

Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce for over eighty years of impeccable service to the Alamosa, Colorado business community. The Alamosa Chamber is an incredible asset to the town, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing the Chamber's tremendous service to the Alamosa community.

Looking back on the history of Alamosa, the Chamber has sponsored many events and activities to improve the town, including its Town and Gown banquet, Cribbage tournaments, and founding the Alamosa Community Development Corporation. The Chamber has also helped to maintain a fantastic relationship between the town and Adams State College through sponsoring scholarships and organizing community and school events. Most importantly, the Chamber has been instrumental in promoting local businesses, aiding in their growth and success throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce is a dedicated organization that is actively involved in bringing the people of Alamosa together. For over eight decades, the Chamber has left an indelible mark of excellence on the Alamosa community and the State of Colorado. It is my privilege to pay tribute to the Chamber and its members before this body of Congress and this nation today. I thank them for the remarkable service they provide to Alamosa and the State of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an organization whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community organizations who willingly and make their communities a better place to live and work. Western Municipal Water District is one of these organizations. On Thursday, May 13, 2004, Western Municipal Water District will celebrate 50 years of service.

Western Municipal Water District, since its formation on January 19, 1954 and authorization by public vote on January 26, 1954 has fulfilled its founding *raison d'être*, to augment the shortage of local water available to local communities with supplemental water imported 242 miles to western Riverside County via Metropolitan Water District's Colorado River Aqueduct.

The Western Municipal Water District, recognizing the need for a long-term source of high quality drinking water to sustain domestic needs of a burgeoning population, began importing a second source of high quality water in 1979 from northern California via the State Water Project's 444 mile-long California Aqueduct.

The Western Municipal Water District provides vital wastewater services as administrative operator of the West Riverside County Wastewater Authority since 1998, as operator of the Santa Ana Regional Interceptor (SARI) brine line since 1983, and as owner-operator of the March Air Reserve Base treatment facil-

ity providing irrigation water to the nation's second largest veteran's cemetery since 1996.

The Western Municipal Water District, as a court-appointed watermaster pursuant to the 1969 Stipulated Judgment, has been instrumental in maintaining peace among all parties to water rights and water quality issues in the Santa Ana Watershed.

The Western Municipal Water District, as one of the five water agencies comprising Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), has provided exemplary water resource management through implementation of the Santa Ana Watershed Basin Plan in cooperation and integrated planning with its neighbors in the Santa Ana Watershed.

Western Municipal Water District, has worked cooperatively and diplomatically to address complex political and regulatory issues impacting water at local, regional, state and national levels, and has invested prudently in efficient drought-proofing ventures such as the Nonpotable Conveyance System, Arlington Desalter and Riverside-Corona Feeder. I would like to express deep appreciation to Western Municipal Water District for profound contributions to the present and future health and prosperity of all communities in Western's 510 square mile service.

TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S RE- SERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our nation's Reserve and National Guard members. In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome home reservists from Ft. Meade in the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland—my home district. This includes members from the 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion and the 444th Personnel Service Battalion, Detachment 2. These men and women have rejoined their families after serving in the Middle East for as long as 14 months and we are thrilled to see them return home.

But Mr. Speaker, such home comings are bitter sweet in light of ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. As the number of wounded and casualties continues to rise—as the length of deployment for many reservists expecting 'temporary' activation continues to be extended—there is much concern and worry at home. Loss is always difficult and war is never easy. But America's support for our men and women in uniform, for their dedication and service, for their sacrifice, for those who have already paid the ultimate price . . . America's support shall not waver. And I for one vow to continue to do all I can to support our Armed Forces.

For me, that support has meant many different things. From the creation of Operation Hero Miles to help soldiers returning home on R&R to founding a Veterans Advisory Council in the Maryland 2nd Congressional District to work with local veterans on national issues, I believe lawmakers need to put their efforts where their rhetoric is. I am less interested in what people say than what they do and I urge my colleagues to consider this edict as we

look at the legislative agenda for the remainder of this congressional session.

Our nations' Reserve and National Guard members are facing daunting problems largely created by the realities of the post-September 11 War on Terrorism. With a leaner full time active military, we are relying on the talent, dedication and service of reservists in unprecedented ways. Not since the Korean War have such a large percentage of boots on the ground been filled by reservists and not since they have reservists served for such extended periods of time. But even in Korea, that percentage has never been as high as it is today.

Today, reservists face unprecedented problems. Military benefits that exist today simply were not a concern back in the 1950's when our forces were largely involuntary. Today, America's reservists are serving side-by-side with full time active military men and women . . . and yet they are not recognized equally when it comes to their benefits. Parity is the key word for reservists today and little legislation is actually moving through Congress to solve their problems. Their retirement plans are unequal. Health care prior to activation is non-existent for many and creating readiness issues. Reservists are plagued with payroll problems causing bankruptcies, divorces, and unfair heart ache. There are critical questions about gap pay for reservists working in the private sector when not serving. Extended deployments are creating unforeseen hardships for families, employers, small business owners, and the self employed.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter if you were for or against the war in Iraq. The reality is we are there now and the troops deserve our support with the same unwavering dedication. I urge leadership in both chambers and on both sides of the aisle to help our nation's Reserve and National Guard members. Yes, we should continue to salute and pay tribute as they return home. But we should do so with our actions here in this chamber to ensure that our actions reflect how truly grateful we are.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF ROSANNA MAY LEDDY-GREEN, 2004 LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLAR- SHIP WINNER OF MORENCI, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Rosanna May Leddy-Green, winner of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is given to young adults who have demonstrated their true commitment to playing an important role in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Rosanna is being honored for demonstrating the same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Rosanna is an exceptional student at Morenci High School. She has an outstanding record of achievement, exemplified by her status on the All 'A' Honor Roll. Rosanna has excelled in athletics as a member of the cross

country and track teams for four years and was named academic all-state. Her extensive list of school activities includes Spanish Club, National Honor Society, and S.A.D.D. Rosanna is also secretary of her graduating class.

