

Colglazier who was recently selected an FFA Star by 1-800-COLLECT. Nicholas will attend either the International Future Farmers of America, or FFA, Washington Leadership Conference, or Leaders Shape next summer. His fine leadership abilities through the Holyoke FFA propelled him to these exceptional honors. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Nicholas Colglazier for his hard work, dedication and accomplishments. Through good efforts such as his, the youth of today will become the leadership of tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE LUIS
GONZALEZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and to pay tribute to Judge Luis Gonzalez, an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to public service. He was appointed this month Administrative Judge of Bronx Supreme Court and tomorrow, Saturday, December 19, he will be celebrating his appointment in the company of his family and friends.

Judge Gonzalez was born in Manati, Puerto Rico in 1945. His parents migrated to New York City in the 1950's. After graduating from Eastern Mennonite College in History and Social Sciences, he earned his Juris Doctor from Columbia University School of Law in 1975. I have known him personally for more than 25 years, and I am very familiar with his background, experience, character, and personality. He is a person of the highest personal and professional integrity.

Mr. Speaker, in 1985, Judge Gonzalez was appointed Housing Court Judge in New York City Civil Court. Two years later, he was elected Judge of the Civil Court in Bronx County where he served with distinction until 1992 when he was elected Justice of the Supreme Court in Bronx County. He presided over an Individual Assignment Part (IAS). This month Judge Gonzalez was appointed Administrative Judge of Bronx Supreme Court.

Being the first Latino Administrative Judge in New York State history, Judge Gonzalez is well known and highly respected by his peers and the different communities for this sensitivity, professionalism, integrity and sound judgement. On the other hand, his toughness, stubbornness when he feels that the law is being broken is also well known. "An iron hand in a velvet glove" as some would say. His confirmation brings to the Court an outstanding judge at the same time that it expands its ethnic composition.

This is the kind of issue that should be discussed in the classrooms. He is a role model for all Hispanics. Judge Gonzalez has set an example of how success is available for all of those who persevere to achieve their goals. He is an inspiration for many Puerto Ricans and for the people in the Bronx who are trying to break the cycle of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, in my 25 years of public service, 16 in the New York State Assembly and 9 in the U.S. House of Representatives, this occasion is one of my proudest moments. I am very proud of Judge Gonzalez' accomplishment.

Judge Gonzalez is the proud father of two daughters, Aida and Nydia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Judge Luis Gonzalez for his outstanding achievements and in wishing him continued success as Administrative Judge of Bronx Supreme Court.

DONALD H. GILMER, STATE REPRESENTATIVE, MICHIGAN, 63D DISTRICT

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment today to recognize the long and distinguished career of State Representative Donald "Don" H. Gilmer. Representative Gilmer, serving his 11th term, represents a large portion of Calhoun County, Michigan, in my district. Term limits require Representative Gilmer to end his remarkable contributions to Michigan public policy as a member of the State House.

Don graduated from Kellogg High School in Hickory Corners, Michigan. He attended Michigan State University and Western Michigan University. He was a Kellogg Fellow at Michigan State from 1968 to 1971.

Representative Gilmer was a member of the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners from 1973 to 1974, and served as Vice Chairman in 1974. He was elected to the Michigan Legislature in the 1974 election.

He most recently served as Minority Vice Chairman of the Michigan House of Representative's Appropriations Committee. On the Appropriations Committee he also served as Vice Chairman of the Higher Education and the Consumer and Industry Services Subcommittees.

Don has been a member of the Interstate Migrant Education Council since 1985. He also has been a member of the Department of Education's Michigan School Finance Commission, the House of Representative's Ad Hoc Special Committee on Property Tax and School Finance, and the House Republican Task Force on Property Tax and School Finance Reform. In April of 1993, Representative Gilmer was appointed to the Midwestern Higher Education Commission.

Representative Gilmer is a member of countless community groups, and is especially active with the Michigan Farm Bureau, the Michigan Association for Retarded Citizens, and Planned Parenthood. He was a gubernatorial appointee to the Michigan Agricultural Labor Commission.

Don has an outstanding reputation as a model legislator who has common sense solutions to complex problems.

Mr. Gilmer was born in Battle Creek, Michigan on November 29, 1945. Don married Lynn Weimeister November 19, 1988. Don is the father of three children and lives in Augusta, Michigan on his family's apple orchid, Hillcrest, which he formerly co-owned and operated.

