

freedom. This devotion and steadfast commitment to the defense of freedom and liberty around the world is the hallmark of a great American.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my personal gratitude to Lieutenant Colonel Ace for his service to the House of Representatives, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Gary for his service to our country. The United States will be well served as Lieutenant Colonel Ace furthers his career at CENTCOM in Iraq and Kuwait.

#### A SALUTE TO WALTER MESS

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Walter L. Mess, on the occasion of his retirement after 46 years of service with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Walter is a good man who has made invaluable contributions to our area through his dedicated public service.

I am proud to call attention today to Walter's achievements. He spent 30 years as chairman of the park authority and under his leadership the park authority has become a thriving organization. I would like to share an article from a recent edition of the Washington Post which highlights Walter's many accomplishments and contributions.

[From the Washington Post, February 3, 2005]

#### AREA PARKS PIONEER EARNS A REST

(By Leef Smith)

He was the longest-serving public official in Northern Virginia, overseeing the area's regional park authority as chairman for 30 years.

In December, Walter L. Mess stepped down from that post at the age of 90—his hearing, not his age, the deciding factor—having devoted more than 46 years of his life to preserving land in the area.

Under his leadership, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority preserved more than 10,000 acres while operating 19 regional parks in the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church, as well as in Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

Today, the authority's assets are valued at more than \$1 billion.

"His contributions have been immense," said Barry Buschow, a member of the park authority board since 1990, who represented Falls Church along with Mess. "He's taken a struggling organization from nowhere to a billion-dollar corporation."

Asked this week to name his proudest achievement, Mess did not mention the development of the 45-mile Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park trail, or the acquisition of the 5,000-acre Occoquan Reservoir shoreline.

Instead, he talked about his family.

He told a story about one of his 10 grandchildren, Christine, now a schoolteacher with two children of her own. Just a teenager at the time, she confronted a manager at Upton Hill Regional Park in Arlington and demanded to know why a plaque honoring her grandfather was not being displayed.

"That's what I'm the proudest of," said Mess, who also has 10 great-grandchildren. "That's where the pride comes from."

Mess and his wife, Jean, met in business school in 1934. They were married for 62

years and raised four children. She died in 2002.

The parks agency was a voluntary, time-consuming sideline to Mess's career as a land economist and mortgage banker.

As a child he canoed, hiked, hunted and fished with his father and uncle throughout the area, in the days when it was still undeveloped.

As a young man hard at work on a law degree in 1939, Mess signed on with a U.S. government covert operations unit and was sent to Europe, where he traveled behind German lines.

He would receive an honorary green beret more than half a century later to honor his military intelligence service.

Mess returned to the United States in 1940 and returned to school to complete his degree. He married and started a family. Two years later, he enlisted in the Quartermaster Corps and was on his way to Asia when he caught his first glimpse of the future. Stationed in San Diego for a month, he got a chance to see the area's regional system of parks, golf courses and swimming pools, available to the public at no cost.

He came home in 1946 to his wife and a 4-year-old daughter he had never met. He brought with him four Bronze Star Medals, malaria, blackwater fever and the knowledge that he was lucky to be alive.

It was time, he decided, to help his native Washington benefit from the kinds of land preservation and recreational opportunities he had seen in California.

What the area needed, he decided, was a regional park system. Others agreed, and together they embarked on a decades-long journey to make it happen.

"When you start to do something, and you don't have any money and you have to get it from the public, you have to be very patient," Mess said. "We were very patient. That was part of the game."

It was also part of their success.

It took about 10 years to persuade legislators in Richmond to grant their approval. In 1959, Mess was Falls Church's first appointee to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Board.

Since then, the park authority has spent \$120 million on land, including parcels along the Occoquan Reservoir and Potomac River and on the environmentally fragile Mason Neck.

"Our whole idea was to protect the watershed and give people access to the water," Mess said. "Back in the early days, much of that land was land that developers weren't going to use."

In 1975, Mess became the authority's second chairman. In 1999, the agency honored his 40 years of service by naming its headquarters in Fairfax Station for him.

"This whole thing I'm being given credit for I didn't do," Mess said. "The people around me did." The authority "gets credit for planning and starting it, but we couldn't have done it without everyone."

