

commanders to regroup, plan, and prepare for the Pacific battle. Without these troops delaying the momentum of the enemy, the U.S. might not have fully recovered from the Pearl Harbor attack until much later.

After months of fighting and with his men starving and sick, on April 9, 1942, the commander of the troops at Bataan reluctantly surrendered. Shortly thereafter, nearly 12,000 American troops and 67,000 Filipino troops were forced to march through tropical heat and without food or water for days on end in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Many died during this time, and those who survived were subject to three years of mistreatment, malnutrition, sickness and captivity before being rescued and released near the end of the war.

For the State of New Mexico, this chapter of World War II is particularly near to our hearts. New Mexico's 200th and 515th Coast Artillery units served with significant honor during the battle of Bataan, earning the distinction of being the "first to fire" on the enemy on December 8, 1941. Many of the Americans captured and held as prisoners of war were from New Mexico, and of the 1,800 who left home to fight, half did not return. Further, nearly a third of those did return home after their tortuous 3 years of captivity died within a year, most often due to complications from health issues directly attributed to their time in the POW camps.

The 200th and 515th also are notable because they largely consisted of Hispanic soldiers, a group that at the time was often subject to discrimination in the military due simply to their ethnicity. Despite these barriers, they fought without hesitation, noting that they were as American as any other soldier who wore the uniform. They came from every corner of the State, from Farmington to Alamogordo, from Deming to Raton, and from Clovis to Gallup.

Many years ago, my father Stewart Udall wrote a book called *Majestic Journey* chronicling the early explorations of North America in the sixteenth century. He described the vision, the individualism, and the pioneering spirit of early Hispanic explorers, and I believe that like these explorers, the actions of the Bataan prisoners of war "resonate through the annals of our history, and the imprint they left on our culture is both permanent and profound. They will add a special luster to our national story."

Every year, thousands of people participate in the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sand Missile Range in southern New Mexico. The 26.2 mile march not only marks the historical significance of the event, but reminds us of how many in New Mexico underwent the ordeals at Bataan. In Albuquerque, stone columns rise from the ground at the Bataan Memorial Park, each of them bearing both the names of those who returned from Bataan and those who did not. In Santa Fe, the Military Museum bears the name of Bataan, reminding all who enter of the costs of war and the sacrifice made by our soldiers. And all across the country are similar memorials, keeping alive the memory of those who went through years of suffering at Bataan.

I want to thank the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Preservation League for their help on this legislation. Also, General Leo Marquez, General Edward Baca, General Melvyn Montano, General Gene Chavez, General

Kenny Montoya, and New Mexico Department of Veterans Services Secretary John Garcia for their continued insistence that we honor the Bataan veterans.

Madam Speaker, we must never forget the sacrifice of our soldiers, particularly during times of war. We are reminded daily of the hardships and danger faced by the men and women currently fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq. Like the soldiers of Bataan, these brave troops fight for patriotism, for duty, and for country. I hope my colleagues will join me to honor the sacrifice of the soldiers at Bataan by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal.

#### IN MEMORY OF MIMI SCHMIDT

#### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Emilienne Desnoyers "Mimi" Schmidt, with whom I enjoyed a warm personal relationship for about 30 years.

Mimi died in her sleep a couple of weeks ago. She leaves behind a legacy of nurturing a fine family of outstanding citizens while also helping to nurture a growing community. Her son Dominic is a close family friend, as are her grandchildren Brandon and Brianna.

Mimi and her husband, Glen, moved to my hometown of Simi Valley, California, in 1962. Mimi was then pregnant with their seventh son and Simi Valley was a rural community of apricot and walnut groves.

Others joined the Schmidts in moving to the valley and a cityhood drive was launched in 1966. Fifty-five citizens placed their names on the ballot. Mimi was the only woman. That effort failed but three years later the citizens of the two communities of Simi Valley and Santa Susana voted to incorporate into the City of Simi Valley.

Glen's chairmanship of the incorporation study committee catapulted him into a four-year term on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in 1970, which put his career as an aerospace engineer on hold. It also forced him to take a pay cut. With seven boys to feed, Mimi reentered the workforce.

Before commuting "over the hill" to work each day, Mimi took the time to pack her sons lunches, using a whole loaf of bread to do so. She also helped form Cub Scout Pack 3621 and was active in the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church's bereavement ministry.

