

process that brings together governing bodies and citizen groups. I am convinced an inclusive democracy is one of the most significant and lasting achievements of the Orange Revolution.

TRIBUTE TO SYDNEY TALLY HICKEY—MILITARY FAMILY ADVOCATE, NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sydney Tally Hickey, military family advocate and member of the Board of Governors of the National Military Family Association (NMFA)—in recognition of her distinguished service to her country. From 1983, when she joined the NMFA Government Relations staff, until her death on December 1, 2006, she taught an entire generation of NMFA members to be consummate advocates and better the lives of hundreds of thousands of active duty, National Guard, Reserve and retired service members, their families, and survivors. She did this by being smart, detailed, and persistent—armed with the facts, an unblinking perseverance, and a luminous passion.

I had the honor of knowing Ms. Hickey personally. She was a military family member all her life as an Air Force daughter and Navy spouse. She was married to Capt. Dennis J. Hickey IV, who is retired from the U.S. Navy, and has her two daughters and a grandson.

In 1983, she joined the NMFA Government Relations staff and served as the Vice President of the Department from 1987 to 1990. On January 1, 1990, she was selected to become the Association's first paid professional staff member and served as Director of Government Relations until her retirement in October 1999. Mrs. Hickey continued her work with the Government Relations Department as a volunteer consultant on health care issues. She also served on the NMFA's Board of Governors.

Over the years, military families everywhere benefited from Sydney's hard work and foresight. She was the driving force behind the set of transition benefits Congress put in place for service members and families during the drawdown following the first Gulf War. Recognizing that military families overseas deserved the same access to federal safety net programs as those living in the United States, Sydney and NMFA worked aggressively for several years to secure the legislation creating the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program overseas. Thanks to her work, military families stationed overseas also became eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and Supplemental Security Income.

Frequently invited to provide testimony before Congressional Committees on issues facing military families, she also helped guide the development of many of today's family readiness programs. Thanks in part to her foresight in anticipating the needs of families and her skill in articulating these needs, Congress and the Department of Defense established many vital enhancements to the quality of life of military families.

Sydney Hickey helped to take the voice of the military family from a whisper to a giant

roar, forevermore to hold a significant place in any pertinent discussion. She brought stories of military families' everyday experiences to the policy makers and now military family members are routinely represented on Congressionally-mandated advisory panels and DoD working groups and councils that develop and oversee programs and benefits applicable to them. She was one of the pioneers who taught and encouraged family members to get involved in the representative process, by sitting on boards and councils and teaching them how to work with legislators. She helped military family members become their own best advocates.

Sydney's work brought her many awards and recognitions, including the 1992 National Citizenship Award from the Military Chaplains Association, the 1993 Defense Transition Services Award from the University of Central Florida, the 1998 "Champion for Children" award from the Military Impacted Schools Association, and the 1999 Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

In that same year, NMFA established an award for exceptional service to uniformed service families, presented it to Mrs. Hickey, and named it in her honor. She also received the Military Coalition's Award of Merit and recognition by the Defense Commissary Agency for her work as a "legendary champion for the causes of military life."

Sydney Hickey's legacy is greater than a list of awards. Her legacy is seen every day in the dedication and accomplishments of the people she mentored over the years: NMFA volunteers and employees, military family members, leaders of military associations, and countless others. It is in the increased awareness of military families that Members of Congress, their staffs, DoD civilians, contractors, and others gained, thanks to their interactions with Mrs. Hickey. Military families who may never know the name of Sydney Tally Hickey have benefited from her body of work and have an enhanced quality of life due to her efforts. Today, we honor the memory of this tireless advocate, whose life was a tribute to the military families she served.

IN TRIBUTE TO SAM ROWLAND

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to a good friend, great Texan, and wonderful individual, Sam Rowland, who passed away recently, leaving a legacy of accomplishments and good will that will last for generations to come. Sam was devoted to God, his family, friends, and the Law, and he applied the principles of his faith to his career and his many civic and humanitarian affiliations.

Sam came from a family of educators. He graduated from Highland Park High School in Dallas, attended Texas A&M University on a baseball scholarship, earned an accounting degree from Texas A&M in 1955, and graduated from SMU School of Law in 1960. Sam had a long and interesting business career. He began his corporate experience at Texas Instruments in Dallas and went on to form a publicly held company in the early days of microchips.

