

## TRIBUTE FOR RILEY KING

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 24, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Riley King of Durango, Colorado, for his efforts in co-founding Unite Our World, a non-profit charity that provides medical assistance and builds schools for impoverished children abroad.

Mr. King and his friend Matt Peters have always been entrepreneurial and focused on community involvement. Following their high school graduations, both men started a series of seasonal businesses to pay for their travel expenses abroad. In 2009, Riley King and Matt Peters founded Unite Our World after Mr. King visited a school in Uganda. These young men are intensely focused on giving back to their community. Acknowledging his own birth into privilege, Mr. King admits with pride that he has an obligation to serve those who have less.

Unite Our World's core mission is to advocate and provide assistance for children who do not have sufficient educational resources within their own countries. Recently, the organization expanded its mission and involved itself in the battle against the AIDS epidemic in Uganda. Mr. King currently serves as president of the non-profit company.

Mr. Speaker, America is lucky to have committed citizens such as Mr. King and Mr. Peters. I am proud to commend both these young men for their leadership and contribution to our world community.

## REMEMBERING LOUISE HILMA BALLERSTEDT RAGGIO

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 24, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of a civil rights champion and dear friend, Ms. Louise Hilma Ballerstedt Raggio. Ms. Raggio made an enormous impact for women throughout Texas, and she will be greatly missed.

Louise Raggio was a true Texan. Born in Austin, Texas, Ms. Raggio spent her life as a leader who would not allow bias to prevail. Louise Raggio never backed down from correcting an injustice. She did not accept there was a glass ceiling, and led the way for millions of Texas women. Her intellect and moral compass took her on a path that would break barriers and advance the rights of women.

Louise Raggio is perhaps best known for her work on the Marital Property Act of 1967. Prior to this act it was assumed a woman was property of her husband, and hence could not buy or sell her own property, perform bank transactions or sign contracts without her husband's approval. If adhered to, this meant that a company could not hire a woman without her husband's consent. Breaking down this barrier impacted the lives of millions of women and their families. It changed conventional thought and allowed Texas women the freedoms that were allowed in most other states.

Ms. Raggio was inspired by her predecessors in the women's suffrage movement. She felt she was taking up the torch for all they had achieved. Her work was a continuation of other battles fought and won, but there was still much to be accomplished.

It is also notable that Ms. Raggio served as the first female assistant district attorney in Dallas County, and argued and won one of the first Texas cases to be heard in front of an all-woman jury. She was inducted to the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1985 and received the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award in 1995.

Ms. Raggio was preceded in death by her husband, Grier Raggio in 1988. She is survived by her three sons, Grier Jr., Thomas and Kenneth, and seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She will be missed, but her spirit and contributions will not be forgotten.

## ON THE INTRODUCTION OF H.R. XXXX, SCAAP REIMBURSEMENT PROTECTION ACT

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 24, 2011*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. XXXX, the SCAAP Reimbursement Protection Act of 2011.

When I was a new Member of Congress, local police officials came to me and explained how a change in the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program—also known as SCAAP—was having a profound impact on their budgets.

Securing our nation's borders is the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government. However, communities across the country continue to face extraordinary costs associated with incarcerating undocumented criminals at a time when they can least afford it.

The SCAAP program was established to reimburse state and local governments for these costs.

From the SCAAP's inception in 1994 until 2003, states were permitted to seek reimbursement for the costs of detaining deportable immigrants charged with a felony or two or more misdemeanors.

In 2003, the Department of Justice reinterpreted the SCAAP statute in a way that caused a drastic drop in every state's reimbursement. Under this interpretation, states only receive reimbursement if a criminal alien is convicted of a felony or two misdemeanors and the arrest and conviction occur in the same fiscal year.

This may seem like a small change, but it has had large repercussions in the law enforcement community. In my state of California, SCAAP reimbursement payments have declined from \$220 million in FY2002, prior to the Department of Justice's reinterpretation, to \$112 million in FY2009.

