

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES  
LATHAM

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Charles Latham of DeBeque, Colorado, who passed away recently at the age of sixty-two. Charles was a lifelong Coloradan and rancher, and a beloved friend and colleague to many in his DeBeque community. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community and state.

Born in Grand Junction, Charles graduated from DeBeque High School and attended Mesa Junior College before beginning his career as a rancher. An active member of the community, Charles served on the DeBeque School Board for seventeen years. His dedication to ranching in Colorado included membership in the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Bluestone Water Conservancy District Board, Garfield County 4-H, and the 4-H steering committee.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Charles Latham. He did much to better his DeBeque community, and I am deeply honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. My heart goes out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN DUBROW ON  
HER BIRTHDAY

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Evelyn Dubrow who is celebrating her birthday today—May 6. I am too much of a gentleman and Evy is too much of a lady for me to tell you exactly which birthday this is.

Evy has been a force for good within the American Labor movement for over sixty years, and a good deal of that time she has worked with the Congress. Her first four decades were with the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), where she worked with its renowned president David Dubinsky. For the last twenty years Evy has been with that union in its new organizational incarnation as UNITE (the Union of Needle Trades, Industrial and Textile Employees). Evy served as UNITE's Vice President and Legislative Director.

Mr. Speaker, Evy began her remarkable work on Capitol Hill in 1956 when she was one of the few women lobbyists in the halls of the Congress. She distinguished herself as a devoted and indefatigable champion of America's working women and men. She enlisted the support of then Senator John F. Kennedy in her fight against efforts to outlaw secondary boycotts, and she fought to increase the minimum wage to one dollar an hour.

Under the leadership of President Kennedy and President Lyndon Johnson, when the

Congress considered a series of critical bills that transformed our nation in the 1960s, Evy was a leader in the fight for civil rights and voting rights, the establishment of Medicare, pension protection, occupational safety and health rules, and a number of other causes that led to expanded social justice and economic opportunity.

Evy is forthright and frank; she tells it like it is. But she is honest in presenting her case. Her word can always be trusted, and she will do anything to promote one of her worthy causes. And she has a remarkable understanding of the members of the House and the Senate, knowledge which she is able to use most effectively. In recognition of her achievements and accomplishments, Evy has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor.

Mr. Speaker, as Evy marks another milestone today, I invite my colleagues to join me in extending our very dear friend best wishes for a very Happy Birthday, and for many, many more.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH BIRTHDAY  
OF SOUTHWEST GENERAL HOSPITAL

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the celebration of the 25th birthday of Southwest General Hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1979 medical professionals and businessmen came together and realized the need for a hospital to serve one of the city's neediest sectors. The result was Southwest General on San Antonio's southwest side. To this day, Southwest General is the only hospital located in this growing and changing quadrant of San Antonio.

A 319-bed facility, Southwest General Hospital offers all major hospital services including Perinatal/Women's Services, Psychiatric Services, Diabetic Education, and a Diabetes Wound Care Center. A recently completed Emergency Waiting Room expands upon those basic services and will allow the hospital to better serve its emergency room patients and their loved ones.

In addition to providing general medical care, Southwest General Hospital serves as an invaluable resource to the community. I have worked with the hospital, the Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, and the Texas Department of Health to bring Breast Cancer Awareness Day to the Southside. It is through events like this that Southwest General Hospital makes an impact on the health of the people it serves.

I would like to specially recognize Richard Gonzalez, CEO of Southwest General. Richard has worked tirelessly to ensure that each patient receives care with the dignity and respect they deserve when visiting Southwest General. He has assembled a great team that carries this message into every thing they do.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this irreplaceable health care institution and wishing Southwest General Hospital a very happy birthday.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL  
VISION STRATEGY

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Vision Caucus, I rise to recognize May as Healthy Vision Month, and to discuss the important recommendations of the Vision Problems Action Plan, A National Public Health Strategy as a way to prevent blindness and vision loss.

Good vision is critical to conducting activities of daily living, is important for language, and affects developmental learning, communicating, working, health and quality of life.

Unfortunately, far too many people are at risk for losing their eyesight. More than 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease, 3 million have low vision, 1.1 million are legally blind, and an additional 200,000 are more severely visually impaired. Despite the fact that half of all blindness can be prevented, far too many people do not access the care they need. If nothing is done, the number of blind and visually impaired individuals will double by 2030.

That is why awareness, early diagnosis and prevention are so important. Healthy Vision Month, a component of Healthy People 2010, is a national eye health campaign to raise awareness about the various conditions that can affect eyesight and cause vision loss.

Additionally, a coalition of leading eye health experts, including Prevent Blindness America, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lighthouse International, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, recently released the Vision Problems Action Plan, A National Public Health Strategy, to provide our nation with a framework for preventing vision loss. This report can be accessed at [http://www.preventblindness.org/news/releases/Action\\_Plan.html](http://www.preventblindness.org/news/releases/Action_Plan.html)

This groundbreaking study recommends that, in order to reduce the occurrence of vision loss and its accompanying disabilities, our nation must concentrate our efforts on three priority areas: prevention/public health, access to care and treatment including rehabilitation, and research.

Our public health and prevention campaign must ensure that vision programs at the National Eye Institute (NEI) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have the resources they need to improve communication and education campaigns, increase surveillance, epidemiology and prevention research; and implement appropriate programs, policies and systems changes.

In order to ensure access to and availability of treatment and rehabilitation services for individuals with vision loss, we must support programs at the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that remove barriers and improve access to eye exams currently covered under Medicare, such as diabetic eye exams and glaucoma detection for high risk populations.

