

will be a very special day, and I applaud those working hard to keep Elie's ideals and goals instilled in their minds and hearts.

IN HONOR OF TOM ADAMS' FORTY  
YEARS OF TEACHING AT ST.  
MARK'S SCHOOL OF TEXAS

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 2, 2004*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a teaching legend at St. Mark's School of Texas. I am proud to represent St. Mark's in Congress. I am very familiar with the high excellence of education that St. Mark's provides to young men as my oldest son currently attends St. Mark's, and one of my staffers is also an alumnus of the school.

St. Mark's would not be nearly as successful an institution if it weren't for the scholarly teaching of Thomas S. Adams. Tom Adams is celebrating his 40th year of teaching at St. Mark's, and I honor him for his four decades of service to the school and the countless young men that have benefited from his teaching and insight.

Tom Adams currently serves as the Cecil and Ida Green Master Teaching Chair in History. He has held this position since 1980, and he has served as the Senior Master of the faculty from 1997–2002. Tom currently teaches U.S. History, Art History, and Modern World History.

In addition to his distinguished teaching in the classroom, Tom has coached the St. Mark's baseball team to twelve Southwest Preparatory Conference (SPC) Championships. In addition to his success with the baseball team, Coach Adams led the St. Mark's basketball team to six SPC Championships.

Tom Adams was appointed to the St. Mark's faculty on July 1, 1961 after receiving his B.A. from Princeton University and his M.A. from Harvard University. Adams is a lasting icon at St. Mark's, and I admire him for continuing to teach even after reaching his 40-year milestone. I wish Tom Adams, and the St. Mark's community all the best.

LEGISLATION TO MAKE BONUS DE-  
PRECIATION A PERMANENT  
PART OF OUR TAX CODE

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 2, 2004*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today, Congressmen NEAL, UPTON, ENGLISH, TIAHRT and I have introduced legislation to make bonus depreciation a permanent part of our tax code. I appreciate the opportunity to make a statement on this important legislation.

As you know, the issue of bonus depreciation has been an important one over the past 2 years. On March 9, 2002, President Bush signed the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002 into law. This law allows businesses to accelerate the depreciation of equipment they purchase between September 11, 2001 and December 31, 2004. All equipment with a depreciable life of 20 years and

under qualifies for the bonus depreciation treatment. Originally they were entitled to get a bonus of 30 percent in the first year. Before this law, a \$1000 computer would be depreciated equally over 5 years. \$200 each year. With this change, businesses get \$175 in the first year, plus a 30 percent bonus. So, they depreciate \$475 in the first year and the remaining \$520 over the next 4 years (\$175 each year for 4 years).

H.R. 2, the 2003 tax cut law, included a provision to increase bonus depreciation to 50 percent through December 31, 2004. This provision became law in June 2003. This has helped stimulate the economy and create new jobs for Americans that are out of work.

Just today, the U.S. Department of Labor released statistics that prove that bonus depreciation and other tax cuts are working. Bonus depreciation is helping to bring jobs back to the U.S. economy and put American workers back to work. The Labor Department announcement indicates that the U.S. economy created 308,000 new jobs in March, this is the fastest monthly job growth since April 2000. The latest data show that more than 500,000 new jobs have been created in the first three months of 2004.

In another example, the General Aviation Manufacturers Association recently told me that in the first 5 months after enactment of the bonus depreciation provision sales of general aviation airplanes increased 45 percent.

Mr. Speaker, bonus depreciation and the other tax cuts are working. Our economy is rebounding. We need to make bonus depreciation and the other tax cuts permanent in our tax code. When making business decisions, companies need to know for sure that they can rely on these tax provisions.

I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

COMMENDING SEAN BUTLER

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 2, 2004*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the achievement of an outstanding young man, Sean Butler. Through hard work and dedication he has achieved his goal, a goal that few young men have the courage, dedication, and character to achieve.

Sean's dedication has given him the title of Eagle Scout within the Boy Scouts of America. This program has long been recognized as a program that builds strong minds upon sound morals. Achieving an Eagle Scout status shows that this young man has participated in projects and activities that will help him become a strong man in life. It has shown him how to set reasonable and accomplishable goals, a value that will put him considerably ahead of his peers.

The Boy Scouts of America is a great building block for our youth and it is quite an achievement, with so many other activities available, for young men to receive their Eagle Scout Award. It is my hope that he will hold this award as a special honor; to always remember the principles and teachings he has learned, and to use this award as a tool in his future.