In 1979, with her family mostly grown, Mimi again ran for the Simi Valley City Council. Not getting elected did not diminish her passion for politics. She was a life member of the Simi Valley Republican Women's Club, serving one term as its president, and helped organize its annual garden tour. In addition, she served as a poll worker at her neighborhood precinct for many years and volunteered as a docent at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

She never forgot, however, that she was a mother and grandmother first.

In addition to Dominic and his wife, Teresa, and their children, Brandon and Brianna, Mimi is survived by her six other sons and their families: David and Carol and their daughters, Samantha and Michelle; Dan and Phyllis; Damian and Karen and their sons, Ryan and Cameron; Douglas and Patricia and their son,

Morgan, and twin daughters, Riley and Madison; Darren and Theresa and their son, Ken, and daughter, Stephanie; and Dennis and Julia and their twin daughters, Elizabeth and Melissa.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering Mimi Schmidt's lifelong love of family and community and in offering our condolences to her family and friends.

#### HONORING INDIANA COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

#### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Indiana County, Pennsylvania, for being named one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in America by America's Promise Alliance. Indiana was one of only two communities in Pennsylvania to receive this award. It is a great honor and achievement by the government of Indiana County and, most importantly, its community. I am proud of their hard work and dedication to our youth.

The objective of the 100 Best Communities competition is to recognize outstanding community-wide efforts that improve the well-being of youth. Indiana County has achieved this through the creation of a Children's Advisory Commission to assess the needs of the children and youth of the county and create positive after school activities. The annual Family Fun Fest was also noticed for its ability to connect parents and youth in a way that strengthens the family bond and promotes positive behavior.

I congratulate the people of Indiana County and their government for creating an environment where young people can thrive in a nurturing environment. It is truly a great place to call home, a wonderful place where our youth can grow and thrive. The county has illustrated great initiative in creating an environment that encourages young people to get involved work together, and help others in their community. I am proud of the work Indiana County has done to encourage positive youth development, and I hope they continue to be recognized for their efforts.

#### HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HANOVER PARK

#### HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Hanover Park, Illinois, an exciting and important town in my congressional district.

Today, Hanover Park has grown to include more than 12,000 families. However, its history truly began in the 19th century when the community began to lay roots in northern Illinois.

With its close proximity to downtown Chicago and the major commercial centers surrounding O'Hare airport, Hanover Park represents the perfect blend between urban dynamism and suburban life.

Hanover Park also boasts the youngest average resident population in the Northern suburbs. Its multitude of parks, sporting venues, and youth and family friendly activities make this a great place to work, live, and raise a family.

The spirit of Hanover Park's citizens is matched only by the industriousness of its business community. From small entrepreneurial endeavors to Fortune 500 companies, Hanover Park's economy is thriving. This impressive economy owes its prosperity to both the hardworking residents, the Village President Rodney Craig, and Hanover Park Board of Trustees to promote new business tax incentives and champion economic development. For over half of a century, the Village of Hanover Park has been a thriving community.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Hanover Park, Illinois on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

#### CELEBRATING THE ALEXANDRIA MARDI GRAS ASSOCIATION

#### HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Alexandria Mardi Gras Association.

On March 3, 1994, the 295th Anniversary of the Founding of Louisiana by Iberville, the Alexandria Mardi Gras Association was officially established. The goal of Alexandria Mardi Gras, or Mardi Gras au Coeur de la Louisianne, which means Mardi Gras in the Heart of Central Louisiana, is to exemplify unity and cohesiveness during family friendly festivities.

This year during Alexandria's 15th Anniversary Mardi Gras, Julie Hanna, renowned conservationist is representing the Jack Hanna family as Grand Marshal. The Alexandria Zoo, nationally recognized for breeding Bengal tigers and other endangered species, is a major collaborator in advancing education and tourism during the Mardi Gras celebrations.

The 2008 College Cheerleaders and Classic Cars Parade on Friday, February 1, 2008 will feature many of Louisiana's colleges and universities and their student government presidents during an educational leadership conference. In addition, a select number of LSU football players, who recently became the 2007 National Champions, are participating in Alexandria's Family Friendly Mardi Gras as well as players from the 2003 National Championship team. The celebrated bands of Southern University and Grambling University will perform designating Alexandria as the only Mardi Gras Parade in which both bands are featured.

