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Andrea, a 5th grade student, will be honored May 7, 2006, at First Assembly of God for her outstanding accomplishment.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Andrea Freed for her outstanding accomplishments in the Missionette Program. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute outstanding citizens such as Kayla.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL BEYKIRCH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate and pay tribute to Paul Beykirch, who recently received the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Citizen Award. He has distinguished himself with dedicated service to the community of Sedalia, MO.

The Chamber of Commerce honored Mr. Beykirch for his values, community service, and involvement. Mr. Beykirch has been a member of the Bothwell Regional Health Center's Board of Trustees for the past 16 years and currently serves as its president. He is a former Rotary Club president and is currently the president of County Distributing Company Incorporated. Mr. Beykirch enjoys working with children as an assistant golf coach and as a Cub Scout Leader. I had previously honored Mr. Beykirch by nominating him to serve on the National Security Forum at America's Air War College.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Paul Beykirch and in wishing him luck in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE MARCEL NOTZON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Marcel Notzon II, who has admirably served Laredo for the past twenty-three years as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Texas. After such a long and distinguished career, Judge Notzon is retiring this month to spend time with his wife of forty-four years, Nora Lee, and his thirteen grandchildren.

It is a great honor for me to enter into the record the accomplishments of Judge Notzon in recognition of his legal career which has spanned over thirty-nine years, and extraordinary service to the federal judiciary. He served his country as a part of the United States Navy from 1956 to 1960, and was honorably discharged from his service. Following his discharge, he attended Laredo Junior College, and went on to complete law school at St. Mary's University, where he graduated first in his class.

Judge Notzon is well-known in Laredo for his compassion for people, including the defendants that come in front of him in the court. He has made great contributions to the community as well through his involvement with the Boys and Girls Club of Laredo, Little League, and other charities since 1974. Early in his legal career, he joined the Laredo Legal Aid Society, an organization that offers legal representation to those who otherwise could not afford it. It is his exemplary compassion, and his deep commitment to his faith that makes him such a great public servant to the community of Laredo.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor Judge Marcel Notzon II, who has left a lasting impact on the South Texas legal community, and the country at large.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES "CHUCK" FULKERSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles W. "Chuck" Fulkerson, a retired U.S. Army Colonel, who will retire from the position of Executive Director of the Nevada Office of Veterans' Services, effective March 31, 2006.

Born in Idaho, he graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1958, with a degree in Agriculture Economics. As a Distinguished Military Graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corp, he was commissioned as second lieutenant infantry in 1958. Chuck served in a wide variety of assignments in the U.S. Army until his retirement from military service in 1991. His active duty military career includes two combat tours in Vietnam as an Infantry Officer, assignments in Europe and a tour as the Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of Nevada, Reno. After leaving active service, Chuck served with the Nevada Military Department. He was appointed by Governor Robert List as the Director of the State Selective Service from 1979 to 1985. Recalled to active duty by Governor Richard Bryan in 1985, Chuck concluded his military career as the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for the Nevada National Guard. He is a graduate of the National Defense University and his military decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal the Air Medal, the coveted Combat Infantry Badge and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with the Gold Star.

Under Chuck's leadership, the Nevada Office of Veterans Services realized significant achievements benefiting Nevada's veterans and their families. The State's Veterans Service Officer staff doubled in size, making it possible for more Nevada veterans to receive their VA benefits and recognition for their service than ever before. His leadership was also instrumental in securing \$9 million for the expansion of the State's two veterans' cemeteries; the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley and the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. Chuck's efforts made possible additional burial plots, columbariums, and new maintenance and administration buildings, greatly increasing the Cemeteries' ability to properly

honor those who served. Additionally, the State's Guardianship Program was expanded under his leadership, affording care to many more indigent veterans residing in the State of Nevada than ever before.

Of his many achievements during his tenure as the Executive Director of the Nevada Office of Veterans Service, Chuck is most proud of his efforts to bring skilled nursing services to Nevada veterans in need of long term care through the construction of the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City. Prior to the opening of the State's Veterans Home, Nevada was one of very few states in the U.S. that did not have a state veterans home to care for veterans in need of 24-hour skilled nursing care. Chuck's leadership not only dramatically increased the State's offerings to Nevada veterans, but created a road map for future increases in services for veterans.

