

Congress must honor its commitment to the children of the United States and address the need for improved geography education. As we have recognized in other areas of education, the only way to truly improve the educational system at a student-level is to help schools use the most effective teaching techniques to increase student knowledge and understanding. Geography education is no exception.

The National Geographic Society Alliance Program is an excellent example of current efforts to improve geography education at the state and local level. Alliances around the country provide teachers with intensive professional development opportunities in geography education, cultivating opportunities for teachers in State-level chapters to collaborate on geography education efforts and to participate in NGS professional development programs. And the success of the National Geographic Society Alliance Program is seen through the achievements of its students—students of teachers who have been involved in the Alliance program have statistically higher levels of geographic literacy achievement than other students. Promoting proven, effective teaching techniques, such as those developed through the National Geographic Society Alliance Program, will be essential if Congress is to successfully foster greater geographic literacy among American students.

If we are to continue our efforts to develop the most educated citizenry in the world, we must closely examine how we educate our youngest citizens about the world. This resolution acknowledges the good work of the National Geographic Society and its commitment to geographic literacy through a variety of means, including its sponsorship of the National Geographic Bee and the successful operation of its Alliance Program. This is a useful first step to refocusing attention on the need for geographic literacy and its important role in our children's education.

It is my hope that passage of this resolution will do more than just applaud Andrew Wojtanik's mastery of geography skills—this resolution will reaffirm Congress's commitment to geography and recognize a national public-private partnership dedicated to improving geographic literacy among American students. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this resolution today.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 815.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE 10 COMMUNITIES SELECTED TO RECEIVE THE 2004 ALL-AMERICA CITY AWARD

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 464) honoring the 10 communities selected

to receive the 2004 All-America City Award.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 464

Whereas the All-America City award is the oldest and most respected community recognition program in the Nation;

Whereas for 55 years the National Civic League has encouraged and recognized civic excellence by honoring communities of all sizes where business, citizens, voluntary organizations, and governments work together to address critical issues;

Whereas the All-America City Award recognizes exemplary grassroots community-oriented problem-solving, and is given to communities that confront challenges and achieve results cooperatively; and

Whereas more than 4000 communities have competed and more than 500 communities have been named All-America Cities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress honors the cities of Concord, North Carolina; Evansville, Indiana; Cottage Grove, Oregon; Spokane, Washington; Springfield, Ohio; Montevideo, Minnesota; Pembroke Pines, Florida; Stockton, California; Philippi, West Virginia; and Hidalgo, Texas, on receiving the National Civic League 2004 All-America City Award.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 464.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 464. This measure honors the 10 communities selected to receive the 2004 All-America City Award. I commend our colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), for introducing this resolution.

Each year the National Civic League announces the recipients of the All-America City Award, perhaps our country's most prestigious civic recognition program. In an effort to promote community development, the All-America City Award is given to communities where citizens, government, businesses, and nonprofit organizations work together to effectively achieve the highest levels of civic participation.

Since 1949, more than 4,000 communities have applied for the award and about 500 have been selected as All-America cities. This year 10 communities received this honor. The 2004 award winners are Stockton, California; Pembroke Pines, Florida; Evansville, Tennessee; Montevideo, Minnesota; Concord, North Carolina; Springfield, Ohio; Cottage Grove, Or-

egon; Hidalgo, Texas; Spokane, Washington; and Philippi, West Virginia.

I offer my congratulations to these 10 communities. I urge my colleagues to join with the 10 co-sponsors of the resolution and myself in honoring these 10 cities for winning the All-America City Award.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 464, introduced by my distinguished colleague from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), honors 10 American cities for receiving the National Civic League 2004 All-America City Award. The American cities are Concord, North Carolina; Evansville, Indiana; Cottage Grove, Oregon; Spokane, Washington; Springfield, Ohio; Montevideo, Minnesota; Pembroke Pines, Florida; Stockton, California; Philippi, West Virginia; and Hidalgo, Texas.

Established in 1894, the National Civic League is one of America's oldest community advocacy organizations. The league's motto is "strengthening citizen democracy by transforming democratic institutions."

Their mission is to make democratic institutions and systems more accountable, inclusive, and responsive to citizens in communities across the country by informing, uniting, and empowering citizens. The National Civic League's annual award, the All-America City Award, is America's original and most prestigious community recognition award.