In 1972 Sam opened his own law firm in Houston. He loved the practice of law and was a member of the Texas Bar for 46 years. He was the senior partner of Rowland and Keirn for 18 years, and in 1990 opened his own firm in Bryan/College Station, where he practiced until his death. At the same time, he taught a course at Texas A&M College of Business, where he shared his wealth of corporate experience and knowledge teaching young Aggies about starting their own business.

Sam was a member of the Corp of Cadets at Texas A&M, the 12th Man Foundation Executive Board, and Past President of the A&M Letterman's Association. He was a member of the Bryan Rotary Club, the Silver Haired Supper Club of Highland Park, and the Texas A&M Past Presidents Club of Houston and San Antonio. He was a member of the Houston Bar Association and the Brazos County Bar Association. Sam's faith was premiere in his life, and he was a member of the First Baptist Church in Bryan for 20 years and a member of the Little River Baptist Church in Jones Prairie.

Sam will be greatly missed by his family, his wife of 25 years, Betsy Kay Rowland of Bryan, daughters Melinda Rowland of Lafayette, LA, and Michele Hanlon of San Antonio, sons Stuart Rowland of Arlington and Sean Ryan and wife Glenda of Tyler, brother-in-law Bill Vorlop of Dallas, two nephews and their families, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Scott, his parents, Wordna Reed Rowland and Ray Davis Rowland, and his sister, Wanda Vorlop.

Sam Rowland was a friend, mentor, and role model for so many whose lives he touched and influenced, and his memory will be kept alive in the hearts of those who loved and admired him. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of this outstanding American—Sam E. Rowland.

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the staff members of the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) who were named recipients of the Governor's Minnesota Government Reaching Environmental Achievements Together (MnGREAT) Award for superior environmental achievement by Minnesota's public agencies. The award represents the highest level of environmental achievement within the State of Minnesota.

The five UMD staff members who received the environmental achievement award are Erik Larson (UMD Facilities Management, Engineer/Project Manager), Wade Lawrence (Director of Glensheen), and Peggy Dahlberg, Sheryl Lind, and Dan McClelland (UMD Facilities Management Grounds Department).

The award recognizes the low impact development and shoreline bank stabilization projects constructed at the Glensheen Historic Estate in Duluth. The goals of the projects were: to improve water quality of storm water from Glensheen's parking lots into Lake Superior; to stabilize the clay bank in order to reduce wave, rain, and surface flow erosion during large storms; and to provide a location

where the general public can see low impact development practices in place and functioning.

The Glensheen projects are important because shoreline conditions are rapidly changing along Lake Superior's North Shore due to increased tourism, business, and private development taking place. Innovative methods of treating the runoff from these changed conditions are imperative to maintaining the health of the lake.

The project was done as a joint effort with Southern St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, Minnesota Board of Soil and Water, Wisconsin Sea Grant and the Carlton, Cook, Lake North and South St. Louis Joint Powers Board of Soil and Waters Conservation Districts.

I am proud and honored to share with my colleagues this well-deserved tribute for the hardworking staff of the University of Minnesota Duluth and their innovative efforts to improve the environment in the Duluth area.

AMBASSADOR JEANE J.
KIRKPATRICK

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I join those who mourn the death of former United Nations Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick. Ambassador Kirkpatrick was a great American patriot and champion of liberty for those living under Communist or other totalitarian regimes.

Like President Reagan, who appointed her to the U.N. post, Ambassador Kirkpatrick was an American original. She became a Republican when she found that the Democratic Party no longer reflected her values, just as Reagan did. She was Reagan's first female cabinet level appointee, and was his point person at the U.N., where she was a brilliant advocate for her country's interests.

If Ambassador Kirkpatrick did not originate the phrase "Blame America First," she certainly brought it to the attention of the American people with her use of the words in defending President Reagan's foreign policy at the 1984 Republican convention. She pointed out that Democrats and other critics were quick to place the responsibility for all the world's problems at the feet of their own country. Somehow, Ambassador Kirkpatrick said, they always blame America first. Unfortunately, those words too often still apply today.

Ambassador Kirkpatrick deserves a large share of the credit for helping the U.S. win the Cold War. Her efforts brought freedom to many around the globe who otherwise may not have been able to enjoy it. She remained a passionate spokesperson for her country's interests until her death. Her voice has been silenced now, and it will be missed.

