

writing and serving her community as a public servant. Pete's love of writing and positive attitude throughout her life serves as an inspiration to all, and it is my special honor to thank her for her service to her community before this body of Congress and this nation today.

**GOP FIGHTING FOR AMERICA'S
VETERANS**

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I want to discuss how President Bush and this Republican Congress have fought to honor America's veterans.

After 18 years, that's nine legislative sessions, I am proud to say under the leadership of Congressman MICHAEL BILIRAKIS the Republicans are the only ones who can claim credit for allowing disabled military retirees to concurrently receive their full disability compensation and retirement benefits. We corrected the flaw in a 100-year-old law.

For the first time, because of Republicans, our country's wounded warriors, those who were injured in combat, while training for combat, or who are 50 percent or more disabled as a result of service-connected causes, will receive both the disability compensation and retirement pay they have earned.

According to the most recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates, full concurrent receipt would cost approximately \$41 billion over the 10-year period between 2004 and 2013. Almost 700,000 retirees will be eligible in FY 2004 alone.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that our Republican colleagues in the House and Senate have fought to ensure that America's veterans get what they deserve.

**TRIBUTE TO RADNOR GIRL
SCOUTS**

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the Radnor Girl Scouts during their visit to our Nation's capital today. The girls and teens, ages 8 to 16, representing 10 girl scout troops and 11 schools, will participate in a program called Tomorrow's Leaders. In addition, the Radnor Girl Scouts have worked with the White House Project, Ms. President Patch for Girl Scouts, an organization that is changing the way people think about women in leadership roles. Girl Scouts of the USA started this new program, a non-partisan organization dedicated to advancing women's leadership in government at all levels.

Girl Scouting was introduced in 1912 as a way to introduce new experiences and adventure to young girls, while helping them develop a positive self-image and important leadership skills. More than ever before, our country needs the support of organizations like the Girl Scouts of America to help build stronger families, neighborhoods, and communities. Those

of us in the Seventh Congressional District of Pennsylvania are proud of the example and dedication of the Radnor Girl Scouts and congratulate them on the outstanding work they are doing. During their visit to our Nation's capital, they will learn vital lessons of leadership and service to prepare them to make significant contributions in all aspects of the life of our Nation.

Our great Nation will continue to grow and prosper as we uphold and encourage young people, such as the Radnor Girl Scouts, as symbols of hope, possibility, and personal excellence.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Radnor Girl Scouts for their excellent work.

**IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
PEACE CORPS WEEK**

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the numerous achievements of the Peace Corps during National Peace Corps Week from March 1–7, 2004.

I commend the Peace Corps for its 43 years of attentive humanitarian service and contributions around the world. Since its inception in 1961, the Peace Corps has served to promote a mission of world peace throughout the 137 countries where its volunteers have diligently served. The work of these volunteers has become more vital today than ever before, with many Americans interested in humanitarian service, and a multitude of host countries eagerly awaiting their arrival.

Currently, more than 75,000 volunteers are serving in 71 countries around the world. This number includes five volunteers from California's 13th District: Julie Chang (Mali), Sarah Knueven Brett (Haiti), Rosalind Lwin (Kenya), Brian Stanke (Romania), and Judy Wong (Ukraine). These volunteers share their time and talents as teachers, advisers, agriculture and youth workers, and health educators in the countries where they serve.

During National Peace Corps Week, I am proud to honor the American men and women who are selflessly eager to serve our Nation by fulfilling the mission of the Peace Corps. The noble actions of these volunteers have empowered people in developing countries through their grassroots development efforts.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the Peace Corps on its 43rd anniversary for its continuing humanitarian efforts throughout the world.

**FCC COURT RULING ON PRICING
OF PHONE LINES**

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit on "UNE-P" pricing of wholesale phone lines.

Mr. Speaker, telecommunications companies are set to invest billions of dollars in net-

work infrastructure—investment that will help the weak economy and create and preserve jobs—but the current regulatory environment restricts growth and investment in the telecom sector.

