

are matched with a sense of right and wrong, a regard for others, self-respect, and a willingness to work hard. Private and public entities which seek to help high-risk youth, should emulate the Boys Ranch. We are proud of this Colorado organization which has touched the lives of our children and communities.

EXPRESSING UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES CURRENTLY CARRYING OUT MISSIONS IN AND AROUND PERSIAN GULF REGION

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 1998

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened by the events of this week, and my heart goes out to the men and women in uniform and their families who are involved in Operation Desert Fox. We want them to know that America is firmly behind them as they face their most difficult challenges.

To bomb another country is no an easy decision for a president. However, I am convinced that President Clinton had no choice but to respond to Saddam Hussein's repeated violations of negotiated agreements by launching the strike.

The United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) is responsible for monitoring Iraqi weapons programs and dismantling weapons of mass destruction. The United Nations and the United States have repeatedly demanded that Iraq cooperate with UNSCOM and fully comply with all applicable UN Security Council resolutions. Yet, Saddam Hussein has repeatedly defied the United Nations and refused to keep his promises. He has attempted to restrict UNSCOM's activities and interfere with the efforts of UN weapons inspectors.

This conflict is not with the Iraqi people. It is with Saddam Hussein—a dictator who has repeatedly threatened his neighbors, defied world public opinion, oppressed his own people, violated their basic human rights and used weapons of mass destruction against innocent civilians. I sympathize with the suffering of the Iraqi people and I am hopeful that this military action will be completed with minimal loss of life.

No matter what difference we may have domestically regarding the President, this is clearly not a time for partisan politics and divisive language. We must stand united behind our troops and assure them that the American people are with them in this tragic time of crisis. I am hopeful that this mission may be completed quickly and without the loss of American lives and that our fighting men and women may be able to return home to their families in time for the holidays.

TRIBUTE TO RAFAEL ALBERTO WAGNER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Rafael Alberto Wagner, an outstanding individual who has devoted his life to his family and to serving the community. Mr. Wagner will be celebrating his retirement from Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in the company of his family and friends today, Friday, December 18, 1998. He worked for Columbia University for 29 years.

Mr. Wagner was born in the Dominican Republic on June 27, 1935. He came to the United States in 1964 and became a U.S. citizen in 1985.

He worked as a shoemaker until 1969 when he joined the Facility Services Department at Columbia University.

Mr. Wagner is married to Carmen Maria Wagner and they have three children, Clara, Wagner-Anderson, David Wagner and Cindy Altgracia Wagner. They have four grandchildren, Jazmin Janay Wagner, David Wagner, Jr., Derek Wagner and Abdiel Rolando Anderson II, and look forward to greeting a fifth in March.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing a happy retirement to Mr. Rafael Alberto Wagner.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUSSELL EUBANK

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to and honor a man dedicated to his community, his family and his church—Mr. Russell Eubank of Canton, Texas.

Mr. Eubank was born June 8, 1918, in Hamilton County to the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Eubank. He grew up in Wills Point, Texas, and was salutatorian of the 1936 graduating class at Wills Point High School. Mr. Eubank received a B.A. degree from North Texas State College. He then finished mortuary school in Dallas before entering the U.S. Navy in 1942. In 1946, at the end of the war, Mr. Eubank returned to Canton to operate the Eubank brothers' businesses. Active in several organizations, in 1968–69 he served as president of both the Texas Cemetery Association and the Texas Association of Life Insurance Officials. He also served on the local school board, city council and did other civic work as well.

Honored for his commitment to the community Mr. Eubank received the Man of the Year Award of Van Zandt County in 1990 and the Canton Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen Award in 1979. A member of the Masonic Lodge No. 141, AF&AM, Mr. Eubank also received the Golden Trowel Award.

Mr. Eubank was also a 50-year member of the Lions Club, a Mason and a Long time member of the First Methodist Church of Canton.

After a long illness, Mr. Eubank passed away at his Canton residence on June 20, 1998. He is survived by his wife, three sons and ten grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this outstanding East Texan—the late Russell Eubank.

A TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN MERTENS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fine young man in my district. Mr. Justin Mertens, of New Raymer, Colorado, won the national Future Farmers of America, or FFA, award for Diversified Crop Production. Growing up on his family's dry land farm, Justin learned the importance of agriculture at an early age. He started by learning to drive a tractor. Soon, he hopes to earn a degree in diesel mechanics, buy more land and join his family enterprise. Hopefully, he will pass along his skills to future generations of farmers. Mr. Speaker, agriculture remains the backbone of American society. In Colorado, agricultural exports contribute greatly to the economy, feed our families and provide open space and wildlife habitat. I commend Justin for his fine work, and hope that many will follow his example.

WYCKOFF HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES ACCREDITATION WITH COMMENDATION FROM JOINT COMMISSION ON THE ACCREDITATION OF HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the notable achievements of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center (WHMC) in Brooklyn, New York. As a 1998 recipient of an Accreditation with Commendation from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the Nation's oldest and largest accrediting body, WHMC has been recognized as a superior health care provider.

This Accreditation with Commendation is a significant achievement that recognizes WHMC's exemplary performance for providing quality care in the borough of Brooklyn. Formed in 1951, the Joint Commission evaluated and accredits almost 11,000 hospitals and home care agencies, and over 7,000 other health care organizations.

As the Representative of the 10th Congressional District of Brooklyn, I am extremely proud of these dedicated men and women. Under the vigorous leadership of Dominick J. Gio, President and CEO, WHMC is poised to lead the nation into the new millennium. WHMC employees at both the main campus and ambulatory sites go the extra mile on a daily basis in order to provide the best possible health care to its patients. This award highlights the fact that WHMC is a shining star in the world of healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Wyckoff Heights Medical Center for its tremendous achievement.

A TRIBUTE TO CINDY ERKER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Morgan County Commissioner Cindy Erker for her fine achievements and hard work on behalf of the people of Morgan County, Colorado. Ms. Erker was named the 1998 County Commissioner of the Year by Colorado Counties, Inc. This prestigious award belongs to Ms. Erker due to her exceptional ability to serve, even in times of adversity. Her peers selected Cindy for the award at the Colorado Counties winter conference. This is the second time she has been recognized for her dedication and hard work. Responsible for pulling the community together to adopt an important drainage plan to avoid disastrous flooding in Ft. Morgan, Cindy was named the Freshman County Commissioner of the Year in 1991 by Colorado Counties, Inc. Mr. Speaker, I commend Cindy Erker for her perseverance, determination and leadership.

HONORING JUDITH VIERA OF WYND COMMUNICATIONS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Judith Viera of my district on the Central Coast of California for the recent commendation she has received from Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. Ms. Viera is appropriately being honored for a lifetime commitment to expanding access to telecommunications services for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Deaf herself, Judith Viera has been dedicated to the deaf and hard of hearing individuals for more than thirty years. In 1965, Ms. Viera graduated from Gallaudet University and immediately began her life of public service and bettering the life of others.

Among her many contributions is her work with Governors Brown and Deukmajian to establish California's policy on telecommunications access for the deaf and hard of hearing in California, which subsequently lead to many other states adopting the same policy. Also, Ms. Viera founded the NorCal Center on Deafness which is committed to assisting people who are deaf or hard of hearing with communications services, independent living skills, and social services.

Judith Viera served as program manager at the California Department of Rehabilitation where she successfully advocated legislation which contributed to providing telecommunications equipment and services to the deaf and hard of hearing community. She was also appointed as the first and only deaf member to the National Exchange Carriers Association

Interstate Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Board which assists telecommunications providers in receiving compensation for the cost of interstate relay services.

Ms. Viera's most recent service has been as vice president of business development for Wynd Communications in San Luis Obispo, CA. Wynd Communications, which was founded in 1994, is a pioneer in providing wireless telecommunications services to the deaf and hard of hearing through out the nation.