#### A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING BEV RILEY

### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Bev Riley has served continuously as the office manager for the Chillicothe Mayor's Office for twenty years; and

Whereas, Bev Riley provided her services as office manager through the administration of three different Chillicothe mayors; and

Whereas, Bev Riley's service to the residents of Chillicothe is greatly appreciated by all who have worked with her. She should be commended for the help that she provided to the people of Chillicothe and the surrounding area.

Therefore, I join with the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in celebrating Bev Riley's twenty years of service to the Village of Chillicothe.

#### HONORING THE LITERARY AND CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF VIOLA HERMS DRATH

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for a very special occasion—to celebrate the birthday of a distinguished American who is an author, playwright, journalist and diplomatic advisor—Viola Herms Drath.

Viola left her native Germany when she married U.S. Army Colonel Francis S. Drath, another great American, then Deputy U.S. Military Governor of Bavaria, after World War II. Prior to her marriage, Viola had established herself as a young playwright in Munich. Her first play, *Farewell Isabell*, a comedy, written at the age of 18 in the aftermath of the war, which was praised by critics, signaled the beginning of a long, creative career.

As her career evolved in the United States, she became a longtime Washington correspondent for *Handelsblatt*, Germany's equivalent of the *Wall Street Journal*, and a member of the Executive Committee of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy. Viola's insightful writings have helped Americans and Germans better understand post-war foreign policy. One of her articles for the National Committee entitled "The Reemergence of the German Question" published in 1988 proposed negotiations on German unification between the two German states and the four Allied Powers. As a foreign policy advisor of the 1988 Bush Presidential campaign, she helped lay the groundwork which led to the "2+4" process towards German unification in 1990.

Her biography of former German Chancellor Willy Brandt, *Willy Brandt: Prisoner of His Past*, first published in 1975, is being reissued this June in conjunction with the Broadway premiere of Michael Frayn's play "Democracy". Dr. Henry A. Kissinger recently praised this biography by calling it "a must-read for those interested in fully appreciating an important statesman both within his own times and beyond."

We are thankful to have the talents and energies of this extremely accomplished and talented individual. We wish her and her family many more birthday celebrations and all the best on this great occasion.

#### TRIBUTE TO DON DEMERS

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to Don DeMers.

Don passed away Tuesday, February 1st after a long and courageous battle against cancer. I wish to recognize his accomplishments for the residents of Fresno County, as well as commend him on a life well lived.

In 1986, Don and I worked together to pass "Measure C" before the Fresno County voters. This groundbreaking legislation established Fresno County as one of the Nation's first "self-help" communities. The money collected through this measure allowed Fresno residents to build their own roads when our State Government could not. Through his expertise and management, Don invested the measure's proceeds to finance many severely needed rural and urban roads in Fresno County. As a result, residents and visitors to Fresno County today enjoy Route 41, SR 168 and SR 180, among others. These roads are vital to Fresno County's continued growth and expansion. Don's 18 years of service as Executive Director of Fresno County Transportation Authority realized the success we knew Measure C would bring to Fresno, and I do not believe that the height of this success could have been realized without him.

Don possessed a great spirit, sense of humor, and a keen intellect. Knowing him, it was hard not to like him. He made me laugh, and the breadth of his interests was compelling.

Of course, Don cannot claim sole responsibility for his accomplishments. The love and support of his beautiful and devoted wife, Deborah, enhanced and permitted his successes. Don is also survived by his two sons, three daughters, and eight (soon to be nine) grandchildren. Don was deeply devoted to his family, and this devotion was returned in kind.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to have known Don DeMers, and I will remember him. Don, you will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING SIR RAYMOND A.  
LONG

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sir Raymond A. Long, in honor of his dedication a commitment to the well being of his community and the Jaffa Shrine. For the past 43 years, as Colonel of Units for the Shrine, Sir Long's guidance has been the source of security and stability and his impact has been widely respected.

Since the beginning, Sir Long has consistently exhibited the qualities to which he is committed, sharing with his community a moral code based upon honesty, strength of character, and the highest standard of ethics. His values go hand-in-hand with the Shrine's creed and his vision for a greater, more influential brotherhood has been adopted by the Shrine with open arms. Through the Jaffa Shrine's community outreach initiatives, countless children have benefitted from orthopaedic, burn and spinal cord care free of charge and the quality of life within the community has improved because of its effluence of optimism.

