

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A LEADER IN CENTRAL VALLEY
HEALTH CARE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, for the past 20 years, Saint Agnes Medical Center has been blessed by the presence of Sister Ruth Marie Nickerson. Since her arrival to Fresno in January of 1984, she has embraced her position as President and CEO of Saint Agnes Medical Center. Now, as Sister Ruth moves forward in her life-long commitment to help those people in most need, it is clear that she has left a lasting mark upon the Medical Center, as well as upon the entire Fresno community. During her tenure at Saint Agnes, employee size grew from 1,500 to its present size of 2,700. Several new wings and centers opened under her direction, including the California Eye Institute, the Cancer Center, the Heart and Vascular Center, and the medical center's East and North Wing expansions.

In addition to these projects, Sister Ruth was also influential in the expansion of the Holy Cross Center for Women. At the women's center, she oversaw the establishment of the Gathering Place, a safe spot where children now learn and play; MaryHaven, an educational facility designed to teach women important life skills; and Naomi's House, an overnight respite for women.

Beyond her position at the medical center, Sister Ruth Marie Nickerson serves on the board of many organizations, including the Fresno Business Council, Fresno Compact, Poverello House, and The California Endowment (TCE). She was also a past board chair of the Catholic Health Association of the USA, the Alliance of Catholic Health Care, and the Hospital Council of Northern & Central California. Currently, Sister Ruth serves as chair of the Regional Advisory Council of the Central Valley Health Policy Institute.

While these numerous projects and board positions are impressive and speak volumes of her commitment to providing quality health care to the people of the Central Valley, what is most notable about Sister Ruth Marie Nickerson is the warmth and compassion with which she conducts her daily activities. She possesses the distinct ability to bring people together to work for the good of the community, and she accomplishes such with both a kind heart and revered sense of humor.

HONORING OFFICER DAVID M.
RANES

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer David M. Ranes for his

exemplary service with Turlock Police Services and to his community. An event to celebrate the retirement of Officer Ranes will be held on Friday, April 15, 2005 in Turlock, CA.

David Ranes was born in China Lake, CA on March 9, 1955. After graduating from Turlock High School in 1972, David enrolled in the Modesto Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy, class number F-1. Upon completing his training, David was hired by Turlock Police Chief James Greenway to serve and protect his community on August 16, 1979.

Throughout his entire career, Officer Ranes worked various special assignments. He has served as patrol officer, detective, narcotics agent, and background investigator. While in Detectives, he investigated a homicide that is now going to trial as a death penalty case. Officer Ranes was privileged to serve under the tenures of former Turlock Police Services Chief(s) James Greenway, John Johnson, Robert Johnson, and current Chief Ronald Lott.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Officer David M. Ranes for his 26 years of service with Turlock Police Services. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Ranes upon retirement and in wishing him many more years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE U.S. TSUNAMI WARNING AND EDUCATION ACT

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2005

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today (along with my colleague Mr. INSLEE from Washington State) to introduce the U.S. Tsunami Warning and Education Act of 2005. On December 26 of last year, we all watched with horror and complete bewilderment as a massive tsunami swept across the Indian Ocean Basin ravaging 11 nations, killing more than 150,000 people, and affecting the day-to-day lives of millions.

This event was a wake up call for coastal communities around the world, and certainly for coastal communities in the U.S. While the U.S. does have a tsunami detection and warning system in the Pacific, this event forced us to reexamine that system and we found that most of the vulnerable communities in the U.S. are not adequately protected or prepared for a similar event.

The Administration responded quickly to the Indian Ocean Tsunami with a proposal in January to strengthen and expand the current U.S. tsunami detection and warning system. The Science Committee took the lead in Congress and held a hearing on the Administration's proposal and heard from experts who expressed some concerns about the Administration's proposal and had numerous recommendations to improve it.

We took the Administration's proposal and the comments from many experts and devel-

oped the U.S. Tsunami Warning and Education Act. The bill would authorize \$30 million a year for 30 years for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to: strengthen the current tsunami detection system in the Pacific and expand it to the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico regions; conduct a community-based tsunami hazard mitigation program to improve preparedness of at-risk areas; maintain a dedicated tsunami research program; and provide technical assistance and training to the international community on the development of a global tsunami detection and warning system.

While tsunamis are going to continue to threaten our coasts, this legislation ensures that we can be better prepared through early detection, instant warnings, and an educated population.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO-FRESNO ON THE OPENING OF THE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate University of California San Francisco Fresno Medical Education Program on this ceremonious occasion of the opening of the Medical Education and Research Center.

As UCSF School of Medicine celebrates its 30th anniversary in the Valley, the program deserves congratulations for providing much needed medical services to our area. With 175 medical residents trained each year in the program, over 50 percent of these residents remain in the Greater San Joaquin Valley to set up their practices. The Medical Education Program offers a unique community development experience. Medical students can train with some of the best and brightest doctors, at the same time deliver services to community members that may not have been previously accessible.

This Center is a product of a bipartisan effort to provide medical resources to a program that offers unsurpassed benefits to the community. As one of nine Central Valley members of the California State Legislature who sought funding for the Medical Education and Research Center, it is certainly uplifting to see this project come to fruition. By constructing a new Center, UCSF-Fresno will no longer be forced to make do with facilities that are functionally obsolete or geographically separated over a wide area.

The new Medical Education and Research Center will serve as the operating location for the Medical Education Program and house both the administrative and educational components of this program. The facility will allow the Medical Education Program to expand and fill its role as a leader in health and education

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

in the 21st Century. Just as important, this facility is yet another critical addition to the Community Regional Medical Center campus in downtown Fresno, a long time vision for this community and now a reality.

In this building, students of medicine will have the opportunity to learn the intricacies of medicine and its impact on the broader community. Simultaneously, the center will provide individuals the insight to the various health issues challenging the residents of this region.