Chuck has been actively involved in veterans' issues throughout his career. He is a founder and officer of the Veterans Hospital Foundation in Reno and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the U.S. Army Retired Officers Association. Active in the community, Chuck belongs to the Reno Sunrise Rotary Club where he has been designated a Paul Harris Fellow. He also serves on the Executive Board of the Nevada Area council of the Boy Scouts of America and is a guest lecturer at the UNR and UNLV military departments. Chuck is married to Mary Lee Metzker and has three children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Chuck Fulkerson on the floor of the House. He is a fine American and a true hero to those who have had the honor of knowing and serving with him. He has an unwavering spirit for the veterans of yesterday, today and tomorrow. I wish him the best in retirement.

NATIONAL FOOD UNIFORMITY ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the National Food Uniformity Act (H.R. 4167) and in support of the right of every state to enforce their laws and protect the health of their citizens.

This legislation amends the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to create a national standard for food safety labeling. It seeks to achieve a national standard by overriding most state and local food safety warnings and by prohibiting new ones unless they are identical to national requirements.

If enacted, this legislation would not only compromise consumer safety with a "lowest-common denominator protection" but also seriously undermine state authority. Over two hundred state laws regarding food safety labeling would be superseded by the National Food Uniformity Act. The specter of such a wide-reaching federal measure has prompted thirty-nine state attorney generals to organize in opposition to legislation they say would "strip state governments of their ability to protect their residents through state laws and regulations relating to the safety of food and food packaging."

The attorney general in my state of Minnesota warns that the bill would eliminate alcohol labels on candy products that provide vital information to expectant mothers and nullify thirty years of work by tribal communities in Minnesota to create labeling standards for wild rice, the state's official grain.

The bill does include so-called flexibility provisions, which allow states to petition the Food and Drug Administration to restore current safety regulations. But the process is expected to be slow, expensive and uncertain, costing states \$400,000 per petition. The added federal costs for administering the process are an estimated \$100 million over five years. At a time when government agencies at all levels are struggling to cope with deep cuts in federal funding, these provisions create a frivolous and burdensome bureaucracy that serves only to restore state laws that already exist today.

Proponents of this bill say fears over consumer safety and local authority are unwarranted and overblown. But despite introduction in the past five Congresses, this legislation has never had a full hearing where testimony from experts could be heard and critical questions explored. This lack of transparency and due diligence is unconscionable considering the bill's potentially serious effects to public health.

I proudly stand with consumers, family farmers, physicians, environmentalists, state attorney generals, state agriculture department officials and many other consumer advocates in opposing the National Food Uniformity Act.

CONGRATULATING DESIRAE MONTGOMERY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Desirae Montgomery for her outstanding accomplishments in the Missionette Program in New Castle, PA.

The Missionette Program is sponsored by First Assembly of God in New Castle, PA. It is a national program that is equivalent to the Girl Scouts program, except the Missionette Program emphasizes Biblical themes. Desirae has achieved the highest award in the program which includes 27 units with each unit consisting of four lessons, a memory verse, activities, and a project. They are required to read the entire New Testament and nine honor steps are to be completed which include intense memorization, and this all concludes with testing. This is not an easy achievement.

Desirae, a fifth grade student, will be honored May 7, 2006 at First Assembly of God for her outstanding accomplishment.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Desirae Montgomery for her outstanding accomplishments in the Missionette Program. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute an outstanding citizen such as Desirae.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF JACOB ANDREW "DOOLEY" WOMACK

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Jacob Andrew "Dooley" Womack of Camden, AR who died on February 16, 2006, at the age of 81.

Dooley was born in 1924 in Dallas County, AR. Upon graduating from Princeton High School, Dooley joined the Armed Services where he served with the 448th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force during World War II. Dooley began a long and distinguished political career in 1950 at the age of 23 while he was a student at Henderson State Teachers College. As a Representative in the Arkansas State House of Representatives, he represented Dallas and Ouachita Counties. Following his tenure in the Arkansas State House, he served in the Arkansas State Senate for 12 years.