Among other Alexandria events during the Mardi Gras season the Krewe of LOUISIANA is hosting its Third Annual Gala in order to foster its goal of enhancing economic development and unifying Louisiana's interests. Also, The Taste of Mardi Gras is again hosting its

local charity fundraiser naming the Louisiana Restaurant Association, Chapter Cenla as the sponsor.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the citizens of Alexandria for their continued hard work and dedication to ensure that Mardi Gras in Central Louisiana retains the charm and spirit of the first official celebration 15 years prior.

#### RECOGNIZING WES TURNER FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS THROUGH HIS WORK AT THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Fort Worth Star-Telegram President and Publisher Mr. Wes Turner. After more than two decades with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Mr. Turner has retired.

Mr. Turner began his career at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in 1975 and rose through the ranks to become the Vice President of Advertising. From 1987 through 1997, he was at various newspapers before returning to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram as Publisher.

While at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Mr. Turner devoted his career to ensure that the people of Fort Worth were properly informed about the world around them. I know his readers thank him for his efforts.

Besides his work with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Mr. Turner is very active in his community. He serves on the boards of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, Performing Arts Fort Worth and the Longhorn Council-Boy Scouts of America Foundation. He is Vice Chairman of the Van Cliburn Foundation and Campaign Chairman for the United Way of Tarrant County.

Even though Mr. Turner has completed his work at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, we can all be thankful that he will maintain his commitment to the city of Fort Worth by continuing with his other community service endeavors.

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Wes Turner on his retirement. His dedication and commitment to providing the truth to the citizens of Fort Worth made us all lead better lives. It is an honor to represent citizens like Mr. Turner in the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. BALL

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Robert M. Ball, a great man who lived a life dedicated to serving the American people. Mr. Ball passed away last week at the age of 93, but we will forever be indebted to the legacy he leaves for us through his lifetime of commitment to the social insurance programs of Social Security and Medicare that

allow us to provide for the elderly and people with disabilities and their families.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in extending my condolences to the Ball family, his wife Doris, his children Jonathan and Jacqueline, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Born in Harlem and raised in Boston and New Jersey, Mr. Ball was the youngest in a family led by Methodist ministers who taught him the social gospel. He was educated at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where he received a master's in labor economics. Even as a teenaged boy, Mr. Ball felt a calling to contribute to something greater than himself. As his biographer Professor Daniel Berkowitz wrote in *Robert Ball and the Politics of Social Security*, Mr. Ball indicated that he wanted to become a "person of consequence." Considering his contributions to Social Security and Medicare, he certainly lived up to his hopes for himself.

After taking a Federal civil service exam, Mr. Ball was called up to work for the newly forming Social Security Board as a field assistant in Newark, New Jersey in 1939. He joined Social Security and immediately understood that Social Security was a contract between generations that ensured that today's workers would provide for today's retired seniors so that they may avoid the indignities of abject poverty. He saw his job in support of this new social insurance program as part of something greater. Mr. Ball helped build Social Security from the ground up. As a field assistant in Newark, he was bringing workers into the program, spreading the news about the value of social insurance several years before the first benefit was even paid in 1942.

His next position in the new Social Security headquarters in Baltimore allowed him to fully engage with his primary interests: the philosophy of the program, the legislative agenda, and where the whole program was going. Mr. Ball grew to know the program intimately. He developed a deep technical expertise in Social Security, and he also grew to know Congress and how it works. He was soon able to provide legislators with what they needed to govern and oversee the Social Security programs responsibly and effectively. Mr. Ball became so familiar with the work of the Committee on Ways and Means, that he was seen by Members as an extension of their congressional staff.

Mr. Ball's career is intertwined with the history of Social Security and he played a key role in every major policy development. He was the architect of the 1950 amendments, which raised benefits and expanded coverage to more Americans. He helped implement the disability insurance program beginning in 1956. He orchestrated the developments that produced the 1972 amendments that linked benefits to inflation, ensuring that Social Security would never fail to meet basic needs.

In what was seen as a natural assumption, he was appointed by President John F. Kennedy as Commissioner in 1962, a post in which he diligently served longer than anyone else prior or since. He is regarded by many as the father of Medicare, as he shepherded the Federal Government through the development and implementation of that program.

In 1987, Yale School of Management Professor Ted Marmor, who began his career as an intern under Mr. Ball's superiors, wrote this description of Robert Ball. I think it captures