

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE DENT
FAMILY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated family that has been servicing the cars of residents in the Pueblo, Colorado community for many years. James Dent and his sons Dan, Josh and Roland Dent along with brother-in-law Dave Humphries, have devoted their time to providing a valuable customer service. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing their generosity and long-standing commitment before this body of Congress.

For over fifty years, the Dent Brothers service station at the corner of Abriendo Avenue and Lincoln Street in Pueblo have given their customers a true full service visit, including cleaning the windows, checking the oil and tires—not to mention pumping the gas. The dedication and warmth of the Dent Family has kept generations of loyal customers coming back to their station. The Dent family has devoted over fifty years of long hours at the station despite inclement weather conditions and the occasional customer mishap or prank. The immense amount of devotion that goes into the family business has helped to send all twelve children through Catholic schools with the money earned from the store.

Mr. Speaker it is an honor to recognize the Dent Family for their many years of dedication and commitment to their community. They are lucky to inherit and pass along such a wonderful business to future family members. The Dent family is a wonderful part of the Pueblo community, and they serve as an example of hard work to inspire future generations. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors and I thank them for their service.

RECOGNIZING THE MONTGOMERY
COUNTY-NORRISTOWN PUBLIC
LIBRARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library on its 210th anniversary.

The Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library was founded in 1793 as the "Norristown Library Company" by 90 families residing in Lower Merion, Norriton, Plymouth, Providence, Whitemarch, Whitpain, and Worcester Townships in Pennsylvania. The Library was formally incorporated in 1796. One of the signers of the Library's new charter was Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Thomas McKean, who was one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The first library building was constructed in 1824 on land given by the Pawling family members, who were among the Library's founders. The cost of construction was \$153.43.

From 1898 through 1937, the Royersford Free Public Library, the Conshohocken Free

Public Library, the Schwenksville Library, and the McCann Library were founded and all went on to eventually become branches of the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library.

In 1942, the Library officially changed its name to the Norristown Public Library with the financial backing of the Norristown Borough Council. The name was changed again in 1968 when it merged with the Montgomery County Free Library. The Library was then given its present title of the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library.

In addition to the Library's impressive growth throughout the years, the Library has a history of contribution to the community. The Library established the Backyard Library Van program, along with launching programs like the "Mini-Bookmobile" for senior citizens, and "Books-Go-Round," a bookmobile for children in day care.

In 2001, the "Books and Me" program began at the Library under a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library for its exemplary service to the Montgomery County community and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLO-
NEL (RETIRED) CONSUELO
CASTILLO KICKBUSCH

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch for her efforts to motivate and encourage youth across the country. I am especially proud of her work with the U.S. Army's Yo Soy El Army Tour.

Born and raised in Laredo, Texas, LTC Kickbusch overcame the challenges of poverty to become the highest-ranking Hispanic woman in the Combat Support Field of the United States Army. LTC Kickbusch earned many decorations during her service, including the Legion of Merit, the National Defense Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (four times), and the Army Achievement Medal (twice).

In 1996, LTC Kickbusch retired from the U.S. Army after 22 years of service. She moved to San Antonio and founded Educational Achievement Services, Inc. (EAS). Through EAS, LTC Kickbusch has realized her dream of impacting others and serves as a motivational speaker to audiences ranging from corporations like IBM to children living in some of the roughest neighborhoods in the country.

LTC Kickbusch encourages all of her audiences to perform to the best of their abilities, give back to their families and communities, and to never give up hope. LTC Kickbusch also promotes among her corporate clients the value diversity brings to the workplace.

Her ability to connect to audiences and deliver these important messages has earned LTC Kickbusch numerous awards, such as the

Latina Leadership Excellence Award from the US Army and Hispanic Magazine and the 2002 Women at their Best Award from Saturn and Glamour. Recently, Hispanic Business named LTC Kickbusch in their list of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics in America.

