

While serving as Under Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. Gonzalez was known for his strong efforts to forging a closer, more personal link between land-grant and research institutions and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, an agency that we all know provides funding for innovative research into the production of food and fiber, and the preservation of the environment. The Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics provides centralized organization and management of the research, education, and economic programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In his role Dr. Gonzalez oversaw the Agricultural Research Service, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the Economic Research Service and the National Statistics Service.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my best wishes to Dr. I. Miley Gonzalez in his future endeavors. The community of Las Cruces and New Mexico State University will greatly miss Dr. Gonzalez's presence—but the product of his work can be found in the faces of our current and future leaders. I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the achievements and contributions of this outstanding educator, administrator, public servant and New Mexican.

FEDERAL BILL TO MAKE SURVIVOR BENEFITS TO ALL BENEFICIARIES OF SLAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TAX FREE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to make benefits received by the beneficiaries (who are not a spouse or child) of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty tax-free. My bill amends the Officer Brian Gibson Tax Free Pension Equity Act that I introduced in 1997 after a District of Columbia police officer was killed in Ward 4, to relieve the spouses and children of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty from taxation on death benefits. The law now applies to all law enforcement officers in the United States. I wrote the bill after I discovered that officers received disability benefits tax-free while the death benefits of survivors were taxed. I decided to amend my bill after the Mychal Judge Police and Fire Chaplains Public Safety Officers' Benefit Act of 2002, allowing domestic partners to receive Federal death benefits, was enacted and signed by the President last month. That bill was stimulated by September 11th and the discovery that the domestic partners of police and fire officers killed in the Twin Towers tragedy were being denied death benefits.

The bill I introduce today is the logical companion bill to the 9–11 public safety officers bill that is now law because it simply allows the same exemption from taxation that other beneficiaries will now receive. Without this new bill, the very inequity Congress clearly intended to eliminate between the spouses and relatives of slain officers on the one hand and other beneficiaries on the other would be reintroduced. If the death benefits of these

beneficiaries of slain officers are tax exempt, it follows that the same benefits to other congressionally recognized beneficiaries should be similarly exempt. I believe that this remaining difference was not deliberate, but resulted from the fact that my earlier bill amended the tax code and was not immediately apparent to the authors of the recent bill.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this corrective measure.

CELEBRATING THE GRUNION GAZETTE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Grunion Gazette for providing Long Beach with an outstanding weekly newspaper for 25 years.

The Grunion, named after Long Beach's famous grunion runs, was founded by Tedi and Pat Cantalupo who began publishing the Grunion out of their home in the Belmont Shore area of Long Beach in 1977. In 1981, the Cantalupos sold the Grunion to Fran and John Blowitz who have built the paper into what it is today—one of the finest weekly newspapers in Southern California.

The Grunion Gazette has provided its readers with a sense of community and cohesiveness through its in-depth reporting on a variety of local topics. It keeps its readers well informed with news and information from city government, business, education, and the community, and provides a calendar of events, wedding announcements, obituaries, health and fitness advice, and a dining guide. Its opinion columns are based on local insights, along with a lively letters to the editor section and the witty commentary of Charlie the dog (aka Jacques Warshauer) in "Charlie's Corner," one of the Gazette's longest running features. All of this is combined with wonderful photos that capture the personality of the area and a website that opens the Gazette to readers around the world.

Fran and John Blowitz can take great pride in all that they have accomplished as owners of the Grunion Gazette, and as owners of the Downtown Gazette edition that they began 17 years ago. But that is not the whole story. Fran and John and their colleagues have also provided exceptional volunteer service to our community. They have served on numerous boards and committees and have helped to start such traditions as the Belmont Shore Christmas Parade. They also created the Gazette's Valentines' Date Night that draws thousands of people to the Queen Mary and raises more than \$50,000 a year for heart programs at Long Beach hospitals.

I salute Fran and John Blowitz, Associate Publisher and Executive Editor Harry Saltzgaver, Editor Kurt Helin, and all the fine staff and contributors for their commitment to the Grunion Gazette. Congratulations for 25 years of setting the highest standard for what a community newspaper can and should be.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUNE RENFRO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to bring to the attention of this House the inspiring accomplishments of June Renfro. June was recently awarded the Rifle (Colorado) Chamber of Commerce's 'Person of the Year' award for her dedication to her community. The selfless love with which she has promoted the betterment of the Rifle area has been a moving reminder of the affection many in my state have for their communities.

June Renfro was born on a ranch just north-east of Nunn, Colorado. She spent 18 years in the upholstery business in Greeley while actively pursuing a career with Home Interiors and Gifts, an at-home interior decorating service. However, when Mrs. Renfro's husband tragically passed away, June decided it was time to escape the cold winters in that area and moved to Rifle in 1997 to spend more time with her daughter Judy.

The joy with which June has embraced her new community later in life has been an inspiration to her new neighbors. At the age of 68 June threw herself wholeheartedly into the Rifle community, utilizing her love of people and inquisitive nature to become Rifle's biggest cheerleader. She became involved with the Chamber of Commerce ambassadors and began taping local business profiles for Rifle's Community Access Channel 13. June did everything in her power to share her talents and infectious spirit with her new neighbors in Rifle.

Mr. Speaker it is my privilege to pay tribute to June Renfro for her contributions to the rifle community. I applaud her receipt of the Rifle Chamber of Commerce's 'Person of the Year' award recognizing her significant achievements for the good of the community. At the age of 73, June's commitment to her neighborhood should be a lesson to all of us that we can continue to affect our communities for the public. For this unwavering dedication, as well as her infectious love of her newfound home, I bring June Renfro's example to the attention of this body of Congress.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GENE TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to pay tribute to a model citizen of the Grand Junction, Colorado community. Gene Taylor has gained the respect and admiration of the community through his company, Gene Taylor's Sporting Goods, and has provided professional and quality service to the city for over forty years. Gene's secret to success is simple; he values the customer and is dedicated to providing quality products in his establishments. He is a pillar of the Grand Junction community and I am honored to bring forth his accomplishments before this body of Congress, and this nation.