

Under his stewardship, the El Segundo base has built a record of excellence translating directly to a more cost-effective military and a safer America.

Before becoming a guiding force in space procurement, General Arnold spent the majority of his career as a pilot in FB-111 and B-52 aircraft, serving with distinction as a squadron commander, wing commander and sub-unit commander.

Fortunately, General Arnold's retirement from the Los Angeles Air Force Base does not mean that he is leaving the South Bay, as he and his delightful wife Tina will be residing in San Pedro, a part of my Congressional District.

I join the airmen and airwomen at the Los Angeles Air Force Base, as well as countless space program team members, in thanking General Arnold for his outstanding leadership as Base Commander and distinguished service in the war against terrorism.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
BRUCE RATNER ON HIS 60TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Bruce Ratner is celebrating his 60th birthday with family and friends; and

Whereas, Bruce Ratner is a positive influence on all persons in his life, leading by example; and

Whereas, Bruce Ratner has exemplified a love for his family, and must be commended for his dedicated service to the community.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Bruce Ratner as he celebrates his 60th birthday.

HONORING FILER ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL'S PARTICIPANTS IN THE
"50 MILE BIG WALK"

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated group of Filer Elementary School students, teachers, parents and volunteers who will be participating in a fifty mile walk between the Malad Gorge State Park and Filer, Idaho.

Each day this week, the fourth grade class of Filer Elementary School will walk 10 miles along the Snake River Canyon, following the same path crossed over 150 years ago by settlers migrating west on the Oregon trail. These students have been training for months for this big week where they will literally be taking school out on the road. By participating in a physical challenge that is attainable through goal setting, hard work and perseverance, these students redefine their personal potential far beyond what they once thought possible.

While the students journey through Southern Idaho, they will learn about and identify

the large melon shaped boulders along the Snake River Canyon that were formed 15,000 years ago. They will also learn about the hardships faced by the first settlers in whose footsteps they are following. Much like Lewis and Clark, every evening the students will record their impressions in a journal. These journals become a reflection of the transformation that takes place within these children during this memorable week.

Over the past 10 years, more than 1,000 students, teachers, parents and volunteers have completed the "50 Mile Big Walk" The students come to understand that if you can walk 50 miles when you are in fourth grade, there isn't anything in life you can't do if you set a goal, work hard and help others along the way.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate everyone involved in the "50 Mile Big Walk" and commend them on their hard work and dedication. To the walkers, I want you to know that I will be thinking of you and wishing you well every step of the way. Thank you, Filer Elementary School for being an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALVARO
AGUIRRE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and achievements of Mr. Alvaro Aguirre. A lifelong educator and member of the Latin Chamber, Las Vegas, Nevada, 74, Mr. Aguirre passed away peacefully the morning of Friday, April 22, 2005. Born to Arturo Aguirre Matheu and Marta Diaz Raphael on December 22, 1930, in Guatemala City, Guatemala, Alvaro moved to the United States when he was 17 years of age, graduated from San Mateo Junior College, with a degree in Biochemistry from the University of California at Berkeley. He later completed his doctoral studies in Animal Nutrition at the University of Florida.

Alvaro taught at Harvard Project Escuela Agricola Panamericana in Honduras, and served as the professor of the College of Biological Sciences as well as president of the National University of Guatemala San Carlos regional campus system. He served on the team at the Nutritional Institute of Central America and Panama, credited with creating INCAPARINA, a food substitute for indigent people. Additionally, he was active in the Lions International in Guatemala, having served as president of the Quetzaltenango Club.

Alvaro spent his life as an educator and academic counselor. As a bilingual counselor, he helped thousands of Nevada students, prior to his retirement from the Clark County School District. His dedication to providing the youth of southern Nevada with the finest of educations commends us to look to Alvaro as a role model and personification of the value of education.

Alvaro was a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend. My sympathies go out to those who survive him: his loving wife, Eugenia, sons, Alvaro, Jr., Luis Pedro; Aldo Adrian and Hernan, and daughters Rita and

Eugenia Maria. Alvaro was blessed with many grandchildren, living in Las Vegas, New Mexico and in Guatemala.

I join the community in thanking Alvaro Aguirre for his dedication, commitment and hard work on behalf of so many communities all across the American continent. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. I urge all of my colleagues to heed the example set by this extraordinary individual in his devotion to providing education to our most vulnerable children.

COMMENDING THE HEROISM AND
VALOR OF THE UNITED STATES
NAVY'S CARRIER AIR GROUP 83

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and commend the heroism and valor of the United States Navy's Carrier Air Group 83. During World War II, Navy Carrier Air Group 83 was responsible for the identification of, and subsequent successful attacks on, the Japanese midget submarine base on an island off Okinawa before the invasion by Allied forces in April 1945. Carrier Air Group 83 also attacked and contributed to the sinking of the Japanese battleship *yamato* in April 1945.

Carrier Air Group 83 was specifically commended by the commander of the United States Tenth Army for close air support strikes in support of operations on Okinawa in April 1945, and continued to perform those missions in an exemplary manner through May 1945. In addition, Air Group 83 engaged in attacks against the Kure naval facility and the Japanese battleship *negato* in July 1945.

Carrier Air Group 83 is credited with the destruction of over 220 Japanese aircraft in aerial combat and over 75 aircraft on the ground during the months of March to August 1945, a critical contribution to Allied victory over the Empire of Japan in the Pacific Theater during World War II. All Americans should know of and commend the heroism and valor of Navy Carrier Air Group 83 and the contribution of that Air Group and its personnel to the defeat of Japan in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
KAREN RANUCCI ON HER 50TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Karen Ranucci is celebrating her 50th Birthday with friends and family; and

Whereas, Karen Ranucci has experienced many accomplishments in all aspects her life; and

Whereas, Karen Ranucci has exemplified love for her family and friends and must be applauded for her devotion to her loved ones.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Karen Ranucci as she celebrates her 50th Birthday.