With this decision, the FCC should play a major role, as envisioned by Congress in passing the 1996 Telecom Act, of stimulating technological innovation, preserving quality universal service, and creating new jobs in a vital, growing, competitive industry.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO NEIL
McDONALD**

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Neil McDonald for the extraordinary patriotism and valor that he demonstrated in the service of his nation. Neil was a gunner in a Navy helicopter crew in Vietnam and in recognition of his actions, was recently inducted into the Navy Enlisted Combat Aircrew Roll of Honor. This incredible honor is a testament to Neil's courage, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize him before this body of Congress and this nation today.

This amazing honor is the manifestation of his many selfless and brave actions during the time he spent flying in combat overseas. The distinction of being inducted into the Navy Enlisted Combat Aircrew Roll of Honor is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed for those enlisted Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard aircrewmembers who flew in combat in all wars and served with distinction. Neil McDonald now joins only six hundred and fifty fellow patriots that have been selected for this honor. During the eighteen months he spent abroad, Neil flew in over five hundred combat missions and earned many combat decorations which include the Purple Heart, single action Air Medal, the Silver Star, and many personal and unit citations.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Neil McDonald is a man who possesses unparalleled dedication and commitment to serving his country. His life is the very embodiment of what makes this country great, and it is my distinct pleasure to honor Neil before this body of Congress. Thanks for your service to this country.

**HONORING WILLIAM MCGEE OF
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA**

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William McGee of Santa Rosa, California, who died Sunday at the age of 79 of injuries suffered in a bicycle accident. Bill was an experienced and avid bicyclist as well as long-distance runner, bread baker, counselor, poet, photographer, philosopher, and retired junior college instructor.

This list does not begin to describe the warm, wise, and caring person that Bill was to

his wife, Alice Waco, and to all of us who knew him. Friends will long remember the twinkle in his eye and the special comfort brought by the delivery of his own home-baked bread and a few lines of poetry in time of need.

Born in Marquette, Michigan, in 1925, Bill, whose father died when he was four, took a bakery job six years later to help support his family. His interest in spiritual matters drew him to attend a Catholic seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1956, and spent most of his priesthood at the University of Michigan in Houghton. There he founded the Newman Center to serve Catholic students.

Later Bill attended UC Berkeley on a Fulbright theology fellowship, eventually joining St. Benedict's Deaf Center in San Francisco. Bill's life changed dramatically when he met Alice Waco, then a nun at the center. They soon discovered that they were soulmates and both seeking answers outside the church. They married in 1974. That same year, Bill began teaching Latin at Santa Rosa Junior College where he was known for singing Latin chants to his classes. He also earned a master's degree in alcohol studies and coordinated a DUI counseling program at the school until his retirement in 1992.

Bill also worked as a substance abuse counselor at the Orenda Center in Santa Rosa, and with his wife Alice, was active in the Sonoma County Peace and Justice Center.

Bill used his photography, and especially his poetry, to express his feelings about life. Cards to his friends combined both arts with his own unique humor and spiritual philosophy. One of Bill's poems, *To Be An American*, exemplifies his view that love and hope help us meet the complexities and challenges of life. It reads in part:

To be an American is a place beyond boundaries beyond vision, but a dream a possible dream:

when boundaries are dissolved
where perfect is growth
where imperfection is ours sometimes in a most perfect way.

To be an American is a place where everything and everyone is not yet, yet even though our brightest victories applaud sciences of war and peace in the echoes of machinery still making bombs and guns.

We are peoples mixed, melted and split with differences that make pork in government, doves and hawks outside of it, and truth come late.

To be an American is to grow in confusion of a world inside part of a world called these United States . . . in a milieu of men, women and children.

Where differences are different and similarities are never different; that each and everyone needs very little in life; a place to eat, a place to sleep, a place to die, and a lot of loving in between.

Bill is survived by his wife Alice Waco, brothers Jim and Chuck McGee, and sisters Alice Tyler and Pat Ley.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor William McGee. He was a man whose spirituality was matched by his compassion. He was a unique individual whose life brimmed with kindness and creativity. I join with Bill's family and many friends in grief over his loss and happiness in having known him.