This nearly 50 percent decline in funding greatly impairs funding of in local law enforcement efforts and makes it harder to fight crime in throughout my state.

Due to major state and county budget shortfalls, every dollar included in SCAAP reimbursement means a dollar that a State can

spend for other essential public safety services. When Congress originally developed SCAAP, we knew that, without SCAAP, state and local budgets would be overwhelmed by costs that should be the federal government's responsibility.

My legislation would modify the SCAAP statute so that states and localities can be reimbursed for the cost of incarcerating aliens who are either "charged with or convicted" of a felony or two misdemeanors regardless of the fiscal year of the incarceration and conviction—just like it was before the Department of Justice's reinterpretation in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when states struggle with tough budget choices, we be doing all we can to help them. We must restore SCAAP to reflect the meaning Congress originally intended it to have.

I urge my colleagues to join me in correcting this flawed Department of Justice interpretation and help our local police departments.

## SUPPORT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 24, 2011*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced the Department of Defense and Civilian Law Enforcement Coordination Act of 2011 (H.R. 324). My bill would amend federal law to permit Department of Defense law enforcement officers to better coordinate and cooperate with civilian law enforcement agencies. I drafted this legislation in cooperation with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) because many DOD law enforcement officers in my district have informed me that they are prohibited from basic coordination and cooperation with civilian agencies near DOD facilities. We need to ensure that federal, state, and local law enforcement are able to work together to apprehend criminals and to prevent and solve crimes. I hope that my colleagues will join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

## CHARLIE AND JUDY McNEIL TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 24, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Charlie and Judy McNeil of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado, for a lifetime of contributions to their local community and continued leadership in the non-profit sector. The couple was recently named Man and Woman of the Year by their local newspaper.

Charlie McNeil has an impressive professional career, as well as a distinguished track record in community service and leadership. Mr. McNeil is an engineer by trade, a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines, and received the prestigious Distinguished Achievement Medal from his alma mater. After a career managing mines and working in corporate offices, Mr. McNeil became President and CEO

of Kaiser Steel's Mineral Resources Division. In 1996, he founded NexGen Resources. After finishing in the private sector, McNeil served on National Coal Council after receiving a nomination from the Secretary of Energy. Mr. McNeil has served as director of the Mining and Reclamation Council, National Coal Association, and the Colorado Mining Association. He also serves on the School of Mines board of governors, the Brigham Young University School of Business National Advisory Council, and is vice President of the Denver Area Boy Scouts.

Judy McNeil's career is equally impressive, carving her own path in the non-profit sector and as a leader in her church. After a brief time in the retail sector, Mrs. McNeil worked for the North Dakota Wheat Commission. When the family moved to Colorado, she served at the Denver Area Public Affairs Council for the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, and has been leader in her church for the past 35 years. Ms. McNeil is a strong proponent of the arts—she served four years at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Her work in the medical field has not gone unnoticed either. The Children's Diabetes Foundation tapped Mrs. McNeil to chair their Brass Ring Luncheon in 2008, and she is now the incoming president at the Children's Diabetes Foundation Guild.

Charlie and Judy McNeil will surely continue their dedication to their community for years to come. Mr. Speaker, I feel it is fitting that this body recognizes Charlie and Judy McNeil for their lifetime of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 24, 2011*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today—the 100th anniversary of the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce.

Originally, the Anniston Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1910 and celebrated their first year at their Annual Meeting in 1911. Two neighboring cities and a town, Oxford, Jacksonville and Piedmont also formed chambers of commerce. In 1979, Oxford and Jacksonville merged with Anniston to create the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, and in 1984, Piedmont also joined, truly creating a "Voice of Business."

The Chamber solicits input from member businesses, forms policy and acts as a spokesperson for the business and professional community. As the first stop for newcomers, the Chamber serves as the area's "front porch" and referral center. The Chamber provides specific services such as training, marketing tools, networking opportunities and information to assist members in growing their businesses, thus strengthening the local economy.