For more than a half century, Dooley owned and operated Womack Brothers Realty. Dooley was also involved in the First United Methodist Church of Camden, and enjoyed both hunting and fishing.

Camden, Ouachita County, and the State of Arkansas have lost one of its most ardent supporters. Dooley had a deep love for Camden and South Arkansas, and dedicated a lifetime working to make it a better place.

While Dooley may no longer be with us, his spirit and legacy will live on forever in the lives he touched. My deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to his beloved wife of 55 years, Amy; his three sons, Lance, Tim, and Carey; his daughter, Anna; and his grandchildren, Jacob, Wesley, Taylor, Joshua, Erin, Leah, and Diana.

TRIBUTE TO CASPAR WEINBERGER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week, America lost a statesman with the death of former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger on Tuesday in Bangor, Maine.

Secretary Weinberger was the architect of President Ronald Reagan's vision to establish Peace Through Strength leading to victory in the Cold War and liberation of millions of people across Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and Asia.

I am glad to join President Bush's heartfelt praise:

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE DEATH OF CASPAR WEINBERGER

Caspar Weinberger was an American statesman and a dedicated public servant. He wore the uniform in World War II, held elected office, and served in the cabinets of three Presidents. As Secretary of Defense for President Reagan, he worked to strengthen our military and win the Cold War. In all his years, this good man made many contributions to our Nation. America is grateful for Caspar Weinberger's lifetime of service. Laura and I send our condolences and prayers to the entire Weinberger family.

Another fitting tribute was in The Washington Times on March 29, 2006:

"Caspar Weinberger, who died yesterday, was a lifelong Anglophile who embraced Winston Churchill as 'one of my great heroes' for forlornly warning in the 1930s that Europe must re-arm against the German threat. Throughout his distinguished seven years of service as Ronald Reagan's defense secretary, Mr. Weinberger warned of 'some rather deadly parallels' in the threat from the Soviet Union.

While Britain and the rest of Europe effectively ignored Churchill's plaintive pleas, helping to set the stage for World War II, Americans responded to Mr. Reagan's warnings by electing him president. Mr. Weinberger, who earlier served in the Reagan gubernatorial administration during the 1960s, was promptly selected to be the architect of the largest American peacetime military build-up in history. That strategy culminated in American victory in the nearly five-decade-long Cold War.

Barely six weeks into Mr. Reagan's first presidential term, Mr. Weinberger delivered to Congress the administration's first defense budget, which: resurrected the B-1 bomber; greatly expanded the procurement of fighter aircraft for the Navy and Air Force; virtually doubled the purchase of sea-launched cruise missiles; significantly increased the production of tanks and other Army weapons systems; and reactivated World War II battleships as a first step toward building the fabled 600-ship Navy, which would eventually feature 12 aircraft-carrier battlegroups and dozens of the world's most powerful ballistic-missile-carrying submarines.

During Mr. Weinberger's tenure, America spent \$1.7 trillion on national defense (or \$3 trillion in today's dollars). By any fair-minded calculation, it was a bargain. Less than a month after Mr. Weinberger left the Pentagon in November 1987, the world witnessed the first fruits (many others would follow) of his seven-year tenure. On Dec. 8, 1987, Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which required the destruction of about 425 single-warhead intermediate-range U.S. nuclear missiles based in Western Europe and 650 triple-warhead intermediate-range Soviet SS-20 nuclear missiles capable of striking Europe and Asia. Following steady Soviet deployment of SS-20s beginning in the 1970s, NATO began installing the U.S. missiles in Europe in late 1983. Self-styled peace groups on both sides of the Atlantic, including congressional Democrats who preferred the Soviets' self-serving nuclear-freeze offer, pilloried Mr. Weinberger and Mr. Reagan for the missile deployment in Europe. History has recorded who was right.

Known as "Cap the Knife" during his budget-cutting days in the Nixon administration, Mr. Weinberger became "Cap the Saber" in 1981, indispensably helping the president rattle the nation to the cause of its defense. When the Soviet Union imploded in 1991, it did so with a very able assist from Caspar Weinberger. Winston Churchill would have been very proud."

IN HONOR OF MARTIN J. SWEENEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, SHERROD BROWN, MARCY KAPTUR, TED STRICKLAND, TIM RYAN and I rise