

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Covello, and to all of our veterans, for bravely fighting to protect our security and liberty. I am confident that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in thanking Mr. Covello for his service.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Wednesday, May 7, 2003, the House voted on two amendments by Mr. BELL of Texas to H.R. 766, the Nanotechnology Research and Development Act of 2003. On House rollcall votes No. 165 and No. 166, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

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TRIBUTE TO JOHN MCMORRAN OF  
LAKELAND, FL

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a great American who died last month after 113 years of life.

At the time of his death John McMorran of Lakeland, FL, which lies partially in my Fifth Congressional District, was the oldest living American man and the fourth-oldest person in the world.

Born June 19, 1889, in a Michigan log cabin, John McMorran considered coffee his elixir and quit cigars at the tender age of 97. He retired at 84 after working in a munitions factory, delivering milk, and delivering mail and moved to Florida to enjoy his retirement.

More than 30 years later he was still enjoying life, friends, and his family, who all said he was a happy man who lived a great life.

Mr. McMorran had a 59-year-old grandson and a 35-year-old great-granddaughter and one great-great-grandson!

He was born the year that the Oklahoma Land Rush took place, 14 when the Wright Brothers made their historic first flight at Kitty Hawk, and too old for the draft in World War I.

Mr. McMorran was there for all the advancements and innovations of the Twentieth Century. He knew life before and after cars, before and after electricity in homes, before and after computers, cell phones, the Internet. After 113 years of life there's not much he missed out on.

I am proud to speak before the House today about John McMoffan and commemorate his long, successful life.

SUSTAINING AN AMERICAN  
DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, later this month, the U.S. will welcome President Note of the Marshall Islands as he visits our country. His visit here will coincide with the Bush Administration's transmittal to Congress of the document that governs the bilateral relationship enjoyed by our nations. This little known treaty embodies the best of U.S. diplomacy and strategic policy in recent decades. Ronald Reagan was President and the Democrats controlled both House of Congress when a bipartisan majority of both Houses approved the Compact of Free Association between the U.S. and two Pacific island micro-states.

The treaty of free association between the United States, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia ended more than four decades of United Nations trust territory status for the islands, and these new nations, under new flags, themselves then became members of the United Nations. Not only was this a good model for decolonization of dependent territories, but the compact also preserved U.S. strategic interests in the islands. Under the treaty, an area of ocean as large as the continental United States, with strategically located islands stretching from the mid-Pacific to the Asian rim, remains foreclosed in perpetuity to the military forces of any nation other than the United States.

U.S. strategic interest in the Marshall Islands began in 1946 when the U.S. conducted its first atmospheric nuclear weapons test at Bikini. During the next decade over 67 tests were conducted, leaving a legacy of injuries to people and contamination of homelands that is still being resolved through claims settlement proceedings authorized by Congress under the compact. Amazingly, the islanders suffered greatly but consider themselves survivors rather than just victims, U.S. allies rather than just a subjugated people.

In addition nuclear test sites in the islands, Kwajalein Missile Range in the Marshall Islands was perhaps the most vital facility in the U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile development program, a centerpiece of U.S. nuclear deterrence that prevented the Cold War from turning into nuclear winter. Renamed the U.S. Army Ronald Reagan Missile Test Range, Kwajalein played an indispensable role in the Strategic Defense Initiative that helped bring about disarmament and end the Soviet empire.

To preserve the compact's success and the underlying strategic interests, Congress has to renew the economic assistance provisions of the compact that expires this year. The Bush Administration has consulted with Congress about renewal terms in a bipartisan spirit, and has addressed concerns raised by GAO about fiscal accountability for the island governments, as well tightening up controls on migration between the islands and the mainland.

Free association is based on separate sovereignty, nationality and citizenship, and is free because any party to the compact can terminate it in favor of full independence at any time. Thus, it is not some screw scheme

of co-mingled nationality or neo-colonial entanglement. Indeed, the whole point of free association is that it continues as long as it serves the mutual interest of the parties. Clearly, from a strategic point of view alone, U.S. interests preclude letting the compact lapse.

Moreover, the islands have been good allies, reliably voting with the U.S. in the U.N. on important issues. Under the compact, islanders are eligible for service in the U.S. military, and both Marshall Islanders and Micronesians have fought with the 3d Infantry in the streets of Baghdad as comrades in arms with American soldiers.

This is an alliance that represents the best of American diplomacy, and the compact also demonstrates that America deals honorably with small nations that share our values. Obviously, there are other priorities, but the Administration should send the treaty renewal agreements to Congress without further delay, and Congress should renew the Compact of Free Association before it expires, thereby sustaining a bipartisan foreign policy and national security success story.

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A TRIBUTE TO LUCILLE CORRINE  
HAGANS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Lucille Corrine Hagans in recognition of her commitment to helping others throughout her eighty-five years.

Ms. Hagans was born to the late Samuel and Hagar Cohen. Lucille and her family left the hills of Savannah, GA, and migrated to Coatesville, PA. In 1948, she moved to Brooklyn, NY. Her home was always filled with guests and she did not mind opening up her doors to those in need.

Ms. Hagans has been a positive role model for the lives of many. There were times she traveled through the snow and the rain to make sure that everyone in her household had food to eat and a place to lay their heads. She has always been a hard and diligent worker.

A great seamstress and milliner, Ms. Hagans has sewn for many people all over New York City. She has an innate gift of teaching. God has equipped her to help educate others. Ms. Hagans is also a clothing designer in her own right.

Ms. Hagans is a woman of character and standards. She lives a holy life and is a woman of prayer and consecration. She introduced her children and grandchildren to the Lord by taking them to church and teaching them the word of God. She has taught the women in her family to strive for what they want in this life. And, she has been a role model and a woman of integrity.

Mr. Speaker, through her longstanding commitments and her dedication to teaching and spreading the Lord's word, Lucille Corrine Hagans has shown that she is clearly devoted to her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable woman.