

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating my friend Fred Salem. He has served his community with enthusiasm and concern. I wish him all the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING MARCUS W. PHILLIPS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Marcus W. Phillips, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 362, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Marcus has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the ten years Marcus has been involved with scouting, he has earned 21 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Chaplain Aide, Quartermaster, Patrol Leader, and Scribe. Marcus earned the honor of Brave, Warrior, and Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and served on staff at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation teaching younger scouts woodworking.

For his Eagle Scout project, Marcus organized and supervised ten other Scouts in the landscaping of a section of the Children's Garden at Duncan Road Baptist Church in Blue Springs, Missouri. They spent 150 hours planting trees and shrubs, placing decorative rock, and adding both edging and fencing to the Garden.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Marcus W. Phillips for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO PAULA SCHAEFER

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of a remarkable woman from my district. Paula Schaefer from Durango, Colorado passed away recently at the age of 54. She will long be remembered for charitable acts in her community, her friendly disposition, and her unyielding love for her family.

Paula was born in Wichita Falls, Texas in 1948. It was there that she met and married Lyndall, her husband of 36 years. Upon moving to Durango, Paula became an accomplished Businesswoman. She served as the President of the Durango area Association of Realtors, and was recognized as "Realtor of the Year" in 2003.

Paula's contributions to the Durango community were extensive. As a member of the Lion's Club, and co-founder of the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity, Paula was dedi-

cated to helping those in need. There is no doubt that countless people are better off as the result of Paula's selfless commitment to others.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication and integrity demonstrated throughout Paula Schaefer's life certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and our nation. There is no question that Paula will be remembered as a great businesswoman. However, she will best be remembered as a selfless person, a great friend, and a dedicated mother and wife. My heart goes out to Paula's loved ones in this difficult time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM AUSTIN

**HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2003*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate William Austin on being honored with the National Caring Award for his efforts to help hearing-impaired children around the world. Through his tireless work at the Starkey Hearing Foundation, William has helped provide over 80,000 hearing aids to children in 70 countries since 2000.

William has worked constantly on innovative ways to improve hearing technology and serves many high profile celebrities and athletes. But his true calling lies in helping children around the world who suffer from hearing impairment. By donating hearing aids, batteries and other hearing products to countless needy children, he has given them the ultimate gift—the gift of hearing. Where there was once silence, thousands of children can now hear their mother's voice, the falling rain, and the sweet sound of music.

The Caring Institute, who honored William with the award, seeks to promote the values of caring, integrity and public service. Those selected to receive the National Caring Award, including William, represent the best of these qualities.

Again, I congratulate William. And thank you for all your work for hearing impaired children around the world.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALBERT H. VIERLING, JR.

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2003*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Albert H. Vierling, Jr., a community leader and veterans advocate from Berlin, New Jersey who died suddenly on October 24, 2003.

A decorated Army Veteran of the Korean War, Al was a member of ANMAC VFW Post #6253 where he served as Service Officer and was the Commander for 12 years. He was a member, Service Officer, and past commander of American Legion Post #271. Al was the Commander of Camden County VFW District 1984–1985 receiving the All American District Commander Award. He was a 1977 founding member of the Camden County Veteran Advisory Committee. Al was a volunteer with the

Camden County Veterans Affairs Office since 1990, becoming a part time employee with the Office while serving as Supervisor of Veterans Interment for Camden County.

Al was also a leader in the greater Philadelphia labor community. Retiring in 1977, Al was the Shop Steward for Teamsters Union Local 628 of Philadelphia where he worked for over 25 years. He was the building maintenance supervisor for the borough of Berlin for over 10 years. Additionally, Al was very active in community athletics as a founder and past president of the Interboro Athletic Association, former coach of the Overbrook Cowboys, and former member and coach of the Berlin Athletic Association.

Whether he was helping veterans navigate the Veterans Administration bureaucracy, selling poppies each May to raise money for South Jersey veterans or organizing scores of events to pay tribute to our nation's heroes, Mr. Vierling worked tirelessly to assist and honor veterans. Al did everything in his power to make sure that our government upheld the promises it made to veterans and that the American people did not forget the sacrifices made and the freedom won by those who served our nation in uniform. Additionally, on the athletic field, Al taught scores of South Jersey youth the value of hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Al Vierling left the First Congressional District of New Jersey a better place. He touched the lives of hundreds of people in South Jersey. His lifelong service will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO JOSE MACARIO VALDEZ

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I pay tribute to Jose Macario Valdez of Trinidad, Colorado. Jose passed away recently at the age of 79, and as I look back on his life, I see the story of a great American. As his family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember Jose's life, and celebrate the outstanding contributions that he made to the community of Trinidad, and this country.

Jose was born in Trinidad in 1924. During World War II, he answered his country's call to duty and joined the Army Air Corps. As an Air Transportation Technician in the Pacific Theater, Jose served with remarkable valor and courage on nearly 100 missions. For his heroism, Jose was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, a Good Conduct Medal, and the Burma Asiatic Pacific Service Medal. Jose's awards are illustrative of the courage and valor that defined his selfless protection of our country.

Upon returning to Trinidad, Jose met and married Prospera Lovato, his wife of 56 years. He went to work for CF&I Steel for eight years. He then became a coal miner before going to work for the City of Trinidad as a power plant fireman, a position he held for 24 years. Jose was deeply involved in the Trinidad community. He was an active member of the Sociedad De San Antonia de Padua and the Holy Trinity Church as well.