IN HONOR OF SISTER JUNE
FAVATA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister June Favata for her years of service and dedication to the young women of Saint Vincent Academy in Newark, New Jersey. Sister Favata was honored at the Celebration of the Life of Monsignor Geno Charles Baroni luncheon on Tuesday, November 25, 2003, at the North Ward Center in Newark.

Sister June Favata has been a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth for 42 years, dedicating most of her time and focus to the education of young women at Saint Vincent Academy. Sister Favata began her career at Saint Vincent Academy as an English teacher in 1969. After years of hard work and innovative thinking, she became program director of the Administrative team in 1978, and assumed the position of administrative director in 1985.

For over 30 years, Sister Favata has helped to establish several interdisciplinary programs at Saint Vincent Academy, focused on preparing students for the rigors of college by promoting self-discipline, personal responsibility, and enhancing academic skills and work ethic. Sister Favata, along with other colleagues, spearheaded the Students-in Community Program, a tool used to integrate social responsibility with formal education. It is an opportunity for students to learn of the underlying causes of social issues, while volunteering and helping out their respective communities.

Sister June Favata has received several awards for her dedicated service to the City of Newark and Saint Vincent Academy, such as the Distinguished Secondary School Teacher Award in the State of New Jersey from Princeton University; Community Leadership and Service Award from Saint Benedict's Preparatory School; and the Miracle Maker Award from the United Way of Essex and West Hudson.

Sister Favata is a life-long New Jersey resident, and received her bachelor's degree in English from the College of Saint Elizabeth and her master's degree in Communication Art from the University of Notre Dame.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sister June Favata for her dedicated and tireless service to her community and for 34 years of outstanding leadership to the students of Saint Vincent Academy of Newark.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TERRY
WINDNAGEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Terry Windnagel for his extraordinary patriotism and valor during his service to this nation. Terry was a helicopter door gunner with the Navy

Seawolves of Helicopter Attack Squadron Three, and as a result of his heroic efforts was recently inducted into the Navy Enlisted Combat Aircrew Roll of Honor. This special honor is a testament to Terry's patriotism, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize him before this body of Congress and this nation today.

The distinction of being inducted into the Navy Enlisted Combat Aircrew Roll of Honor is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed on an enlisted member of the military who served as an aircrewman, flew in combat, and served with distinction. As a result of his many selfless and brave actions during the time spent in combat, Terry Windnagel now joins a select group of only six hundred and fifty fellow patriots that have been selected for this honor. While serving abroad, Terry flew in over five hundred combat missions, and earned many combat decorations, including the Purple Heart, single action Air Medal, combat action ribbons, and many personal and unit citations.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Terry Windnagel is a man who possesses unparalleled dedication and commitment to serving his country. His life is the very embodiment of what makes this country great, and it is my distinct pleasure to honor Terry before this body of Congress and this nation today. Thanks for your service to this country.

CONGRATULATING THE ELK RIVER
ELKS ON THEIR VICTORY IN THE
MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS DOUBLE-A GIRLS HOCKEY
TOURNAMENT

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Elk River Elks on their victory in the Minnesota State High School Class Double-A Girls Hockey Tournament. The championship game on Saturday, February 28th, capped the 10th year that girls hockey has held a state tournament.

The Elks finished a 29-2 season with a thrilling 3-2 overtime victory over North Saint Paul, before a crowd of almost 2,500 fans from across Minnesota. This was the first trip to the state championship game for both teams.

Coached by Barry Hohlen, the Elks came from behind to tie the game in the 3rd period on a goal by Erin Olson, her second of the game. 59 seconds into overtime, senior Anya Miller, a Ms. Hockey finalist, scored on a slapshot to give Elk River the title. Both Olson and Miller were named to the all-tournament team.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the students, coaches and fans from Elk River High School on their championship season. It's a great tribute to their hard work, dedication and overall team effort. I know that everyone in the State of Hockey is proud of their accomplishments.