

weapons systems and associated ammunition. He has been the recipient of numerous awards including two Army Research and Development Achievement Awards, the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award, Association of the United States Army Citation for Exceptional Service in Support of National Defense, the American Defense Preparedness Association Firepower Award for Management. He has also been inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. He holds two patents and has authored numerous open literature technical publications.

While he built a long and valuable career in service to our warfighters, Mike Devine still found time to give back to his home community. In 1992, he was elected to a four year term on the Sparta, New Jersey, Township Council and was reelected in 1996. He also served as Mayor in 1994 and 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I have just outlined a public service career of exceptional quality. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mike Devine for his many contributions to our national security. We wish Mike and his family "God-speed" in the months and years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL  
THOMAS D. BUTLER, JR.

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2004*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man that has dedicated his life to protecting our country. Colonel Thomas D. Butler, Jr. After 35 years fulfilling vital support functions in the United States Army, Colonel Butler is retiring.

Thomas Butler joined the Army Reserve as a private in 1969 and served at the Engineering and Plans Section of the 411th Engineer Brigade at Fort Tilden, New York until his commission as a Second Lieutenant in 1974, upon which he commanded a platoon at the 306th Engineer Company in Amityville, New York. In July 1977, Butler was assigned to the New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as an Assistant Military Area Engineer. In 1987, he returned to the 411th Engineer Brigade and was called to active duty when the Brigade was deployed to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Upon returning to reserve status in 1991, Butler assumed command of the 305th Engineer Detachment. During his command, this unit was awarded the U.S. Army Superior Unit Citation and Butler conducted numerous missions in the Republic of Korea and Germany. In 1995 he joined the 77th Regional Support Command as the chief, Plans Division, in the DCS ENGINEER section. In 2001, Butler became Acting Commander of the 8th Brigade (SROTC), 98th Division, and then Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff-Operations, ADCSOPS-OPS of the 77th RSC. In 2002, Butler was reassigned as Deputy Chief of Staff-engineers, DCS-ENGINEER, and then as the first Deputy Chief of Staff—Army Reserve Installation Management.

Colonel Butler is a highly-decorated soldier. His citations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Re-

serve Components Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with Service Star, the Kuwait Liberation Medal from both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and the New York State Conspicuous Service medal.

In his civilian capacity, Butler is a Senior Project Manager for the Tishman Interiors Construction Corporation and the former Commissioner of Buildings for the City of Mount Vernon, New York. Butler resides in Tarrytown. I would like to join his wife Cheryl and their children Brent, Kimberly, Blake, Ashley, and all his relatives and friends in congratulating him and wishing him well in his retirement.

HONORING ALVIN BENJAMIN

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2004*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Coalition on Child Abuse & Neglect in honoring Alvin Benjamin for his strong commitment to assisting and advocating for victims of child abuse.

Al has been a dedicated supporter of the Coalition on Child Abuse & Neglect, helping them carry out their mission of being a voice for all children. This non-profit organization is devoted to preventing child abuse and expanding services to children and their families. In achieving these goals, the Coalition on Child Abuse & Neglect educates the community about the issues surrounding child abuse and works with them to find adequate solutions to the problems.

In addition to providing aid for child abuse victims, Al is also the Founder and President of the Benjamin Companies, a nationally acclaimed real estate development and management company. The guiding force behind the Benjamin Companies is developing communities that are in harmony with both the residents and the environment. Al started this organization in the early 1960's by building luxury apartment complexes on Long Island, and meeting the needs of the increased number of Long Island residents. Today, the Benjamin Companies has greatly expanded its activities to include projects in New York City (and the surrounding metropolitan areas), New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and even Florida, while continuing to service the residents of Long Island.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Alvin Benjamin for his support for and dedication to victims of child abuse. As the Coalition on Child Abuse & Neglect celebrates 25 years of service to children, they chose to recognize Al's important contributions at their annual Voice for All Children Gala. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring Alvin Benjamin and the Coalition on Child Abuse & Neglect for their efforts in preventing child abuse and wishing them both many more years of success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE BOVARD  
FAMILY

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize to the Bovard Family and their distinguished tradition in the horse industry. Their dedication and success in the industry is due to the contributions of four generations of Bovard family members working on the farm. It is my privilege today in recognizing their achievements before this body of Congress and this Nation.

