

women perform with the BCCC in concerts, competitions, churches and civic organizations.

Many members of the Chorus have grown up singing with the BCCC, and the experience has been life changing. Through the BCCC, these young men and women learn to read music, master a diverse and challenging repertoire, use their voices properly, and become poised and confident performers. They learn an appreciation for a wide variety of cultures through the music they study and perform. But even more importantly, they learn the life lessons of self-discipline, personal responsibility, self-expression, teamwork, and self-confidence.

For Mr. Hinkle, the BCCC is about more than singing. It is his vehicle for building character through disciplined and professional artistic expression. Donald Hinkle has always been and always will be a man with a mission. His students are the fulfillment of that mission. They are not only accomplished singers, but also better human beings. Mr. Hinkle inspires them to strive for and achieve their personal best. His uncompromising pursuit of excellence transforms all of his students. I congratulate him on these accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHRIS BROWN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Chris Brown of Grand Junction, Colorado whose efforts and vision recently earned his business, the designation of Small Business of the Year from the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. Since he opened Brown's Cycles in 2000, Chris has made great contributions to the Grand Junction business community, as well as helping to spread the love of biking in his community.

Chris began exploring his passion for bicycle exhibition and repair while working as an engineer where he would plan business trips around cities with other bike enthusiasts. Since opening his store, he has brought his engineering background to his passion, creating new and innovative bikes. Perhaps most notable is the bike he specially designed which allows people with physical disabilities to share in his passion for cycling. As a member of the Downtown Association Board, Chris is a proponent for all the businesses on Main Street, and is currently working on a proposal for a summer bike festival for Grand Junction.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of Chris Brown before this body of Congress and this nation. Through his vision and determination, he has made remarkable contributions to his Grand Junction community. I sincerely thank him for his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nation of Israel, the lone beacon of democracy in a region roiling with tyranny and oppression. In the ongoing war on terrorism, we have no firmer friend than the nation of Israel, and as we seek a lasting peace in the Middle East, we can have no stronger ally.

Today we celebrate Israel's Day of Independence in 1948. For more than 50 years our two great nations have forged a bond built on a shared vision of democracy. Our similar ideals and like minded determination protect the freedoms of our citizens and ensure the fundamental principles of equality and pluralism.

It is a fact that Israel has had to live in the shadow of danger because it has too often been surrounded by enemies. That insecure existence has demanded the sacrifice of numerous Israeli soldiers, who have fought to keep Israel independent and free in the face of war and terrorism.

Today we also call to mind the victims of the attacks Israel has weathered since its inception. The dead and the wounded remind us of Israel's valor and her willingness to protect the basic aspirations of democracy: human dignity, individual rights, and religious freedom.

Today, Mr. Speaker, is the day we celebrate Israel's Day of Independence, and pronounce our steadfastness to her survival and prosperity.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SALLY SCHAEFER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today and pay tribute to Sally Schaefer for her remarkable contributions to her Grand Junction, Colorado community. Her outstanding dedication to Hilltop Community Resources, which helps people with brain injuries re-create their lives is certainly commendable and worthy of recognition from this body of Congress and this nation. It is my pleasure to take this opportunity and thank Sally for her many contributions to Grand Junction and the State of Colorado.

Sally became interested in aiding others at an early age by helping to take care of her six younger siblings when they were sick. She attended Marquette University Nursing School, and in 1982 became a rehabilitation nurse at Hilltop. Sally immediately took a leadership role at the hospital, developing the Life Adjustment Program for brain-injured adults, a program that helps patients learn to live constructive lives after they are discharged from the hospital. In 1995, Sally negotiated the sale of Hilltop's rehabilitation hospital to St. Mary's Hospital in order for the Center to focus exclusively on people readjusting to their lives after

a serious medical trauma. In 1998, she became chief executive officer of Hilltop, overseeing an organization with \$40 million dollars worth of assets and 400 employees.

