

same opportunities that urban schools offer. He encourages students to be involved with their school by sponsoring the student-run organization that addresses concerns and suggestions for improving the school called the student senate. Henry pushes his students to work hard by organizing a literacy tour in Great Britain for his advanced placement students over Spring Break as a reward.

Mr. Speaker, Henry McIntosh is a wonderful ambassador for education who dedicates his life to teaching the next generation of leaders in his Walsenburg, Colorado community. Henry has taken the noble and challenging occupation of teaching to a new level of excellence. His compassionate and selfless service to Walsenburg and the Colorado community certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. Congratulations on your award Henry, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

HONORING GWEN ESTES,
EDUCATOR EXTRAORDINAIRE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gwen Estes, a recent recipient of the prestigious Gandhi, King, Ikeda Award. The international award, sponsored by a number of peace groups and Morehouse College in Atlanta, was presented to Ms. Estes for her commitment to promoting peace, unity and non-violence.

Gwen Estes is a former parole officer. The job never seemed quite right to Ms. Estes as she has always been about building for the future. Years of watching guards lead shackled inmates into the great abyss of the prison system ran counter to values passed along by Ms. Estes' mother, who spent years teaching school.

Seeking a career change, Gwen Estes followed in the family footsteps and choose teaching. However, she didn't pursue a mainstream teaching job. She opted for Hayward Community School, a last chance outpost for at-risk students who have been expelled for offenses ranging from fighting to selling drugs.

Working tirelessly with students who needed more help than their regular teachers could give, Ms. Estes is saving the lives of troubled teens starving for positive attention, respect and caring.

One need only look into the faces transfixed before her in her portable classroom to better understand why she received the prestigious peace award. Her classroom radiates with trust and compassion and Estes shares a connection with students who have felt alienated and alone in other settings.

Now unlike her years as a parole officer, when her reports could lead to long sentences foreshadowing destroyed lives, Gwen Estes is giving out hope in exceptionally large doses at Hayward Community School.

Ms. Estes is also President of the New Haven Board of Education, another factor that has contributed to success with her students. The confluence of her experiences as a school board member and parole officer gives her the kind of credibility many of her peers lack when working with at-risk students.

She always says, "I have voted to expel students but I much prefer giving out diplomas." Gwen Estes is giving students a foundation to break free of their problems, a reason to care. In many cases, it is something they would not have gotten if it weren't for her.

A description from one of her students aptly describes Ms. Estes' exemplary contributions to her students. "Even though she is a teacher, she is your friend. We can have good days or bad days, but she always tells us we can be what we want to be. Miss E is one of a kind."

Gwen Estes epitomizes the essence of the Ghandi, King, Ikeda award. She is bringing peace, unity, and hope to the classroom each day.

HONORING JOHN COLEMAN

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the contributions of Commissioner John Coleman of Hollywood, Florida. Mr. Coleman, a native of Rhode Island, retired to South Florida in 1992 and spent the rest of his life as a passionate advocate for the city of Hollywood and its beaches.

In 1998, Mr. Coleman was elected to the Hollywood City Commission. During his term, he championed environmental issues and fought to protect Hollywood Beach from overdevelopment. Area residents fondly recall his ebullient spirit and passionate, fiery rhetoric. After serving his term, Mr. Coleman continued as an activist and civic leader. He campaigned at the local, state and national levels for candidates he supported. As President of the Broward Council of Democratic Club Presidents, President of the Hollywood Democratic Club, and member of the Broward Democratic Executive Committee, Mr. Coleman lent his voice to a multitude of issues for the betterment of life for all in South Florida.

Mr. Coleman is survived by six sons, a daughter, his long-time companion, and nine grandchildren. He will be sorely missed for his exuberance and his dedication to civic activism.

AMBER ALERT HAS HAPPY ENDING—WOMAN NOTICES STOLEN CAR AND CALLS 911

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I bring to your attention the story of an AMBER Alert in action and working to save the lives of New Mexico's children.

