

education and has recognized the importance of ensuring not only access but also success in educational pursuits. In recognition of these contributions to the field of teaching and learning at a distance, the United State Distance Learning Association inducted her into their Hall of Fame in 2003.

Chère Campbell Gibson's love of teaching and working with students is a consistent thread throughout her professional career. She has and will continue to have a lasting impact on the lives of her students and advisees. It cannot go without saying that she has also wonderfully touched the lives of her colleagues and friends.

The Executive Committee of the School of Human Ecology, at its meeting on March 22, 2004, by unanimous vote, endorsed the recommendation of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies to award Emerita status to Professor Chère Campbell Gibson.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and my great pleasure to recognize today the outstanding and exemplary service of Professor Chère Campbell Gibson. On behalf of my constituents and citizens from the great State of Wisconsin, we say a hearty thank you, and wish her all the very best in her future endeavors.

2ND ANNIVERSARY OF  
GOVBENEFITS.GOV

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 2004*

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 2004, the U.S. Department of Labor will celebrate the second anniversary of GovBenefits.gov. Additionally, in collaboration with the Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Labor will launch the GovLoans.gov website as an integrated part of GovBenefits.gov. GovLoans.gov will be a one-stop shop for Federal loan programs.

I want to recognize the successful inter-agency collaboration between the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Education to improve the American public's access to their government through the launch of GovLoans.gov. I would also like to congratulate and recognize the U.S. Department of Labor for consistently demonstrating GovBenefits.gov as a leading government-to-citizen initiative that is offering tremendous value to the American public.

GovBenefits.gov is a prime example of what e-Government should look and act like. In working together with nearly a dozen other agencies, the Department of Labor has launched this one stop shop for individuals interested in learning what government benefits for which they may be eligible.

GovLoans.gov will provide a broad range of information on Federal loan programs, as well as educational tools and resources to help citizens and small business owners understand the loan process. This site will also help consumers find the loan that best fits their individual needs, and will serve as a trusted and comprehensive point of access to Federal loan information.

GovLoans.gov is a Presidential initiative managed by the U.S. Department of Education that will provide citizens and small business owners with comprehensive information

on available Federal loan programs from the five major Federal credit agencies: the U.S. Departments of Education, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs, and the Small Business Administration.

GovLoans.gov consolidates loan programs across government into a single portal and simplifies the language describing each program, enabling citizens and small business owners to easily find applicable Federal loans that meet their needs and to better understand the loan process.

GovBenefits.gov represents a partnership of 10 Federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Labor (managing partner), and the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, State, Veteran Affairs, and the Social Security Administration.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census, I commend the U.S. Department of Labor for its work in developing GovBenefits.gov as a leading government-to-citizen initiative that is offering tremendous value to the American public and recognize GovBenefits.gov and GovLoans.gov as citizen-centric initiatives that are demonstrating the intent of the President's Management Agenda.

EASTERN NEW MEXICO'S COMPASSION  
EARNs NATIONAL ATTENTION

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues about an amazing act of selflessness that has recently earned national press coverage for a small town in my congressional district.

In February, the Portales News Tribune reported that students in Dora, New Mexico had donated \$3,000 they raised for their prom to the family of sixteen-year-old Clayton Stokes, who was killed in a pickup truck crash. Motivated by this, other students in the school helped raise another \$4,000 for the family.

Dora High School Principal Bill Stockton said that the 11th grade students who attend the school decided to donate their prom money after a memorial assembly for their late classmate. These students had diligently been saving for their prom for 3 years.

Clayton, a resident of Causey, was a bright young man with a promising future before him. He was born on March 21, 1987, in Carlsbad, to Jim and Cathy Stokes. He was active in both varsity basketball and baseball at Dora High School. He enjoyed riding horses and snowboarding and was a member of the Dora FFA. Family members said he enjoyed working in construction with his father and two brothers and spending time with family and friends.

As Principal Stockton noted, losing a student in a small school is like losing a family member. The students' gesture alone deserves our deep praise and admiration, however, there is more to this story.

Rooney Moon Broadcasting was so touched by the students' generosity that the station

asked radio listeners to help replace the money so the students could have their prom after all. Within hours, the station helped raise nearly \$17,000. Incredibly, the money has continued coming in and the station places the latest total around \$22,000. A memorial scholarship in Clayton's name is planned.

This money poured in from residents all across eastern New Mexico, primarily from residents in Curry and Roosevelt counties. It is clear to me that the spirit of "paying it forward" is alive and well in this area of New Mexico.

The first donation came from Mike Knight, owner of Rib Crib in Clovis, who volunteered to cater the Dora prom. McDonalds of Portales pledged \$1,000 for the scholarship fund. The Bank of America in Clovis and Tankersley's arranged for all the boys to have rental tuxedos.