Sally's extensive involvement in her Grand Junction community includes her participation in numerous civic organizations. She serves as chairman of the Victims of Crime state board, an organization dedicated to victim's rights, and for the Grand Junction Economic Partnership and Rocky Mountain Health Plans. She also serves as vice chairman of the Fort Lewis College governing board, and is a member of the state medical services board.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear Sally Schaefer plays a vital role in her Grand Junction community. Sally's leadership and dedication as chief executive officer of Hilltop has helped it become a preeminent rehabilitation facility for people suffering from major trauma injuries. Her efforts in serving the people of Grand Junction and the State of Colorado are worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today, and I thank Sally for her service.

H.R. 2239—REPRESENTATIVE HOLT'S VOTER CONFIDENCE AND INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the chorus of support for my colleague, RUSH HOLT's, Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2003, H.R. 2239.

As a proud co-sponsor of this important piece of legislation, I believe very strongly that we need to ensure a voter-verifiable paper audit trail for direct recording electronic voting machines, or touch screen machines as they are commonly called, in order to ensure the validity of the election process.

The modernization of voting equipment and the switch to computers encouraged by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 has generated considerable concern among my constituents that the voting process may be subject to manipulation from unknown sources.

These concerns have been magnified by the complexities involved in maintaining the integrity of computer systems, training poll workers in proper setup, operation, and troubleshooting, and educating the public on the proper operation of these touch screen machines.

Listening to these concerns and understanding the importance of earning the public's trust in these new systems in order to carry out a fair election in California, last year our Secretary of State, Kevin Shelley, convened an Ad Hoc Touch Screen Task Force to provide recommendations on the best ways to address these issues.

Based on the discussions and recommendations that grew out of this task force, the Secretary of State concluded last November that a voter verified paper audit trail should be required on all touch screen voting machines used in California.

Beginning on July 1, 2005, the Secretary of State will require all local jurisdictions purchasing new touch screen machines to ensure that they contain a voter verified paper audit

trail system that is fully accessible to all voters, including those living with disabilities and those for whom English is a second language.

Local jurisdictions that are currently using touch screen machines without the voter verified paper feature will have until July 1, 2006 to retrofit or replace them.

While these actions are certainly a step in the right direction, like Mr. HOLT, I believe we must accelerate our efforts to ensure that each and every touch screen system employs voter verified paper technology as soon as possible, and at the very least by the election in November.

I think the experience in my own district in Alameda County during the California primary on March 2nd, is proof enough of why the integrity and operation of these touch screen systems must be improved.

Even before the vote took place on March 2nd, we knew that Alameda County would have problems, as the Secretary of State informed us on February 13th that our machines did not meet State certification due to last minute adjustments sought by the vendor to correct several perceived flaws in the system.

But because the notice from the Secretary of State's office came so close to the election, the County felt that it had to conduct the election with the existing touch screen system, even with the modifications sought by the vendor because without these machines, as the Alameda County Registrar indicated in a letter dated February 16th to the Secretary, "there will be thousands of people unable to vote."

On February 23rd, following a similar appeal by San Diego County, which utilized the same machines, and a subsequent test of the modified system, the Secretary of State's office provided administrative approval for one-time limited use of these devices for the March primary.

The fact that the voting machines' vendor sought modifications to its product at such a late stage just prior to the primary, and the position that this vendor placed both the Secretary of State's office, and our local registrar in Alameda County is indicative of the evolving nature of touch screen systems, and provides even further proof of the necessity of a voter verified paper audit to backup the electronic systems.

Of course, that was not the end of the problem with these devices in my district. Having conditionally approved the touch screen devices for use on primary day, the Secretary of State's office strongly recommend to both Alameda and San Diego Counties, that an appropriate backup voting system should be put in place in the case of a failure in the electronic devices.

And, sure enough, fail, was just what these devices did.

Due to a number of technical issues involving the battery system of the machines and because of incorrect or insufficient troubleshooting information provided to poll workers by the vendor, many of the touch screen systems in Alameda County did not operate properly when polling places opened on March 2nd.

