

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING BONNI GAYLE TISCHLER

#### **HON. DANA ROHRABACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2002*

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the end of an era in law enforcement when Bonni Gayle Tischler, the highest ranking woman to ever serve this country in federal law enforcement, leaves the United States Customs Service to pursue other opportunities in private industry. Industry's gain is truly our loss.

Ms. Tischler, the Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations at Customs and the first woman to ever hold that position, began her career at the National Republican Congressional Committee. But politics did not quench her thirst for adventure so, in 1971, she became one of the first women to become a United States Sky Marshall. In 1977, Ms. Tischler became one of the very first women to become a federal agent with the Customs Service, working undercover in the Miami based "Operation Greenback," an innovative anti-money laundering program established by the United States Department of Treasury. Playing roles ranging from a crooked executive to the madam of a brothel, Ms. Tischler, by her example, proved that law enforcement and the public were the beneficiaries of strong, smart women cops.

During the Administration of President Ronald Reagan, Ms. Tischler became the first woman in the federal government to head a law enforcement field office when she took over as Special Agent in Charge in Tampa Florida. While in Tampa she oversaw the investigation into the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the largest money laundering investigation of its kind. Her work not only gained her attention in Washington, but also resulted in a contract put out on her life.

Named, in 1997 to oversee 4,500 agents and investigative personnel at 152 field offices throughout the world, she became the first woman to become the Assistant Commissioner for Investigations at Customs. During her tenure she had responsibility for the largest money-laundering probe in U.S. history, "Operation Casablanca," and "Operation Cheshire Cat", also the largest-ever international child pornography and exploitation case among many others.

In June of 2000, Ms. Tischler was tapped to head Customs Office of Field Operations, by far the largest segment of the Customs Service, with over 13,000 employees, a \$1 billion dollar budget, 300 Ports of Entry and all Customs Management Centers and Field Laboratories.

The National Center for Women and Policing has honored her with its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for her work as a mentor to thousands of other women who have followed her footsteps into law enforcement careers.

Perhaps, however, her biggest challenge was personal. Bonni Tischler is a breast cancer survivor.

Today, the sight of a woman in a police uniform is not at all uncommon. This is partly due to the fact that Bonni Tischler was never an armchair feminist. While other adventuresome young women of her generation pursued careers as lawyers or businesswomen, Bonni Tischler was on the firing range, mastering the use of a gun. She marched on a different road to a different drummer and we are all better off because of it. For thousands of women today, and a countless number in the future, Bonni Tischler not only broke the glass ceiling, she shattered it, and in doing so she changed the face of federal law enforcement forever.

### COMMENDING EFFORTS OF JOHN KEATING, JOE SAPERE, AND JERRY SUGGS

#### **HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2002*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of three men, John Keating, Joe Sapere and Jerry Suggs. These three gentlemen are now embarked upon a bicycle ride across America, having begun June 8 in Newport Beach, CA with anticipated completion in Jamestown, VA on the 21st of July, the anniversary of the "Americans with Disabilities Act" (ADA). What is most extraordinary about this journey Mr. Speaker is that each of these gentlemen is an amputee.

John Keating, age 40, is the son of a former U.S. Defense attache and is the father of three sons. Joe Sapere, age 61, is a retired Air Force Colonel and a recent amputee. Jerry Suggs, 68, is retired from our U.S. Navy.

The reason for this trip, Mr. Speaker, is to demonstrate that life does not end with amputation, but can include high-intensity activities such as bicycling and skydiving. These men are visiting rehab facilities along the way and giving encouragement to those who have felt constrained. One young lady they have met was a tennis player and had given up the sport when she lost a leg. They convinced her to take up the racquet again and start playing.

As a Physician and Congressman, I honor these gentlemen for their efforts and invite others to learn more about these activities on line at [www.amputees-across-america.com](http://www.amputees-across-america.com).

### CONGRATULATING TASHIANKA AVERY, MAHOGANY WILLIAMS, AND WILLIAM HARRIS

#### **HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2002*

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt and enthusiastic

congratulations to the team of Tashianna Avery and Mahogany Williams for placing first in the junior division of the National African-American History Challenge. I also wish to recognize William Harris, the team alternate, for all of his efforts in helping the team of Avery and Williams win this competition.

The first-place team of Avery and Williams won the distinguished Hayling Cup at the 100 Black Men of America's National African-American History Challenge in Orlando, FL in June. Before receiving the distinguished Hayling Cup, Avery and Williams won first-place in the junior division of the fifth annual African-American History Challenge in Indianapolis, IN.

These three young people are an excellent example that through dedication, commitment, diligence, and hard work one can accomplish great things. This extra-ordinary team has shown the people of Indiana what it means to work hard to accomplish a goal.

Mr. Speaker, to Miss Avery, Miss Williams, and Mr. Harris, congratulations on your first-place win, and continue to aspire to achieve great things.

The people of Indianapolis are very proud of you.

### TRIBUTE TO MS. DELAINIA HOFFACRE

#### **HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2002*

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Ms. Delainia Hoffacre, teacher of visual arts at Brea-Olinda High School, for her unflagging commitment to the creative development of her students and her outstanding record of service in advancing the cultural arts in the city of Brea.

A lifetime supporter of the arts, Ms. Hoffacre is an accomplished artist with an emphasis in drawing. Incorporating her passion for art in her professional career, Ms. Hoffacre began teaching high-school level visual arts after completing her Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education at Ohio State University. During her more than sixteen years with the Brea-Olinda Unified School District (BUSD), Ms. Hoffacre has been instrumental in the development and coordination of the district-wide elementary-level arts curriculum, Artology, and has initiated the first Advanced Placement (AP) in Studio Art program. Moreover, her classroom instruction is dynamic and effective, evident by the many awards her students have earned at local art competitions, particularly in my Artistic Discovery competition.

In addition to her outstanding professional accomplishments, Ms. Hoffacre has contributed much of her free-time to enhancing the arts within the community and her impact has been dramatic. Serving as an appointed member of the Brea Cultural Arts Commission

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