

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

whose tremendous wealth is built upon exclusive government deals and on the backs of Ukraine's working class.

These same Ukrainian commoners define the "Orange Revolution," named after Yushchenko's campaign color. I was in Ukraine as an election monitor during the start of the revolution and witnessed millions of Ukrainians pouring into Kiev's Independence Square.

The protest was sparked when the government announced fraudulent election results and tried to hand Yanukovich a false victory. Demonstrators stayed in the streets for weeks in sub-zero weather demanding a new election and an end to corruption.

Yushchenko's election is important for two reasons. First, with the help of international observers (including several Coloradans), Ukrainians conducted a legitimate election in the face of difficult odds.

Given the history of oppression in Ukraine, the election is a triumph of courage. Today's Ukrainians are the grandchildren, children and survivors of Stalin's engineered famine of 1932-33. For generations, they have seen that Ukrainians who challenge governing authorities often die untimely deaths.

The election is also a triumph for women. In 35,000 polling stations throughout Ukraine, it was the women who insisted on a transparent election. They were the brave volunteers who stood up to thugs, dressed down armed government agents and enforced the rules to protect the ballot box.

Indeed, the Patrick Henry of Ukraine is Yulia Tymoshenko, a parliamentarian who marshaled the masses in the peaceful, purposeful and well-organized Orange Revolution. Tymoshenko is emblematic of Ukrainian women. Their leadership has made the greatest difference in Ukrainian politics, business, academia and culture.

For Ukrainians, Yushchenko represents unleashed opportunity. Ukraine's massive underground economy has the potential to become one of the most powerful economies in Europe. Yushchenko understands this.

He has charted an ambitious agenda for reforming Ukraine's economic institutions with an emphasis on attracting foreign investment and improving domestic productivity. Ukraine's economy is quite strong. Last year's increase in its gross domestic product was among the highest in the world.

A country of 48 million, Ukraine has a highly educated workforce and nearly 100 percent literacy. It is the second-largest country in Europe, has abundant natural resources, contains the planet's richest soil and enjoys a geographic location conducive to trade.

In anticipation of a Yushchenko presidency, foreign investors have been busting down the doors of Kiev in search of ground-floor opportunities. Yushchenko's promise to accelerate NATO cooperation, European integration and Western economic standards is underscored by his immediate travel schedule. This week he heads to a meeting of the Council of Europe, then to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Colorado shares many common features with Ukraine which have led to partnerships in agriculture, mineral extraction, medicine, space development and education. Strengthening these partnerships in the Yushchenko era presents a solid opportunity for Coloradans to help secure democracy and freedom in Ukraine while expanding trade here at home.

RECOGNIZING MR. BRADLEY
DAVID DEBRASKA

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER
OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Bradley David DeBraska, a police officer with the Milwaukee Police Department. It gives me great pleasure to join the International Union of Police Associations in recognizing his service to the Milwaukee community.

Mr. DeBraska has honorably served the police force since 1977. He worked tirelessly as a Police Officer, and for the past twelve years has served dual roles as a Police Liaison Officer and Detective. Mr. DeBraska's service also extends to numerous Boards and Associations, helping to guide several police and community organizations. In addition, he faithfully served the residents of Wisconsin as a member of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents. He has truly fulfilled his duty as a citizen of this country.

I am proud of the work that Mr. DeBraska has accomplished in his 28 years of service. Once again, I congratulate him. I wish Mr. DeBraska a healthy and happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING MARY BETH SCOW

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mary Beth Scow and her contributions to excellence in public education. As a current representative of District A of the Clark County School District Board of Trustees, Mrs. Scow has been an outspoken voice and is honored for her contributions. I stand today to praise her for her continued leadership and passion in improving education in southern Nevada.

Mrs. Scow, a Denver native, has been a resident of southern Nevada for the past 25 years. She graduated cum laude from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in community health education. She and her husband Steve are the proud parents of nine children, all educated in the Clark County School District. The entire family has been very involved in community sports, music and church activities.

With a vision to help prepare Clark County students for higher education and for successful future careers, Mrs. Scow has been an outspoken voice for Clark County students. Elected to the board of school trustees in 1996, Mrs. Scow has proven her leadership qualities by serving two terms as president of that body. In addition, she has served on various educational committees and zoning task forces. In her community, she leaves a legacy to the Sunset Area Council of PTA as a former president and to her local Boy Scout chapter as den leader.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand today to pay tribute to a visionary leader, committed parent and public servant. I join with the William McCool Science Center at Frank Lamping Elementary School to pay trib-

ute to Mary Beth Scow for her dedication to Clark County students and her commitment to excellence in education. I thank her for her contribution and I urge my colleagues to recognize in their own communities, the contributions of great leaders in education.

COMMENDING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR HOLDING FREE AND FAIR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in offering my congratulations to the Palestinian people on the recent election of Mahmoud Abbas as the second president of the Palestinian Authority.

After 4 long years of terror and bloodshed, the hope for peace that has spread through Israel and the Palestinian Territories in the last two-and-a-half months has been welcomed by Israelis and Palestinians. Not since the heady days following the signing of the Oslo Accords in September 1993, has there been this much optimism for better relations between Israel and the Palestinians.

I have been encouraged by the deepening contacts between Israelis and Palestinians following the death of Yasser Arafat and I am hopeful that next week's summit in Egypt between Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and President Abbas will lay the groundwork for cooperative planning as Israel prepares to pull out of Gaza and parts of the West Bank later this year. Planning and coordination between Israeli and Palestinian security forces would improve the chance for a peaceful transition to Palestinian control in Gaza.

I also hope that the election of President Abbas will finally mark a clear rejection of terrorism by the leadership of the Palestinian Authority. For too long, Yasser Arafat would say one thing to Israelis and Americans and another to his own people about the centrality of renouncing violence. President Abbas appears to understand that terrorism has brought only suffering to his people and that the only path to statehood for the Palestinian people is the path of negotiation.

Although President Abbas won the presidency by a healthy margin in last month's election, he has no real base of political support with the PA, nor does he enjoy great popular support among the Palestinian electorate. Thus, he will need to build support by demonstrating to the Palestinians that he can negotiate effectively with Israel and by securing U.S. political and economic assistance.

I know that the Israeli government understands the tenuousness of President Abbas's situation and has both sought to build confidence in him by easing up on security clampdowns in the territories and by showing restraint in not responding to a series of inflammatory statements by Abbas during the recent campaign.

President Bush's request for \$350 million in assistance to the Palestinians is an important signal that the United States also sees President Abbas as a serious partner in the search for peace between Israel and Palestinians. I share the President's vision of Israel and Palestine living side-by-side in peace and I am