

Since graduating from the California University of Pennsylvania with a degree in education, Judith Mehal has continued to make a positive impact on students in Pennsylvania and Virginia school districts. Ms. Mehal began teaching in the Penn Hills and South Allegheny school districts of Pennsylvania, but she has spent the vast majority of her venerable career in Fairfax County. After a brief stint at Cardinal Forest Elementary School, Ms. Mehal found her niche at Lanier Middle School where she was able to pursue her passion for teaching mathematics. During her time at Lanier Middle School, she earned a masters degree from Virginia Tech and became a teacher of technology education. In her 22 years at the school, she has become an integral part of the Lanier community, and her presence will be missed by colleagues and students alike.

Ms. Mehal's distinguished career is exemplary of the high standard to which public school teachers hold themselves. Her willingness and ability to teach a variety of disciplines is highly commendable, as is her own commitment to pursuing higher education while continuing to teach in the Fairfax County school system.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Ms. Mehal on her retirement as a technology education teacher from Lanier Middle School. While I know that she will be greatly missed, her retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Judith Reed Mehal and in wishing her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. NICK
MANCINI

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that thousands of St. Paul friends and neighbors, along with me, mourn the passing of Mr. Nick Mancini. At 80 years of age, Nick died on May 29, 2007, and Minnesota lost a very special person.

Nick Mancini, a man of exceptional kindness, generosity and warmth of spirit, was the owner of Mancini's Char House and Lounge, a St. Paul landmark since the 1960s. For those who have never visited Nick Mancini's restaurant, it would be difficult to understand the deep sentiment and fondness we in St. Paul feel for Nick and his family. For those of us who have frequented Mancini's, we were always made to feel at home and Nick, his sons and the entire staff made us feel special—like we were part of the family. In a fast food era when the tradition of hospitality is increasingly lost in America, St. Paul is blessed with a special place—Mancini's Char House—where every customer is made to feel welcome and comfortable, and that is before you started eating a delicious steak dinner.

Hospitality and generosity were the hallmark of Nick Mancini's career and calling. He was a restaurateur, a neighborhood anchor, a St. Paul legend and a very, very caring man who I will miss and always remember. For me, visiting with Nick was always special. This was

because being Nick's guest was to be enveloped by his warmth, sincerity and kindness. It didn't matter whether you were a Member of Congress, a U.S. Senator, the Mayor of St. Paul, a carpenter, a teacher, or a truck driver, to Nick you were his guest. Everyone was treated special and with respect, and everyone left his restaurant a little heavier and happier.

Along with remembering Nick, I would like to acknowledge his family and express my condolences to Nick's wife, Maryann, his sons Pat, John and Nick, Jr., and his grandchildren.

The work of Nick Mancini will not disappear with his passing. Mancini's Char House will continue to be a St. Paul landmark and an oasis of hospitality. Pat and John Mancini are carrying on the tradition of hospitality and community leadership that so many of us in St. Paul admire and appreciate. For this lasting tradition St. Paul, Minnesota, and our Nation has Nick Mancini to thank.

WORLD OCEANS DAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, Friday is World Oceans Day—a day we celebrate the vast waters that cover two-thirds of the surface of our planet.

A small, but biologically important part of the Blue Planet is offshore of my 6th Congressional District, a stretch that encompasses the entire coastline of Marin and Sonoma Counties.

If you've driven the Marin-Sonoma coast you know how beautiful it is. Most of it is undeveloped or sparsely populated. Its sparkling waters, curling waves, pristine beaches, moon rocked cliffs, surging tide pools, and its soaring seabirds and breaching whales inspire and delight. Thanks to nutrient rich upwelling which provides a bounty of phytoplankton at the bottom of the food chain, our waters support 33 species of marine mammals, including blue and humpbacked whales and elephant seals, at the top of the food chain.

That's not to say that even here there are not problems. Today the commercial fishing fleet of Bodega Bay is just a remnant of past days. Last year, because of a water allotment that devastated the Klamath River fishery, our commercial salmon fishing season was slashed. Meanwhile, native coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout are on the endangered species list.

