

impressive 52 years, the Everson family has been the steward of one of the state's only independent newspapers.

Mr. Speaker, I join the Edgerton Rotary and the Edgerton community in recognizing Helen Everson's achievements and congratulate her as she accepts the Honored Citizen of the Year award.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEROY
CARLSON

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor LeRoy Carlson for his three decades of exemplary work with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Leroy Carlson is one of Colorado's outstanding field biologists, preserving and protecting the Rocky Mountain region's wildlife.

Lee received his bachelor's degree from Colorado State University in Wildlife Biology and his master's degree in 1974 with an emphasis on the wildlife impacts from oil shale development. He began his career in Galveston, Texas as a field staff biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he did permitting work for the Army Corps of Engineers on housing developments, levies and wetlands.

After 2 years in Texas, Lee moved to the Lakewood, Colorado offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he worked for the next 27 years until his retirement in 2003. His innovative approaches to a wide range of issues enabled him to provide oversight and protection to the region's threatened and endangered species and to guide many of the region's largest projects to successful completion.

Lee's ability to coordinate the protection of wildlife was most evident on large Federal projects, such as the Animas-LaPlata water project in Southwest Colorado. He earned the respect of all involved during his 3-year oversight of negotiations between the Bureau of Reclamation, the regional Native American tribes, local water users and regional environmental groups. From these contentious discussions, the San Juan Recovery Program was created, which provided significant mitigation for fish and wildlife resources and included an additional 7 years of research on listed fish.

His experience and problem solving attitude in managing complex water projects led to the successful re-issuance of agency water permits on projects throughout the Roosevelt and Arapahoe National Forests. Lee also provided skilled leadership on the Platte River Program for endangered species conservation, involving multiple States and Federal agencies. The Platte River Program included a unique approach to conserving listed wildlife species through the conversion of water use to financial contributions paid by project developers.

When the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) needed a new way to address U.S. Fish and Wildlife endangered species requirements, Lee developed an innovative solution that included staffing within CDOT to help that agency evaluate the impacts on wildlife so that the needs of CDOT could be

met in a timely manner. His plan became a model for future projects and allowed CDOT to determine project impacts for the next 20 years and develop mitigation plans. The Short Grass Prairie Project received two national awards for the creative approaches Lee used with State and Federal agencies. This became the Colorado model for the Prebles Project in the East Plum Creek area, protecting the Prebles Meadow Jumping Mouse, a rare species that was placed on the Endangered Species list in 1998.

Lee's service and achievements show how a skilled public servant can make important contributions to the quality of our natural environment, as well as our communities. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking LeRoy Carlson for his far-reaching accomplishments and his commitment to the protection of our wildlife resources. I wish him good health and happiness in the future.

TRIBUTE TO TOMMY THOMPSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a man who has done a great deal for the betterment of the State of Colorado. Tommy Thompson is a Sergeant At Arms in the Colorado State legislature. At the age of 80, Tommy is the oldest person working in Colorado's State Capitol. However, he is also one of the most energetic and one of the most beloved. I am proud to call Tommy's contributions to the attention of my colleagues and our nation here today.

Tommy was serving as Vice-Chairman of the Arapahoe County Republican party when he was appointed as Sergeant At Arms in 1997. Tommy loves his job and comes to work each day with a smile. That smile, and Tommy's friendly demeanor, remain with him throughout the day. Tommy has many friends throughout the Capitol and he gets along fantastically with members from both sides of the aisle. Nearly everyone who has worked in the Capitol has fond memories of times spent with Tommy.

Tommy's contributions to our nation reach far beyond the steps of Colorado's state Capitol. In World War II, Tommy answered our country's call to duty and served honorably aboard the USS *Mount Vernon* for over three years. Following the war, Tommy went to work for Ford Motor Company, and then opened a bicycle repair shop. He is still active in the Republican Forum, in addition to his work at the state Capitol. At the age of 80, Tommy Thompson has never slowed his pace, and he has no plans to do so now.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Tommy Thompson before this body of Congress and our nation. Tommy has dedicated many years to assuring that Colorado's government runs efficiently. Tommy has touched the lives of many Coloradans, and it is my honor to pay tribute to his contributions here today. Thanks for your service, Tommy.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN DONOVAN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHICAGO
COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the poet Robert Frost is quoted as writing, "Some people see things that are and ask why, I dream of things that have never been and ask, why not." Such was the life, such was the philosophy and such was the work of John Donovan, known to his friends as Juancho.

