

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEXICAN AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION AND THE DEDICATION OF THE DIONICIO MORALES MEXICAN AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF) and the dedication of the Dionicio Morales Mexican American Hall of Fame.

The Mexican American Opportunity Foundation is the largest Latino social-service agency in the United States, and with the leadership of Mr. Dionicio Morales has helped improve the life of thousands of people through essential services ranging from job training and childcare to naturalization services.

In 1963, the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation offered its services to the community of East Los Angeles. Forty years later, this far-reaching program serves families from our San Diego border through Central California.

In celebrating the 40th anniversary, it is appropriate that the Dionicio Morales Mexican American Hall of Fame is committed to Mr. Morales' desire to have Mexican American leaders and other pacesetters recognized for their contributions and place in history. The Dionicio Morales Mexican American Hall of Fame honors those individuals who made the growth of MAOF possible and other Mexican Americans whose leadership has contributed to the rich culture and history of the United States.

Today, I congratulate the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation for forty years of tireless service to our community and honor the noble efforts of Dionicio Morales.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JAN LEMON

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and passing of Jan Lemon of Norwood, Colorado. Sadly, Jan passed away in October and, as her family mourns their loss, I would like to pay tribute to her life and the wonderful memories she has left behind.

Jan Lemon was born on November 27, 1960 in Yakima, Washington, where she grew up and graduated High School. After graduating from college in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Jan moved to Ridgway, Colorado, where she made her home and married her husband Dale in 1991. Jan was a Coloradan who loved the land and all the opportunities that our mountains had to offer. She was an avid horsewoman who became a skilled rider, rancher, and roper. She loved spending time with friends and family, and contributed greatly to the quality of life throughout the Norwood community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with earnest respect that I recognize the life and passing of Jan Lemon

before this body of Congress and this nation. I extend my sincere condolences to her parents, Daniel and Marguerite, husband Dale, and daughter Courtney. Jan lived her life to the fullest and was loved and admired throughout the Norwood community. Her loss will be deeply felt and her memory will live on for years to come.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN WELLES

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the public service of a fine Coloradan, John Welles, who passed away on December 18, 2002. Mr. Welles had a long and distinguished record of public service to Colorado and he will be dearly missed.

John Welles served as the regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency for six years under President Reagan. He was a principled public servant who always worked in a bipartisan manner and in a way that respected those with whom he disagreed.

I had the good fortune to know Mr. Welles when I was the executive director of the Colorado Outward Bound School. Among the many qualities that I admired in John, I will most remember his gentle, wise demeanor. He was a kind and public-spirited man whose good work for Colorado will not soon be forgotten. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to John Welles, a fine public servant and a great Coloradan.

Attached is an article which ran in the Rocky Mountain News on December 20, 2002.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, Dec. 20, 2002]

FORMER EPA AND MUSEUM OFFICIAL JOHN WELLES DIES

(By Erika Gonzalez)

Holly Welles' childhood was filled with an unusual family ritual—each night her father, John, would bring a stack of articles to the dinner table.

"We would go around the table and talk about what we did that day and then he would talk about some key event—something out of a science magazine that he thought was amazing," she said. "Sometimes it was a little much. But he loved to learn and he loved to share."

That zeal for science fueled a remarkable career, including an appointment as regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency and a six-year post as executive director of the Denver Museum of Natural History, now the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

Mr. Welles died Wednesday after a long bout with various illnesses. He was 77. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Jan. 3 at St. John's Cathedral.

Born in Lexington, V.A., Mr. Welles attended Yale university, earning a degree in electrical engineering in 1946. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, he returned to the University of Pennsylvania, where he received a master's degree in business.

Mr. Welles began his career in the private sector, but in 1956, he joined the Denver Research Institute at the University of Denver, heading up the institute's Industrial Economics Division.

During a sabbatical from DU in 1971, Mr. Welles took his family to Geneva to help plan the first United Nations Conference on

the Human Environment. "He was always concerned about air pollution and population problems," his daughter Holly explained.

Those interests hit home locally, when Mr. Welles worked with Gov. Richard Lamm on the Front Range Project, a process to protect Colorado's quality of life in the face of rapid population growth. Later, at this EPA post, Mr. Welles helped resolve conflicts concerning the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Rocky Flats.