The work of public service has many rewards. But it also requires many sacrifices. Throughout his tenure as representative. Don Gilmer never lost his warmth, generosity, and good humor. He is the very model of the type of legislator we should have in our state capitals.

On behalf of the people of Michigan, it is my privilege to honor and recognize Don Gilmer for his distinguished contributions to Michigan and its people.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY
CLAUDE GAY

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 and honor a dedicated civic leader and fine American—Mrs. Mary Claude Gay of Flower Mound, Texas, who died August 5, 1998, at the age of 81.

Mrs. Gay was a prominent local business and civic leader who received many honors and recognition for her service and dedication to both her profession and community. She served on numerous committees and as an officer of the local, state and national associations of Realtors. She received many real estate awards including: 1983 Denton Women's Council of Realtors "Woman of the Year," 1976 Texas Chapter of the Women's Council of Realtors "Woman of the Year," 1975 "Peoples Choice" Award from the people of Denton and 1969 Realtor of the Year from the Denton Board of Realtors. She was well known as an expert on the Professional Standards of real estate and was a certified instructor for graduates of the Realtors Institute and "Train-the-Trainer".

As a civic leader she served as the district clerk of Denton County from 1953 to 1959 and on the Denton City Council in 1977. She served as Mayor-Pro-Tem in 1978. She was a founding member of the Denton Benefit League and served in various capacities with many charitable organizations. She received the Otis Fowler Award for being an outstanding citizen by the Denton Chamber of Commerce and served United Way for many years. Ever dedicated to her community, Mrs. Gay remained active in the Real Estate Community until her death. She is survived by her four sons.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this great American—the late Mary Claude Gay.

A TRIBUTE TO POUUDRE FIRE
AUTHORITY

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 the good men and women of the Poudre Fire Authority in Colorado. A competitive team of their top firefighters placed third in the world at the Firefighter Combat Challenge, a grueling test of physical strength, stamina, aptitude and teamwork. Dave Minchow, Tom Champlin, Chad Myers, Jim Pietrangelo, and Ross Reinking earned the best time of any team in the United States in their astounding third place finish. Mark Hettinger, Brandon Garcia, and Ryan Thomas of the Poudre Fire Authority also placed in the top 11 teams for the relay

competition. Coined the toughest two minutes in the world of sports, these competitions brought out the best in these men, demonstrating their commitment, dedication and hard work. Mr. Speaker, I commend the Poudre Fire Authority for their award, and most importantly for their service and devotion to protecting the community. We can look forward to watching their competition on ESPN at 8:00 Eastern time on January 2.

ON THE DEATH OF ISABEL
HERNÁNDEZ COLLAZO

HON. JOSÉ SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise to commemorate Isabel Hernández Callazo, a legendary Puerto Rican designer and manager in the garment industry who died at Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx, New York on Wednesday, December 16.

As most members of this body know, I am a native of Puerto Rico who is extremely proud of his origins. Puerto Rico's history and its dynamic, multifaceted cultures are a genuine source of joy to all of her daughters and sons.

Isabel Hernández Callazo was born in Coamo, Puerto Rico and migrated to New York in 1927. She was a hardworking woman and we are all proud of contribution to our society and community.

Mr. Speaker, Isabel Hernández Collazo is the mother of film/television producer and actress, Carla Pinza. To my dear friend Carla, I know how difficult it can be when we no longer have with us the people we love the most. Your mother may not be with you physically, but she remains with you through the love she shared with you throughout the years.

Hernández Collazo was the widow of Ramón Rodríguez of Manatí, Puerto Rico. She will be laid to rest in Saint Raymond's Cemetery, besides her husband's rest.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the American experience is an intermingling of people from different lands, with differing languages and customs. American society has been called "a gorgeous mosaic." Isabel Hernández Collazo's great contribution was to help polish the majestic Puerto Rican tile of that mosaic. And for that, we all should remember and thank her.

FRANK M. FITZGERALD, STATE
REPRESENTATIVE, MICHIGAN,
71ST DISTRICT

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment today to recognize Frank M. Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald faces term limits and is retiring at the end of this year as State Representative in Michigan's 71st District. Frank served the good people of Eaton County with distinction for 6 terms.

Representative Fitzgerald was first elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in

1986. From 1992 to 1996 he was the Speaker pro tem of the State House, the second ranking House officer.

Frank chaired task forces on drunk driving, illegal drugs, accountability in government, campaign finance, traffic safety, and the Republican Alliance for Safe Neighborhoods to fight crime and make our homes and neighborhoods safer.