These tragic depletions of our fisheries are symptomatic of many things: global overfishing; inland habitat destruction; and water diversions; climate change; pollution, coastal development—all of which were addressed by reports from the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission, and all of which need to be seriously dealt with.

But the ocean is amazingly resilient. Aquatic populations can come back, if we take positive actions.

All of our oceans need enlightened governance and protection, but there are places that are so rich, so vitally important to sustaining marine life that we need to immediately take special measures.

The northern California coast is one of those places, and that's why I have introduced

legislation, H.R. 1187, to expand the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries to include the entire Sonoma and with the support of Representative MIKE THOMPSON and the Mendocino County board of supervisors, the southern Mendocino coast.

The current northern boundary of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuaries is Bodega Head. Yet research shows that the rich marine geological area of the Gulf of the Farallones actually extends to Point Arena, about 100 miles north of Bodega Head.

The Sonoma and southern Mendocino coast has two great estuaries, the Russian and Gualala Rivers. The Russian River watershed is especially burdened by multiple threats caused by human development. My bill protects these estuaries by banning increased polluting discharges into their waters. And, it will ensure that changes in flow or salinity do not harm marine life.

Marine sanctuary protection will also ensure that the Bodega Marine Laboratory will be able to continue 50-years of studies in these pristine waters—research that will help us learn how to live with an ocean that is not so endless that it cannot be despoiled.

The people of Sonoma and Mendocino love their coast, and because we will bring to it permanent protection, ecosystem management and the vital research that the marine sanctuary program provides, we will pass it on to our children, unspoiled and thriving with life.

That's my commitment as we celebrate World Oceans Day.

HONORING MAITHREYI
GOPALAKRISHNAN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maithreyi Gopalakrishnan, an eighth grader at Peak to Peak Charter School in Superior, Colorado. She recently made the semifinals at the National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. She has been to several spelling bees and 2 years ago, finished at an impressive 37th place. At this year's National Spelling Bee, Ms. Gopalakrishnan beat out opponents by spelling the word *salinelle*, a mud volcano erupting saline mud—solidifying her chance to win the contest. The winner of the National Spelling Bee receives \$35,000, a \$5,000 scholarship, a savings bond of \$2,500 and a set of reference works.

Two hundred and eighty-six extraordinary students from across the Nation train vigorously in preparation for this annual event held at the Grand Hyatt Washington hotel. Students are expected to be able to spell words such as *protoplasmis* and my personal favorite, *bewusstseinslage*, which means a state of consciousness—something my critics occasionally accuse me of losing.

The skills and values that Ms. Gopalakrishnan already displays will help her with many challenges that she may face in the future. Furthermore, her commitment to learning and competitive drive makes her a strong student who is sure to excel in her academic career. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maithreyi Gopalakrishnan in all of

her accomplishments and wish her success as she continues on her quest for knowledge.

CONGRATULATING MR. TOM
DAVENPORT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Tom Davenport of Lake Dallas, Texas for his 18 years of service as Superintendent of Schools for the Lake Dallas Independent School District.

During his tenure, the school district has more than doubled in size and has been in a continuous building program since 1995. In his 38 years of teaching and school administration, his focus has always been on providing top-quality education for his students.

In addition to his passion for education, Tom has deeply impressed me by his forward thinking in other areas. A few years ago, Tom made the decision to install geothermal heating and cooling in Lake Dallas ISD schools. He recognized that, despite higher up-front capital costs, the District would save money over time, as well as help clean the environment by using a renewable source.

Tom is very active in various professional organizations on both the state and national level. He is a member of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, having served as President of the Federal Properties Section for two years. On the state level, he has served as treasurer for the Texas Association of Federally Impacted Schools since 1999. He is also a member of the Texas Association of School Administrators and has served as a mentor superintendent for four newly hired superintendents across the state.

In the past he has served as Commissioner of Education Advisory Committee and served as Chair of the Education Service Center, Region XI TASA Study Group. He is a Senatorial District Representative for the Texas Association of Mid-Size Schools. Other professional organizations to which he belongs include, Phi Delta Kappa, Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, Texas Association of Community Schools, and the Equity Center.

Locally he is a member of the Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce and served as vice-president for six years. He was selected as the Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2005. He is also a member of the Lake Cities Lions Club and is an active member of Lake Shore Baptist Church in Lake Dallas.

