

group of researchers, educators, public servants and mentors in 192 fields of study and offers more than 3,300 classes each year. The school's budget exceeds \$200 million and its economic impact is an estimated \$2 million per day.

Its library, named after former President Duane Meyer, is a shining example of the growth and sophistication of SMSU. The number of books in the library has increased from 600 borrowed books in 1906 to 842,000 books, 928,000 government documents, 1,040,000 microforms, 35,000 audio-visual items, and 180,000 maps today. This year, the library will add its collection of union archives to its offerings available over the Internet.

SMSU has "opened the door of opportunity" for students who have dared to excel for the past century and distinguished themselves in academics, in research, in public service, and in co-curricular activities and sports.

In 1995, SMSU gained further distinction by adopting a statewide public affairs mission. SMSU has had a profound effect on improving the quality of life for citizens in Springfield, the region, and the state.

March 17, 2005 is "Southwest Missouri State University Founders Day." It is part of a year-long celebration of the school's 100 years of service to Missouri. It is an appropriate celebration to mark the significant contributions the institution has made to the citizens of Missouri and the nation over the past 100 years.

The future looks bright for Springfield campus. It has strong, principled leadership, a dedicated faculty that is actively involved in many communities. The school's research goals are expanding and its student body comes from nearly every county in the state.

The evolution of SMSU followed its name. In its 100 years, the institution has had four names—Missouri State Normal School, Fourth District; Southwest Missouri State Teachers College; Southwest Missouri State College; and Southwest Missouri State University—each name changed to more accurately reflect what the institution had become.

Nowhere is that more evident than in the growing ranks of its alumni that include governors, members of Congress, members of the state general assembly, countless local and municipal officials, teachers, civic leaders and business owners. I am proud to be among the 80,000 living SMSU alumni today.

This school has earned the honor of being called Missouri State University. It is a fitting new name for this institution that has provided excellence in higher education, research and public service across the state and continues to expand its service and reach into more communities. I want to wish Missouri's second largest university at Springfield another 100 years of service to, not only the region, but also the entire State of Missouri.

Go Bears!

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RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SERGEANT JOSEPH PEREZ

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**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a great Amer-

ican, Sergeant Joseph Perez. I honor him today for his heroism in the fight against our global enemies and in fighting for equitable treatment for all Army National Guardsmen.

As a former member of the Nevada Army National Guard, Sgt. Perez has shown valor and honor in combat in Iraq against the aggression of our enemies in the Global War on Terror. Since his return to the United States, overcoming near-fatal injuries and other odds, Sgt. Perez has taken an active stand to ensure that our returning Guardsmen and Reserves get their guaranteed pay and benefits.

The inspirational story of this brave man is one that deserves notice not just for his bravery in combat, but for his determination to reform inequities in services for their fellow guardsmen and soldiers. I encourage each of my colleagues to diligently work to provide, in an accurate and timely manner, pay and benefits to reserve soldiers who have been injured or have become ill fighting in the line of duty. Our troops deserve that much for the sacrifices they have made volunteering to fight to maintain the freedoms we all take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I salute Sgt. Perez for his bravery and sacrifice. I also honor him for his continued determination to find solutions to inequities in our military.

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RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HAYS COUNTY JUDGE JIM POWERS

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**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Powers for his many initiatives and accomplishments as a judge and public servant of Hays County, Texas.

Jim Powers was sworn in as Hays County Judge in 1999 and became the first ever Republican to be elected to the seat. Since taking office, Powers has helped make Hays County one of the fastest growing counties in Texas.

Powers has been very instrumental in the growth and infrastructure development of Hays County. He was crucial in a \$47 million bond issue to improve and make safer the roads in Hays County. Powers also negotiated the Hunter Road expansion project in San Marcos, which is the second major highway project in Hays County for the last 15 years. In addition, Judge Powers was responsible for purchasing 20 acres of land surrounding the Civic Center for future expansion and development.

Powers has also supported initiatives to preserve and protect the environment. He supported the first ever bond issue in Hays County history for the preservation of parklands and open spaces.