We must also strengthen the Medicare program to advance coverage for Medicare vision rehabilitation services as provided by orientation and mobility specialists, rehabilitation teachers and low-vision therapists including in patients homes and their environment.

Finally, we must bolster our research efforts to improve our understanding of the eye and visual system in health and disease, as well as developing the most appropriate and effective means of prevention, and access to treatment and rehabilitation.

This report provides the roadmap we need to raise awareness about vision loss, give individuals the tools they need to prevent it, and give hope to the millions already suffering from vision loss that better treatments for can be found.

We would like to thank all of the organizations involved in crafting this report, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Optometric Association, the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, Light-house International, the National Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, the National Eye Institute (NEI) and most importantly, Prevent Blindness America. Prevent Blindness America should be commended for spearheading this effort, for bringing together these various groups, and for its almost century-long tradition of preventing vision loss.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. BRADLEY CHRISTIAN

#### HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who, surrounded by culture in his formative years, had a vision to preserve an important aspect of the Virgin Islands quality of life. Mr. Bradley Christian, along with Norma Christian and Claudia Walker were the first officers of the St. Croix Heritage Dancer, founded by Enrique Santos.

Mr. Christian has committed himself to preserving our cultural dances for future generations so that they may have an awareness of the rich culture to be found in the Virgin Islands, specifically on St. Croix. These dances are a combination of the influence of the seven flags that flew over our island and the ethnicities of the different people who have lived here. They have evolved into a performance that is second to none, incorporating the influences of the German and French quadrille.

Mr. Christian and the St. Croix Heritage Dancers have performed all over the Caribbean and the United States, including being featured during the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in 1990. The St. Croix Heritage Dancers is celebrating their 23rd year anniversary with a Hibiscus Ball on Saturday, May 22nd. King Michael Dow and Queen Sylvia Stewart will rule over this year's celebration. The 2004 honorees are Eldred "Edgie" Christian, Jr. and Ernest "Prince Galloway" Galloway, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my family, staff and the people of the United States Virgin Islands, it is an honor for me to enter this tribute to Mr. Bradley Christian into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 5, 2004, due to official business, this Member unavoidably missed rollcall vote number 146 on H. Res. 605 that recognizes the importance of increasing autism awareness. Had this Member been present, he would have voted "aye."

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge that Congress make immigration reform a top priority.

Our immigration system is critically flawed. In fact, it's the Achilles' Heel of America's national security. We learned that hard reality on September 11th and we're still paying for it today, as foreign visitors and illegal immigrants alike move effortlessly across our borders.

Since 2001, Congress and the Bush Administration have made changes that have addressed some of the many systemic flaws in the immigration process. But, a great deal remains untackled on the road to ensuring America's safety.

We still have twelve to fifteen million immigrants living and working—illegally—on American soil. Fortunately, most are not security threats and simply seek to improve their own economic status by working for U.S. wages. But, as we witnessed on 9/11, some are here to do us harm either as terrorists, or, more likely, by engaging in criminal activities. We must continue to identify and expel those who pose public safety threats.

Most immigrants are good people. However, numbers matter, and simply put, we're letting too many people in, and we aren't properly assimilating the roughly 1.5 million new immigrants who come here annually. Many of them are uneducated, unskilled, and speak no English. This has real, adverse, impacts on American life. Jobs are lost to cheap foreign labor influx, schools are overcrowded, public health care is strained by millions who lack coverage, and urban sprawl and congestion impacts the environment.

Mr. Speaker, Congress can no longer ignore the immigration issue. We must reform current policies to radically curtail illegal inflows. Our colleague from South Carolina, Representative GRESHAM BARRETT, has introduced comprehensive, much needed immigration reform in H.R. 3522. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important measure.

#### COMMEMORATING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 20th annual Public Service Recognition Week. I am proud to be a co-chair of the Congressional Public Service Caucus, proud to have been a federal employee, and proud to represent in Congress a large number of my constituents who are federal employees. These employees are a national asset who perform hard work day after day with professionalism and dedication.

Federal employees are the backbone of our government. They can be found working to find cures for diseases at the National Institute of Health, helping seniors with their Social Security benefits, representing our interests overseas in the State Department, serving as stewards of parks in the National Park Service, helping our country defend the homeland at the Department of Defense and at the Department of Homeland Security. These are but a few examples of the many areas in which federal employees are serving our country.

We must not forget those federal employees who are risking their lives in the war against terrorism. The first combat death in Afghanistan in the wake of September 11 was CIA officer Johnny Micheal Spann, one of my constituents. And today, federal employees can be found throughout the globe fighting the war against terrorism in many different ways.

The sacrifice and hard work of our federal employees, whether abroad or at home, should never be forgotten. Federal employees deserve a proper pay raise—which is why I have been pleased to support pay parity for our federal employees since I have been in Congress.

They deserve adequate health care—which is why I have supported legislation to make sure federal employees get the health benefits they need.

And retired federal employees must not be forgotten—which is why I have supported legislation to aid federal employees in their retirement. Federal employees deserve to be honored during Public Service Recognition Week. But we must always remember the hard work they do for our country throughout the year.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. ANGELO DEL ROSSI

#### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a cultural innovator in my district, Mr. Angelo Del Rossi, President Emeritus of Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, NJ. This week, the Paper Mill Playhouse will host their 2004 Paper Mill Gala as a tribute to Mr. Del Rossi's lifelong love of theatre.

Mr. Del Rossi is a native of New Jersey, who attended Rutgers University and graduated from the Neighborhood Playhouse School in New York.

Mr. Del Rossi joined Paper Mill Playhouse in 1963. He became Paper Mill's Associate