

effort for decades to come. I wish the Spina Bifida Association of America and the Spina Bifida Association of the Tri-State Region the best of luck in their endeavors and urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to support their important efforts.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER J.
D'AMELIO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christopher J. D'Amelio, Boat-swain's Mate First Class, United States Coast Guard, a longtime resident of Aptos, California. Petty Officer D'Amelio has been selected to receive the 2002 Gold Medal from the Association for Rescue at Sea for his integral role in a rescue that occurred near Peacock Spit at the mouth of the Columbia River.

Petty Officer D'Amelio deserves recognition for his heroic actions on September 2, 2001. His excellent performance as Surfman aboard Coast Guard Motor Life Boat 47248 was directly responsible for the saving of three lives. Petty Officer D'Amelio expertly maneuvered the MLB through plunging breakers 18 feet high to reach a capsized fishing boat. He calmly squared the bow into the oncoming surf and skillfully backed the MLB to the four individuals clinging to the overturned vessel. With the assistance of a rescue swimmer, Petty Officer D'Amelio successfully retrieved all four survivors and then escaped to calmer water where he and his crew could more accurately evaluate their condition. Upon discovering that one individual required immediate medical attention, Petty Officer D'Amelio quickly coordinated and directed the transfer of the individual to a waiting Coast Guard helicopter. Petty Officer D'Amelio's superb Surfman skills, his leadership, and his poise under great pressure prevented an already disastrous situation from becoming even worse.

Since joining the United States Coast Guard in 1995, Petty Officer D'Amelio has consistently demonstrated the three core values—Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty—that have contributed to this service's distinguished heritage. In recognition of his repeated displays of leadership, bravery, and outstanding achievement Petty Officer D'Amelio has twice received the Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal, the Commandant's Letter of Commendation with the Operational Distinguishing Device, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal with the Operational Distinguishing Device, and the Coast Guard Commendation Medal with Operational Distinguishing Device. In addition Petty Officer D'Amelio was named the Enlisted Person of the Year for the Thirteenth Coast Guard District in 2001.

While maintaining his professional excellence, Petty Officer D'Amelio has also maintained the role of devoted husband and father. He and his wife, Courtney, have two children: Taylor Brooke D'Amelio and Matthew John D'Amelio. In all spheres of his life, Petty Officer D'Amelio's extraordinary efforts and superb accomplishments merit respect and appreciation. I offer him congratulations for his years of dedicated service in the United States Coast Guard, and it is my great honor to represent such a courageous constituent.

CITIZEN INPUT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, throughout the 6 years I have represented them in Congress, the people of Colorado have shared with me their thoughtful insights, beliefs, and dreams for a better state and country in a variety of ways. In writing, by telephone, by e-mail and through personal visits, I have enjoyed the input of tens of thousands of Coloradans.

These efforts have been indispensable in my efforts to accurately and completely represent my state in the Congress, and I am grateful to every citizen who has ever taken the time to contribute their best judgment toward resolving the important issues of the day. Thanks to them, I have learned much about often complex issues, about the country and about Colorado.

Through these letters, e-mails, and telephone calls my constituents have expressed the values of hard-working families. Consistently, the themes of less government intervention, more personal freedom, and opportunity for prosperity have been the most vivid expressed by those who have contacted me. It is clear that Coloradans are a self-reliant and outspoken people for whom faith, integrity and an honest day's wage form the foundation of a thriving community.

In particular, I am grateful for the personal artifacts included with so many letters. Items such as pictures, pins, and books truly exhibit the character of the individuals I am elected to serve. These are among the things that have made the greatest impression on me while serving in Congress.

In addition, I am thankful for all the people who have ever attended my weekly breakfast town meetings in Larimer County, CO. Each Monday morning they share their hopes and expectations with me, on legislation and politics. I have found the attendees to be dynamic and sincere. They come from around Colorado, and quite often, other states. They are never timid about stating their opinions, which have been a valuable resource for me. In fact, my work at the nation's capital always reflects the ideas and comments expressed during these meetings.

Surely, among the most significant duties of a U.S. Representative is aiding individuals in fighting the red tape of insensitive government agencies. During my time in Congress, I have had the privilege to help thousands of people who came to me for help. Some common examples include cases of ensuring veterans receive benefits promised in exchange for their years of dedicated service, assisting Social Security recipients in getting monthly checks, helping entrepreneurs fight the Internal Revenue Service, assisting farmers in getting drought relief, and helping immigrants become legal U.S. citizens.

Regardless of the issues confronting the Congress, fighting for Coloradans is the most gratifying work. I am thankful for the people of Colorado who contacted me for help. Serving in this great Congress to represent the values of Colorado has truly been an honor. Those Coloradans who volunteer their opinions have contributed to a solid record for which I am most proud. My voice has been theirs as I

have endeavored to be nothing more than a reflection of my constituency. I will forever remain in their debt. They are the best of America.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTA ANDERSON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of my Medford, OR, district staff. During her time with us, Krista Anderson has tirelessly served the people of the Second District of Oregon, and will soon be on her way back to Western Oregon University to finish her degree. Her cheerful demeanor and strong work ethic will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, Krista has volunteered countless hours this summer assisting my district staff. Whenever something needed to be done, Krista readily stepped in and offered to help. From simple tasks like answering phones to helping with complex preparations for the visits of President George W. Bush and former Speaker Newt Gingrich to Medford, Krista proved herself to be an extremely reliable and efficient worker. My staff came to rely on her heavily, and she never let them down. I'm sure this strong work ethic will serve her well in any path she chooses to pursue.

Krista is the daughter of John and Renee Anderson of Medford. She graduated from South Medford High School in 2000 with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. While at South Medford, she proved to be not only a top-notch student, but excelled in extracurricular activities, as well. She was a member of the International Thespian Society and helped with the production of eleven plays, earning honors as best technician.

From Medford, Krista moved to Monmouth, OR, to attend Western Oregon University, where she has continued to stand out in her college years. She is a member of the Honor Society Phi Kappa Phi and is currently working toward a degree in Public Policy Administration with a minor in Speech Communication, maintaining a 3.94 grade point average. This is quite a feat given that she also devotes her time to Concert Choir, College Republicans, Campus Crusade for Christ, and a cultural group called Conversation Links.

Mr. Speaker, Krista has proven herself to be a kind, upstanding, hard-working individual, both personally and professionally. Mr. Medford office was very fortunate to have such a dedicated intern during an especially busy summer. I know that Krista will only continue to excel, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING ROSEMARY DUNCAN

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Rosemary Duncan on her outstanding leadership and dedication to helping our military personal at the Samuel S. Stratton