Some of his other accomplishments include cutting taxes, decreasing the county's debt, increasing the county's credit rating, improving the water system, and making government much more efficient in Hays County.

Prior to becoming County Judge, Powers was a successful restaurateur, author, Vice President of the Dripping Springs Independent School District Educational Foundation, and an Executive Director of Family and Marriage

Resources. Powers has always adhered to the basic precept of putting people first and motivating those around him. Throughout the years, this formula has brought him success in business, politics and in his personal relationships.

Currently, Judge Powers resides in Dripping Springs with his wife Maripat Mayfield Powers and their four children. Powers is a member and Deacon of the First Baptist Church of Dripping Springs. I am honored to have this opportunity to distinguish Judge Jim Powers for his lifetime of achievement, and to thank him for his continued commitment to the betterment of our community.

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IN HONOR OF KEVIN MORAN

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**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kevin Moran for his years of leadership and community service. Mr. Moran was honored at the annual brunch for the Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which was held on February 20, 2005.

An active member of the community, Mr. Moran has worked with many local organizations. In the past, he was the assistant coordinator of the Summer Youth Employment Program (CETA), which helped find employment for 800 disadvantaged youth. He also served as the administrator of the Lincoln School Community Education Program where he organized the After School Enrichment and Summer Day Camp programs. An advocate of parental involvement, Mr. Moran is committed to participating in activities with St. Peter's Prep, Vroom School, and Holy Family Academy.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Mr. Moran graduated from St. Peter's College with a degree in history and earned a master's degree in educational administration from Kean University. For 23 years, he worked as an educator and served on a variety of committees. He taught at Marist High School, St. Anthony's High School, and the Henry E. Harris School. Since 2000, he has served as principal of the Dr. Walter F. Robinson School.

Mr. Moran is a devoted husband and father of two children. He and his wife, Rosalie, are actively involved in Ireland's 32. He will serve as an assistant to the Grand Marshal for the 2005 parade.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kevin Moran for his extensive work with community organizations and his demonstrated commitment to serving others.

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RECOGNITION FOR THE LOUISVILLE ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN

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**HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the recent accreditation of the Louisville Zoological Gardens by the American Association of Museums (AAM) which was awarded for the excellence of its animal, botanical and non-living collections. Accreditation

by the AAM is the highest honor a museum can receive and is a testament to the professionalism and the public service provided to my community and the nation by the Louisville Zoo.

Founded in 1969, the Louisville Zoo has made tremendous strides to become one of the nation's premier botanical and zoological facilities. To achieve its mission of educating the public about the wonders of animal and plant life and raising awareness for wildlife conservation, the zoo currently has over 1,300 animals exhibited in beautiful natural settings, including some of the rarest species found on the planet. It offers state-of-the-art animal care and award-winning exhibits that educate residents and visitors of all ages. Almost 800,000 people visit the Louisville Zoo each year.

In 1980, the Louisville Zoo obtained its first major professional recognition when it received accreditation by the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). In 2003, the AZA presented its Exhibit Award to the Louisville Zoo for outstanding commitment to conservation in the construction of its new, four-acre Gorilla Forest exhibit space which so closely replicated the natural habitats for the gorilla.

Accreditation by the American Association of Museums is a major accomplishment for the Louisville Zoo. It signifies excellence within the museum community and is recognition of the ethical and professional practices employed by the organization.

The process for accreditation is difficult and intensive. Over the period of three years, the Louisville Zoo underwent a thorough self-evaluation, a total audit of all collections, an accounting of business and operating procedures and a review of the procedures and protocols that govern the tasks of plant and animal management. After all this was done, a team of museum association peers conducted an on-site inspection.

As a result of this rigorous review process, very few museums have received this recognition. Only 750 of the Nation's 16,000 museums, or less than 5 percent, are currently accredited and the Louisville Zoo is one of only four institutions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to receive this honor.

Mr. Speaker, Louisvillians are proud of the achievements of the Louisville Zoo and appreciate the contributions it has made to our community. Recognition by the AAM confirms what Louisville residents have known all along: that the Louisville Zoo provides a first-class experience and education to students and animal lovers of all ages, and it will continue to do so for many years to come. I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all of the Louisville Zoo's staff for this most recent honor.