Tom plans to reside in the Lake Cities area after retirement with his wife Carolyn.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Tom Davenport for years of hard work and dedication. I am pleased to join his friends, family, and colleagues in congratulating him on his retirement after years of devoted service.

TRIBUTE TO THE DENVER GAY
MEN'S CHORUS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker. I rise to commend the exceptional leadership and invaluable contributions of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. It is fitting that we recognize this chorus for its extraordinary service and its enduring commitment to creative and performance excellence as well as the enrichment of the artistic and cultural experience in the 1st congressional district and throughout Colorado.

Since its inception, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus has proven to be a powerful force in promoting both artistic excellence and civic values. Founded in 1982, the chorus was the first openly gay organization in Denver. The group is a talented choral ensemble dedicated to musical excellence and it has been a beacon of strength and support for the gay and lesbian community. Touching ears and hearts alike, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, with its unique ability to convey acceptance and pride, continue to be in high demand with diverse audiences. Truly, the chorus has established itself as a major cultural presence that has served to expand the appreciation of choral music and its enduring value as a means of poignant artistic expression.

The Denver Gay Men's Chorus has openly declared that it exists to build community through music. Members have joined together for the explicit purpose of providing educational, cultural and social enrichment for themselves and their audiences. It is an organization of gay people and their friends that is actively engaged in making a positive contribution to the entire community.

The Denver Gay Men's Chorus has amassed a distinguished record of service to our State and our Nation. It has participated in the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses festivals in six cities—Denver, Montreal, New York, San Jose, Seattle, and Tampa—representing Denver and Colorado as cultural ambassadors to the world. It has participated in exchange concerts with gay men's choruses in Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, Portland, Philadelphia and Washington, DC.

In 1990, Rich Geraghty of Denver was appointed administrative director of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses Board of Directors. Prior to locating in Washington, DC, the first national offices of the GALA Choruses were in Denver. In 1992, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus welcomed over 3,500 delegates and hosted 65 choruses at the GALA Choruses Festival IV held at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. "Of Rage and Remembrance," by featured composer John Corigliano, was performed at the festival's special AIDS Memorial Concert during the peak of AIDS deaths nationwide.

Over the past 25 years, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus has performed over 130 different concert programs featuring over 1,300 compositions, arrangements, commissioned works, and medleys. It comes as no surprise that the chorus was honored with the Denver

Mayor's A ward for Excellence in the Arts for 1992.

As a choir member at Montview Presbyterian Church, I have an appreciation of choral music's power and its capacity to inspire both singers and audiences alike. It has been noted that "singing is the bridge between heaven and earth; between ages and cultures. It has the power to move hearts and to touch us in ways that truly transcend mundane experience." Today, we celebrate the transforming power of choral music. We celebrate the invaluable contributions of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus as it continues to promote artistic excellence, pride and community. Choral music touches all of us and we are indeed fortunate to have a cultural asset of such magnitude. Please join me in commending the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, a distinguished choral ensemble. It is the leadership and dedication which members of this chorus exhibit on a daily basis that continually enhance our lives and build a better future for all of our people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF UNITED
STATES ARMY STAFF SERGEANT
CHRISTOPHER M. MOORE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of SSG Christopher M. Moore, who lost his life defending our Nation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Christopher M. Moore attended Alpaugh High School in Alpaugh, CA. He excelled in academics and graduated early. After Christopher graduated from high school he joined the United States Army. He was so proud to serve in the military; he enlisted for a second term. Christopher Moore was the first Alpaugh High School graduate to die in combat.

While serving with the 1st Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas, Christopher performed all of his active duties with great satisfaction. Tragically, on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 19, 2007, the vehicle in which Christopher traveled was hit by an improvised explosive device. Christopher and five other soldiers were killed in the incident.

Christopher is survived by his mother, Martha Moore, two sisters, and one brother. Also surviving are his three young daughters and numerous friends.

It is my belief that Michael's life symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country. His valor, strength, courage and determination to fight for our Nation will forever live in the minds and hearts of his family and Americans across the country. SSG Christopher M. Moore's dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us and for generations to come.