

After a short stay at the San Juan Bosco School in La Vibora, he returned to Güines in 1955 to take the reins as director of the Salesian San Julian School, where he had previously spent time as a seminarian. In 1959, he was officially named "Adopted Son" of his resident town and continued his impressive educational career in 1960 by receiving a doctorate degree in Arts and Philosophy from the University of Santo Tomás de Villanueva. He remained in Güines until May 1961, when Cuba's private educational institutions fell under the dictatorship's control and he was forced into exile.

From there, Father Mendez moved to Puerto Rico, becoming director of the San Juan Bosco School from 1963 to 1969. Later in 1969, he received a Master's in Education from the University of Puerto Rico, where he was subsequently hired as faculty in the university's Humanities Department. In 1970, Father Mendez held a similar position as professor of humanities at the University of the Sacred Heart in Santurce, and in 1972 he received another Master's Degree in Hispanic Studies from the University of Puerto Rico. In June of 2000, he was recognized by the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico for having been designated by the University of the Sacred Heart as Professor Emeritus of that institution.

Since 1963, Father Mendez has served as Spiritual Director and Chaplain of the American Military Academy and has held the same title for the Circulo Cubano de Puerto Rico since 1970. Over the course of his long and decorated professional and clerical career, Father Mendez has impacted the lives of countless young men and women who have attempted to live by the principles and values he has always preached. As a result, Father Mendez has gained the respect, admiration, and gratitude of all those who have had the good fortune of learning from him.

From all the people you have touched by your kindness and example, Father Mendez, happy 80th birthday.

HONORING SISTER PATRICIA  
FISCHER, O.P.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a woman of God, Sister Patricia Fischer, O.P. for her outstanding contributions in the field of education and religion.

Sister Patricia was born in Adrian, Michigan. She attended St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, and graduated from Adrian Catholic Central High School. She received her Bachelor of Administration degree from Sienna Heights University in Adrian, and her Masters degree in Educational Leadership from Wayne State University, Detroit. Sister Patricia also holds several certificates of completion for courses in Theology, Scripture, and Spirituality.

Sister Patricia, as a member of the Adrian Dominican Sisters took her first profession of vows on December 29, 1961 under the religious name of Sister Janice Ann. Her final profession was made on December 29, 1966. In 1969 she resumed her baptismal name of

Patricia Ann Fischer. Sister Patricia's educational ministry began in Illinois. She held the position of teacher at St. Joseph School, Homewood, St. Lawrence School, and St. Carthage School of Chicago, and the Infant Jesus of Prague School, Flossmoor. Upon her reassignment to Michigan she accepted a position teaching at St. Leo School in Detroit. In 1975, she began a 29-year tenure as principal of St. John the Evangelist School in Fenton. Upon stepping down from her position as principal, Sister Patricia will return to the Motherhouse as an administrator. Sister Patricia has received numerous awards for her invaluable service and dedication to the community. She was honored by the Knights of Columbus, St. John the Evangelist Parish, St. John the Evangelist School, and the Principals Academy of Washington, DC. In addition to her position as principal of St. John Evangelist School, she sits on the Board of Admissions for the Adrian Dominican Sisters, on the board of St. Joseph Academy in Adrian, and serves as Co-Chair for the Diocese of Lansing Diocesan Services Appeal. Sister Patricia is also a St. John Evangelist RENEW Leader (Faith Formation), as well as a member of several St. John the Evangelist Parish committees, and she is a member of the Diocese of Lansing School Accreditation Teams. Sister Patricia is without a doubt a counselor, spiritual advisor and a friend to many. Our community is certainly a better place because of her presence.

I know Sister Pat would want me to point out that the love, prayers and support of her family has greatly contributed to her overall success. She has three sisters, Nancy Cochran, Janice Mann, and Martha Sue Marquis. She has several aunts including her mother's sister, Sister Clarine, S.S.N.D. and eight nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in paying tribute and congratulating Sister Patricia Fischer upon her retirement from the Catholic School System. Sister Pat has inspired many in the field of education. She has and continues to serve the Lord with the greatest devotion. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless Sister Patricia as she carries on her quest to spread the word of God to all.

COMMENDING MS. HAUWA  
IBRAHIM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a brave human rights leader on the world stage, Ms. Hauwa Ibrahim. On June 17, Ms. Ibrahim will be honored by the Tahirih Justice Center during its Seventh Annual Banquet. Ms. Ibrahim, who has exerted extraordinary efforts to protect and promote the rights of women under Sharia law, is an inspiration and it is my pleasure to pay special tribute to this extraordinary woman.