I am truly honored to have Ms. Judith Viera as one of my constituents. She is an example of selfless commitment and altruistic dedication to a very meaningful cause, opening the bounties of our country to all of its citizens.

WHAT MATTERS TO COLORADANS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, for two years, Coloradans have been bombarded with opinions suggesting it's not about fidelity, commitment, or personal behavior. But now a new survey from the Rocky Mountain Family Council shows that what Coloradans really care about are lifelong, satisfying marriages and happy children.

Last Tuesday, as Members of Congress were returning to Washington for the impeachment vote, the Rocky Mountain Family Council was unveiling the "Marriage Matters: 1998 Colorado Marriage Health Index." The results clearly contradict the values demonstrated by the recent affairs of our President and Governor.

President Clinton's exploitation of a clever slogan proved decisive in ushering him into office, "It's the economy stupid!" Coloradans, being common sense, caring people, recognize marriage and family last forever. Economic prosperity, however, is often only as secure as the next paycheck. Sure, some may find solace in this period of relative economic prosperity. Fatter wallets tend to squelch the alarm of cultural decay to a certain degree.

But even the highest heights of consumer confidence cannot achieve the kind of moral indifference upon which political left-wingers are banking in the face of executive scandal and infidelity. On the contrary, Coloradans bristle when politicians betray their marriage vows for extramarital affairs, even when downplayed as "affectionate" or "hugging" relationships.

According to the Family Council, when asked if they could wave a magic wand and guarantee certain life goals for themselves, Coloradans overwhelmingly chose a lifelong, satisfying marriage and happy children over the material goods like fancy homes, comfortable retirements, and fulfilling careers. Further underscoring this result is the fact that Coloradans were far more willing to give up houses, retirements and careers if that would ensure a satisfying, lifelong marriage and happy kids.

The question for political leaders becomes one of how government can best help the average citizen achieve these goals. Government should take a page from the Hippocratic Oath: "First, do no harm."

Many well-intentioned government programs designed to strengthen families achieve just

the opposite, by subsidizing parents spending time away from their spouses and children. Government policies which support marriage and family, like doing away with the marriage tax penalty in the tax code, can go a long way toward ensuring Coloradans realize their family goals and dreams.

Working families struggling under a heavy tax burden may be so crushed by the weight of supporting lofty government programs they can't spend the time with their spouses and children they'd like. Economic prosperity, lower taxes, and freedom can support and strengthen families and marriages if they enable spouses and parents to devote more attention to what really matters.

Fancy house? Fat retirement accounts? Cushy jobs? These pale in comparison to heartfelt desires for happy marriages and children. As we enter the twenty-first century, elected officials would do well to respond to what Coloradans say is really important to them. Failure to do so will only perpetuate the myth that strong marriage and families are just by-products of a strong economy.

No one ever went to his or her grave saying "I wish I had worked longer hours." Government can, and should, do all in its power to allow families and marriages to grow strong without interference.

VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE'S TRIBUTE TO HIS FATHER, SENATOR ALBERT GORE, SR., OF TENNESSEE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on December 5, Albert Gore, Sr.—who served 14 years as a member of this House and another 18 years as a member of the United States Senate—died at his home in Carthage, Tennessee. I knew Senator Gore, Mr. Speaker, and I have great respect for this outstanding gentleman and distinguished public servant.

During his 32 years of service in the Congress, Senator Gore established a legacy that all of us can envy. He was the principal Senate author of the legislation that created the Interstate Highway System which was adopted by the Congress in 1956. He was a voice of reason and honor in supporting civil rights at a time when few southern political leaders would dare to take such a principal stand. He expressed his opposition to the war in Viet Nam, and that courageous position ultimately cost him his seat in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of attending the Memorial Service for Senator Albert Gore, Sr., in Nashville on December 8. On that occasion, our Vice President AL GORE delivered a moving eulogy to his father. No finer tribute could be paid to any father than the honor which Vice President GORE paid to his father last week. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Vice President's remarks be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read them and join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Senator Gore.