John was a former Catholic priest who found his niche in organizing, working with and working for people in our world known as being poor. He worked in Panama, in the Rogers Park and Uptown communities of Chicago before becoming executive director of the coalition to end homelessness. He also worked as a priest, administrator and teacher at Chicago's Visitation High School. He was educated with a bachelor and masters degrees from Saint Mary of the Lake University in Mundelein.

John was the recipient of many awards and honors and was featured in Studs "Terkel's Hope Dies Last." In an interview with Studs, John said: "Some people who are better off have the luxury of losing hope. But poor people never lose hope. They can't afford to. That's the only thing they can hold on to, and that's where hope springs eternal." Some people say, "How can you continue to work with the homeless and the poor?" That's where I get my energy because they never lose hope." "I'm not practicing as a priest, but my ministry, remember is organizing. My job is organizing hope. There are people in the community who still have hope. That's the last thing they lose. I'm organizing hope for change."

John Donovan, a man of hope, a force for change. May he rest in peace. I extend condolence to John's wife, their children, and other members of John's family.

CHAPTER 12 BANKRUPTCY
EXTENSION BILL

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am once again introducing legislation to extend authorization of Chapter 12 of the bankruptcy code. This legislation should not be necessary, but a permanent Chapter 12 authorization remains a hostage to more comprehensive bankruptcy law changes.

Chapter 12 provides an important backstop for our Nation's struggling family farmers by allowing them to reorganize their debts and keep their farms. It provides an important bankruptcy option to farm families to keep their livelihood and maintain their way of life.

This bill provides a textbook example that what we do here in Washington directly affects the lives of real people facing real financial challenges.

In Wisconsin recently, a Columbus farmer filed for Chapter 12 bankruptcy. He works

night and day to make his farm a success. Unfortunately, like many farmers, the weather and the market conspired to disrupt his cash flow. Filing Chapter 12 gave his family time to negotiate with his creditors, while he switched production from corn and soybeans to vegetable production and local market sales. He sells his produce at farmers markets in Madison and Princeton. And he is paying his debts. Under Chapter 12, it was not only the Columbus farmer that benefited. His creditors are receiving their money, the people in my district can purchase his bounty, and he can continue to support his family.

Chapter 12 does not just provide a direct benefit to those using its protections. Many farmers who face possible bankruptcy never get to a court filing. The very existence of the option of a Chapter 12 filing promotes negotiations between farmers and creditors.

Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection expires at the end of 2003. Before we leave town for the year, Congress should renew this bankruptcy law. That is why I am introducing this bipartisan bill today. I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues NICK SMITH of Michigan and TIM HOLDEN of Pennsylvania.

Once again, we are forced to approve a temporary extension of this vital protection. Since I was first elected to Congress 5 years ago, we have passed 8 temporary extensions. Making this noncontroversial program permanent is beyond overdue. In both this Congress and last Congress, I introduced legislation to modify Chapter 12 to include more family farmers and make it a permanent part of our bankruptcy law.

There is great consensus that Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection works well. It is for that reason that we have included a permanent authorization in the comprehensive bankruptcy reform bill for the past three Congresses. In fact, it is considered so popular that it has been held hostage to the bigger bill. Every time we come to the floor to extend Chapter 12, we are told that a permanent extension cannot be passed separately from the big bill because taking out popular items will slow the bill's momentum. We were told we had to strip the permanent extension from last year's farm bill because it would slow down the bankruptcy bill. We were told in June when we extended Chapter 12 again that we had to wait. Our farmers have been waiting for more than 5 years. It is time to just get this done. Let's end the uncertainty these extensions cause by passing a permanent authorization.

In reluctant acknowledgment that passage of the permanent Chapter 12 legislation is unlikely this year, I am introducing this 6-month extension. In the absence of a permanent authorization, I would prefer even longer than 6 months. This legislation is a realistic time period that can ensure passage in the few days we have left in this session.