The award encourages and recognizes civic excellence by honoring communities of all sizes where community members, government businesses, and nonprofit organizations all work together to address critical local issues. Each year 10 cities are chosen to receive the All-America City Award. Each of the 10 cities demonstrates an efficient government, a willingness to help its less fortunate citizens, and a strong sense of community.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I commend again Concord, Evansville, Cottage Grove, Spokane, Springfield, Montevideo, Pembroke Pines, Stockton, Philippi, and Hidalgo for their awards. I commend the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 464.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), the author of this resolution.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for helping and supporting this legislation. I congratulate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for his city as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the people of Concord, North Carolina, and the other nine recipients of the 2004 All-America City Award.

It has been my distinct honor to represent the people of Concord since I was first elected to represent the 8th Congressional District of North Carolina. This opportunity is especially dear to me because this is my hometown and where much of my family still resides.

In fact, my family has called Concord home for decades, centuries now that I look at it; and we have had the privilege of watching this community grow. Concord personifies the term "Southern hospitality" and is home to some of the most engaging, welcoming and civically responsible citizens of the State of North Carolina.

Through close relationships I have forged with citizens of Concord and the pride I have in this community, it is truly an honor today for me to highlight this great city.

Because of Concord's hard work, the rest of America is getting to see the positive spirit of accomplishment that I have been fortunate to witness and experience my entire life. All-America City Award is a 55-year-old program that is sponsored by the National Civic League that recognizes excellence. The award is given annually to 10 communities that exemplify and display a positive spirit of grass-roots involvement and collaborative problem-solving in an effort to better the community.

The cities selected to receive this award exhibit the American spirit of hard work and cooperation as they seek to identify and correct community-wide challenges. Concord is a community where citizens, businesses, volunteers, and government officials work together to address the issues that are vitally important to their citizens.

Concord should take pride in the fact that they are in contention for recognition by this national organization for their hard work. Truly, Concord is a great example for other communities to emulate as other communities seek to meet the many challenges that face us all, communities large and small.

To qualify for the award, Concord representatives submitted a detailed application highlighting the city's three most pressing challenges. They are medical needs of the uninsured and underinsured, eliminating substandard housing in the community, and extending the mentoring and civic responsibilities of the Boys and Girls Club of Concord.

Programs such as Community Care Plan, Cabarrus Housing Partners, and the Boys and Girls Club of America have been designed and implemented to ensure the aforementioned areas are addressed.

I am pleased to represent such a fine community where the citizens come together to solve problems at a local level rather than waiting on someone else to fix things. A wise man once said there are three types of people in the world: those who watch what happen, those who make things happen, and those who wonder what happened. Rest

assured, the people of my hometown, Concord, North Carolina, are people who make good things happen. It is my honor and privilege to represent these good folks.

I am proud that the National Civic League will recognize the city of Concord's success by awarding them the All-America City Award.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is easy to see why the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), especially from Concord, is such a distinguished gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), a proud representative of Texas.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge and thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), as well as my good friend and colleague, the ranking member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in support of H.R. 464, honoring the 2004 All-America City Award winners. One of these year's recipients, Hidalgo, Texas, is in my congressional district. The city of Hidalgo, Texas, is a small town of about 7,500 residents located along the U.S.-Mexico border.

□ 1700

It is home to the fourth largest U.S. port of entry and has become a vibrant center of trade and commerce since the implementation of NAFTA.

Under the leadership of Mayor John David Franz, this community has created a business-friendly environment that has led to the opening of new businesses and the creation of good-paying jobs. Taking advantage of the natural resources and rare wildlife of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the city of Hidalgo, Texas, has fostered ecotourism which brings bird watchers from throughout the world to the region's world-class birding centers.

Outstanding leaders such as former President Carter was one of the latest visitors to this beautiful city.

Recently, Hidalgo opened the new Dodge Arena, a \$20 million multipurpose complex featuring a 6,800-seat arena that will be a venue for ice hockey, football, soccer, and first-class concerts. For the past 27 years, the city of Hidalgo has played host to the Borderfest, the largest and oldest heritage and music festival in south Texas. This annual festival draws thousands of visitors from all over the world.

In receiving this year's All-American City Awards, the city of Hidalgo had to compete with communities throughout the country. The selection committee looked at a variety of factors, including community achievements, creative leveraging of community resources, participation of the public, private and nonprofit sectors, and the development of quality community projects.

I want to congratulate Mayor Franz and all of the people of the city of Hi-

dalgo on receiving this prestigious award.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HOSTETTLER) to speak on behalf of Evansville, Indiana.

