

passion to saving lives and helping students live their dreams.

He loved the thrill of intellectual pursuit. Colleagues noticed that he preferred being out in the field, in hot pursuit of a new discovery. Back on campus, he helped build UNM and connect the university to its community, and he helped a new generation of scientists to get into the field.

As we honor his life and contributions today, our thoughts are with Terry's wife Patsy and their sons. He will be missed by the UNM community and all of us who benefited from his intellect and commitment to helping others.

HONORING CHARLES G. WIMSATT

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles Wimsatt, an outstanding man with a long history of service to our country and to Kentucky. Mr. Wimsatt has been an active member of American Legion Post 121 in Bardstown, KY, for 24 years.

Mr. Wimsatt joined the Army in 1953, serving as a medic. He retired from the Army with the rank of corporal.

Mr. Wimsatt has made it a personal priority to serve his fellow veterans through his work with American Legion Post 121. He is currently in his fourth term as post commander. Under his command the post reached its 100 percent membership goal for the first time in 15 years. Mr. Wimsatt also directed recent facility renovations.

Beyond his service to the American Legion, Charles Wimsatt has found time to be active in many other worthy causes. He has played an integral part in fundraising for his local National Guard unit and is currently raising money for a VA medical facility in Germany. Mr. Wimsatt also served on the Black Mud Volunteer Fire Department for 46 years.

It is my privilege to honor Charles G. Wimsatt today for his service to our country and his tireless efforts on behalf of American Legion Post 121. Mr. Wimsatt has made a significant difference to his Old Kentucky Home.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO IRENE PORTER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend Irene Porter, Executive Director of the Southern Nevada Home Builders Association, for her 30 years of dedicated service to a prominent Nevadan trade organization that represents home building industry in Nevada.

For the past three decades, Irene has been committed to overseeing the SNHBA's programs and efforts. Most notably, Irene has lobbied on behalf of the association and home building industry at the Nevada State Legislature. She was recognized by the Legislature in 1991 as the "Lobbyist of the Year" and was later inducted into the Nevada Lobbyist Hall of

Fame in 1997. She has also built and maintained invaluable relationships with Federal, State, and local governments. In her post, she has managed two successful programs: The Housing Quality Trade Contractor Certification Program and the Southern Nevada Green Building Partnership programs. In a period of exponential growth, Irene has been steadfast in leading the industry and sustaining the stability and viability of the housing markets in Southern Nevada.

During her distinguished career as the Executive Director, Irene has championed numerous worthy causes. She has advocated for fair housing accommodation for persons with disabilities, which provide a valuable community service and contributes to the economic viability of the region. Irene has also been a leader on important community issues such as public schools and infrastructure building; and environmental issues such as dust control, and water and energy efficiency and conservation. Through her tireless service to her association and her community, she has been awarded with four National Association Excellence awards from the National Association of Home Builders and a Civic Hero Award from the Clark County School District.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Irene Porter. Her commitment to the community and professional successes are truly admirable and should serve as an example to us all. I am extremely fortunate to have been able to call Irene a friend for many years and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE PRO MUSKINGUM FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Pro Muskingum Family and Children First has been selected to receive the Ohio Department of Education's 2007 Asset Builder Award for Exemplary Practices to a Community Organization; and

Whereas, Pro Muskingum Family and Children First is enhancing the quality of life in Muskingum County and are attracting families and businesses to the region; and

Whereas, areas such as family strengthening, promoting education, developing leaders within the community are being addressed by the organization; be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate you on receiving the Ohio Department of Education's 2007 Asset Builder Award. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact the Pro Muskingum Family and Children First has had on the community.

TRIBUTE TO RHONDA BAKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rhonda Baker as the recipient of

the Stephen Tsai Award for Excellence in Autism Education and for her commitment and enthusiasm as a teacher in the Jefferson-Scranton School District in Iowa.

The Stephen Tsai Award recipient is selected by the Autism Society of Iowa and is presented at its annual fall conference. Sonya Wills, who has three sons with autism, nominated Rhonda for her exceptional work that positively touched each of their lives.

Rhonda's success in working with autistic children is attributed to her ability to build upon her students' strengths in order to increase their confidence. The confidence she instills in her students opens doors to endless growth and learning opportunities. Rhonda is gifted with the immense patience and determination required to give autistic students the individual attention they need and she diligently undertakes research to find the right teaching techniques for each unique case.

I congratulate Rhonda Baker on her well-deserved award, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many children in her community. It is a great honor to represent Rhonda in Congress, and I wish her continued success.

RECOGNIZING ELLIANA KAYE WOODWARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to celebrate the birth of Elliana Kaye Woodward. Elliana was born on Monday, November 12, 2007, Veterans Day, to her proud parents, Ryan and Kristin Woodward of Stafford, Virginia. I find it very appropriate that Elliana was born on Veterans Day since her father is a patriot in the United States Marine Corps. Elliana entered the world at 2:21 p.m. at Mary Washington Hospital, Fredericksburg, Virginia, weighing a healthy 7 lbs. 11 oz. and 19½ inches long.

Elliana also has proud grandparents, Darrell and Susan Hall, of Sidney, Nebraska, and Cheryl and Duane Farmer of Sidney, Nebraska, as well as Bruce Woodward of Maryville, Missouri, to spoil her. Elliana is also the niece of Travis and Sarah Woodward of Bowie, Maryland; Nathan Woodward of Maryville, Missouri; Sarah Hall, Zach Hall and Zane Hall of Sidney, Nebraska.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in celebrating the birth of Elliana Kaye Woodward. I see great things in Elliana's future considering her parents' great emphasis on family values, faith and patriotism. I wish Elliana the best life has to offer.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE ROBERT J. JOHNSTON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Judge Robert J. Johnston of Nevada for his 20 years of honorable service as a United States Magistrate Judge.