The Bovard legacy began forty-three years ago when Larry Bovard went out to the race track to look for work after admiring his older brother's work as a horse trainer. He landed a job as a horse groomer for a horse racing tycoon and continued there until he moved onto other work before joining the army in 1969. Upon his return from service, Larry settled in Ridgeway, Colorado with his wife Roma, raising cattle. Roma's family had raised Percheron horses for years and in 1984, the Bovards got their chance to raise their own team. The Bovard family gave sleigh rides, wagon rides, and drove newlyweds about in stage coaches until they acquired ranch property of their own in Montrose. Currently the Bovards have 30 head of award-winning Percheron horses that placed in nine out of twelve class competitions at the National Western Stock Show.

Mr. Speaker, the Bovard family has demonstrated a love for horses that has transcended four generations and their success today is due to the dedication that the entire family puts in day after day from dawn to dusk. I am honored to recognize their accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation.

HONORING ROBERT POIROT

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor Robert Poirot for his exemplary public service as Clear Creek County Commissioner for the past twelve years. I would also like to thank him on behalf of all Coloradans for the in-depth and diverse philanthropic work he has contributed to the community. He is a dedicated public servant who has devoted himself to ensuring that Colorado remains a very special place to live.

Throughout his life, Bob has demonstrated time and time again that he excels in all of his endeavors. Whether it is in the Armed Forces, education, or government, Bob has shown that he can apply his leadership skills effectively in any arena. He has received numerous awards during his long and extensive career, most recently the prestigious Distinguished Service Award of Colorado Counties, Inc. . . . This award is a true testament to Bob's abilities to work together with all interests for the common good.

Between 1959 and 1992, Bob achieved the rank of Brigadier General in the Colorado Army National Guard. During this time, he also

served for thirty-two years as a school teacher, including four years on the Board of Education. At the same time, he found time to coach both football and track. Upon retirement, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Jefferson County School District.

Using his extensive command of the issues, Bob participated in and offered advice to almost every steering committee throughout his twelve years serving as County Commissioner. Building upon this, he also testified here at the nation's Capital in support of legislation to preserve and maintain public lands in Clear Creek County which are important for wildlife and the quality of life in Colorado. During this time, I was able to personally work at length with Bob in mutual support of the environment, an issue that remains high on the agenda of all Coloradans. Thanks to his leadership, more than 6,000 acres of land were properly distributed to public and private land owners, ensuring that the Front Range population will continue to enjoy this cherished and pristine land for many years.

Along these same lines, Bob has worked tirelessly on local issues in the state. As a member of the Board of Directors for the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), Bob spearheaded many regional policies. Working on transportation issues has proved to be one of his strong suits, as he has emphasized the creation of a new bus service to connect adjacent Clear Creek and Jefferson Counties. Another of Bob's transportation successes occurred when he helped gain approval of the Guanella Pass Road Project from the Federal Highway Administration's federal lands program. The result will be to improve this important and scenic roadway affecting numerous jurisdictions including Park County, the Town of Georgetown, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude to Robert Poirot for his many years of public service and his contributions to the people of Colorado. Robert has displayed exceptional moral fiber throughout his life, and for that I believe we should acknowledge and celebrate his work and accomplishments. Bob's tireless dedication to his community and country stands as a model for what can be accomplished when citizens participate in our democracy. Although he is leaving his service as a county commissioner, I am sure that he will remain active and involved in the community. I wish him and his family good health and happiness for many years to come.

HONORING BILLY "TINY" RUTTER  
FOR HIS SERVICE AS A COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER OF SUMTER  
COUNTY

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Billy "Tiny" Rutter for his service as a County Commissioner for Sumter County.

On behalf of the residents of Sumter County, I applaud Mr. Rutter for his years of dedication as a public servant. Since 1992, he has

worked tirelessly to provide the residents of Sumter County with excellent leadership and vision. Tiny, as he is affectionately known, can without a doubt say he has raised the level of expectation for future County Commissioners. He not only made Sumter County his home; he made it better. His longtime presence on the board will be greatly missed.