Though Mr. Welles also served as vice president of planning and public affairs for the Colorado School of Mines, Holly says her father enjoyed his tenure at the museum most. Under his leadership, the Museum landed one of its most popular traveling exhibits ever, "Ramses II: The Pharaoh and His Time." Mr. Welles also created the permanent Prehistoric Journey exhibit before retiring in 1994.

"He enjoyed discussing scientific elements and he enjoyed engaging and challenging the scientists," said museum board member Chuck Hazelrigg.

Surviving, including his wife, Barbara, are children Ginny Welles of Lincoln, Mass., Deborah Welles of Denver, Barton Welles of Ross, Calif., and Holly Welles of Mill Valley, Calif.; and six grandchildren.

Contributions can be made to the Hemlock Society, P.O. Box 101810, Denver, CO. 80250; and the John Welles Memorial Fund at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver.

TEACHER TAX CUT ACT AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS TAX RELIEF ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce two pieces of legislation that raise the pay of teachers and other educators by cutting their taxes. I am sure that all my colleagues agree that it is long past time to begin treating those who have dedicated their lives to educating America's children with the respect they deserve. Compared to other professionals, educators are underappreciated and underpaid. This must change if America is to have the finest education system in the world!

Quality education is impossible without quality teaching. If we continue to undervalue educators, it will become harder to attract, and keep, good people in the education profession. While educators' pay is primarily a local issue, Congress can, and should, help raise educators' take home pay by reducing educators' taxes.

This is why I am introducing the Teacher Tax Cut Act. This legislation provides every teacher in America with a \$1,000 tax credit. I am also introducing the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act, which extends the \$1,000 tax credit to counselors, librarians, and all school personnel involved in any aspect of the K-12 academic program.

The Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act increase the salaries of teachers and other education professionals without raising federal expenditures. By raising the take-home pay of professional educators, these bills encourage highly qualified people to enter, and remain in, education. These bills also let America's professional educators know that the American people and the Congress respect their work.

I hope all my colleagues join me in supporting our nation's teachers and other professional educators by cosponsoring the Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act.

#### RECOGNIZING AMELIA M. ORTIZ

##### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, on January 13, 2003, a woman whom I was personally very close to, Amelia Martinez Ortiz passed away, leaving behind a legacy of service to the community. I rise today to honor the impressive contributions Amelia Martinez Ortiz made to her community and to this nation.

Amelia M. Ortiz was born in Mason City, Arizona, on February 9, 1929. She lived for over 48 years at the same house on Shadydale Avenue in the City of La Puente, in the San Gabriel Valley of California.

With the passing of her beloved husband, Jesus Ortiz, 27 years ago, Amelia became the sole provider for her family. Armed with only a second grade education, she was able to provide for her children—Martha, Andres, Diana, and Gloria—through her gift with the needle and thread. As a seamstress, Amelia created many wonderful designs, bringing joy to her clients, including myself. She helped them prepare for some of the most important days of their lives, like their weddings and quinceañeras. With her tenacity and talent, Amelia's success as an entrepreneur helped open doors for other Latinas throughout the community during a time when very few role models existed.

In addition, Amelia was a long-standing, dedicated parishioner of the St. Louis of France Catholic Church in La Puente. She was a member of the Legion of Mary, participating and organizing events that recognized the contributions of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Amelia also helped the parish raise funds for community events and assisted in organizing the traveling Virgin Mary for all in the community to enjoy.

Although Amelia has passed, her spirit remains in my heart and in many others. Through her dedication, hard work, and commitment to overcoming overwhelming obstacles in the hopes of providing for her family and community, Amelia Ortiz exemplified all that is possible in our country. A wife, a mother to four, a grandmother to 13, a great-grandmother to one, a friend to many, and my madrina (godmother), Amelia M. Ortiz will be greatly missed.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF JOHN EBERLY

##### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize John Eberly of La Junta, Colorado. Mr. Eberly has been the Sheriff of Otero County for the past 31 years, where he has served his fellow citizens with the honesty, courage, and integrity

that Coloradans have come to expect from their law enforcement officers. Sheriff Eberly has recently retired, so I would like to reflect upon his extraordinary career and accomplishments.

Growing up in La Junta offered Sheriff Eberly the opportunity to know and understand the community in which he served. Throughout his eight terms in office, Sheriff Eberly has received broad support from the residents of Otero County who have reelected him repeatedly since 1970. Over the years, Sheriff Eberly has gained a reputation as a working sheriff who holds himself to the same standards as his deputies, never asking anything of anyone that he wouldn't ask of himself. Eberly has always led by example and has worked hard to protect his fellow citizens.