Sir Long has connected with citizens in the area in a way that few are able. Since 1938, when he first joined DeMolay, Sir Long has worked diligently to make positive changes

throughout the community so that the area would grow and prosper. Having taken the reigns as a strong leader since his youth, he has been a pillar of strength within his community, and his ceaseless dedication to the Jaffa Shrine is unparalleled. In the 43 years that Sir Long has had a significant hand in the Shrine's operations, it has become a driving force of service in the area by implementing new and improved health care technology in its hospitals, expanding the temple's infrastructure, and increasing the laughter and happiness among everyone involved.

It was during the 1980s, a period in which Sir Long held significant positions within the Shrine, that Shrines all across North America experienced the greatest expansion in their history. The hospitals treated unprecedented numbers of children in need, Temples and Shrines expanded both in physical structure and in membership, and the feeling of brotherhood spread even further. His uncompromising sense of duty to the community in which he lives has been a source of inspiration, and the impact he has had is immeasurable.

For his incomparable generosity, service to the Jaffa Shrine, and unabated commitment to excellence, Sir Raymond A. Long deserves the highest recognition. Throughout his tenure within the Shrine, Sir Long has not only enriched the lives of the other members, but of those in the surrounding communities who have undoubtedly benefitted from the charity, education and service that they have repeatedly provided. The legacy he has created is one that every American should emulate, and his contributions will not go unnoticed by the organization for which he has served nor the community in which he lives. I would like to congratulate Sir Long on his many accomplishments, and I wish him the best of luck as he continues his admirable service to the people of Blair County.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
MR. ROBERT WILSON

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Robert Wilson has served as the mayor of Toronto, Ohio for thirteen years; and

Whereas, Mr. Wilson oversaw projects in Toronto including the Sloan Station Square, the Veterans Victory Pavilion, Newburg Landing, and the installation of the beautification committee; and

Whereas, Mr. Wilson maintained a friendly, caring, and hardworking demeanor not only in his post as mayor, but also in his personal life. He should be commended for the leadership he provided to the people of Toronto and the surrounding area.

Therefore, I join with the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in celebrating Mr. Robert Wilson's service to the Village of Toronto, Ohio.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 1000TH  
STRYKER ASSEMBLED AT THE  
ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the employees at the Anniston Army Depot who have reached an important milestone on behalf of our Nation's military.

On January 12, 2005, the 1000th Stryker was assembled at the Anniston Army Depot. This was a proud day for the citizens of northeast Alabama, Mr. Speaker, and was the direct result of the hard work and dedication of thousands of workers from across our community.

Assembled right here in Calhoun County, the Stryker is a transformational vehicle that will help protect our forces far into the 21st century. The troop carrier is part of a new generation of wheeled vehicles for our military, and will allow the Army to more safely and efficiently transport soldiers on the field of battle.

Not only has the Stryker proven its tactical value in Iraq, Mr. Speaker, but it has also helped better protect the lives of countless soldiers. Knowing Alabama workers helped make this advancement possible is a great honor for our community.

I salute the employees of the Anniston Army Depot for their ongoing dedication to the Stryker project, and thank them for their service to our Nation and to our men and women serving on the front lines overseas.

MILESTONE FOR DEMOCRACY

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit this article from my predecessor Representative Bob Schaffer detailing his experiences in the recent Ukrainian elections. Thank you.

[From the Denver Post, Jan. 25, 2005]

MILESTONE FOR DEMOCRACY

(By Bob Schaffer)

A milestone in the democracy movement occurred Sunday as Ukrainians inaugurated Viktor Yushchenko, their third president since declaring independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

He succeeded outgoing President Leonid Kuchma, whose administration, with the help of Russian President Vladimir Putin, went to extraordinary lengths to steer the election outcome toward Viktor Yanukovych. This time, their attempts—legal and otherwise—were just not enough.

The inauguration of Yushchenko caps an unprecedented marathon election marked by rampant election fraud, voter intimidation, assassination attempts, the presence of Russian troops and appeals to the nation's top court. Last Thursday, the end became certain as the Supreme Court rejected Yanukovych's last desperate appeal. Yushchenko is Ukraine's former prime minister. His performance established him as a leader with pro Western leanings. His penchant for privatization, free markets and private-property rights put him in the crosshairs of Ukrainian and Russian oligarchs