THE GREATER TEXARKANA  
PEOPLES' CLINIC

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 2, 2004*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate The Greater Texarkana Peoples' Clinic on its grand opening. The clinic, whose motto is Good Health for All, was established to provide free, quality health care to qualifying residents in the greater Texarkana area, which includes Miller (Arkansas) and Bowie (Texas) Counties, who do not have access to basic medical services. The First United Methodist Church at 401 N. Stateline, Texarkana, Texas has offered its facilities as a site for the clinic.

Statistics from the Kaiser Family Foundation indicate that sixteen percent of Arkansans are uninsured and twenty-five percent of Texans are uninsured. In The Greater Texarkana Peoples' Clinic's medical service area, forty-one percent of their service area population is uninsured. Instead of waiting for a government fix, the people saw a need and set about solving that need. Thanks in part to Chaplain Jim Rowland, president of the Greater Texarkana Ministerial Alliance, Dr. Tim Reynolds, medical director, and Dr. D. Jack Smith, clinic board member, a non-judgmental, compassionate environment in which to serve those individuals and families largely rejected by mainstream society has been created. The Greater Texarkana Peoples' Clinic is truly the result of a collaborative community effort. Medical professionals throughout the Texarkana area along with numerous volunteers are generously giving their expertise, time and financial support to make this initiative an overwhelming success.

I join with the leadership of Texarkana, Arkansas and Texarkana, Texas in thanking and congratulating all that were involved in bringing The Greater Texarkana Peoples' Clinic to a reality. The clinic and its services will prove to be an asset for years to come.

HONORING NATALIE STERN, 2004  
CHERRY BLOSSOM PRINCESS

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 2, 2004*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Ms. Natalie Stern, who will be representing New Jersey as our princess in the 2004 Cherry Blossom Princess Program.

Since 1948, state societies have selected accomplished female students to represent their states in the Cherry Blossom Princess Program. During the week-long program, the princesses participate in a number of events that provide them with an opportunity to share the culture and unique traditions of their state. The program culminates with a princess being crowned as the United States Cherry Blossom Queen, who will travel to Japan as a representative of the United States. During her two weeks in Japan, the U.S. Cherry Blossom Queen participates in events across the country and meets with Japanese dignitaries.

I am pleased that the New Jersey State Society picked Natalie Stern to represent our state in the festival. Ms. Stern is a shining example of the best New Jersey has to offer. She is a native of Pennington, New Jersey. She attended Stuart Country Day School in Princeton. Natalie continued her education at Indiana University and graduated in 2003 with two bachelor degrees. In addition to her studies at Indiana University, Natalie served as an intern at the White House as well as a fellow at the International Television and Radio Society in New York City.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Natalie and all of the other young women who have been selected to participate in the festival and I wish them all continued success in the future.

IN HONOR OF PETER TROXELL

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 2, 2004*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter Troxell who passed away March 17, 2004 after a prolonged battle with cancer. Earlier this year I rose to congratulate him on his retirement and I am saddened to hear of this great man's passing. He is survived by his wife, Diana, children Adriana, Lyle, and Marina, and six grandchildren.

Although Peter was best known for his role as station manager of KUSP, which he assumed in 1993, he has been a leader in our community since the 1960s. He was one of the founders of the Mountain Community Theatre in Ben Lomond, helped establish the San Lorenzo Valley Children's Center, and managed Oganookie, a local band from Santa Cruz's hippie days.

His leadership skills were put to the test when he became the station manager of KUSP. The station was facing hard times internally and out, and might not have survived without Peter's tireless dedication. It is a testament to his skills as a businessman that we have KUSP in Santa Cruz today. But even with these new responsibilities, Peter never forgot his love of the arts. Even those who have never met Peter will recognize him as the host of the weekly shows "State of the Arts" and "In the Green Room."

Mr. Speaker, I rise once more to applaud Peter Troxell's many accomplishments. He was a remarkable figure in our community, and his memory will live on in the many people whose lives he has touched. I join the County of Santa Cruz, and friends and family in honoring this truly admirable man and all of his lifelong achievements.

WEST VIRGINIA QUARTER: NEW  
RIVER GORGE BRIDGE

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 2, 2004*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, my home State of West Virginia chose a representation of the New River Gorge Bridge to decorate the new West Virginia commemorative quarter to be

issued next year by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The New River Gorge Bridge resides close to my home in Southern West Virginia. It symbolizes West Virginia's beauty, ingenuity, hard work, and our peoples' determination to do what many deem the impossible.