The May 3, 2004, issue of People magazine has an article about this wonderful deed. The magazine has a section entitled "Local Heroes" for people in the country that are making a difference. This act is certainly worthy of this recognition. On a personal note, I am pleased that millions of Americans will learn of the honorable and heroic deeds of my eastern New Mexico constituents through this article in one of the largest publications in the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for affording me the opportunity to brief my colleagues regarding this inspiring story. In a time of bleak news in our world, it is indeed refreshing to be reminded of the kindheartedness of our friends and neighbors. I am attaching the article and request that it be reprinted in its entirety in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that we may be reminded of this account throughout the ages.

[From People, May 3, 2004]

THE PROM MUST GO ON

For three years, the 11th graders of Dora High in remote Dora, N. Mex., had scraped their pennies together from bake sales and fund-raisers for their prom. Then, suddenly, a prom didn't seem so important. Around midnight on Feb. 15, classmate Clayton Stokes was driving home after hanging out with friends when he dozed at the wheel. His truck flipped over, and Stokes, 16, an athlete and joker, died instantly.

Tragic as it was, Stokes's death set off an avalanche of goodwill that has left residents of Dora (pop. 500) feeling pretty good about their town. The day after his death, Clayton's classmates piled into vans and drove to the Stokeses' home. There, they handed a \$3,000 check—their entire prom fund—to his devastated parents, Jim, 48, and Cathy, 45, so they could bury their youngest boy. "We never thought twice about it," says Kassandra Clark, 16. The rest of the school chipped in, raising another \$4,000. "They floored us," says Jim, a construction worker. "For them to love my boy so much to give up their prom," adds Cathy. "It didn't take the pain away, but it eased it."

That was only the beginning. Local radio host Steve Rooney and his cohost got wind of the gesture, and on the day Clayton was laid to rest, they asked listeners for donations so the kids could have their prom. "We couldn't answer the phones fast enough," he says. The juniors, who had held a sleepover at classmate Ashlet Carter's house, tuned in while dressing for the memorial. "We had to redo our makeup," says Carter. "We all kept crying."

The money kept coming—\$22,000 so far, some of it to create a scholarship fund in Clayton's name. And on April 24, Dora High will have a prom. What would Clayton think

of it all? "He'd go, 'Dang, golly,'" says Travis Belcher, his best friend. "He wouldn't believe it, but he'd be pretty proud."

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO  
EUGENE MARTINYAK

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 2004*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, recently I lost an inspirational family member, and with sadness, I pay my uncle, Eugene Martinyak, a posthumous tribute today.

Eugene truly lived the American Dream. Born to Polish and Ukrainian immigrants in 1936, he served our Nation in the United States Army from 1954–1957. Starting from virtually nothing, Eugene supported his family of four children while working full time attending college.

As a professional, Eugene helped develop computer systems for the Chrysler Automotive Corporation. In doing so, Eugene fulfilled a promise to his children: gave them more than he ever had.

Thus, on behalf of us all, I extend my deepest condolences to his wife Carol and his entire family for their loss.

CHANGE OF COMMAND FOR THE  
USS "JOHN F. KENNEDY" (CV-67)

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 2004*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Ronald H. Henderson, Jr, Commander of the USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67). As he prepares to move on to a new challenge, I would like to thank him for all that he has done as the Commander of Mayport's aircraft carrier, the USS *John F. Kennedy*. His passion for the Navy and its sailors has been evident through his leadership during the unprecedented and extensive maintenance overhaul that was accomplished here at Mayport. It was his management, skill, and persona that brought to a successful completion the largest overall ever attempted outside of a Naval Shipyard. He epitomizes the dedicated military patriot.

As the Navy moves into the 21st Century, it will take innovative and effective leadership to make this service truly transformational. Leaders who possess these characteristics are what makes our Navy the greatest in the world. Under his command, both in war and in peace, he inspired his crew to rise to all challenges. Thanks to his guidance, "Jack is back."

Here in the community he should be commended for reaching out to our citizens and inviting them to go aboard the *Kennedy* and share a glimpse of life at sea. Civilians, in record numbers, were afforded opportunities to experience firsthand the pride that the crew and the Navy has in our beloved carrier. Jacksonville has been enriched by his service.

It has been my honor and pleasure to work with him these past two years. Jacksonville will miss you, but I know he will continue to

lead the Navy in whatever new job he is assigned. I wish him luck in his new assignment and well-deserved promotion, and best wishes to his family, Kathryn and Alexander. I hope when it is time for retirement, he will think about returning to Jacksonville.