(Mr. HOSTETTLER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those communities designated as All-America Cities, particularly the city of Evansville in my district.

Evansville is to be commended and should take pride for being recognized by the National Civic League as an All-America City. Evansville, like all of southwest and west central Indiana, is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. The city has a rich heritage and its citizens hold dear Hoosier values like faith, family and hard work.

The All-America City Award recognizes in Evansville an exemplary grass-roots community approach to problem-solving where community members, government businesses and nonprofit organizations work together to address critical local issues.

The National Civic League recognized Evansville, Indiana, as a community that cooperatively tackles challenges and achieves results.

The All-America City Award is America's original and most prestigious community recognition award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the other cosponsors of this resolution in commending Evansville and the other cities honored by the National Civic League.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), one of the other proud sons of Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time, and I am pleased to join in support of this resolution.

The All-America City Award is the oldest and most prestigious community recognition program in this Nation, and I am particularly pleased that this year one of the cities chosen, the only city chosen from the State of Texas, is right on our U.S.-Mexican border, and that is the city of Hidalgo.

Hidalgo is quite literally a representation of America's future. With a population that is nearly 98 percent Hispanic, Hidalgo is at the forefront of a demographic that is occurring rapidly in many of our Nation's cities. Also, with nearly half of its residents in elementary, middle or high school, Hidalgo is today comprised of the youth that will be the leaders of America tomorrow.

Hidalgo is one of the oldest cities in the State of Texas, and it started as a small trading post and ferry landing opposite Reynosa, Mexico, many years ago. Over the years, it has grown to the fourth largest U.S. port of entry, a

major entry point for trade and commerce from throughout two continents and a city that is intimately involved with our country's relationship with Mexico.

Hidalgo is often the first taste of America for many visitors to this country. This, combined with the fact that it is one of the country's southernmost cities, makes it not surprising that Hidalgo is sometimes referred to as being "where the U.S. begins."

The city has flourished under the leadership of very committed city council members Alvin Samano, Dan Dillard, Pedro Fonseca, and Siglinde Franz. Their hard work and dedication to serving the people of Hidalgo has contributed much to the community's success. Hidalgo works because Hidalgo works together.

Unfortunately, as a gateway to the United States, many people have seen Hidalgo only in traveling through it. Now, the people of this fine city have done much, through innovation and hospitality, to make Hidalgo a destination.

Project: Tour Hidalgo, a comprehensive and collaborative initiative that focuses resources, ideas, the spirit of volunteerism and community outreach, has increased tourism, tourism that focuses on the culture of Mexico and the United States, on ecotourism, a number of hike-and-bike trails to be built along the border and, of course, the many other aspects of the city that come alive during the holiday season.

I remember last year at the great Posada, with the Grammy-award-winning Hidalgo resident, Ramon Ayala, that we had around 7- or 8,000 spectators. It was quite a happening, and it drew people throughout Texas to share in the joy of the holiday season.

Borderfest also pulls in not only Texans but winter Texans from all over the country for a 4-day festival in March. Last year, about 50,000 people participated, five times the population of the city. It begins appropriately with an abrazo at the international bridge between the mayor of Hidalgo and the mayor of Reynosa, indicating the close relationship between the two countries.

In the 1980s, when advancements in technology made the city's old irrigation pumphouses obsolete, it was preserved as a museum that is now recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

With a sense of humor to accompany the other pleasant qualities of this community, when a few years ago it was noted that Hidalgo was the first place that the Africanized honey bee came, instead of avoiding this apparent bit of trouble, the city created a 10-foot-tall, 2,000-pound, full-color statue of the feared killer bee, and since that time the killer bee statue has become a tourist attraction. The Killer Bees became the name of the professional hockey team at the far southern edge of the United States. That is one winning team.

At the same time, Hidalgo has made substantial and impressive efforts to improve the standard of living for its residents. Almost half of all the families in Hidalgo are sustained on incomes below the poverty level.

It has been a long-time goal of the city to attract industries that will provide its citizens with a living wage. That is why the city created Team Hidalgo, a program through which the city and private businessmen and -women work with economic development experts and nonprofit groups to improve the economy of the area. To date, Team Hidalgo's greatest achievement has been the development of Dodge Arena, the spectacular 7,000 seat facility that is now drawing people throughout south Texas not only to the winning Killer Bees hockey team and an arena football team, but to a number of high-profile entertainment activities.