Tiny Rutter is my friend, advisor and mentor. Even when we were from different political parties, he helped me to make inroads with the Sumter County residents. He was such a passionate "Lobbyist" for the needs of Sumter County that no one could decline his ever expanding list of funding requests for the County.

Tiny's devotion to the residents of Sumter County demonstrates the intensity of virtue and selflessness that a public official should aspire to attain. Sumter County is truly saddened by Mr. Rutter's departure; nevertheless, we are immensely grateful for all his years of commitment and hard work.

I wish Mr. Rutter the best in the future and hope he fully enjoys the pleasures of retirement.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. SAVA  
SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN  
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate the members of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville, Indiana as they celebrate their 90th anniversary. The festivities will begin on Sunday, November 14, 2004 with a special service, followed by a banquet to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Beckoning visitors who are traveling on Interstate 65, the golden domes of St. Sava offer an amazing spectacle. However, it is the interior of the church that the parishioners hold sacred. Built from Indiana limestone in a five-year construction project, the present sanctuary located at 9191 Mississippi Street in Merrillville replaced the original St. Sava Church, built in 1914 in Gary, Indiana, after that church was destroyed by fire. The dedicated members of the church came together to worship at the St. Sava "small hall" in Hobart, Indiana while plans were made for their new sanctuary. Undeterred by the loss of their church building, the congregation demonstrated their commitment to each other and to their faith by carrying on with their services at the "small hall" for 13 years.

Mr. Speaker, St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church is led in its faith by the Very Reverend Jovan Todorovich. He has been the priest at the church for 35 of its 90 years, and the proud parishioners are thankful for the spiritual and emotional leadership he has provided during that time. Church President Michael Gallich has attended St. Sava since 1946 and is proud that the church has been able to maintain the Serbian traditions and customs that make their church unique. Father Todorovich believes the anniversary can be used to connect the new generation of the church with its past. Because the congregation has been blessed with tremendous leadership

and good fortune throughout its history, it is appropriate that the celebration of the church's anniversary will be held near the Thanksgiving holiday.

His Grace Bishop Longin, along with the Very Reverend Todorovich, will serve the Holy Hierarchical Liturgy the morning of November 14, which will be followed by a memorial service to be conducted by representatives of a local American Legion at the adjacent Memorial Park to commemorate the fallen soldiers of all wars. The celebration banquet will conclude the festivities, which will feature St. Sava's folklore group and choir, as well as tamburitza orchestras and kolo bands.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the congregation of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church as they celebrate the 90th anniversary of their parish. Blessed with outstanding leadership and unwavering faith, the congregation of St. Sava has enriched Northwest Indiana by bringing the proud and historic Serbian traditions to our community. May God continue to bless the parishioners and the church leaders for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. PAUL SALAZ

### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of El Sereno's finest citizens, Mr. Paul Salaz. Even in the last years of his life Mr. Salaz continued to work on behalf of the people in his beloved home of El Sereno. However, on Friday, November 5, 2004 the community lost a great asset when Mr. Salaz passed away.

Mr. Salaz was originally from Santa Paula, California. He married his wife Julia in 1934 and the couple celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary just this year.

It was after his retirement as an upholstery salesman that Mr. Salaz dedicated his life to community service and helping the people of El Sereno. After 40 years in sales he became an active leader in Los Angeles City Council District 14, most importantly as a member of the Citizens Unit for Participation in Housing and Community Development.

I was fortunate to get to know Mr. Salaz while I was a member of the California State Senate. Mr. Salaz's ability to work with all members of the community was remarkable. He was able to work with the El Sereno Coordinating Council and elected officials of the city of Los Angeles in order to advocate an improved quality of life for all residents.

He also worked with local elected officials on numerous community improvement projects. Some of his accomplishments included the installation of new stop signs at dangerous intersections and the opening of the new Public Library in El Sereno.

Though he was involved with the community all year long, Mr. Salaz always did a little extra for special occasions. During the holiday season Mr. Salaz made sure that impoverished families received food, and gifts for children. He also personally ensured a U.S. flag would be present at the Dr. Donald Newman Memorial every year. And in addition, he encouraged neighbors and schools to participate in