

Highland Park, Frostproof, and Lake Hamilton received relief at a critical time of need. The BERT team worked to reconstruct Poinciana's fire department and assisted with firefighting duties for the community. In addition, the team worked on debris clean-up, directed traffic, and assisted in damage assessment activities throughout the area. In the end, the BERT team accomplishments included 336 work hours removing trees from residences and roadways; 14 hours traffic control; and deliveries of 1,250 bags of ice, 450 cases of water and 150 prepared meals to hungry citizens.

I would like to express my gratitude for the BERT team's service. Their actions demonstrated the dedication, selflessness, and sacrifice of the human spirit that emerges from rubble of Mother Nature's fury. I am proud to represent the Fifth Congressional District of Florida, where members of the heroic Brooksville Emergency Response Team call home.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANCES
OWENS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the First Lady of Colorado, Frances Owens. Frances is a compassionate and intelligent woman whose dedication and commitment to her family and fellow citizens is renowned and unprecedented. Long before she became Colorado's First Lady, Frances was an education advocate for children and a dedicated servant to her fellow Coloradans. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize her many accomplishments.

Frances is a Colorado native, spending her childhood in Texas before returning to Colorado to receive a degree in Art History from the University of Colorado at Denver. She began campaigning for former Senator Bill Armstrong in the late 1970's and served as the Associate Director of the Colorado Council on Economic Education. Frances, who is married to current Governor Bill Owens for twenty-nine years, has three children: Monica, Mark, and Brett. She is actively involved in her children's academic careers.

On January 12, 1999, Frances became the First Lady of Colorado, where she has made important strides for Colorado in public service by actively volunteering her time to various charitable projects and organizations throughout the state and by serving on boards such as the Children's Hospital Cardiac Care Center, and the Colorado Opera. Frances is a dedicated advocate for children; her involvement crosses into many arenas, including support of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, Samaritan's Purse-Operation Christmas Child, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Colorado Historical Society. Frances currently serves as the Honorary Chair for Early Childhood Intervention Awareness Day, where she continues to champion important issues for Colorado's children. Frances widely promotes literacy and children's programs like the annual Easter Egg Roll. Her latest honor, given by the Republican Women Leadership Forum, was their Humanitarian Award for civic involvement.

Colorado's First Lady is involved in many long-term projects that promote the great diversity and vibrant culture of Colorado. She chairs the Colorado Commemorative Quarter Advisory Commission for the design of Colorado's new quarter, which is planned for release in 2006. Frances has also been instrumental in the privately funded renovation and restoration efforts of the Executive Residence, which was originally constructed in 1908.

Mr. Speaker, Frances Owens is a tremendous asset to the State of Colorado. Her impeccable record of dedication and service throughout her life is a high standard for any public servant to match. Frances' devotion to the State of Colorado has advanced Colorado and certainly made it a better place to live and raise a family. I want to thank Frances for all of her hard work, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ROY BRAUNSTEIN,
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS
UNION, AFL-CIO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Roy Braunstein, Legislative Director of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU).

Roy was hired in June 1973 with the United States Postal Service, and worked as both a Distribution Clerk and CMU Clerk during his postal career. He will retire on November 6, 2004.

The APWU has more than 300,000 members in every city, town and hamlet in the United States and is the world's largest postal union. Roy was first elected in 1980 as the APWU Legislative Aide, and was elected Legislative Director in 1992. He was elected nine times by the APWU membership.

Before he came to Washington, D.C. in 1960, Roy was active in the New Jersey Shore Area Local where he served as Legislative Director and Shop Steward. He was also the New Jersey State APWU Legislative Director and Editor. He served in community affairs as a member of the Barnegat, New Jersey Board of Education for three years and as a member of the Ocean County New Jersey Mental Health Board.

In Washington, Roy served as a lobbyist for the APWU and has worked on a number of issues important to the membership. During his tenure at the APWU, Roy worked to secure passage of the Hatch Act, legislation granting greater political freedom for postal and federal employees. Roy also played a key role in the eight year battle for the Family and Medical Leave Act which President Clinton signed into law in 1993.

Over the years, Roy worked diligently to help win passage of the Federal Employees Retirement System Act, the Spouse Equity Act, the Postal Employees Safety Enhancement Act, the Veterans Employment Opportunity Act, and many other legislative initiatives to help working families.

Roy fought to protect the viability of the Postal Service. He was a leader in the fight against Postal Privatization, and the move-

ment to take the Postal Service off-budget during the 1960s in an effort to stop congressional attacks on the Postal Service. APWU is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, and Roy worked closely with other labor leaders for the goals of this nation's working men and women.

Roy's wife of 36 years, Marilyn, is also an APWU member, and they are the proud parents of two young men, Rick and Daniel. He has an A.A. Degree from Kinsborough Community College in Brooklyn, New York, and a B.A. Degree from Richmond College in Staten Island, New York.

Roy will be retiring to the Phoenix, Arizona area where his sons are living. He plans to retain full APWU membership, and to become actively involved with the Phoenix Metro Area Local (Arizona) and the Arizona Postal Workers Union relating to legislative issues. He also will be spending time traveling and relaxing with family and friends.

HONORING LATE REPRESENTATIVE
WILLIAM NATCHER

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to a remarkable man of this House, the late William Huston Natcher, on the occasion of The Kentucky Museum and Library's opening of the William H. Natcher Political Collection, a compilation of artifacts from his storied life and career.

Congressman Natcher served in this body, preceding me as representative of the Second District of Kentucky, from August 1, 1953 until his death on March 29, 1994, having cast an astonishing 18,401 consecutive votes, a record most historians believe will never be matched. Through the years, he earned a reputation as an exceptionally hardworking and honest public servant, becoming one of the most highly-respected and influential members of congress in recent memory.

As years passed and his congressional seniority increased, Natcher received several important committee appointments, namely within the powerful House Appropriations Committee. From 1961 to 1979, he chaired the Appropriations District of Columbia subcommittee, exercising control over spending in the Nation's capital. He later moved on to chair the subcommittee on labor, health and human services, influencing major legislation to advance education and promote public welfare throughout the 1980's. He was elected Chairman of the full House Appropriations Committee in 1992, a position he held until his death in 1994.

Congressman Natcher became a legend not only for his effectiveness as a legislator but for his uncompromising dedication to the responsibilities of public service. Not only did he cast an unbroken chain of roll call votes over a 41-year career, he also exercised a sincere reverence for the opinions of his constituents, personally reading and responding to his own mail. Though he attained a position of national influence, he maintained a modest, responsible lifestyle, never accepting political contributions, driving himself to and from work in his aged Chevrolet. He was a model citizen-legislator worthy of an honored place in our Nation's history.