For the past three years, LTC Kickbusch has traveled the country speaking to youth through the Yo Soy El Army National Motivational Youth Tour. This program reaches out to Hispanic youth who face many of the challenges encountered by LTC Kickbusch growing up in Laredo. LTC Kickbusch offers them a positive role model who can identify with the everyday struggles these young people face. She offers a message that promotes leadership, determination, and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such a hard-working, dedicated individual as LTC Kickbusch. The immeasurable impact she has made on our nation's youth deserves the highest praise.

TRIBUTE TO CIRCUIT JUDGE
ROBERT J. SIMMS

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Circuit Judge Robert J. Simms, a dedicated public servant, whose sudden death has left his Hillsborough County colleagues and our entire community in shock and mourning.

Judge Simms presided over a host of high-profile civil, criminal and family law cases during his time on the bench, but whether the cases were closely watched or obscure, Judge Simms always strived to do his best and skillfully upheld the highest standards of justice.

A University of South Florida and Stetson College of Law graduate, Judge Simms worked as a prosecutor for the Pinellas-Pasco and Hillsborough State Attorney offices, then as a criminal defense lawyer before being elected in 1990. He had been reelected to the bench in 2002.

Judge Simms served both on the Judicial Liaison Committee for the Hillsborough County Bar Association and as an adjunct professor for the paralegal program at Hillsborough Community College. However, Judge Simms' colleagues will remember him best for his patient, unassuming and kind demeanor on and off the bench. He was a judge's judge and a powerful example to all who knew him.

On behalf of the Hillsborough County community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Judge Simms' family. His dedication to service and justice will leave a lasting impression on our community and those who strive to serve justice as well as he did.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JACK OTT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated forester and Korean War veteran from

Mancos, Colorado. Jack Ott has devoted the majority of his life to preserving our nation's forests. His enthusiasm spirals throughout the community, as he encourages others to respect their environment. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Jack's tremendous service to the Mancos community.

Jack has recently been recognized by the San Juan Chapter of the Society of American Foresters for his fifty year membership in the organization. After graduating from Michigan State University in 1952, he joined the U.S. Forest Service, spending thirty years in the Rocky Mountain Region. Jack began his service to this nation in the Korean War and today is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and National Rifle Association. He is also an active member of the community, serving as the Treasurer of the Mancos Masonic Lodge and a dynamic member of the Mancos United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Ott is a dedicated individual who uses his talent to enrich the lives of members of his Mancos community. Jack has demonstrated a love for forestry that resonates in his compassionate and selfless service to his town. Jack's enthusiasm and commitment to this nation certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE NURSES OF MONTGOMERY HOSPITAL ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the hard-working nurses of Montgomery Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania in anticipation of the upcoming National Nurses Week from May 6–12, 2004.

Though National Nurses Week gives us an opportunity to celebrate all nurses in this country, particularly those serving in the armed forces, I want to specially recognize the nursing staff and nursing leadership of Montgomery Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania. Their tireless commitment to providing quality care is exemplary and I want to say "thank you" on behalf of the people of the Norristown area and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Outside of Philadelphia, Montgomery Hospital is the oldest general hospital in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The original hospital was located in a vacant school at Powell and Basin Streets in Norristown. Originally named "Charity Hospital of Montgomery County," the Hospital opened its doors on January 1, 1891 with a staff of just six. Today, Montgomery Hospital Medical Center occupies two city blocks in the heart of Norristown. It is Norristown's largest private sector employer with over 1,300 individuals on staff. The entire staff at Montgomery Hospital, including its nurses, remains committed to providing the highest quality of care to all their patients.

As Montgomery Hospital has changed, so has the nursing profession. Nurses today require more and more training and education. Their jobs are also much more specialized. In fact, 49 states now allow advanced practice

nurses to prescribe medications. In the future, as our healthcare systems continue to evolve, I am certain the nursing profession will as well. One thing is clear, nurses will play a vital role in the future of healthcare in America.