WOMEN INSPIRING HOPE AND  
POSSIBILITY

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 2004*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I asked New Mexicans to send me nominations of women in New Mexico who have given special service to our community, but may have never received recognition for their good deeds.

On Friday, March 19, 2004, I had the honor and privilege of recognizing forty-one worthy nominations describing sacrifices and contributions these women have made for our community. The people who nominated the women describe the dedication they have witnessed: volunteer hours for veterans services, service on non-profit boards, homeless programs, mentors for young women, healthcare providers going above the call of duty, child advocates, volunteers at churches and synagogues, successful business women, wives, mothers and friends.

Allow me to share information about this year's nominees:

Charlotte Anderson—Charlotte is a person who goes out of her way every single day to help others. She works through her church, community, and through her job at Jiffy Lube to make other peoples lives easier, and happier.

Sandra Begay-Campbell—Sandra's work with Native American tribes truly inspires hope for improving conditions and providing new possibilities through technology for Native Americans and others in rural areas. As a member of the Navajo Nation, she serves as a cultural interpreter to both Sandia and the Navajo Nation.

Jo Ann Clements—Jo Ann served as President of the City Council for Beta Sigma Phi in Albuquerque and Rio Rancho. Her tireless efforts earned her Beta Sigma Phi's top honor as "Woman of the Year." She also served on this year's "Women on the Move" committee for the YWCA, where she encouraged nominations, sold sponsorships and ads, and did whatever she could to make the event successful.

Sandy Cody—Sandy is owner of Resources for Excellence, a small, woman-owned business. Sandy generously donates her time and skills to non-profit agencies like Alzheimer's Association, Southeast Community Economic Alliance, and Goodwill Industries, to make life better for people in need and in risk.

Rose Diaz—Rose is the 2004 President of the Oral History Association. She also served on the NAFTA Committee for Enterprise for the Americas Act and the Good Neighbor Environmental Board. She is a former Executive Committee member of the Board of Directors of the National Council on Public History.

Lori Dotson—Lori has dedicated her career to improving the quality of life within her community through protection of the environment,

including serving as an Expert Witness to successfully protect the groundwater supply in her community. Lori has designed and managed projects to clean contaminated groundwater and contaminated sites. She is also a key member of the organizing committee for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation: Sandia Peak Challenge.

Katherine Fishback—In 1945, Katherine opened the Fishback Studio of dance. Fishback served on several national dance organization faculties. She received a 50-year Life Achievement Award for her teaching career from Dance Masters of America, Inc.

Jessie Fitzgerald—Jessie was the first woman County Extension Agent in the United States. She served on the Lava Soil and Water Conservation District Board in Grants for many years before moving to the Albuquerque area and joining the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District.

Linda Gabaldon Ward Hersee—Linda is very active with Thunderbirds Little League. She serves as the Team Mom, Sponsor Director. Linda is very active in the community and is always there to help.

Aileen Gallegos—Aileen is a current Board Member at Ronald McDonald's House; graduate of Leadership Albuquerque; and active choir member at Prince of Peace Catholic Church.

Verna Gurule—Verna is a fourth grade teacher at Alvarado Elementary School in the North Valley. Volunteers who work with her have witnessed her devotion to her class and her tireless efforts to give her students every opportunity to participate in an enriched curriculum.

Bonnie Herbert—A member of Assistance League of Albuquerque for 19 years, she became President of the organization in 1998, and now is their National Director of Philanthropic Projects.

Kitsie Hilaire—Kitsie has volunteered with the American Red Cross for over twenty years. Since her arrival to Albuquerque in 1999, Kitsie has been instrumental in improving their community's emergency response and preparedness skills. Kitsie is also a volunteer with the "Hearts Apart Program" on Kirtland Air Force Base.

Michelle Holdren—Her community involvement has her working with Youth At Risk, a mentoring program in the Rio Rancho Area, and Northside Civitans has her work with the youth at Youth/Diagnostic and Development Center, the Camino Nuevo Youth Center, and El Ranchitos Del Los Ninos. Michelle devotes a great deal of time to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, American Cancer Society, Alzheimer's Association, and Project Share.

Regina Lee Hunter—Regina has done much to make Sandia National Laboratories a better place to work for Sandians with handicaps. As a founding member of Sandia's Disability Awareness Committee, she has worked to have specific handicapped parking marked and to have enforcement for the usage of these locations.

Nobie Hurley—Nobie moved to Albuquerque in 1960. She was the Director of Volunteer Services for St. Joseph's Hospital from 1976 to 1997. Since retirement Nobie has been volunteering her time at the Bernalillo County Republican Party as well as the State Republican Party. Nobie was recently asked by Archbishop Sheehan to be on his advisory council for the National newspaper publication of "The people of God."