Until recently, the New River Gorge Bridge was the longest single arch bridge in the world. Today, it is only surpassed by the Lupu Bridge recently built in Shanghai, China, but it is not surpassed in the eyes and hearts of West Virginians and those who look upon it.

The New River Gorge is the sun around which West Virginia's ever-expanding numbers of tourism initiatives revolve. It is the Grand Canyon of the east—one of America's oldest and most spectacular natural wonders. More Americans—indeed, more people from all around the world—discover our New River Gorge every year.

I have spent a career protecting the New River Gorge. The bridge and the river are not only nationally acclaimed recreation destinations; they also generate jobs and contribute greatly to Southern West Virginia's economy.

Construction began on the New River Gorge Bridge in June of 1974, and was opened for the public's use on October 22, 1977. The enormous undertaking, and breathtaking result reduced a forty-minute drive down windy mountain roads to a one-minute trip over one of the world's greatest tourist attractions.

On the third Saturday of each October the New River Gorge Bridge is open to pedestrians, where hundreds of thousands of people get to walk the span of the bridge and enjoy a number of events, arts, and crafts. Some brave outdoor enthusiasts also use this day to parachute from the center of the bridge to the river basin 876 feet below. This day is referred to as "Bridge Day," and it is a day that brings people from all over the world to Southern West Virginia.

The New River Gorge Bridge represents what is best about West Virginia, our breathtaking natural beauty, and our people's skill and ingenuity. It is fitting that the New River Gorge Bridge was chosen to represent my home State in the commemorative coin series, and it is truly "Wild and Wonderful" news.

MS. ROBIN EVANS: A FOND  
FAREWELL FROM CAPITOL HILL

### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 2, 2004*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would ask his colleagues join in commending and congratulating a long-time employee in this Member's personal office, Ms. Robin Evans, who is retiring next week after almost 23 years of congressional service. This Member hired Robin on February 1, 1982, and she has worked for this Member continually since that time with the exception of a 9-month period when Robin tried working for the other body, but she saw the light and returned to the House and this Member's office as our Office Manager.

Robin is one of those exceptionally outstanding employees who does her work exceptionally well and in a very professional manner. She is one of the most organized,

conscientious, and capable people that this Member has had the pleasure to work with in his many years of congressional service. Robin will be greatly missed not only by this Member and this Member's staff, but also by the many people on Capitol Hill and in my constituency in Nebraska who have worked with her throughout these many years.

Please join this Member in wishing Robin all the best as she returns to her home area on Maryland's Eastern Shore and embarks upon a new career with the Morgan Stanley office in Salisbury, MD.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF RESTON, VIRGINIA AND THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF ITS FOUNDER, ROBERT E. SIMON, JR.

### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 2, 2004*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia and I rise today to commemorate the 40 anniversary of Reston, Virginia and the 90th birthday of its legendary founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr.

Bob Simon grew up in New York immersed in his family's thriving real estate business, Hecser Corp. He attended Harvard University, and upon the passing of his father in 1935, took over the family business. While running Hecser Corp., Simon escaped the city by residing in Syosset, a suburb of Long Island. There he grew to value a lifestyle in which one could live, work, and play in the same desirable community.

In 1961, an offer for 6,750 lush acres 18 miles west of Washington, DC, caught Simon's attention. He inspected the land, instantly fell in love, and invested in the rolling green hills of Fairfax County. Simon sought to create a community to embody his ideals; he envisioned a well-rounded, self-sufficient community that respected the dignity of the individual and preserved the land's natural beauty.

He launched his development project at a time when the Commonwealth of Virginia still was segregated; nonetheless, Simon bravely fought for a community in which people of all backgrounds could live peacefully together. He put Dr. Martin Luther King's principles to practice and always will be remembered for his commitment to integration. Many investors turned away from Simon's concept, yet Gulf Oil accepted, providing critical resources and support for the project.

After securing funding, Simon worked closely with noted planners, architects, and environmentalists to transform his vision into a reality. Perhaps most notable was his innovative notion of clustered housing, leaving open land and improving the appearance and quality of the area. Simon's development team and those that succeeded them were able to realize his dream community, aptly naming it Reston, using the founder's initials and the English suffix for town. As Reston developed, numerous organizations such as the United States Geological Survey relocated to the area, bringing much needed employment and residents. In 1990, development began on the Reston Town Center, which produced a lasting, positive impact on the community.