Since the current authorization will expire at the end of the year, farmers will need the relief provided by this extension. As our family farmers begin to decide whether they can afford to plant next year, we need to make sure they have the ability to stay in farming by using Chapter 12 to reorganize their debts. This bill will provide the security family farmers to make that difficult decision.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and the chairman of the Judiciary Committee move this bill before we adjourn for the year. Chapter 12 has expired before, leaving many farmers in

great uncertainty. Let's not let that happen again.

BASIC PILOT PROGRAM EXTENSION AND EXPANSION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1685, the Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2003.

The Basic Pilot Verification program was created in 1997 to assist employers in verifying the eligibility of prospective employees to work in the United States. Currently the program is only available to employers in six States. Recently I voted against a bill to expand and extend the program, H.R. 2359, because I thought an expansion of this program deserved more debate and allowance for amendments to fix some of the more problematic parts of the bill.

The Senate-passed measure that we are considering today, S. 1685, is an improvement on the House bill.

Unlike the House bill, this bill does not open up access to the databases of the Homeland Security Department and the Social Security Administration to other Federal agencies or to State and local government agencies. I had grave concerns about the infringement of civil liberties in the House bill, which would have permitted widespread sharing of employee information. I am also pleased that concerns already identified by the Department of Homeland Security about the Basic Pilot program are being addressed. I still have apprehensions that the data used in this program is not always up-to-date or accurate, specifically in regard to the visa status of employees. However, I am hopeful that the Homeland Security Department report required under this legislation will address these concerns so that they can be resolved by the time the program is expanded to all fifty states.

The Basic Pilot Verifications program provides an efficient and effective method for ensuring that employers are hiring eligible employees. I hope that through the extension and expansion provided for in this bill, this program will provide accurate information about prospective employees and continue to address the needs of American employers.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BUD ROMBERG

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. Bud Romberg has dedicated many years of his life to the betterment of the community of Steamboat, Colorado and it is my honor to pay tribute to him before this body of Congress and our nation.

Bud is a retired schoolteacher who has held a seat on the Steamboat Springs School

Board for 18 years. He also serves on the City Planning Commission and just completed a four-year term of service on the Steamboat City Council. As a Councilman, Bud's tenure was defined by his honesty and integrity. Bud had no use for political double-speak or bureaucracy and approached his position in a straightforward and direct manner.

During Bud's tenure, he played a direct role in assuring that Steamboat maintained its small town charm, and family atmosphere. He was also instrumental in helping to form strong working relationships between the City of Steamboat and government agencies throughout Colorado.

Mr. Speaker it is my privilege to pay tribute to Bud Romberg before this body of Congress and our nation. Bud is a man of great honor and integrity and the community of Steamboat Springs is a better place as the result of his dedicated service. Thank you for your service, Bud.

TRIBUTE TO SILAS PURNELL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the most remarkable and most successful men that this country has produced, Mr. Silas Purnell, who is credited with assisting more than 50,000 students to gain acceptance to colleges and universities. Silas Purnell was born on March 10, 1923, graduated from Wendell Phillips High School, received a degree from the Sheil Institute, attended Roosevelt and Northwestern Universities. Silas went to World War II, was a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, got married to his wife Marilyn in 1946, and they had five children, Rosalind, Silas, Rosalinda, Ronald, and Donna.

Mr. Purnell took a job and worked 13 years for the Coca Cola Bottling Company. It was during this period that he began helping students get into college. He eventually went to the Ada S. McKinley Community Services Agency and established their education division. As director of this program Mr. Purnell hit stride and became one of the most knowledgeable persons in the country relative to the availability of grants, scholarships, special programs and opportunities for individuals who wanted to attend college.

Si Purnell developed such a reputation that people from all over the country would consult with him about getting into school.

By the time Mr. Purnell became ill and retired in the year 2000, it was partially documented and estimated on good authority that Silas Purnell had helped more than 50,000 individuals gain acceptance and receive some form of financial aid for college.

Mr. Speaker, there has never to my knowledge been a person to do more single-handedly to get individuals help with their educational pursuits.

If I can help somebody as I pass along, if I can cheer somebody with a word or song, if I can steer somebody right who may be traveling wrong, then my living will not have been in vain.

I commend Mr. Silas Purnell for his passionate and effective work, extend condolences to his family, and urge passage of this resolution.