The students of Hidalgo spend their days in schools run by two separate and quality school districts, the Valley View Independent School District led by Superintendent Leonel Galaviz and School Board President and the Hidalgo Independent School District, led by Superintendent Daniel King and School Board President Noe Reyes. These are school districts with leadership on their boards and in the administration that devote their efforts to educational excellence.

The city is one that I hope to represent beginning in January. It is a place that I have visited a number of times and with whose leadership I have continued to work on a number of local projects. It is wonderful that the National Civic League has recognized these fine attributes of the community by naming it an All-America City.

As the city said in its application, despite being closer to Mexico than it is to many other cities in the United States, Hidalgo is truly all-American.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I have no other speakers on this.

Let me close simply by saying that the All-America City Award was a program that was carried on for many years by Look magazine, one of our largest national circulation magazines, and I am very proud that in 1962 my hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee, received one of the very earliest All-America City Awards.

My father served as mayor of Knoxville for 6 years, from 1959 to 1964, and Look magazine recognized Knoxville not only for many civic improvements but also because of my father's work in leading the peaceful integration of the city, which made sure that Knoxville did not go through many of the troubles that most other cities in the North and the South went through during that time period.

So this is a great, great award. It is one that the people of Knoxville were always proud of; and these cities should be proud of it, too.

I thank the sponsor the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) and

the cosponsors. I urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 464 honoring the 10 cities named 2004 All-America Cities, and I would like to thank Representative ROBIN HAYES for his leadership in introducing this resolution.

Each year, the All-America Cities Award recognizes communities whose residents have been successful at identifying problems and working cooperatively to solve them. While all 10 cities named All-America Cities this year are deserving of this honor, I am particularly proud that Springfield, Ohio, my hometown, is one of them.

Springfield is a city that typifies an American heartland community. While it embraces its manufacturing past, Springfield has a clear goal of transitioning to a more diverse economy. This new focus emphasizes research and development. Recently, the Springfield Technology Park was established, which includes the new Lexis-Nexis data center and the new Ohio Supercomputer Center. Other high technology businesses are following. Not only is Springfield securing its economic future, it is developing proactive solutions to the other challenges it faces.

Springfield's All-America Cities application highlighted three programs that were designed to meet these challenges. The projects truly demonstrate the positive results that can be achieved through cooperation between public and private entities.

First, the Neighborhood Housing Partnership of Greater Springfield is an organization dedicated to making residents' dreams of home ownership come true. Government, private foundations, lenders, corporations, and realtors have all come together to provide financial assistance and support services to first-time homebuyers.

The second program, the Clark County Literacy Coalition, is a community partnership designed to help adults to acquire literacy skills. The Springfield-Clark County Chamber of Commerce, the Warder Literacy Center, and the Clark County Public Library are just three of the groups working cooperatively to help the residents of Springfield improve their reading and parenting skills.

A third organization, Rocking Horse Center, provides comprehensive health care services for children and young families. The local government, local hospitals, and other community organizations have come together to provide health services and child care advice to the community and to ensure affordable health care to those children who need it most.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the City of Springfield, the Springfield-Clark County Chamber of Commerce, and the Neighborhood Housing Partnership of Greater Springfield for their hard work in making sure that Springfield's All-America Cities application would be successful. The citizens of Springfield are also to be commended for making Springfield such a great place to live and work.

Mr. Speaker, I join today with my colleagues, the proud citizens of Springfield, and the residents of the other nine 2004 All-America Cities in support of this resolution.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 464.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR ADDITIONAL CO-SPONSORS FOR H.R. 10 SUBMITTED BY THE SPEAKER

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding clause 7 of rule XII, the Union Calendar print of H.R. 10 may reflect additional cosponsors submitted by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

LEONARD C. BURCH POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5051) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1001 Williams Street in Ignacio, Colorado, as the "Leonard C. Burch Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5051

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LEONARD C. BURCH POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1001 Williams Street in Ignacio, Colorado, shall be known and designated as the "Leonard C. Burch Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Leonard C. Burch Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5051, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the distinguished gentleman from Colorado, the

sponsor of H.R. 5051, I rise in support of the Leonard C. Burch Post Office Designation Act.

Leonard Burch was chairman of the Southern Ute Tribal Council for more than 32 years. He was the first elected tribal chairman in 1966, making him the youngest ever at age 32. Chairman Burch was an effective, ambitious leader for the Southern Utes and helped to economically develop this tribe based in the Rocky Mountains.

