

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONORABLE JOHN D. DINGELL'S SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues to honor the dean of the House—a man who over the course of a half century has changed the face of this institution. Over the course of 25 Congresses, serving under 10 Presidents, JOHN DINGELL has embodied the best of public service—of honoring those who elect us to office and fulfilling our obligations to people. His is an ideal each of us, in our own way, hopes to achieve in our time as Members of this institution.

Like his father before him, JOHN DINGELL has made a mark on every Member with whom he has served. He is shrewd, he is tough, and he is as skilled as any public official I have ever known. Indeed, when I was elected to the Congress, one of my first orders of business was to meet with JOHN DINGELL—not to say anything, but to listen. And I will never forget what he told me that day: “Assist your colleagues when you can—but if they ask for something you can’t deliver, just be honest and tell them. Always maintain credibility with your colleagues.” For 15 years, that advice has stayed with me, helping me serve my constituents and the American people more effectively.

In whatever capacity he has served his country—from his 4 years as a page in this institution as a boy, to his time in the Army when he rose to the ranks of second lieutenant to his half-century in Congress—JOHN DINGELL has served with dignity, with distinction and with historic consequences.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST ERIC MCGONIGLE

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist Eric McGonigle of the United States Army. Specialist McGonigle was on active duty in Iraq for 3 years, serving in Kuwait, Camp Spearhead, and Operation Iraqi Freedom from April 2003 to April 2004. Not only has Specialist McGonigle served his country abroad, he has protected his community serving as a firefighter for the Duncansville Volunteer Fire Department for the past 5 years.

While serving in Iraq, Specialist McGonigle worked as a truck driver and ran convoys for the Army. He acknowledged the appreciation of the people of Iraq for our continued help. McGonigle continues to serve our country as a member of the Army Reserves in the E-4 332nd Engineering Company of Kittanning, PA.

Now back home in Duncansville, PA, Specialist McGonigle is dedicated to his family and his community. He has been a truck engineer for the Duncansville Fire Department for the past 2 years. His fellow firefighters regard him as a community-oriented man, helping the people around him as much as possible.

Prior to volunteering at the Duncansville Fire Department, Specialist McGonigle volunteered with the Cresson Fire Department. His current fire department chief, Dave Boland, remembers meeting him as a young member of the Cresson Fire Department and hearing what an asset he was to the department. Chief Boland was pleasantly surprised when he moved to Duncansville and began volunteering at the Duncansville Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist McGonigle has dedicated much of his life to serving his country and his community, and the citizens of Duncansville and I would like to thank him for his courage and devotion.

TRIBUTE TO ALI SAHABI

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ali Sahabi for his dedication and commitment to improving the community of Corona, California. The Corona Chamber of Commerce honored Ali by presenting him with its 2005 “Citizen of the Year” award on January 14, 2006.

Ali is currently the President of SE Corporation, a privately held, California-based land planning, entitlement, and development firm. For nearly 18 years, Ali Sahabi has been an active member of our community, devoting a tremendous amount of time and effort to causes greater than his own.

After spending much of his youth in a middle class family in the country of Iran, Ali was sent to Michigan to live with an uncle and aunt at the age of thirteen. After graduating high school, Ali and his brother drove to California, where they lived in a small apartment with their grandmother and another uncle.

In California, the two brothers worked at a variety of odd jobs and Ali, always the entrepreneur, began trying his hand at different kinds of small business opportunities including sales. He became a print broker and opened his own printing business in downtown Los Angeles. Ali finished his bachelor's degree in business management at Pepperdine University, which he had been working on in the evening, and sold the print shop. Later, Ali obtained his Master of Real Estate Development degree from the School of Urban Planning and Development at the University of Southern California.

Throughout his career, Ali has undertaken a number of development projects across Southern California including industrial, multi-family residential and commercial retail projects. He has been instrumental in implementing innovative planning solutions and environmentally sensitive development plans for the Dos Lagos mixed use development in southwest Riverside County, making it a true model for sustainable development.

Ali is an active and leading proponent of local and regional collaboration and the stewardship of natural resources, establishing and endowing the Blakeley Center for Suburban Sustainable Development at UC Riverside. Through his vision and tireless efforts the Center has contributed to forming alliances across jurisdictional lines bringing individuals, local governments and communities together

to address major issues that represent significant challenges for entire regions and communities.

Locally, Ali somehow finds time to play a significant role in a number of non-profit and community-based organizations. He serves notably on the Board of Directors of the Children's Spine Foundation and the Corona Regional Medical Center Foundation, Governor's Mentoring Program, and is active with the American Cancer Society, YMCA, At Risk Children's Angels, Boy Scouts, and ICUC among others.