He was the sponsor of Michigan's first anti-organized crime law and a measure granting prosecuting attorneys the right to appeal judicial decisions.

One of Representative Fitzgerald's notable accomplishments was his sponsorship of the zero alcohol tolerance law for drivers under the legal drinking age. Recently he had a bill included in legislation to crack down on repeat drunk drivers. He also was a leader to limit youth access to tobacco products.

He worked diligently to protect children from abuse by creating three degrees of "child mistreatment." Frank also voted repeatedly to cut taxes and ease homeowners' property tax burdens with the passage of Proposal A. Fitzgerald helped revise Michigan's Single Business Tax to help businesses save millions of dollars and create more jobs. He supported welfare reforms to encourage personal responsibility, not dependency on the state. He also supported legislation giving school boards and parents more control over the curriculum of their local schools. Representative Fitzgerald worked to establish a legislative ethics commission and a code of conduct for legislators.

Frank is a graduate of Grand Ledge, Michigan Public Schools, the College of William and Mary, and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan.

He and wife, Ruth, and their two children, Ellen and John, reside in Grand Ledge. The Fitzgerald family is active in Grand Ledge's First Congregational United Church of Christ, the Girl Scouts, and youth athletic and music activities.

Prior to his election, he practiced law and served as an Assistant Prosecuting attorney in Eaton County, Michigan for three years.

For now, this is the end of a long tradition of Fitzgeralds serving the citizens of Michigan as elected representatives. For over 100 years, a Fitzgerald has served in Michigan government. It started with State Representative, John Fitzgerald in the 1890's. His son, Frank D. Fitzgerald, served as Michigan's Secretary of State and went on to be elected Governor of Michigan twice. His son, John W. Fitzgerald, served in the State Senate, on the Court of Appeals, and then as Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. Representative Frank M. Fitzgerald, whom I am honoring today, is the fourth generation of Fitzgerald's in public service.

I supported Frank Fitzgerald as a candidate for Attorney General of Michigan. I still believe that he might someday make a wonderful Attorney General for our state and I know he will continue to serve the people in any way he can.

On behalf of the citizens of Michigan, it is my privilege to honor and recognize Frank Fitzgerald, an outstanding American who served his state with great distinction.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES
ROBERT MONTGOMERY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated civic servant and fine American—J.R. Montgomery of Tyler, Texas.

Mr. Montgomery was born September 8, 1912, in Waco, to the late Mr. and Mrs. James Robert Montgomery. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1933 with a degree in civil engineering and worked for Houston Lighting and Power Co. from 1933–1940. He then served in the Army during WWII as commander of the 269th Field Artillery. After the war, he worked for Humble Oil & Refining Co. (now Exxon USA), from 1946–1974, in various engineering capacities in the Gulf Coast area, Refugio, Houston and Tyler.

Mr. Montgomery retired in 1975 from Exxon as a senior supervising engineer. He served on the Tyler City Council for seven years and as mayor from 1987 to 1991. He was a member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and served on the board of East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, United Fund, YMCA membership drives, Boy Scouts of America, Tyler Sister Cities, Friends of the Arts and Tyler Civic Theater. He was also a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, a former vice-president of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, Society of Petroleum Engineers of AIME and American Society of Civil Engineers.

Mr. J.R. Montgomery passed away on August 30, 1998. He is survived by his wife, Rosalis, two sons and one grandson. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this great American—the late J.R. Montgomery.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
COLORADO BOYS RANCH

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 congratulate the Colorado Boys Ranch which has been designated the winner of the Samaritan Institute Award for demonstrating "the importance of ethical values through its work." The Boys Ranch, a residential treatment and education center for troubled youth near La Junta, Colorado, has helped boys for the last 40 years. Operated on a 40-acre site, the Boys Ranch provides education, skills, and counseling. Its innovative programs and individual attention have contributed to the Ranch's exceptional success rate. One study indicated 21 months following discharge, 80 percent of graduates were living successfully with their families or on their own.

Mr. Speaker, the Colorado Boys Ranch deserves Congress' recognition for helping kids gain the education, skills, and perspective needed to succeed. A new outlook on life, embedded in ethics and morals, is essential to gaining a good and fruitful life. Skills and education, while important, will not help a troubled child make a break with the past, unless they