OUR SOUTH ASIAN ALLY, SRI
LANKA

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in my time in Congress, I have had the oppor-

tunity to visit our South Asian ally, Sri Lanka. This small island nation has directly suffered both the devastating effects of the 2004 tsunami and the continuing threat of homegrown terrorism, which has experienced a recent resurgence.

Many years before the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Sri Lanka was confronting the grim specter of suicide terrorism. In fact, many of the suicide tactics utilized by terrorists in the Middle East originated with the Tamils. Because of this and because of their ties with other international terrorist groups, the Tamils pose a threat to Americans around the globe as well.

Despite the fact that a cease-fire remains in effect, over the past year, the Liberation Tigers of Tam Eelam (LTTE) have continued to commit acts of violence against the legitimate Government of Sri Lanka. The recent spate of violence began in August of last year with the assassination of Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar. In a further attempt to damage the democratic process, the LTTE prevented the Tamil population in the Wanni region from voting in the Presidential election last November. Since the Inauguration of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, the LTTE has stepped up attacks on unarmed civilians including the use of fragmentation bombs against a bus killing 64 and injuring 80. Additionally, they have carried out assassinations of the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army and the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army and attacked a convoy of off-duty sailors, killing 94 and injuring many more. In all of these cases, the attacks were carried out by suicide bombers.

The LTTE has cultivated a worldwide network of weapons suppliers. Here in the United States, the FBI was able to apprehend Tamil agents who attempted to purchase surface-to-air missiles in New York and Maryland. Tamil agents have been arrested here for attempting to bribe customs agents and funnel illicit funds through charities. While the Tamils continue their attempts to operate in the United States, Federal authorities are vigorously investigating and prosecuting those who are recruiting support for terrorism in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan Government gives every indication that it is committed to a peaceful settlement to this conflict within their nation's borders. Even after an attempt on the life of Defense Secretary Rajapakse, the President's brother, the government refuses to institute an outright ban on the Tamil Tigers. Norwegian peace negotiators, who had presided over the current cease-fire agreements, continue their efforts to bring the LTTE to the peace table but, unfortunately, Tiger leader Prabhakaran has called for a full resumption of hostilities. The government is ready to except the Tigers as a peaceful political party but not as a purveyor of violence.

Sri Lanka is a beautiful nation filled with hopeful people who wish to live in peace, and I am hopeful that they will soon see a resolution to these dangerous difficulties.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEFFERSON
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my praise for the heroic actions of several law enforcement agencies in Colorado. Authorities from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Park County Sheriff's Office and Colorado State Patrol acted in a swift and competent manner during the hostage standoff at Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Colorado on September 27, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, these men and women risked their lives to help save students that had been taken hostage by an adult gunman. The situation sparked strong reminders of Columbine High School from April 20, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, that day a young woman lost her life. As Emily Keyes escaped her captor, he shot and fatally wounded her. Her family has requested that this tribute be made to law enforcement. In my conversation with the family, they thankfully praised the Jefferson County Special Weapons and Tactics Regional Team for their actions. The family has since been in consistent communication with them and thankful for the role that they have played in the community.

The Keyes family has also expressed gratefulness for Park County Sheriff Fred Wegener. He was the man who gave the go ahead that day to storm the classroom in an effort to save the lives of the remaining hostages. The Keyes' family has continued to honor their daughter since her tragic death. Her memorial and a charity bike ride have attracted thousands of supporters; a testament to what I'm certain was a wonderful and bright young woman.

Mr. Speaker, while the events at Platte Canyon are tragic, the Keyes family has carried the memory of their daughter and support the actions made by law enforcement that day.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WELDON'S
SADDLE SHOP AND WESTERN
WEAR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Weldon Burgoon and his business, Weldon's Saddle Shop and Western Wear, for 50 years of outstanding service in the Denton community.

Weldon Burgoon began hand-tooling leather goods during his teenage years while attending a class at Sanger High School, in the 26th District of Texas. There he met and later married his wife, Joy. His own business evolved after hand-tooling leather belts as a side job to working in his father's plumbing business. After opening its doors on the outskirts of Denton in 1957, today Mr. Burgoon's saddles are known worldwide for their quality and craftsmanship.

Mr. Burgoon's generosity and commitment to the Denton community has remained strong during the past 50 years. His shop is a principal supporter of the Denton County Livestock Association's Annual Youth Fair and