Judge Johnston received his formal education from the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law. Upon graduation in 1977, he worked as a clerk for Judge Merlyn H. Hoyt for the Seventh Judicial District in Ely, Nevada. Mr. Johnston stayed and served White Pine County from 1979–1982 as the District Attorney while also maintaining a private practice.

Judge Johnston has been and remains an active member of the community while participating in a variety of professional and social organizations. He served on the Ninth Circuit Conference Committee, and participated in organizing three circuit conferences. Additionally, he served on the 9th Circuit Magistrate Judge Executive Board. Presently, Judge Johnston sits on the Court Administration and Case Management Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States Courts. He is also a member of the board for the Nevada Judicial Historical Society and the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society. Passionate about the preservation of the history of Nevada, Judge Johnston was named the District of Nevada's court historian and has actively begun taking oral histories of his colleagues which will be transcribed and submitted to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Historical Society. Judge Johnston hopes that the personal interviews he has conducted will provide a more insightful understanding of these distinguished and honorable men and women.

Judge Johnston is a staple in the community and remains active in various local organizations. He is on the Board of Directors of the Las Vegas Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and holds a leadership position within his church congregation. In his spare time, Judge Johnson enjoys running, traveling, and spending time with his family.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Honorable Judge Robert J. Johnston. His commitment and dedication to Nevada and his Nation should be applauded by all. I wish to congratulate him on 20 years as a United States Magistrate Judge and thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE ST. VINCENT DEPAUL COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the St. Vincent DePaul Community Health Clinic in Port Charlotte, Florida. This nonprofit organization took on the challenge of addressing the medical needs of the uninsured, underinsured and homeless in Charlotte County. The opening of the clinic was championed by Dr. Mark Asperilla and Dr. David Klein, and I would like to commend their hard work and dedication in seeing the clinic become a reality.

The clinic, which is located at 21450 Gibraltar in Port Charlotte, will open initially on a part time basis but hopes to achieve a goal of operating 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. The clinic will provide a wide range of healthcare services from general health check ups to prescription medication free of charge to needy residents.

St. Vincent DePaul is joined by the Charlotte County community which has come together and is working as a team to save lives and improve the quality of life of the poor and uninsured. Churches, schools, civic groups, fraternal organizations, hospitals, businesses, foundations and individuals have all worked together to ensure that Charlotte County has a health clinic that can effectively serve its residents. This community has dedicated itself to restoring human dignity by reaching out to provide a helping hand.

The blessing of the facility will be coordinated by Father Arthur Schute, spiritual advisor at Peace River Regional Medical Center, and a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony will take place at noon today.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending the creation of the St. Vincent DePaul Community Health Clinic.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, due to an inoperable beeper, I unfortunately missed recorded votes No. 1142 and No. 1143 on Tuesday, December 11, 2007. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 1142 and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 1143.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAYNA LYNN AHERN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and memory of my friend Dayna Lynn Ahern, whose passion for life was an inspiration.

Dayna was a native of Las Vegas who was a student of fashion merchandising at the Fashion Institute in Las Vegas, Nevada. Prior to enrolling in the Fashion Institute, Danya had earned an Associates Degree from the prestigious Le Cordon Blue College of Culinary Arts in Las Vegas.

Among Danya's many passions was traveling and music. These dual talents provided her with a number of unique opportunities, such as performing for the Pope at the Vatican and traveling with her high school choir to perform at various locals in Europe. Danya was also an active member of her Church, and had a strong sense of spirituality.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Danya. On March 30, 2006, Danya passed away but her enthusiasm and passion for life will serve as an inspiration for all who knew her. She will be greatly missed, but her legacy as a caring and motivated individual will live on.

TRIBUTE TO F. BRENT LEATHERWOOD

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor F. Brent Leatherwood for his years of exemplary service in my office and to the constituents of the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida.

I first met Brent shortly after he graduated from college at the University of Central Florida. When I met Brent, he was working for former Congressman Bill McCollum. I was impressed by Brent's energy, his passion for the Constitution, his dedication to the principles of federalism, and his strong work ethic. Because of this, I hired him to be my Legislative Assistant when I was first elected in 2004. It was here that Brent honed his skills serving in my office.

Over the past few years, Brent has worked closely with members of Congress, his fellow staffers in the House and Senate, and others on various projects and legislative initiatives. One of the most important of these ventures Brent worked on was the reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act. Brent crafted a strategy and worked with members of Congress and congressional staff in order to ensure that many Constitutional safeguards were included in the final legislation. He brought a passion to this debate like no other and was one of my key advisers in this arena. Freedom and federalism is at the core of Brent's philosophical beliefs and he constantly reminded me of Ben Franklin's famous quote, "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

In mid-2005, because of the skill and diligence he brought to the job, Brent was promoted to Senior Legislative Assistant. Brent has served in that capacity to this date.

Brent has always had a love, respect, and passion for the rule of law and he has now been presented with a tremendous opportunity to return to his native Tennessee and begin his formal study of the law. While I am excited for Brent to begin the next phase of his life, make no mistake about it, he will be greatly missed. He has been a valuable member and an irreplaceable part of my team.

I have valued his advice over the last few years. And I am proud to call him my friend. On behalf of the Fourteenth Congressional District, I'd like to thank Brent for his years of service to the people of Southwest Florida and indeed our nation. He is a true patriot and we wish him all the best for a lifetime of happiness and great success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BLYTHE ANN O'SULLIVAN

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I am saddened to rise today to honor the life and service of an exceptional young Peace Corps Volunteer Blythe Ann O'Sullivan of Bloomington, Illinois.