As a Member of the United States Congress, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending the highest praise and congratulations to Rosanna May Leddy-Green for winning the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor not only recognizes her accomplishments, but also is a testament to the parents, teachers, and other individuals whose personal interest, strong support, and active participation have contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend the most heartfelt good wishes of the United States Congress for her success and for all her future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TOM McAVOY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise and pay tribute to journalist Tom McAvoy and thank him for his contributions to Colorado as the Denver Bureau Chief for The Pueblo Chieftain newspaper. The level of integrity and honesty that he has brought to this position throughout his twenty-one years of reporting on Colorado politics is truly exceptional and worthy of recognition by this body of Congress. As Tom moves on to his new position at The Pueblo Chieftain with the newspaper's editorial board, let it be known that the citizens of Pueblo and I are eternally grateful for the outstanding work Tom has done in covering the Colorado Legislature.

A Pueblo native, Tom received a degree in political science and mass communications from then Southern Colorado State College, and went on to receive his master's degree in journalism from Ohio State University. Before joining the Chieftain in 1977, Tom worked for the Associated Press's Denver bureau, taught journalism at Southern Colorado State College, and was Denver's information officer in Pueblo. Since Tom joined the Chieftain, he has built a solid reputation for his fair and thorough reporting on Colorado politics and other events occurring in Denver that affect Pueblo and Southern Colorado. The Colorado Press Association recognized his first-rate coverage, as he became the first recipient of their Shining Star award, which recognizes the most consistent reporter or writer over a year's span.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Tom McAvoy's dedication and hard work reporting on the Colorado Legislature has been an invaluable resource for the State of Colorado and is worthy of acknowledgment before this body of Congress and this nation today. I have personally known Tom for twenty years and can guarantee that his insight at the Capitol will be sorely missed. Thanks, Tom, for all your hard work, and I wish you and your wife, Sue, all the best with your new position at The Chieftain.

TRIBUTE TO TERI OOMS, PRESIDENT, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of the Inland Empire are exceptional. The Inland Empire 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. Teri Ooms is one of these individuals.

In 1997 Teri Ooms was appointed the President/CEO of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP) and of its sister companies. IEEP is responsible for the regional marketing, attraction and recruitment of new business to the region, the expansion and retention of existing business, film, tourism, high tech regional development, workforce collaborative, regional visioning and the Small Business Development Center.

Ms. Ooms joined the Inland Empire Economic Partnership in 1991 as the Executive Director of its Inland Empire Small Business Development Center. Under the excellent direction of Ms. Ooms, the Center grew to a staff of 21 with multiple regional locations, and its program has increased funding to \$1.1 million, making it the largest California program. The Center has created numerous special services and training programs, and can demonstrate economic impact of over \$300 million in its eleven year history.

As President/CEO, Ms. Ooms completed a reorganization of the company resulting in new programs and services, financial stability and increased prominence in the community. In the period of 1997–2003 IEEP has had 70 successful business attractions and retentions resulting in over \$730 million in new investment into the region creating over 9,500 jobs. The region has over 5,000 film shoots, demonstrating a little over \$425 million in regional impact in the same period. In 1999, she was awarded "Management Leader of the Year," by the A. Gary Anderson Graduate School of Management, and in 1998, was a recipient of the "Women of Distinction" award given by the Business Press. Since 1997, IEEP's membership has grown by 10% and maintains an average membership retention ratio of 93%. EIEP has evolved to include a high technology development program and coordination of the region's workforce collaborative to bring education and business partnerships to benefit employers, employees and students and a regional collaborative focused on regional visioning, planning, advocacy and implementation.

Teri's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the economy of the Inland Empire in California. I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she retires.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PRIMARY IMMUNE DEFICIENCY DISEASES AWARENESS WEEK

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the week of April 19 as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. Primary immune deficiency diseases are genetic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or does not function properly. The World Health Organization recognizes more than 150 primary immune diseases which affect as many as 50,000 people in the United States. Fortunately, 70 percent of PIDD patients are able to maintain their health through regular infusions of a plasma product known as intravenous immunoglobulin. IGIV helps bolster the immune system and provides critical protection against infection and disease.

I am familiar with primary immune deficiencies because one of my constituents, Carol Ann Demaret, is the mother of a child born with severe combined immunodeficiency. Her son David struggled with this terrible disease his entire life before passing away at the age of 12. Because the disease left David without a functioning immune system he became known as the "bubble boy" due to his confinement in an insulating bubble that protected him from infection.

Since David's death, Carol Ann has become a tireless advocate for the primary immune deficiency community. She has testified before Congress in support of increased federal funding for biomedical research focused on these devastating diseases. Carol Ann is also a longstanding member of the Board of Trustees of the Immune Deficiency Foundation, which is the nation's leading organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for PIDD patients. Recently, the Foundation entered into an historic research partnership with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. The establishment of the "US Immunodeficiency Network" represents the most significant advancement in primary immune deficiency research in our nation's history. I was pleased to work with the Carol Ann, the Foundation, and my colleagues in the House to make this research consortium a reality.

Despite the recent progress in PIDD research, the average length of time between the onset of symptoms in a patient and a definitive diagnosis of PIDD is 9.2 years. In the interim, those afflicted may suffer repeated and serious infections and possibly irreversible damage to internal organs. That is why it is critical that we raise awareness about these illnesses within the general public and the health care community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Immune Deficiency Foundation for its leadership in this area and I am proud to join them in recognizing the week of April 19 as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. I encourage my colleagues to work with us to help improve the quality of life for PIDD patients and their families.