The AMBER Alerts are currently carried by New Mexico's broadcast media via the same Emergency Alert System used in severe weather and national emergencies. The tones so familiar to citizens during storms are now helping to save children's lives. On Wednesday, November 19, Juan David Olive, 4, lay sleeping in the back of his father's Geo Metro in the parking lot of a restaurant on Isleta Bou-

levard in Albuquerque. When the boy's father returned to the parking lot, his car was missing, and he knew his son was still inside. Authorities issued an AMBER Alert for the boy with a description of the car. Nadine Marquis was in the parking lot of a local electronics store when she saw what appeared to be the stolen car. Upon closer investigation, she heard crying inside and called the police. When authorities arrived, they found the boy and returned him safely to his parents.

Mr. Speaker, Albuquerque began implementing the AMBER Alert system in 2001 when the New Mexico Broadcasters Association signed an agreement with the police department. I encourage their effort. Now, AMBER Alert is statewide in New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and all the residents of New Mexico in honoring and thanking Nadine Marquis. AMBER Alerts have proven effective in finding missing children, but could not succeed without the help of sharp-eyed people like Nadine. I commend her for her efforts, and I am sure there will be many others like her who will help save the lives of children in New Mexico and nationwide.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BEN RIZZI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise before you to recognize a remarkable citizen from my district. Ben Rizzi recently retired after 30 years of service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Colorado. Ben dedicated his professional life to the conservation of Colorado's natural resources and I am proud to call his contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

Ben was born in Walsenburg, Colorado. Following high school, he attended Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Throughout college, Ben worked for the Forest Service over each summer vacation. It was during this time that Ben's love for the outdoors began to influence his career path. After receiving his degree, Ben took a job on a cattle ranch near La Veta. After working on the ranch for a year, Ben took a position with the Soil Conservation Service, which was eventually renamed the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Throughout his tenure with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ben achieved great success as a District Conservationist. Ben worked tirelessly for the betterment of every landowner and parcel of land he encountered. Ben is truly an outstanding steward of the land and the benefits of his tireless devotion and hard work will be felt for generations to come. Although Ben is retiring, his legacy will live on through his two sons, both of whom have followed in their father's footsteps and chosen careers in the field of natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Ben Rizzi. Ben spent nearly three decades working for the betterment of Colorado's farming and ranching communities. Ben will be missed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. However, he will now have more time to spend with his family and his

many friends throughout Colorado. Thank you Ben for your service.

NASA FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (S. 610) to amend the provision of title 5, United States Code, to provide for workforce flexibilities and certain Federal personnel provisions relating to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Workforce Flexibility Act is intended to help NASA recruit and retain the skilled workforce needed to perform its mission.

I applaud my colleagues, their staffs, and employee groups for working to improve this legislation from the version that was introduced. Initially, the bill contained language that would have removed the cap on the number of NASA employees permitted to participate in workforce demonstration projects. Eliminating the cap would have allowed NASA to include its entire workforce in a demonstration project before these flexibilities had been tested with smaller groups of employees.

In addition, a provision establishing an exchange program between NASA employees and private sector employees was removed from the bill. Such public-private exchange programs have the potential to create conflicts of interest and lead to the disclosure of corporate trade secrets. I am pleased that both of these problematic provisions have been removed from the bill.

Although I support this legislation, I am concerned about the process by which the Bush Administration has approached civil service reform in recent years. In granting personnel flexibilities to numerous agencies, the Administration has failed to ensure that these agencies have the infrastructure and safeguards in place to successfully implement these new authorities. The Administration also has failed to evaluate the effectiveness of these flexibilities before allowing other agencies to utilize them.

Moreover, civil service reform is best undertaken on a governmentwide basis, not on the agency-by-agency basis that the Administration seems to favor. A piecemeal approach fragments the civil service, making it difficult to ensure that Federal employees are treated fairly.

Indeed, the preference for governmentwide reforms is shared by many experts who have studied the workforce challenges facing the civil service. In 2001, the Office of Personnel Management stated that "it is important to retain governmentwide approaches, authorities, entitlements, and requirements." During the consideration of the Department of Defense (DoD) authorization bill last year, the Comptroller General testified that it would be prudent and appropriate for Congress to address the personnel authorities DoD was seeking on a "governmentwide basis and in a manner that assures that appropriate performance management systems and safeguards are in

place before new authorities are implemented in any specific agency.

