

the Civil War. In June of 2001 over 140 descendants traveled to Virginia for the dedication of Civil War breastplates. Quotes from the letters . . . were used on the Confederate breast-works plaques.

This year's reunion is no different from the 99 before it (as) hundreds of family members ascend on Leslie and spend the afternoon together over a barbecue lunch. In 100 years the world has evolved from a world of only one in 10 homes with a telephone to a world with an information highway. But one thing has stayed the same—the Pryor family gathering.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MOHAMMED ALI  
ODEEN ISHMAEL

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 2003*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend Dr. Mohammed Ali Odeen Ishmael, Ambassador of Guyana to the United States of America and Permanent Representative of Guyana to the Organization of American States.

Ambassador Odeen Ishmael, who was born in 1948, was appointed to his current post, more than 10 years ago, in June 1993 and is presently the Dean of the Caribbean Ambassador.

Before becoming an Ambassador, Dr. Ishmael previously worked as a teacher in Guyana, and served during the 1970s in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana. He returned to teaching after his stint in Foreign Affairs. From 1985 to early 1993 he worked in The Bahamas in the areas of both secondary and adult education. He has represented Guyana at the OAS General Assemblies, and other specialized meetings of the hemispheric body in various countries of the hemisphere and has participated as a member of Guyana's delegation at the U.N. General Assembly since 1993. In addition, he has headed Guyana's delegation to meetings of the Regional Negotiating Machinery (of CARICOM) from 1997. From 1997, he has headed Guyana's delegations to meetings Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC); and he also participated in the Summits of Heads of States of the OIC in Tehran (1997) and Qatar (2000).

Ambassador Ishmael was also Guyana's chief negotiator at the Summits of the Americas of 1994 (Miami), 1998 (Santiago de Chile) and 2001 (Quebec City), and also at the Summit of Sustainable Development in Bolivia (1996). At the OAS, he served as Chairman of the Permanent Council in late 1994, and oversaw the restoration of democratic government in Haiti. He is the only Guyanese to serve in this prestigious position in the hemispheric organization.

He had previously served as Vice-Chairman of the Permanent Council during July-September 1993, and as Vice-Chairman of the Environmental Committee of the Permanent Council from August 1993 to July 1994. In 1994 he was also elected Chairman of the General Committee to prepare the OAS draft convention on the situation of persons with disabilities. In 1996, he was elected Vice-Chairman of the OAS Working Group on Sustainable Development.

In May 1997, Ambassador Ishmael was awarded one of Guyana's highest honors, the

Cacique Crown on Honor (CCH). Many years earlier, in 1974, he was awarded the Gandhi Centenary Medal at the University of Guyana. In political life, Ambassador Ishmael served in the Central Committees of the Progressive Youth Organization (PYO)—serving as Second Secretary—and the People's Progressive Party (PPP) of Guyana, and in the course of his political work, he participated in numerous international conferences and activities in many different countries. He also assisted in lobbying Guyana's case for electoral reforms in different countries in North and South America, Europe and the Caribbean.

He has written numerous articles on Education, Guyanese history and international political issues, which have been published in newspapers and journals in Guyana, the Caribbean and North America. His published books include Problems of the Transition of education in the Third World, Towards Education Reform in Guyana, and Amerindian Legends of Guyana. An Internet edition of a fourth book, The Trail of Diplomacy, was released in late 1998. He is currently in the process of compiling and editing a lengthy collection of original documents on the Guyana-Venezuela border issue under the title, Guyana's Western Border. He is married and has two children.

I met Ambassador Ishmael when I was first elected to the House of Representatives and served as the Honorary Co-Chair of the Institute for Caribbean Studies Annual Awards Dinner. In the flowing years, I had the pleasure of working with him and his other Caribbean Ambassador colleagues on the several issues, from Trade to Immigration, and economic development, which continue to impact our democratic neighbors to the south.

I want to thank Ambassador Ishmael and his family for his commitment and dedication, during his tenure here in Washington, not only to issues affecting his home country Guyana but also to the issues and concerns of all of the countries of the Caribbean. I want to wish him much success in his new assignment and to say that Washington, DC Caribbean community will greatly surely miss his insightful, quiet leadership as well as his earnest friendship.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT AUSTIN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and the Nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Robert Austin of Gunnison, Colorado recently announced he will leave the Gunnison Valley Hospital after 19 years of dedicated service. As Robert embarks on a new phase of his life, I am honored to take this opportunity to recognize his accomplishments here today.

President of the Gunnison Valley Hospital since 1984, Robert has led the hospital through many changes. He has overseen the hiring of numerous surgeons, four building expansions, the creation of a long-term business plan, and Gunnison Valley's designation as a Critical Access Hospital. Through it all, Robert has worked hard to run the hospital fairly and compassionately.

In addition to his work at the hospital, Robert is very active in his community. The Gunnison Rotary Club, the Gunnison Area Foundation, and the Western State College Advisory Council all benefit from Robert's participation. In addition, he is a member of the Colorado Hospital Association, where he served as the association's Chair in 1995, and the Governing Council for Small and Rural Hospitals for the American Hospital Association.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Austin has been an effective leader in the health care industry and an active member of his community for many years. His hard work and dedication have benefited an untold number of Coloradans. For his tireless efforts and years of service, I am honored to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to Robert here today.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR RICHARD  
CLAIRE

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 2003*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mayor Richard Claire, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California and a distinguished leader of Redwood City, who is retiring after serving on the City Council of Redwood City for twenty years.

Richard Claire is known to the people of Redwood City as Dick Claire. He has been a resident of Redwood City since his childhood and is a product of the resources the San Francisco Peninsula and South Bay have to offer. Dick Claire attended Sequoia High School in Redwood City, went on to study at the College of San Mateo, and received his Master's degree in Business Administration from Santa Clara University.

Dick Claire is exceedingly proud of his local education and he has continued to give back to his community as a full-time instructor in the San Mateo County Community College District. During the 2002–2003 school year, he served as Academic President for the District and the College of San Mateo, and he is currently serving as Academic President of Cañada College. In May of 2002, his outstanding work spanning twenty-five years of service with the Community College District was honored by the Board of Trustees.

Dick Claire's career has included positions as Corporate Controller at Raychem and Controller for Ferrex Corporation. He's been an accounting consultant and in his spare time returned to his alma mater to act as Sequoia High School's football coach and later as manager for Redwood City Little League Baseball Senior League.

Beyond his activities with the San Mateo County Community College District and youth athletic teams, Dick Claire has been a real leader in Redwood City for over a quarter of a century. He served on the City's Planning Commission from August 1978 through April 1982, and was Chairman of the Commission. In April 1982, he was elected to the City Council, where he has been reelected an astonishing four times by the people of Redwood City. He has twice been selected by his Council colleagues to serve as the Mayor. He's also