

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF JIM CLARKE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise to share with our colleagues today the recent passing of Jim Clarke. He died on December 21, 2009 at his home in Annandale, Virginia, at the age of 75.

In 1962 Jim joined WMAL, the predecessor of WJLA (ABC Channel 7), where he served as a dedicated television journalist for more than 40 years. Jim did an outstanding job for Channel 7 and served our region well before retiring just a few years ago. Jim was a man of integrity and will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Lizbe, and the rest of his family during these difficult times.

I would like to share an obituary for Jim that ran in the Washington Post on December 22.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 22, 2009]

JIM CLARKE, EMMY-WINNING WJLA ANCHOR AND REPORTER, DIES

(By T. Rees Shapiro)

Jim Clarke, 75, an Emmy Award-winning television journalist for more than 40 years at what became WJLA (Channel 7), died Dec. 21 at his home in Annandale. Mr. Clarke had a heart attack in his sleep after shoveling snow for most of the day before.

In 1962, Mr. Clarke joined WMAL, the predecessor to WJLA, as an evening news anchor and reporter. During his career at the ABC News affiliate, his work included covering the race riots after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., the trial of the failed presidential assassin John Hinckley, Jr. and the Iran-Contra hearings.

Mr. Clarke focused many of his investigations on consumer advocacy stories and government corruption. He won numerous awards for his work, including nine local Emmy Awards, the Ted Yates award for courageous journalism and the National Headliner Award for an investigative report on abuses at St. Elizabeths Hospital, where several psychiatric patients died from neglect.

Mr. Clarke was in Norway when the news broke in 1998 about the sex scandal surrounding President Bill Clinton and former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, and he caught the first flight back to begin his coverage. To get a head start during the plane ride home, he wrote his script for the next newscast on the back of an airsickness bag.

James Davis Clarke, a native of Auxier, Ky., was a 1956 communication arts graduate of Fordham University in New York. One of his earliest jobs in the news business was as a copyboy for NBC newscaster John Cameron Swayze.

Mr. Clarke's big break came in the early 1960s as a radio reporter for WGH radio in Newport News, Va. He secured a taped inter-

view at the home of Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 spy plane pilot who had been shot down over Russia. The report made news across the country as a rare first-person account of the crash and eventually reached the ears of the WMAL newsman Ed Meyer, who recruited Mr. Clarke to join the ABC affiliate in Washington.

Mr. Clarke retired from WJLA in 2003 as a national affairs reporter.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Lizbe Schuster Clarke of Annandale; four children, Christopher Clarke of Washington, Kimberly Allen of Albuquerque, Katie Adamson of Arlington County and Suzanne Sprague of Portland, Ore.; and eight grandchildren.

Among colleagues, Mr. Clarke was known to be intrepid. One evening during the 1970s, Mr. Clarke had been out late in Virginia covering a story that was in danger of not making the 6 o'clock evening news.

According to his co-worker John Corcoran, rather than not make the broadcast, Mr. Clarke hopped a ride on the station's helicopter and ordered an assignment editor and intern to pick up an emergency blanket and meet him on the roof of the station. The problem was, there was no helicopter landing pad.

Leaning outside the hovering helicopter, Mr. Clarke dropped the tape from his report into the outstretched blanket below, and the segment made it into the editing bays for that evening's news.

INTRODUCING DECABROMINE ELIMINATION AND CONTROL ACT

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, I am very proud to introduce the Decabromine Elimination and Control Act today.

Since 2005 there have been 44 state-based initiatives to ban brominated flame retardants (PBDEs), but only four have been signed into law, including one in my home state of Maine. That bill was sponsored by my daughter, Maine Speaker of the House Hannah Pingree, and passed by the Maine legislature.

Today, I am honored to continue the long tradition of bringing good ideas from Maine to Washington.

PBDEs are known endocrine disruptors, interfering with the transmission and regulation of thyroid and reproductive hormones. Exposure of infants to PBDEs is of particular concern because these chemicals have produced developmental neurotoxicity in laboratory animals, impairing memory, learning and behavior. Even more worrisome is the fact that breastfeeding infants are exposed to higher concentrations of PBDEs because of the presence of these chemicals in mother's milk. The time has come to remove this chemical from our children's toys and clothing. We must take

immediate steps to ban this toxic and dangerous chemical.

This bill phases out, and ultimately bans, the last hazardous type of PBDE, Decabromine, by 2013. It mandates disclosure of products containing Decabromine to the Environmental Protection Agency and requires safer alternatives to be created to replace this toxic chemical. I have worked closely with the International Association of Fire Fighters, the Environmental Working Group, Maine Department of Environmental Protection and Environmental Health Strategy Center to develop this important piece of legislation, and I greatly appreciate the contributions of each of these groups in getting us to this critical point.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the 111th Congress to pass this vital legislation and finally enact a long overdue ban on Decabromine.

RECOGNIZING THE MIRAMAR HIGH SCHOOL PATRIOTS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Miramar High School Patriots' football team of my hometown, Miramar, Florida. On Friday, December 18, 2009, Miramar beat the DeLand Bulldogs 42-20 to become the first team from Broward County to win a 6A championship. Their 14-1 record and their convincing win in the title game are two things of which all Broward County citizens and all true football fans can be proud.

I congratulate Coach Damon Cogdell and the entire team for a job well done. I especially want to praise quarterback Ryan Williams, who passed for five touchdowns in the game, and receiver Ivan McCartney, who caught three of them. I am delighted to laud a team that has achieved great success.

The Miramar High School Patriots are fine examples of young men who have excelled at athletics and academics. By working hard and focusing on the tasks at hand, they have reached the pinnacle of their sport. They are people of whom their peers and everyone can be justifiably proud. I look forward to more championships from them in future years.

CELEBRATING THE NEVADA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS' 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Nevada County Association of

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