As a former law enforcement officer, I am well aware of the dangers and hazards our police officers face today. These individuals work long hours, weekends, and holidays to guarantee the safety of their fellow citizens. They work tirelessly, with great sacrifice to their personal and family lives, to ensure our freedoms remain strong in our homes and communities. Their service and dedication deserve the recognition and thanks of this body of Congress, and that is why I bring the name of Sheriff John Eberly to light today.

Mr. Speaker, it is with earnest respect that I recognize Sheriff John Eberly before this body of Congress and this nation. Sheriff Eberly has served his constituents with honor and integrity, qualities that will be his legacy. I commend John for his service and dedication, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

#### GUEST CHAPLAIN FROM 19TH DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

##### HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome as Guest Chaplain on the floor of the House of Representatives an outstanding constituent and religious leader in my 19th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. The Reverend Sara "Sally" Gausmann. "Pastor Sally," joined by her husband, Reverend Paul Gausmann, represent a thriving religious community, Saint Paul Lutheran Church in York, Pennsylvania. Together, pastor Sally and Pastor Paul successfully aid in the needs of their congregation and I am pleased to thank them for their exemplary status as role models in my district.

Pastor Sally received her bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1981, before attending the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 1991. She then served at several churches including Grade Lutheran Church in Rochester, Pennsylvania from 1991–1993 and Faith Lutheran Church in Shell Rock, Iowa from 1993–1999 before serving as co-pastor of Saint Paul Lutheran Church. During her time at the Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Pastor Sally was the chaplain at the Pennsylvania State Sheriff's Convention in 2001 and is currently a member of the Global Mission Task Force for the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. As a husband

and wife team, Sally and Paul Gausmann offer a united approach to their religious teachings that has flourished within this congregation. They have two children, a son, William, who is age 17 and a daughter, Laura, who is age 15.

I am pleased to welcome Pastor Sally to the House Floor and would like to thank her for the inspirational prayer she presented this afternoon that reinforces the importance that our great nation exists as one "under God."

#### INTRODUCING THE COMMERCIAL AIRLINE MISSILE DEFENSE ACT

##### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will correct a glaring vulnerability in our homeland defense. The "Commercial Airline Missile Defense Act" will fully fund the addition of electronic surface-to-air missile defense systems on all commercially scheduled flights on United States aircrafts.

Protecting American lives is the most fundamental job of the Federal Government. We must therefore eliminate every weakness that we see in our country's homeland defense. The vulnerability of our commercial air fleet to terrorist missile attack is not a hysterical hypothetical. It is a real and present danger.

Last November there was attempted missile attack on an Israeli airliner taking off from an airport in Kenya. Two surface-to-air missiles, also known SAMs, which can bring down large airplanes—commercial as well as military—from up to 30 miles from an airport were launched against an Israeli chartered jet airliner. It was only profound good luck—likely a flawed missile batch—that saved the plane and its hundreds of innocent passengers. Thankfully, last November's attack on the Israeli jetliner failed. We need to keep in mind, however, that the missile used in the Israeli attack one of the least sophisticated of the several types of SAMs that exist in the world today. It was a Soviet-era SA7, which was been sold globally since the end of the cold war. The other types of SAMs are much more advanced and much more effective.

SAMs were designed to be highly portable and are easily disassembled. As such, they are relatively easy to transport and smuggle. Terrorist could launch this five-foot long missile from near an airport and flee before anyone can detect them. Airplanes taking off with full and highly combustible fuel tanks are the most likely and deadly targets. The U.S. government must equip all its aircrafts with a defense system to protect and defend against this threat.

The United States provided Stingers—a type of SAM—to the Mujahadeen in the 1980s in Afghanistan. They were used with devastating affect against the Soviets. The Mujahadeen, who subsequently splintered into the Taliban and Al Qaeda, possessed at least a thousand Stingers that were never accounted for after the war ended in 1989. Soviet shoulder armed missiles, like the ones used in Kenya against the Israeli jetliner, are even far more abundant.

Tens of thousands of these missiles are out there. Although most are in state arsenals, thousands—including U.S. Stingers and Russian SA7s—are unaccounted for and feared to be in the hands of terrorists.