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IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

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**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the efforts of the Eating Disorders Coalition and its affiliated organizations for promoting awareness regarding the need for education, prevention, and treatment of eating

disorders. They are commemorating the "National Eating Disorders Awareness Week" from February 27 to March 5th of 2005, and they have been devoted over the years to educate the community and offer help and support to our population to promote the well-being of patients with eating disorders.

Eating disorders include anorexia nervosa, bulimia, and binge eating disorder, and impact millions of Americans each year. The consequences of these disorders could be devastating to the physical and mental health of those afflicted. Although eating disorders affect mainly females, males can be affected by these disorders. We need to educate the general population to recognize the problem and teach them how to seek adequate help. Prevention should start at an early age, and the best method of prevention should be education and the promotion of healthy eating habits and self-esteem.

Please join the efforts of all those who work hard to fight these serious medical conditions, and recognize the important work that the Eating Disorders Coalition and its affiliated organizations do on a daily basis to promote the health of patients with eating disorders.

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IN HONOR OF GINA AHEARN

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**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gina Ahearn for her years of community involvement and demonstrated leadership. Ms. Ahearn was honored at the annual brunch for the Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which was held on February 20, 2005.

A member of the Irish American League for eight years, she has held a variety of positions within the organization, including President, Vice President, Contestant Coordinator, and member of the Parade Committee. In 1999, she was named Irish Woman of the Year. An assistant to the Grand Marshall for the 2005 parade, Ms. Ahearn's community participation also includes coaching the Holy Family Cheerleading Squad. When she is not helping these various groups, she works as a substitute teacher.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Ms. Ahearn holds a degree in business from Rutgers University and a master's degree in education from Kean University. She and her husband are the proud parents of one daughter.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Gina Ahearn for her outstanding leadership and dedication to serving the Bayonne community.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMERCIAL TRUCK HIGHWAY SAFETY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ACT OF 2005

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**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my good friend Tom Allen, I am introducing the Commercial Truck Highway Safety

Demonstration Program Act of 2005. This bill would allow Maine to increase the weight limits for trucks on interstate highways, by granting a three-year waiver of federal rules. It mandates a study process that will help demonstrate the positive safety effects of this change, and permit the waiver to be extended pending these safety determinations.

This bill is important both for public safety and economic reasons. The administration of the current 80,000 pound federal weight limit law in Maine has forced heavy tractor-trailer and tractor-semitrailer combination vehicles, traveling into Maine from neighboring States and Canada, to divert onto small State and local roads where higher vehicle weight limits apply under Maine law.

The diversion of those vehicles onto such roads causes significant economic hardships and safety challenges for small communities located along those roads. Permitting heavy commercial vehicles to travel on Interstate System highways in Maine would enhance public safety by reducing the number of heavy vehicles that use town and city streets, and as a result, the number of dangerous interactions between those heavy vehicles and other vehicles such as school buses and private cars.

It would also reduce the net highway maintenance costs in Maine because the Interstate System highways, unlike the secondary roads of Maine, are built to accommodate heavy vehicles and are, therefore, more durable.

Finally, this bill would ensure that Maine can remain competitive in the transportation and manufacturing sectors, and that our neighbors do not pass us by in development. This change is fair, and will promote parity in transportation throughout New England.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which will enhance safety, lower maintenance costs, and promote economic development.

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HONORING THE SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, the oldest and largest voluntary organization in San Luis Obispo County, on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary.

Rarely has a local organization done more to improve the quality of life of an entire region than the San Luis Obispo Chamber.

When the Chamber opened in 1905, the railroad had come to town just a few years before, and San Luis was developing an economy that went beyond farming for the first time. Led by CEO Dave Garth for the last 32 years, the Chamber now boasts 1,389 members and a staff of 15.

The Chamber will celebrate its centennial with a dinner at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo on March 12, 2005. This vibrant and active organization has contributed an enormous amount to a community that I am terribly proud to represent.