Ms. Ibrahim resides in Nigeria and is a senior partner in the general law practice of the ARIES law firm and is also the legal aid counsel. She has been a defense counsel to over 40 Sharia-related cases that she has under-

taken on a pro bono basis. Ms. Ibrahim serves as a consultant relating to the application of Sharia law to many international and non-governmental organizations including the United Nations Development Program, Lawyers Without Borders, and the European Union Commission on Nigeria.

In addition, since 1999, Ms. Ibrahim has led a team of defense lawyers in addressing issues corresponding to the implementation of Sharia law. She is best known in this country for being the lead counsel for Amina Lawal, the Nigerian woman who was spared death by stoning for having a child out of wedlock.

At the Tahirih Justice Center Banquet, "A Woman's Life, A Child's Future: A World of Possibilities," Ms. Ibrahim will be honored with the Pushing the Envelope award. The Tahirih Justice Center, a Virginia-based organization, is one of the nation's foremost pro bono legal advocacy organizations for women and girls fleeing human rights abuses. Since opening its doors in 1997, Tahirih has assisted over 4,000 women and girls fleeing horrific abuse throughout the world. Tahirih works to transform policies, develop regulations, and establish precedent so that systemic change will ensure the long-term protection of women and girls from violence. I commend their work to protect and promote justice for women and girls worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Ibrahim is a leader in women's rights and I ask my colleagues to join in praise of Ms. Ibrahim's commitment and hard work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELEVENTH  
ANNUAL KEYSTONE CENTER  
AWARD WINNERS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it is my extreme pleasure and privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ralph R. Peterson, for being awarded the Leadership in Industry Award, and Daniel L. Ritchie, who received the Leadership in Education Award, at this year's Eleventh Annual Keystone Center Awards Dinner.

Honorees are individuals selected for their leadership, commendable problem solving skills, and their efforts to seek consensus-based solutions to some of the most difficult challenges facing society. The honorees have also been recognized by their peers for outstanding achievement in their respective fields and have contributed to society in ways that demonstrate the Keystone Center philosophy.

Ralph R. Peterson is currently the Chairman and CEO of CH2M Hill, a global engineering and consulting firm. Mr. Peterson oversees over 160 offices in six countries worldwide. CH2M Hill has consistently topped "Best Places to Work" articles from various media outlets and is constantly being praised for the contributions made to the surrounding communities.

Daniel L. Ritchie contributions to the University of Denver have been both in the form of monetary donations, his knowledge and his time. Mr. Ritchie serves as the Chancellor, without pay, for the University of Denver. During his tenure with the University, Chancellor

Ritchie has played a key role in raising the university over \$350 million for renovation projects to improve the campus and provide more scholarships to students.

I am honored to acknowledge these achievements by two worthy individuals from my home state; their contributions have an enormous impact on many in Colorado.

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE  
DR. WILLIAM E. "BILL" WARD

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a true public servant, Dr. William E. "Bill" Ward who has given over 25 years of faithful service to the City of Chesapeake and her residents.

Mayor Ward and the City of Chesapeake have a long history together. Having resided in Chesapeake with his wife Rose since its incorporation in 1963, Mayor Ward has been instrumental in helping to shape and form one of our Nation's largest cities.

Mayor Ward has been serving his community in a variety of capacities for many decades. Those who know him best know that he is first and foremost an educator. Mayor Ward is Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the History Department at Norfolk State University, where he taught from 1973 to July of 2000. In addition, he serves on the Board of Visitors at his alma mater, Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia.

Mayor Ward's love of government and service eventually led him into public life in 1978 and he has faithfully served since that date. From 1978–1984, he served as a member of the Chesapeake City Council and served as Vice Mayor from 1984–1990. Mayor Ward is the longest serving Mayor in Chesapeake's history having served in that capacity since October 4, 1990.

During his tenure on the Chesapeake City Council, the city grew from 100,000 people to more than 210,000. Through a time of great change, Mayor Ward provided continuity of both leadership and direction.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the Mayor's wife Rose and their children Michael and Michelle and thank them for their support and sacrifices over the years. The Ward family will continue to be among the most well-respected and much-loved members of the Chesapeake community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mayor Ward, for his years of dedication to Chesapeake and for his selfless service to her citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL  
BENJAMIN RIGOBERTO  
GONZALEZ

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker I rise to pay tribute to Lance Corporal Benjamin Rigoberto Gonzalez, U.S. Marine Corps, a member of the E

Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, deployed from Camp Pendleton, California. Lance Corporal Gonzalez died as a result of wounds suffered while engaged in combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom on May 29, 2004.