Mr. Speaker, Leonard Burch died in August 2003 after suffering a heart attack. This post office will be a deserved honor for Leonard Burch, and I know it will make his family very proud.

I thank the sponsor, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. McINNIS), for bringing this bill to the floor today. I am pleased to urge passage of H.R. 5051.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 5051, legislation naming a U.S. postal facility in Ignacio, Colorado, as the "Leonard C. Burch Post Office."

The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. McINNIS), a Republican, introduced this measure which enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire Colorado delegation on September 9, 2004.

Leonard C. Burch was the long-time leader of the Southern Ute tribe of Colorado. He is credited with bringing his tribe from the brink of bankruptcy and into solvency. Through his efforts, the tribe became a major player in the energy development market with assets of \$1.5 billion.

□ 1715

As part of the Council For Energy Resource Tribes, Burch was instrumental in improving energy development in tribes throughout the country. Mr. Burch was also regarded as a skilled diplomat and testified before Congress on numerous occasions advocating for greater tribal control over its own resources.

Mr. Burch passed away last year after suffering a heart attack at the age of 69. We join the Southern Ute Tribe in their loss, for not only have they lost a great leader, but also the United States has lost a truly great man. I urge swift passage of this resolution.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5051, the Leonard C. Burch Post Office Building Designation Act.

Leonard Burch served as chairman of the Southern Ute Tribe for 30 years. He became the youngest chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in south-western Colorado in 1966. Although it was criticized at the time, his decision to reinvest tribal royalties back into the tribal corporations has proved to be far sighted. Through this reinvestment the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is one of the wealthiest Indian tribe in the country.

In an effort to regain the rights to the resources on their land, Chairman Burch taught himself the intricacies of the oil and gas business. As a result, he was instrumental in the Southern Ute Tribe becoming the primary beneficiary of their own mineral rights. Under his leadership the tribe was able to acquire several commercial buildings, multiple energy companies, including the largest natural gas company in the state of Colorado, a real estate company, and a casino.

Chairman Burch championed the cause of tribal sovereignty. He was able to bring the Southern Ute Indian Tribe from relative obscurity into one of the most prominent and wealthy tribes in the country. The Southern Ute Tribe's business success can be used as a positive example for Native American tribes throughout the country. Chairman Burch was the driving force behind this success story.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the Colorado delegation in honoring the life and accomplishments of Chairman Leonard Burch and support the designation of the Ignacio Main Post Office as the Leonard C. Burch Post Office Building.

For more information about the life of Chairman Burch, I am attaching an obituary published in The Durango Herald on August 2, 2003.

LEONARD CLOUD BURCH

Leonard Cloud Burch, the longtime leader of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe who advocated economic self-sufficiency, died Friday, Aug. 1, 2003, at Mercy Medical Center.

Mr. Burch, 69 who died after suffering a heart attack on Thursday, served as chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council for more than 32 years. He was first elected tribal chairman in 1966.

Under his leadership the Southern Utes became an economic force in the Four Corners and the largest employers in the country.

Starting with interests in natural-gas wells, the Utes used revenues from businesses to fund improvements in tribal education, health and social services. He was invited by five separate U.S. presidents to conferences on American Indian policies at the White House.

He received numerous awards, including: the Durango Citizen of the Year Award (1997), the 15th annual Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award (2000) and the Council of Energy Resources Tribes' Achievement Award (2002). He was also recognized for his commitment to regional water resources development.

To settle various water claims by regional tribes, including the Southern Utes, Mr. Burch advocated development of the Animas-La Plata Project, a water-storage project now under construction south of Durango.

He was born on Dec. 24, 1933, to Sam and Clara (Cloud) Burch. Upon graduation from Ute Vocational High School in Ignacio, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, and he served four years. After his return from service, Mr. Burch worked for five years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He married Irene Coolidge, who had also attended school in Ignacio.

He is survived by his wife; seven daughters, Leonora Bravo of Ignacio, Leona Burch of Ignacio, Lena Mae Burch of Missoula, Mont., Lisa Burch-Watts of Ignacio, Leora Lucero of Ignacio, Laurena Burch of Albuquerque, and Lynnette Sage of Ignacio; 14 grandchildren; a brother, Anthony Burch of Two Rivers, Alaska; a sister, Bertha Grove of Bayfield; a half-brother, Everett Burch of Bayfield; and a half-sister, Judy Lansing-Burch of Ignacio.

A viewing and a visitation will be from noon to 8 p.m. Monday at Hood Mortuary. A