

that Officer Bethel could use. Joe worked diligently with the Denver Home Builders Foundation to assist Officer Bethel. I would like personally to thank Mr. Paddilla for all of his hard work on this project. He and his company have also designed and built a \$1.5 million, state-of-the-art home as a donation to Cherish the Children, an organization that provides educational assistance to children. He is currently the president and chairman of the Costuyendo Education Network, a program that educates minority and immigrant construction workers through bilingual education, teaching them how to start their own businesses in Colorado. Mr. Paddilla has helped his community in many ways, and continues with his active involvement in various philanthropic organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize Mr. Joseph Paddilla before this body of Congress and this nation. Through his efforts to help his community, Mr. Paddilla has served others in an exceptional manner, and I feel honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to him.

IN HONOR OF ALEX ANTÓN'S AND
ROGER E. HERNÁNDEZ'S PUBLI-
CATION, CUBANS IN AMERICA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the publication of Cubans in America: A Vibrant History of a People in Exile, by Roger E. Hernández, and Alex Antón. A documentary of four centuries of Cubans living and thriving in America, the book follows the history of Cubans in America from the 16th century, with the settlement of St. Augustine, to the present day.

Mr. Roger E. Hernández, a nationally syndicated columnist writing on Hispanic-American issues, along with Alex Antón, published Cubans in America in May of 2002.

Mr. Hernández writes for a weekly op-ed column distributed by King Features Syndicate to some 40 daily newspapers across the nation. He also writes articles for other newspapers and magazines, is a frequent guest on televisions and radio political talk shows, travels the country delivering lectures, and wrote several books that make up part of a series about South America for 4th through 6th grade students.

Mr. Hernández left Cuba with his parents at the age of nine. He quickly established himself in the United States and earned a BA in Journalism at Rutgers University in 1977. Currently, he lives with his wife and two children in Boonton, New Jersey.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Roger E. Hernández and Alex Antón for the publication of Cubans in America: A Vibrant History of a People in Exile. I commend these authors for celebrating the importance and influence of Cubans in our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL D. SERZEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I recognize Mr. Russell D. Serzen of Durango, Colorado. Russell was a man of absolute integrity and strength. His conviction and dedication to Fort Lewis College's Community Concert Hall was a great asset, and yielded great benefits to his community. At this time, I would like to pay tribute to Russell's life and accomplishments.

Mr. Serzen was born in Chicago, in 1933. He attended the University of Illinois, where he played hockey and baseball. He was named Most-Valuable-Player in baseball in 1954, and that same year he signed a contract with the New York Yankees. His baseball career was cut short in 1956, as he entered the Army. He was the first baseball player to be introduced into the University of Illinois's Hall of Fame. On September 19, 1950, Russell married Elizabeth Hanson. The two were blessed with three children. During his youth, Mr. Serzen was a medical supply salesman and a founding member of the Institute for Orthopaedic Enlightenment.

In 1989, Mr. Sezen retired to Durango, Colorado. Once he was there, he became a strong supporter of Fort Lewis College's Community Concert Hall. He was always doing something to promote the community's interest in the Concert Hall, from organizing pledge drives to helping with the program planning. While living in Durango, his passions included jazz and handball. It was this passion for jazz that led him to become so involved with the Community Concert Hall. Through his many efforts, Fort Lewis College's Community Concert Hall has grown in strength and in renown.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Mr. Russell D. Serzen before this body of Congress and this nation. His advocacy for the Performing Arts in Western Colorado has helped establish a strong tradition of music and its appreciation. His memory will live on in the lives of his family, his friends, and the many people who were touched by his life.

TRIBUTE TO POSADA AGENCY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Posada Agency of Pueblo, Colorado for their outstanding commitment to Southern Colorado's homeless citizens. Recently, the Posada Agency held an open house celebrating the opening of the newly remodeled Elko Motel. The Posada Agency renovated the building to provide a safe living area for Pueblo's homeless families. Today I would like to pay tribute to their service before this body of Congress and this nation.

The Posada Agency for the homeless is a non-profit organization that provides for the immediate needs of the homeless while simultaneously working to overcome the problems that have led to their homelessness. The

agency incorporates the services of many philanthropic groups, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to provide the resources necessary for the fight against homelessness. Through their transitional housing and employment assistance programs, Posada has been able to serve over 37,000 homeless in Southern Colorado.

The Elko Motel was purchased by the Posada Agency two years ago with financial contributions from the El Pomar foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Since then, the Posada Agency has been completely renovated. Today, the hotel has new plumbing, wiring, and carpeting, providing a structured and safe environment for Pueblo's homeless families.

Mr. Speaker, it is with earnest respect that I recognize the Posada Agency for the homeless before this body of Congress and this nation. I would like to commend all the men and women of the agency for their tireless commitment to such a noble endeavor. Through their dedication and goodwill, the Posada Agency has been able to help countless numbers of homeless get back on their feet, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

IN HONOR OF NORTH HUDSON
REGIONAL FIRE AND RESCUE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue (NHRFR) and its outstanding professional firefighters and rescue personnel who are the pride of the five northern New Jersey communities that they serve with such great distinction—Union City, Weehawken, North Bergen, West New York and Guttenberg.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, there is renewed national appreciation and respect for the heroic men and women who put their lives at risk in the line of duty every day in every American community. These are truly the heroes in our midst, each and every one an authentic profile in courage. I share the pride of my fellow Hudson County citizens in the outstanding performance of NHRFR fire and rescue personnel in support of their NYFD and NJ-based colleagues on 9/11, and each and every day preceding and following that horrific tragedy.

Prior to my Congressional service, I had the privilege of being the mayor of Union City, New Jersey. As a mayor, I learned a lot about what it takes, in terms of money, management and leadership capability, and training time to develop and maintain a fire and rescue fire-responder team that is prepared and equipped to handle every conceivable emergency situation in a community. I am grateful to have had that experience, because I gained a great deal of understanding and insight about what we, as a nation, must now do to ensure that our fire and rescue first responders have the tools and the training to meet the growing demands and dangers of their public safety mission.

Since 9/11, the mission of our local fire and rescue first responders has expanded exponentially, and is now elevated to the level of