Even the Senate sponsor of this NASA personnel bill has advocated a governmentwide approach. In 2000, Senator VOINOVICH released a report, concluding that "the Federal government is in dire need of a unified strategy to rebuild the civil service" (emphasis added).

A significant achievement of the last century was the enactment of laws designed to create a professional, competent Federal civil service. Recent actions by the Administration to grant broad exemptions to these laws, with little forethought and little oversight, have the potential to do far more harm than good.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HELEN BURKETT

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the life of a remarkable woman from my district. Helen Burkett from Durango, Colorado passed away recently at the age of ninety-eight. Helen was a beloved figure in the Durango community and as her family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we take the time to recognize her many contributions here today.

Helen was born on her family's Durango farm in 1906. She remained on the property for 94 years. Helen attended grade school in a one-room building located near Lemon Reservoir. When construction began on the Vallecito Reservoir in 1936, Helen opened a store on the farm in order to help her family through the "Great Depression." Helen was a dedicated businesswoman, and after 67 years in business, "Helen's Store" achieved the status of "local landmark" in recognition of her tremendous service to her patrons.

Helen also delighted in the ranching life. She was an accomplished cattlegirl and was always willing to share her skill and knowledge with younger generations. In 1994, the Durango Professional Rodeo Company recognized Helen's contributions to the ranching community when they awarded her the Western Heritage Award, given to those dedicated to the promotion of Western culture. Those who knew her well remember Helen's zest for life, as well as her caring and nurturing disposition. There is no question that Durango is a better place as the result of Helen's many contributions.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life of Helen Burkett. Helen was a true frontierswoman who had a tremendous impact on her community. Above all, Helen was a loving mother, a wonderful grandmother, a caring great-grandmother and a loyal friend to many. The Durango community and the State of Colorado will truly miss her. My heart goes out to Helen's loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

HONORING RETIRED SGT. BOB LEWIS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II veteran, retired Sgt. Bob Lewis. Lewis was an 18-year-old Army recruit in Camp Fannin, Texas, when his captain dropped a grenade during a demonstration. Lewis rolled onto it with his helmet, and then tossed it into a nearby ditch where it exploded into bits of shrapnel. Had the grenade gone off where it was dropped, he says, it likely would have injured or killed many of the 29 infantrymen watching the demonstration.

It was 1945, shortly after U.S. troops defeated Germany in World War II, but after Japan surrendered and, at the time, Lewis thought nothing of his heroic act.

The long-since-retired technical sergeant, who went on to become a well-known Fremont educator, has not received any recognition or medals for his heroic efforts to save the members of his infantry, while still a young recruit.

Because Lewis' act took place nearly 60 years ago, securing the necessary documentation would require months of research. An eyewitness would be almost impossible to locate as most of Lewis' fellow soldiers and superior officers have died.

Lewis may be eligible for the Soldier's Medal, which is awarded for an act of heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. For the time being, Lewis who once guarded 1,400 German prisoners in Bazencourt, France, says he is content with the small green patch, emblazoned with a gold wreath, on his Army jacket. It's a meritorious service unit citation, awarded to his outfit for postwar service.

Lewis not only distinguished himself during his military career but also in his profession as an educator. He worked as principal of Chadbourne, Patterson and Niles elementary schools and assistant superintendent of the Fremont school district.

I join retired Sgt. Bob Lewis' family, friends and admirers in applauding him for his meritorious military service and contributions to our country and to his community.

COUNSELOR AWARDED FOR SPIRIT

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention the national recognition received by Louise Adelstone, a counselor at Comanche Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ms. Adelstone received the local Spirit of Women Award and then went on to receive the national award. This award is given annually to women throughout the United States who dedicate themselves to making their communities a better place for all. The award recognizes "ordinary women who do extraordinary things."

Louise began her career as a counselor after completing her master's degree in counseling from the University of New Mexico. During her first year at Comanche Elementary