of the Committee for a Merry Christmas For All. I would also like to thank their teachers Ed and Mel, who have dedicated their time and efforts to make this service possible. These efforts have brightened the lives of thousands of needy children in Colorado, and the State will forever remain grateful. It is my honor to offer my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Committee and School, and I thank them for their service.

HONORING JAMES HUFF

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, this month James Huff retires—again. A mentor, a confidant, a family friend, and a counselor since before I ran for Congress, Jim represents the best Mississippi has to offer and will be irreplaceable on my staff.

Jim and Marilyn Huff reared two children and proudly claim 5 grandchildren. For 32 years he worked at the Masonite Corporation in Laurel. As operations manager at Masonite, he was one of the leading businessmen in Jones County, where I grew up and first appreciated his wisdom, wit, and integrity.

President George H. W. Bush put Jim's knowledge and expertise to work, appointing him Mississippi's state director of the Farmers Home Administration. Excelling as administrator and leader, Jim was next asked by President Bush to come to Washington DC and serve as the national administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration.

Years later, Jim's political knowledge of Mississippi and Washington DC benefited my work both in my first campaign for Congress and then as I worked to serve the constituents of Mississippi's Third District. Few freshman Congressmen could boast of such unique experience on staff. His guidance was exceptional; his advice, outstanding.

Jim continues to be a servant in his community. He is a leader at the Hebron Baptist Church where his abilities as a Sunday school teacher and work as a deacon are well known and appreciated. Active in the Kiwanis Club, people in Jones County know they can come to Jim for advice and assistance during life's struggles.

The pages of Mississippi record a lifetime of public service and private engagement from Jim Huff. He will never fully retire. He may have more time now to work his cattle farm and relax at his favorite fishing hole, and more time to spend with his loving family.

When I think of Jim Huff, I think of honesty, service, humor, and experience. I thank him for his service to this office and to Mississippi. I join the rest of my staff in saying we will miss him, but I know I will see him often because he is more than a colleague and assistant. He is family and will remain near in my heart, constant in my thoughts, and always in my prayers.

HONORING RAHEEN TYSON HEIGHTER

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues an address that I delivered at the memorial service of Raheen Tyson Heighter, a fallen soldier from my district on November 11, 2003.

Raheen Tyson Heighter went to the Middle East willingly, sacrificed selflessly, and served proudly.

In the two and a quarter centuries of our nation's history, our country has faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles. But in generation after generation, Americans have risen to the occasion and met every challenge.

In the 18th century, our forefathers were able to beat back the greatest military superpower in the world to secure our independence. In the 19th century, Americans defeated the greatest injustice in the world—slavery. And in the 20th century, millions of patriots, in what has come to be known as America's greatest generation, defeated the greatest evil the world has ever known—the Nazis.

Raheen is part of a generation that faces a newer, but no less dangerous tyranny.

He is a child of Long Island. He went to this high school. In many ways, he is very much like the hundreds of thousands of other children in our community—with one remarkable exception.

Raheen was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to secure the blessings of liberty for his countrymen, for our children, and for America's future.

By sacrificing himself for our way of life, Raheen, in the words of his mother, "died an American hero."

By fighting for a better world, Raheen, as the poet John Gillespie Magee, Jr. wrote, "slipped the surly bonds of earth" to "touch the face of God."

May his name be remembered throughout history, and may he serve as a source of strength and pride to American generations yet unborn.

HONORING PFC ARMANDO SORIANO

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of PFC Armando Soriano.

PFC Soriano was a constituent of the 29th District of Texas, and a true hero, who died on February 1, 2004, while serving his country in Haditha, Iraq.

Armando Soriano joined the Army 2 months after graduating from South Houston High School in 2002. Soriano was assigned to the howitzer battery, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, in Fort Carson, Colorado. His unit in Iraq was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His vehicle, traveling with another one on a supply route, slid off a road and rolled over during bad weather.

Armando Soriano leaves behind his two parents, Clotilde and Enrique, and 4 younger siblings.

I know his parents, family and friends are devastated by this loss, but they should be proud of the great man Armando Soriano had become and that he died a hero while serving his country.

His loss will be felt by all of South Houston, and I ask that you remember the Soriano family in your thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LAWRENCE T. GERATY PRESIDENT OF LA SI- ERRA UNIVERSITY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Dr. Larry Geraty is one of these individuals. On Wednesday, February 25, 2004,

he will be honored at a surprise dinner for ten years of academic and community excellence.

Dr. Geraty grew up as a citizen of the world as part of a Seventh-day Adventist missionary family who lived and worked in China, Burma, Hong Kong, and Lebanon. Dr. Geraty received a rich educational experience from attending schools in China, Hong Kong, Lebanon, England, Germany, France, Israel, California, Maryland, Michigan, and Massachusetts. These experiences set him on a lifelong course committed to the values of diversity and education.

After completing his undergraduate degree at Pacific Union College, Dr. Geraty graduated from the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He then served a short term as a pastor in Santa Ana, California. Later, Dr. Geraty joined the Andrews Theological Seminary faculty, he first went to Harvard University to study Hebrew Bible and biblical archaeology where he earned and received with distinction his Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Returning to Andrews Theological Seminary as Professor of Archaeology and History of Antiquity, Dr. Geraty distinguished himself as a teacher and scholar for the next 13 years, teaching also in Jamaica, Jordan, Trinidad, Costa Rica, Europe, and Australia, and directed a series of major archaeological expeditions to the Middle East. During this time he was also the curator of the Horn Archaeological Museum and founding Director of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University.