Today, there are nearly 2.7 million registered nurses in the United States. These nurses are working every day to save lives and maintain the health of millions of Americans. As a profession, they are one of the most respected and admired for their hard work and commitment to their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, National Nurses Week is an appropriate way to honor the work of all our nation's nurses and I urge my colleagues to join me in this regard. And to the dedicated nurses at Montgomery Hospital, I say thank you for your efforts.

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY 2004

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge today, April 22, as Earth Day 2004. It is a day for Americans to recognize our responsibility to protect our environment and enhance our quality of life. Our air, water, land and other natural resources sustain human life, and it is our duty as stewards of this planet to safeguard these resources for us and for future generations.

With the growth of eco-tourism, environmental protection and economic growth can both advance together. Protecting sensitive land not only preserves our natural heritage but enhances the value of surrounding areas and our quality of life. In South Texas I have helped protect numerous natural resources that grace this region. I secured funding to expand the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Texas World Birding Center in Roma, Texas, and I continue to lead and support efforts to complete the Missions Trail in San Antonio and the Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail. In addition, I have supported legislation such as the Yellowstone Protection Act and the National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act to protect our precious national lands. Protecting these valuable resources is important, contributes to a healthy ecosystem, and provides enjoyment and recreation to hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

I encourage every Texan to take a moment today to appreciate the natural beauty of our state and also to consider taking actions that can decrease pollution. Simple actions such as recycling, car-pooling, and turning off the television when no one is watching can contribute to large pollution reductions. Working with the entire community, individuals can help reduce pollution in Texas. Decreasing pollution levels can improve the lives of Texans and all Americans by reducing the number of pollution induced illnesses, such as asthma and cancer. Put simply, lowering pollution saves lives and increases economic productivity.

As a nation, we are moving in the right direction. Pollution levels have greatly decreased since the first Earth Day in 1970, and we continue to achieve greater pollution control. I will continue fighting to reduce pollution and to protect our natural resources while

building for a bright economic future. I believe that environmentalists and businesses can unite to develop strategies that can respect our health, ecosystem, and promote economic growth, and I look forward to achieving that goal.

TRIBUTE TO BUSTER AGLIANO

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Buster Agliano, an Ybor City icon, who recently lost his battle with cancer.

Buster was a well loved fixture in the Ybor community. His family-owned seafood market, S. Agliano and Sons Fish Co., remained open for business long after other shops had abandoned the Latin Quarter to make way for bars and nightclubs. The market, founded in 1915 by Buster's grandfather, had since turned its focus to wholesale business, but Buster always kept the front case stocked for his loyal customers, and he will be fondly remembered for offering his seafood on credit to those facing hard times. Buster could have sold his business for a hefty profit long ago, but Buster would never have sold out his customers and community to cash in for himself.

Buster's fish market was equally well known for the political debates that played out in the front of the shop. Everyone who was anyone in Tampa's political scene would join in Buster's informal gatherings to talk shop. In Tampa's political world, Buster was enormously respected as a source of advice and counsel, and as a result, local politicians always sought his support.

Buster was easy to love and easy to respect. His warmth always shone through his generosity, his love of family, his dedication to serving his community and his persistent positive attitude. I am honored to have called Buster my friend.

On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I extend my deepest sympathies to Buster's family. Buster's legacy in Ybor City and in our hearts will not be forgotten. He was one of a kind, and everyone who called Buster his or her friend is a better person for having known him.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY THOMAS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Gary Thomas on his recent retirement from the Daily Sentinel in Grand Junction, Colorado after nearly forty years of service as a press worker. His behind the scenes efforts have helped to ensure the high quality that Grand Junction residents have come to expect from their newspaper, and it is my privilege to pay tribute to his outstanding career today.

During his career, which began in the days when operating a press was truly dangerous work, Gary has seen many changes, including