Over 300 volunteers carry out the annual Program of Action. The chamber is independent of government funding and its entrepreneurial spirit has led the organization to a point in which it delivers three dollars of serv-

ice value for every dollar paid in dues. The chamber has played a crucial role in many community milestones including the establishment of Fort McClellan and Anniston Army Depot, continuing safe destruction of stored chemical munitions, easing of tensions during the Civil Rights era, recruitment of industries, formation of the Economic Development Council and construction of the Veterans' Memorial Parkway.

As Calhoun County and northeast Alabama move forward, the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce is poised for continuing growth and success and I am proud to honor the 100th anniversary of this important organization in my hometown. Congratulations to the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce.

IRANIAN EXECUTIONS

**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 24, 2011*

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, in late 2009, Iranian dissidents took to the streets to protest the fraudulent election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in what would become Iran's Green Movement. These protesters stood up to hard-line government militias, which fired on crowds and raided universities, killing dozens, injuring scores more, and imprisoning thousands.

Today, the thuggish Iranian regime went a step further. In what was undoubtedly meant as a message to the pro-democracy opposition, two political activists who had protested the 2009 election—Ja'far Kazemi and Mohammad Ali Haj Aghaie—were executed. Hanged, Mr. Speaker. Death by hanging. . . .

Last Congress, the President signed into law an Iran sanctions bill. One provision targets those in Iran committing the human rights abuses. So far, the Administration has targeted just eight individuals for their involvement in beatings and torture. Sadly, Monday's events show there are many, many more human rights abusers to target. Anybody who has quashed the human rights of those seeking democracy deserves to be on this list.

LET'S PROTECT MOBILE HOMES

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 24, 2011*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Mobile Home Protection Act, H.R. 326. The purpose of this bill is to provide Section 8 assistance to low-income owners of mobile homes.

Owning one's home is a central part of the American Dream. For many low-income Americans, mobile homes provide the opportunity to achieve this goal of homeownership.

However, in many cases, while the family owns their home, they do not own the land on which the home sits. In some cases, the landlord will not accept Section 8 vouchers for the land on which the mobile home sits.

I have introduced the Mobile Home Protection Act to correct this problem. This bill would provide this Section 8 assistance directly to

the homeowners to apply toward their rent costs for the land on which their homes sit.

Many mobile home owners have invested their life savings into buying their mobile homes. As mobile home park rents increase, these low-income homeowners are not able to keep up with this cost. This legislation will help keep these homeowners in their homes and maintain these established communities.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 24, 2011*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 25th anniversary of the St. Clair County, Illinois, Health Department.

By 1985, there was gathering evidence of the need for a public health department to serve the residents of St. Clair County. Since the 1930s there had been a health department, the East Side Health District, to serve the residents of East St. Louis and several surrounding communities but public health care services did not exist for residents outside the East Side Health District service area.

As Chairman of the St. Clair County Board at the time, I was very concerned that county residents did not have access to public health services. As a result, I appointed a citizens committee, made up of concerned citizens and health care professionals, to determine if there was, indeed, a need for a county-wide public health department.

After many meetings and input from the public, in October of 1985, I presented a resolution to the St. Clair County Board that was approved, creating the St. Clair County Health Department. I am very proud to have played a role in establishing the St. Clair County Health Department.

The new Board of Health met to elect officers in January, 1986, and recruited Kevin Hutchinson to serve as the Executive Director, a post he has held to this day. Funding for the Health Department came from the existing tuberculosis tax, which was converted to a public health tax.

The new Health Department focused on the most critical priorities initially, targeting issues such as communicable disease prevention, food safety and maternal and child health. Today, the Health Department is organized into four divisions, Administration, Health Protection, Community Health and Personal Health.

Evidence of the need for this department can be found in its growth and expansion during the past 25 years. From just over 20 employees and a budget of under \$500,000, the department has grown to 70 employees and a budget exceeding \$6 million. While the need is great, the dedicated professionals of the St. Clair County Health Department continue to meet that need by providing excellent health care, prevention services and educational outreach to the communities and residents of St. Clair County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the board of directors, administration and employees of the St. Clair County