Lance Corporal Gonzalez was from my hometown of El Monte. He was born on April 25, 1981, in Montebello, California. He received a public school education and attended Monterey High School, where he played football and participated in the school's drama and music programs.

For love of our country, Lance Corporal Gonzalez joined the U.S. Marine Corps at the tender age of 19 on October 10, 2000. He served the country with courage, pride and loyalty.

Lance Corporal Gonzalez' future was bright and filled with promise. Upon his return, he planned to marry Anna Isabel Martinez, his fiancée, and start a family. Lance Corporal Gonzalez was an active youth leader at the Iglesia Cristiana del Este de Los Angeles. Lance Corporal Gonzalez's life and love is treasured and fondly remembered by countless friends and loved ones.

Lance Corporal Benjamin Rigoberto Gonzalez is survived by his brothers: Samuel, Christopher, Andres, Josue, and sisters Betsy, Stephanie, Elizabeth, Juliana, Mia as well as his parents, aunts, uncles and cousins who were deeply touched by his kind heart and gentle strength.

CONGRATULATING JERRY DOUGLAS  
ON HIS SELECTION AS A 2004  
NEA NATIONAL HERITAGE FELLOW

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, every year, the National Endowment for the Arts honors an elite group of master folk and traditional artists for their lifetime contributions to the Nation's musical and artistic heritage. The prestigious National Heritage Fellowships, awarded by the NEA, honor artists not only for their artistic excellence but for their commitment to passing on their skills and cultural traditions to a new generation.

I am especially proud that one of this year's winners hails from the Fifth District of Tennessee. Mr. Jerry Douglas, of Nashville, is a peerless player of the steel guitar, the "Dobro's® matchless contemporary master," according to the New York Times. He is a musical innovator often compared to Jimi Hendrix and Charlie Parker, having garnered eight Grammy Awards among his myriad accolades. He is in fact one of the few artists to have a special model of the Dobro® named in his honor.

Mr. Douglas learned music at an early age, first as a singer and a player of the mandolin and guitar. But he says that once he discovered the Dobro®, "I stopped singing because it was like I'd found another way to have a voice." Since finding that voice, Mr. Douglas has influenced all forms of American music, including bluegrass, country, rock, jazz, and blues. He has taken the Dobro® from its Southern rural roots into Celtic and even clas-

sical music, adapting his instrument to embrace all styles.

This prolific career has yielded Mr. Douglas more than 1,000 recordings. He has worked in the company of a diverse array of well-known artists, including Garth Brooks, Paul Simon, James Taylor, Reba McEntire, and the late Ray Charles. He is acclaimed by fellow musician Alison Krauss as "the greatest Dobro® player the world has ever known" and by Life Magazine as one of the top ten best country musicians of all time.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Douglas for his achievements and contributions to American music and congratulate him on his recognition by the NEA. It is thanks to artists such as Mr. Douglas that Nashville continues to be proudly known as Music City, USA.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I want to express the need for discussion on true immigration reform.

With over eight million illegal immigrants in the U.S., and approximately half a million more entering the U.S. annually, it is now time for Congress to be diligent in trying to truly engage in discussion on how we can effectively manage immigration here in the U.S.

I do not support illegal immigration. I also do not support amnesty for undocumented immigrants. Individuals who violate America's laws should not be rewarded for illegal behavior, and I believe amnesty perpetuates illegal immigration. The fact that there are eight million undocumented immigrants estimated to live in the U.S. illustrates alone that previous amnesty programs have not worked.

I am seeing the effects of immigration with regards to healthcare and our hospitals. This burden is not a problem because of illegal immigration alone. Legal immigrants are working citizens, but many do not have benefits such as health insurance. They are forced to ignore health problems until they're magnified and eventually forced to seek care in emergency rooms. Unfortunately, these costs often must be absorbed by hospitals, taxpayers and private insurance policy holders through higher premiums.

We are appropriating funds to deal with issues such as these in the short-term, but we also have to start having discussions on long-term solutions to legal and illegal immigration. Being uninsured is only part of the problem.

We must not lose sight of the significant role immigration has played in the development of the United States. We must be wise as we move into uncharted waters regarding new immigration policies. We must look for ways to construct positive steps that will ultimately lead to a better life for everyone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DOUG OSE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 8 and June 9, 2004, I