I want to express my appreciation for Ali's tireless efforts on behalf of our entire community and congratulate him on receiving this award.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EMPLOYEES FOR WORK IN CLEANING UP ROCKY FLATS

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and praise the extraordinary efforts of so many Department of Energy, DOE, employees in the successful cleanup and closure of the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Facility in Colorado.

Last year, the DOE began the process of certifying the completion of Kaiser-Hill Corporation's cleanup of the Rocky Flats facility. This certification marks the end of an era in our Nation's history. The story of Rocky Flats includes two different chapters that describe human achievement and technological prowess—not only the buildup of our nuclear arsenal during the tense days of the Cold War but also the completion of a remarkably complicated environmental restoration program that is a model for the world.

I believe that the men and women who worked to write both of these chapters in the Rocky Flats story deserve our admiration and appreciation. All involved deserve recognition as heroes of the Cold War era and also heroes in the new era of environmental protection. That includes Federal officials and employees of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and DOE, as well as officials and employees of Colorado's Department of Health and Environmental Protection and the private-sector employees of DOE's contractors.

In December 2005, Kaiser-Hill rightly sponsored a community event that celebrated these achievements. Invitations went to employees of DOE as well as others, but the DOE Office of General Counsel insisted that DOE employees be charged more than other Federal employees to attend this celebration. I objected to this decision because it did not apply to high-ranking DOE officials who had speaking roles at the event, and struck me as an unduly restrictive interpretation of Federal ethical guidelines that sounded a sour note in an otherwise happy occasion. I felt so strongly about it that I decided against attending the event as a message of solidarity with DOE employees.

In part to reinforce my admiration and respect for the hard work of so many DOE employees at Rocky Flats, and to ensure that this

body fully acknowledges their contributions to our national security and our environment, I will place in the RECORD the names of DOE employees who deserve our thanks and an acknowledgement of the service they gave in turning Rocky Flats into a success story:

Jeff Allison, Charlie Anderson, Mariane Anderson, Tod Anderson, Robert Birk, Robert Bistline, Ron Bostic, Gerald Boyd, Ken Brakken, Lisa Bressler, Patti Bubar, Roger Butler, George Cannode, Kathleen Carlson, William Casey, Norma Castaneda, Jack Craig, Hank Dalton, Charlie Dan, Gina Dan, Ann Davis, Paul Detwiler, Glenn Doyle, Patrick Etchart, Jim Fiore, Cliff Franklin, Mark Frei, David Garman, Christine Gelles, Dave George, Fred Gerdeman, Mark Gilbertson, Paul Golan, Robert Goldsmith, Dave Grosek, Kent Grover, Tom Grumbley, James Hartman, Art Haugh, Larry Helmerick, Dave Hicks, Richard Hopf, Rod Hoffman, Gary Huffman, Carolyn Huntoon, Brent Johansen, Elizabeth Jordan, Jeremy Karpatkin, Keith Klein, Joe Legare, Gary Lietz, Ellen Livingston, Frazer Lockhart, Paul Longworth, Tom Lukow, Karen Lutz, Mary Lynch, Larry Maghrak, Barbara Male, Barbara Mazurowski, Matt McCormick, Steve McCracken, Deanna McCranie, Anna Martinez-Barnish, Greg Moore, Gary Morgan, John Mullarkey, Theresa Nash, Robert Nelson, Ricky Newton, Dennis Oba, Shirley Olinger, Mike Owen, Jim Owendoff, Jeff Parkin, Ray Plieness, Lloyd Piper, Jane Powell, Barbara Powers-Hargreaves, Michael Hargreaves, Richard B. Provencher, William Prymak, Don Rask, John Rampe, William C. Rask, Brad Ring, Jessie Roberson, Mell Roy, Norm Sandlin, Dero Sargent, Rich Schassburger, Roy Schepens, Lance Schlag, Gene Schmitt, John Schneider, Gary Schuetz, Clay Sell, Beth Sellers, Warren Seyfert, Frank Sheppard, Mark Silverman, Dave Simonson, Steve Sohinki, Joe Springer, Jim Steward, John Stover, Scott Surovchak, Maryanne Tinney, Ines Triay, Reginald Tyler, Phil VanLoan, David Vaughn, Patty Wagner, Bruce Wallin, Bob Warther, Kerry Watson, Mike Weis, Ed Westbrook, Dotti Whitt, Elizabeth Wilson and Lam Xuan.

TRIBUTE TO SSG KEITH A.  
BENNETT

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to SSG Keith A. Bennett who faithfully served his country by fighting the war on terror.