In his notable scholarly career, Dr. Geraty has received numerous honors, including a Fulbright Fellowship and served as advisor on archaeology to former Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan. Dr. Geraty also served as president of several scholarly societies; vice president of the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan; lectured all over the world and contributed to numerous publications.

Adding to his teaching focus, in 1985 Dr. Geraty became president of Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts where he earned the reputation as a progressive academic administrator. Since July 1993 Dr. Geraty has served as President and professor of archeology at La Sierra University in Riverside, California, where he has also become active in the community, serving currently on the boards of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, United Way of the Inland Valleys, The Employers Group, Metro Riverside International Cabinet, Mayor's Higher Education/Business Council, Raincross Club, Monday Morning Group, and the Riverside Youth Action Executive Policy Board.

In the year 2000, Dr. Geraty received the P. E. MacAllister Award for Excellence in Field Archeology from the American Schools of Oriental Research, and in 2001, the Charles Eliott Weniger Award for Excellence at Pacific Union College. On July 1, 2002, he began a three-year term as president of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), the premier organization for American archaeologists working in the Middle East. From headquarters at Boston and Emory universities, he will supervise an annual scholarly convention, the publication of several scholarly books and journals, the accreditation of American archaeological projects in the Middle East and relate to research centers in Jerusalem, Amman, and Nicosia.

Dr. Geraty and his wife, Gillian, have a daughter in Colorado, a son in Michigan, and

between them five grandchildren. Truly, one of Dr. Geraty's most impressive accomplishments has been his ability to remain active as an archaeologist and churchman while continuing to lead and direct a university which combines the religious values of a faith community, the educational ideals of a liberal arts college, and the research opportunities of a comprehensive university.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH WILLIAM MICHAEL FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph William Michael, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 167, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has earned 38 merit badges and is a Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. He served on Cub Scout Camp staff for 5 years. Joseph has also attended the National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia and the Junior Leader Training Conference at the Pony Express Council.

For his Eagle Scout project, Joseph built a stadium canopy for the Winston High School baseball field.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph William Michael for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ELWAY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to John Elway, a remarkable individual and stellar athlete from the State of Colorado. John will be forever revered as one of the most outstanding quarterbacks to ever play in the National Football League. In recognition of his achievements and dedication to the sport, John was recently selected to enter into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. This prestigious honor is a true testament to his extraordinary leadership and commitment to excellence both on and off the field, and it is my honor to highlight his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

John captured the attention of sports enthusiasts worldwide throughout his impressive career. He began playing for the Denver Broncos in 1983, and went on to lead his team to five playoff appearances, five Superbowls, and two Superbowl victories. Upon his retirement in 1998, John had amassed more victories than any quarterback in the history of the NFL. As further testament to his career accomplish-

ments, John was chosen to enter the Pro Football Hall of Fame on his first year of eligibility.

John is also well known as an active leader off the field, and has for many years, contributed his time and energies toward improving the lives of his fellow citizens. In 1987, John founded The Elway Foundation, an organization that has been instrumental in raising over \$3 million to help eliminate child abuse. The money has been used to aid the Family Advocacy, Care, Education, Support organization and The Kempe Children's Center. John's dedication to his community truly serves as a valuable model of civic service to today's youth and young athletes.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that John Elway is a person whose unparalleled dedication and hard work both led him to the top of his profession in the National Football League. The combination of his incredible talent and unrelenting passion for competition, combined with an unconquerable human spirit, has led to his selection as a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. It is my distinct pleasure to recognize his achievements before this body of Congress and this nation today, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. You have made your teammates, your fans, and the State of Colorado proud.

UNCLE ARTHUR AND ORVILLE WRIGHT

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the media reported that Rover and Opportunity were exploring the Martian surface. Mars is about 35 million miles from Earth, yet man can reach that alien world.

On December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, an equally awe-inspiring event took place. It was there that Wilbur and Orville Wright gave birth to man's ability to fly by successfully testing the first powered, heavier-than-air craft that achieved sustained flight with a pilot aboard. The first flight was only 120 feet, far less than the distance to Mars, but that single event defined the 20th Century.

In the December 2003 issue of Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Magazine, I learned, through an article written by my brother, Tom Simmons, that our family has a connection to the Wright Brothers. Our Great Uncle Arthur Ruhl was one of only six journalists in May 1908 to watch the Wright Brothers work with their aircraft at Kitty Hawk.

An article about what Uncle Arthur saw appeared in Colliers magazine on May 30, 1908. But this story doesn't end with Uncle Arthur's article. He sent a copy of his story to the Wright Brothers and Orville sent back a warm reply. Emboldened by the inventor's response, and his own curiosity, Uncle Arthur wrote back and asked if he could take a flight. Orville responded that they had so many requests they were limiting their passengers to Army officials.

Undaunted, Uncle Arthur continued his correspondence with Orville Wright, and by 1910 the Wright Brothers were exhibiting their aircraft because the public was paying to watch the flights. Who should be covering one of the