

friend. Ms. Yolanda Garcia passed away on February 17, 2005 at the age of 53. She was an inspiring person who gave so much of herself for the benefit of others. Words can't explain how much she will be missed by all who knew her.

This daughter of the Bronx accomplished so much in her lifetime that it would be impossible for me to sum it all up here today, however; I would like to take a moment to highlight the great contributions she made to the people of my community.

Yolanda was a co-founder of "We Stay/Nos Quedamos" Committee, Inc., a community based organization located in the South Bronx. "Nos Quedamos" was founded as a response to New York City's Melrose Commons Urban Renewal plan which would have displaced some 6,000 people from their residences and businesses. In order to save not only her own home and business but those of her neighbors as well, Yolanda organized tenants, homeowners, property owners, local non-profits, and business people to deliver the message "We Stay/Nos Quedamos". The group won the right to become equal partners with the city of New York in planning for the community's redevelopment. Through "Nos Quedamos", Yolanda coordinated a collaborative, community-based planning process resulting in the creation of a more environmentally friendly plan that created new affordable housing without displacing people from the community.

Yolanda, who lost a son to asthma, struggled mightily to ensure that other families would not have to suffer such a tragedy. She became a strong leader in the South Bronx environmental movement which has blossomed in recent years. Her organization joined the Organization of Waterfront Neighborhoods to fight the expansion and proliferation of waste transfer stations in the South Bronx and teamed up with the South Bronx Clean Air Coalition to shut down a medical waste incinerator that had fouled the air for ten years. In 2000, as a tireless leader in the fight to keep New York City's children safe from asthma, Yolanda established a multi-year partnership with New York University and local nonprofits to conduct research and community education about the causes of the asthma crisis.

No city, state or nation could exist without individuals willing to give all of themselves for the good of the greater population. These individuals often possess qualities that enable them to uplift and inspire their peers. Yolanda Garcia was indeed one of these individuals. After the loss of her son to asthma, Yolanda did not pack her bags and leave the Bronx. She stayed and fought to improve the air quality to ensure that no other mother would have to endure the pain of losing a child. If everyone possessed such love in their hearts we would undoubtedly be able to enjoy heaven here on earth.

As a result of Yolanda's courage to stand up and say: "Nos Quedamos/We Stay", countless children will breathe a little easier and countless residents will be able to live in affordable housing. Although she has passed on, her good works will continue to benefit many generations to come. Surely, that is the mark of a great life.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that I had the opportunity to know this selfless, kindhearted gallant woman and as she is laid to rest on this the 3rd day of March 2005 I ask that my

colleagues join me in paying tribute to my friend.

HONORING THE UCSB GAUCHO  
MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the UCSB Men's soccer team, following a spectacular 2004 season where they placed 2nd in the NCAA.

The Gaucho Men's soccer team finished their remarkable season with a 21-3-1 record. In addition, four players were honored on the 2004 NCAA Men's Soccer College Cup All-Tournament Team. Their season, as well as their performance in the NCAA Championship match, gives all UCSB students, faculty and Alumni something to be very proud of. During the final home matches, community members and students alike flocked to UCSB to support the Gaucho men. The talent of this team has certainly brought UCSB to the forefront of Men's soccer, proving again that UCSB should be known not only for its academics and physical beauty, but also for its many outstanding athletic programs.

Mr. Speaker, raw talent and the ability to beat virtually any opponent are not the only attributes of this team, however. The Gaucho Men are also community volunteers, setting a positive example for their peers and for younger players in the Santa Barbara community. They recently participated in a fitness day at Santa Barbara City College, aimed at encouraging kids and adults alike to maintain healthy lifestyles. Many young people in the Santa Barbara community love to play soccer and being able to interact with the UCSB players is a wonderful opportunity. As a nurse, I understand firsthand the importance of encouraging our youth to get physically active. The Gaucho Men help to achieve this goal by mentoring young players and leading by positive example.

I am so proud to represent the UCSB campus, and the Gaucho Men's soccer team has given me one more reason to boast to my colleagues that Santa Barbara truly is paradise.

INTRODUCTION OF PITKIN COUNTY  
LAND EXCHANGE LEGISLATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to provide for completion of a land exchange that involves Pitkin County, Colorado, on one hand and two federal agencies—the Forest Service and BLM—on the other.

The bill would direct a land exchange under which the county would transfer two items to the Forest Service: A 35-acre tract (known as the "Ryan property") near the ghost town of Ashcroft; and 18.2 acres (patented mining claims) on Smuggler Mountain near Aspen, Colorado.

In return, the Federal government would transfer to the county 3 items: A 5.5 acre tract

south of Aspen known as the "Wildwood" parcel, which the county will reconvey to private ownership after reserving a permanent public easement for a trail; 5.92 acres in 12 scattered locations on Smuggler Mountain that abut or are near lands now owned by the county; a 40-acre tract of BLM land along the Crystal River, which will be subject to a permanent conservation easement limiting future use to recreational, fish and wildlife, and open space purposes.

The bill requires standard appraisals of all properties involved. If the lands going to the county are worth less than what the county is giving to the federal government, the county will waive additional payment. On the other hand, if the lands provided by the county are worth less than those the county is to receive, the county will either pay cash to equalize or will convey an additional tract (160 acres in the Sellers' Meadow area near Hagerman Pass) to make up the difference.

The bill is fair, balanced, and not controversial. A similar measure (S. 100) has been introduced by Colorado's senior Senator, WAYNE ALLARD, with the cosponsorship of Senator KEN SALAZAR.

For the information of our colleagues, here is a summary of the legislation and a list of groups that have expressed their support for its enactment.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PITKIN COUNTY (RYAN  
PROPERTY) LAND EXCHANGE  
UNITED STATES GETS

35 acre Ryan Property in the White River National Forest near Ashcroft and Aspen, Colorado. Forest Service acquisition of property will complete the Ashcroft Preservation Project, which was initiated by the Forest Service in 1980 to consolidate National Forest land ownership in and around the historic Ashcroft Townsite. The Ryan Property and surrounding lands are: (1) an extremely popular sightseeing and recreation destination; (2) heavily used for nordic skiing on public and private trails associated with the Ashcroft touring center; (3) about the popular Cathedral Lake Trail and Trailhead; and (4) contain historic structures associated with the World War II 10th Mountain Division.

18.2 acre Grand Turk and Pontiac patented mining claims on Smuggler Mountain directly above Aspen. Smuggler Mountain is a heavily used recreational area where the Forest Service is trying to consolidate its ownership, where feasible.

PITKIN COUNTY GETS

5.5 acre "Wildwood" parcel south of Aspen, which will re-conveyed by the County into private ownership. Conveyance will be subject to a permanent public easement for the East of Aspen Trail.

5.92 acres in 12 scattered mining claim remnants on Smuggler Mountain. The 12 parcels (ranging from 1.5 to 0.02 acres in size) abut or are near existing County owned lands.

40 acre BLM parcel (Parcel 79) along the Crystal River near Carbondale, Colorado. Pitkin County must grant BLM a permanent conservation easement on the parcel for continued public access, and limiting future use to recreational, fish and wildlife and open space purposes only. Easement requirement will not reduce parcel's exchange value.

ADDITIONAL EXCHANGE PROVISIONS

Exchange values will be deemed equal if Forest Service appraiser determines approximate equal value. If the appraiser determines value is owed by Pitkin County, the County will additionally convey to the Forest Service the 160 acre Sellar Park property,