He joined the National Guard in February 1997. He was a loyal soldier determined to serve our great Nation. During his time with the Guard, Sergeant Bennett traveled to Saudi Arabia. There, he was a military escort for less than a year.

Bennett, a member of the Second Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, was killed by a suicide bomber. While standing guard at a checkpoint which protects a facility where United States Marines train Iraqis to be police officers, an insurgent detonated the explosives leading to Bennett's death.

Sergeant Bennett is survived by his father, Harry E. Bennett of Aberdeen, MD, his mother

and stepfather, Carolyn Hasson and Thomas Miller of Holtwood, PA, his sister, Tina Daley, and his stepbrother, Tommy Miller, Jr. His family remembers him as a devoted soldier, son, and brother with a flare for adventure and loving to spend time riding his motorcycle and cruising in his 2003 black Mustang Cobra.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor SSG Keith A. Bennett for the dedication he has shown to his family, his friends, and the American people.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD B. "SKIP"  
GARCIA

**HON. JIM DAVIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Bernard B. "Skip" Garcia, a legend in Tampa's political circles, an asset to any Tampa politician who ran for office and a staple in the Tampa community.

Skippy helped good people win elections the right way—by knocking on doors, talking to friends and shaking hands. Skippy's energy was boundless. He knew just about everyone in Tampa and they all knew how much he cared for his community. So when Skippy would call, people would listen. For someone who is trying to reach out to voters, that kind of help was essential.

When Skippy wasn't helping win elections, he was always at work for our community. He served in the Merchant Marines during World War II and went on to work as a Hillsborough sheriff's deputy and deputy state fire marshal. Skippy supported the West Tampa Little League, the Boys and Girls Clubs, St. Joseph's Catholic School and Church and the Salesian Sisters, and he was an active Shriner, member of the Scottish Rite and a 32nd degree Mason.

Tampa won't be the same without Skippy. On behalf of the entire Tampa community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

HONORING BOB BASON UPON HIS  
RETIREMENT

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Bob Bason on the occasion of his retirement after 35 years as fundraiser and capital campaign consultant to charities and nonprofits throughout the United States. He is truly an asset to our local community and his work has touched the hearts of people worldwide.

Mr. Bason has spent his life ministering to those in need in a variety of ways. Born in Wisconsin, Bob earned a bachelors and masters in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena and was ordained in the Methodist Church. In 1967, Mr. Bason left the active ministry to become executive director of an organization working with the church in South and East Africa.

In 1969, Bob, his wife Carol, and their two daughters moved to Santa Barbara—a move

they consider to be the best decision of their lives. Here, Bob's ministry in the philanthropic community began. He became assistant Director of Development at Westmont College in 1969, Director of Development at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1972, and Director of Development at the Sansum Diabetes Research Institute in 1974. Also in 1974, Mr. Bason established Charitable Funding Services, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in capital campaigns. In the middle of his consulting career, Mr. Bason joined UCSB as assistant Chancellor for University Relations from 1980 to 1985 and served as the Senior Vice President for Development and Marketing at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America in New York City from 1993 to 1995.

Mr. Bason has conducted more than 130 capital campaigns, raising nearly \$1 billion, an accomplishment he attributes to the volunteers with whom he worked. His clients have included universities, colleges, hospitals and medical research institutions, museums, zoos, botanical gardens, churches, private schools and countless social service agencies. Highlights of his consulting career include one of the first national campaigns to end child abuse and a \$50 million campaign for the first Africa food crisis.

Bob has volunteered with numerous charities in California and throughout the U.S. With a life-long passion for the work of Planned Parenthood, he is particularly proud of his years as a Planned Parenthood volunteer where he conducted fundraising seminars and trainings for more than 100 Planned Parenthood affiliates across the country and his 15 years as a board member for the local Planned Parenthood and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

I commend Mr. Bason's gift of talent, passion, and devotion to charitable organizations helping our most needy citizens. His work has been instrumental in making dreams come true and miracles happen. I feel deeply honored to share this community with Bob Bason and I have seen first hand the difference his work has made in the lives of so many. I wish him much happiness and much deserved relaxation in retirement.

HONORING MR. SCOTT DOYLE

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional public servant, Mr. Scott Doyle of Fort Collins, Colorado. Throughout his tenure as Larimer County's Clerk and Recorder, Mr. Doyle has distinguished himself as an innovator and a natural leader.

Mr. Doyle was recently named the 2005 Public Official of the Year by the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials, and Clerks. This award honors an individual who has made exceptional contributions to both his profession and community.

Two of Mr. Doyle's initiatives as County Clerk and Recorder have received particular recognition. In an effort to provide Larimer County residents more convenient access to county services, Mr. Doyle created the Citizen Information Center. The Citizen Information