This facility has been years in the making, and the entire community will reap the rewards of the newest addition to UCSF-Fresno.

HONORING OFFICER WILLIAM S.
KIMBLE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer William "Bill" S. Kimble for his exemplary service with Turlock Police Services and to his community. An event to celebrate the retirement of Officer Kimble will be held on Friday, April 15, 2005 in Turlock, CA.

Bill Kimble was born in Patterson, CA on April 12, 1955. After graduating from Patterson High School in 1973, Bill enrolled in the Modesto Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy, class number F-2. Upon completing his training, Bill was hired by Turlock Police Chief John Johnson to serve and protect his community on June 5, 1980.

Throughout his entire career, Officer Kimble has served in various capacities, he has functioned as field training officer, officer in charge, traffic officer, school resource officer, D.A.R.E. officer, SWAT officer—sniper, community services supervisor, and detective. He served as President and on the Board of Directors of the Turlock Associated Police Officers. Since 1985, Officer Kimble has been a senior Major Accident Investigation Team investigator. He was privileged to serve under the tenures of former Turlock Police Services Chief(s) John Johnson, Robert Johnson, and current Chief Donald Lott.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Officer William "Bill" S. Kimble for his 25 years of service with Turlock Police Services. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Kimble upon retirement and in wishing him many more years of continued success.

IN MEMORY OF POLLY GONZALEZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my condolences to the family and friends of Polly Gonzalez. Anyone that lives in the Las Vegas Valley knows the contribution that Polly gave not only to Channel 8 Eye Witness News, but also to her family, friends, and community. This was even exemplified in her death on March 28th as she was taking her two daughters to see the wildflowers in Death Valley.

Polly Gonzalez started her career in journalism 20 years ago at the San Jose State University. Overcoming a rough and troubled childhood living in a home where her mother would sell street drugs to provide food for her children, Polly became an award winning anchorwoman. As an anchorwoman in Salina, California she was one of the first journalists to uncover the growing gang problem within this tiny community. She eventually joined Channel 8 in 1994 and became a co-anchor for the twelve o'clock and four thirty news casts. During her career at Channel 8 she covered such stories as the Oklahoma Bombing in 1995.

She was the first Latino anchor in Las Vegas and was very proud of this fact. She considered herself to be a role model to her two daughters and to the other Latino women she knew and represented. She wanted them to know that anything is achievable through hard work and dedication and used her life story as an example.

As a Nevadan and Channel 8 viewer, I will always remember the professional, yet warm and friendly way Polly delivered the news into my home. I felt that Polly had a sincere desire to bring accurate and fair news to my family as if she were a close personal friend or family member herself.

I would like to express my sincere sympathy to the family, friends, and co-workers of Polly Gonzalez. Our hearts go out to those individuals mourning the loss of a family member, friend, and role model. As we move forward in our lives, may we never forget the achievements and contributions of Ms. Polly Gonzalez.

HONORING MS. ELLEN GIBSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and wish well in retirement Ms. Ellen Gibson of Fresno, California. Ellen has diligently served her community for over 30 years.

Ms. Gibson began her public service career in 1972 with Congressman Bernie Sisk. Through the years Ellen became an instrumental team member in the district offices of two other Congressional Representatives. She joined the staff of Congressman Tony Coelho in 1979 and, my predecessor, Congressman Cal Dooley in 1991.

Ellen began as a District Aide to Congressman Sisk where she generated press releases, performed general office duties and handled constituent casework. After her time there she joined Congressman Coelho as an Office Director. In this capacity Ellen managed the Fresno district office, trained new staff people, and was responsible for federal casework. Finally, Ellen became Congressman Dooley's Senior Casework Manager.

While her responsibilities were many, Ellen was devoted to, and excellent at, one of the most important aspect of a district office—casework. To this day her coworkers laud Ellen's assiduous efforts to help the people of the San Joaquin Valley. This type of work is one of the most demanding tasks a Congressional staff member faces, and Ellen not only

embraced, but also effectively managed this large responsibility.

Ellen's work positively impacted the lives of the many people she touched. Whether she helped somebody attain their citizenship, or their social security benefits, Ellen met each and every case with renewed energy and desire to help.

Ellen has set the standard for individuals who follow in her footsteps, and her shoes will be difficult to fill. Her retirement is bittersweet. While we will miss her greatly, this time is much deserved.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOHN W.
IVES, INSTALLATION COM-
MANDER OF FT. GEORGE G.
MEADE

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Col. John W. Ives, Installation Commander of Ft. George G. Meade. Col. Ives will retire from the military in June, and I want to personally thank him for his years of service to our Nation.

Col. Ives began his distinguished Army career as an enlisted soldier in 1972. In 1981, he was commissioned as a military intelligence officer, and he has spent much of his Army career in military intelligence. Col. Ives became Installation Commander of Ft. Meade in 2002 and he has been instrumental in efforts to modernize and upgrade the 5,400-acre base located in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

As Installation Commander, he has overseen the first stages of a \$400 million housing redevelopment, the demolition of 100 aging structures from World War I and World War II, and the continuing environmental cleanup of the Army post, which is listed as a Superfund site. In addition, he has supervised important security improvements that have become necessary since 9/11.

The Colonel also has positioned Ft. Meade for the future. He understands that Ft. Meade is part of a larger community and has worked with Anne Arundel County officials to enhance future development opportunities, both on and off the base. He understands that Ft. Meade must keep pace with the future needs of our Nation.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Col. Ives for his dedication and service to our nation. His leadership and understanding of complex issues have made him one of the most successful Installation Commanders in recent memory.

SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME
ACT

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2005

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Texas, Mr. TED POE, for his leadership on this important subject