Thankfully the Alameda County Registrar had followed the Secretary of State's advice and provided paper provisional ballots in case the touch screen systems had failed. So, many voters who went to their polling places voted with paper ballots until the County was able to identify and correct the technical issues surrounding the touch screen systems.

However in some cases, polling places ran out of these paper provisional ballots before the electronic devices were fixed, and as a result some voters were unable to cast a ballot unless they were able to return later in the day.

In addition despite the initial problems with the touch screen systems that were overcome, several of these devices also failed for other reasons during the course of the day, further undermining their reliability.

I won't even get into the problems that San Diego County experienced with these touch screen machines but let me say this.

Despite all the problems that we experienced with the touch screen systems on March 2nd, without the existence of a voter verified paper audit trail, we still do not know if any of these touch screen machines failed to properly mark and tabulate each individual's vote once they were finally put into use.

That is why the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2003 makes sense.

I applaud my colleague for introducing it, and I urge this body to pass this bill so we can ensure that the public has confidence in our election process no matter the kind of system that is in place.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FATHER VINCENTE PAZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Father Vincente Paz, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Grand Junction, Colorado. Father Paz has been serving Catholic Parishes of my state with great dedication for the past 28 years. His move to Grand Junction to become pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary is the latest step in a remarkable journey.

Paz, a native of Northeast England, was ordained in 1966. An encounter with a Franciscan Priest in 1975 convinced him to leave his teaching position in England to serve as Pastor of a parish in Pueblo, Colorado. Reverend Paz also served parishes in Durango and Delta before coming to Grand Junction. He continues to strive to keep his church's message relevant to an ever-changing culture and to actively involve as many community members as possible in his parish's ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service of Reverend Vincente Paz in front of this body of Congress and this Nation. Over the years, he has helped to serve several communities in my state, just as he continues to do for the parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary. I sincerely thank him for his service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues tonight in somber remembrance of

the Armenian Genocide. Early in the 20th Century, during World War I and its aftermath, the Ottoman Empire attempted the complete liquidation of the Armenian population of Eastern Anatolia.

We must come down to the House floor tonight not only to remember this tragic event, but we must also proclaim that the Armenian Genocide is an historical fact. There are many who deny that this first genocide of the 20th Century actually took place.

The American ambassador to the Ottoman Empire in 1919 was an eyewitness. In his memoirs, he said, "When the Turkish authorities gave the order for these deportations they were merely giving the death warrant to an entire race. They understood this well and in their conversations with me made no particular attempt to conceal this fact."

He went on to describe what he saw at the Euphrates River. He said, as our eyes and ears in the Ottoman Empire, "I have by no means told the most terrible details, for a complete narration of the sadistic orgies of which they, the Armenian men and women, are victims can never be printed in an American publication. Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, whatever refinements of persecution and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortune of the Armenian people."

We can never forget that 8 days before he invaded Poland, Adolf Hitler turned to his inner circle and said, "Who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians?" The impunity with which the Turkish government acted in annihilating the Armenian people emboldened Adolf Hitler and his inner circle to carry out the Holocaust of the Jewish people.

It is time for Turkey to acknowledge this genocide, because only in that way can the Turkish government and its people rise above it. The German government has been quite forthcoming in acknowledging the Holocaust, and in doing so it has at least been respected by the peoples of the world for its honesty. Turkey should follow that example rather than trying to deny history.

It is also time—indeed it is far overdue—for our Congress to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I again call on my colleagues to recognize the Armenian Genocide and to urge my fellow Americans to remember this tragic event.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2004 FRANKLIN INSTITUTE LAUREATES

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2004 Franklin Institute Laureates being honored in a gold-medal ceremony tomorrow in the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial in Philadelphia, for exemplary accomplishments in science, technology, and business.

The Franklin Institute first began recognizing achievement in science and technology in 1824—making the Franklin Institute Awards one of the most historic and long-standing science honors in the world, predating the