

has served on several boards and commissions committed to helping children in need.

Mr. Dinh Nguyen is a shining example of what the United States of America is all about. This Nation was built on certain ideals including community, self-sacrifice, and caring. Mr. Nguyen has demonstrated, through his career as a social worker and by his voluntarism, that he is committed to those ideals that Americans value.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my own congratulations and gratitude to Mr. Huu Dinh Nguyen on behalf of my constituents in the 16th District of California and the U.S. House of Representatives.

PORT WASHINGTON YOUTH ACTIVITIES HONORS RUDY HOTAREK, TOM ROBERTSON, AND TOM BROWN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents in the 5th Congressional District of New York, and the citizens of the Village of Port Washington, in Nassau County, in recognizing the Port Washington Youth Activities [PYA] as it celebrates its Fifth Hall of Fame Dinner Dance.

This year, the PYA will honor three individuals, Rudy Hotarek, Tom Robertson, and Tom Brown, for their dedication and support of youth activities in the community. These individuals will be inducted into the Port Washington Youth Activities Hall of Fame.

Rudy Hotarek was a significant force in the developmental days of PYA; he served as coach, officer and member of the board for more than 10 years.

Tom Robertson was a distinguished and involved coach of young people for more than 12 years. He lent his exceptional efforts to PYA's football, basketball, and lacrosse programs.

Finally, Tom Brown is being honored for athletic achievements in basketball and football at the collegiate level in the 1970's. Much of the PYA's reputation for skillful competition and dedication to excellence was developed during Tom Brown's participation as a young man in PYA football, basketball and baseball programs.

All three of these gentlemen are being recognized for their individual and collective contributions to youth sports. Their achievements are an excellent reflection upon themselves, their families, and their community, and represent the true American spirit of dedication and volunteerism embodied by the PYA. These three men are most deserving of this honor, and merit the special appreciation of their neighbors and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in honoring Rudy Hotarek, Tom Robertson, and Tom Brown, and in congratulating the Port Washington Youth Activities for its generous contributions and dedicated service to the community.

HONORING ALISON GAVRELL

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, in June, a very talented young woman from my district in California will be traveling to Washington to receive a major literary award. Alison Gavrell will receive the Silver Award at the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards national exhibition at the Corcoran Gallery of Art for her short story, "Don't Believe Everything You Read."

This prestigious program, which honors talented young writers and artists from across the Nation, is designed to encourage some of America's finest and most gifted students in the pursuit of excellence. Alison plans to read from her story at the Library of Congress Saturday, June 17, and will be part of the ceremony and reception for all national award winning students at the Corcoran the following day.

Alison, a student at the Dorris-Eaton School in Walnut Creek, deserves high praise for her diligence, self-discipline, and creativity. My congratulations also go to her parents, George and Elaine Gavrell, and her teacher, Ms. Deeni Schoenfeld for their contributions to Alison's signal achievement. It is a pleasure for me to recognize Alison in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HONORING PHILIP BILGRAY, RAMP SERVICEMAN AT WASHINGTON DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the following story published in Hemispheres about Philip Bilgray, a United Airlines employee. Mr. Bilgray is the first hearing-impaired employee to work on the ramp at Washington Dulles International Airport. I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Bilgray and can tell you that he is a very special individual. He is proud of the work he does and of the fact that he has helped other employees learn sign language so that they can communicate better in situations where oral communication is impossible. As a frequent traveler, I feel good knowing that Philip Bilgray is working to keep everything running smoothly.

UNITED VOICES

(By Philip Bilgray)

My name is Philip Bilgray, and I am a Ramp Serviceman. You could say that I broke new ground as the first hearing-impaired employee on the ramp at Washington Dulles International Airport, where I've worked since 1986.

Some people may think it's difficult for me to do my job because I interact a lot with other employees and customers. But my disability doesn't get in the way of my work. Much of the time, aircraft noise on the ramp makes it very difficult for anyone to hear, and ramp employees often use hand signals to communicate as they work. In fact, I've

expanded that practice by teaching my co-workers some simple sign language, and now we can communicate even better without speaking.

Also, driving a tug in the ramp area isn't much different for me than driving a car. In both cases, I take special precautions to make sure that I see nearby vehicles because I can't hear them approaching. With aircraft and other vehicles everywhere, making the extra effort to constantly look around ensures that I'm upholding our corporate value: Safety is all times, in all things.

As a United employee, I am proud to take care of your luggage whether you're traveling for business or pleasure. I try to help you if you have luggage problems. When delays occur, each of us knows that being a team is more important than ever, and by working together, we can minimize the impact of a delayed or cancelled flight.

Although I've taken my career at United seriously and I've worked hard, my parents get the credit for my successful entry into the workplace. They encouraged me to speak and sent me to a special private school for the speech impaired to make sure I could communicate with other people, like my co-worker, supervisors, and manager. My parents gave me the confidence to go for what I wanted, and what I've always wanted is to work for the best airline in the world. And the really great thing is, I don't just work at United anymore, I'm one of the owners!

I've found that sometimes the best way to learn about a job you're interested in is to take a straightforward approach. Although I'm very open about my deafness, I know some people don't like the word "handicapped," so I say that people like me who are deaf or hard of hearing are exceptional people, who can do anything if they put their mind to it.

There are many examples of hearing-impaired people achieving a lot of success. Many people saw the Miss America Pageant on TV this past year and witnessed the crowning of the first hearing-impaired winner. Also, millions of people have seen Marlee Matlin, a deaf actress, in *Children of a Lesser God* and on television.

Those are only two examples. I truly believe that it makes no difference whether a person is deaf or hard of hearing. There are many fine people who work for airlines or as lawyers, doctors, dentists, etc. And, happily, there also are many hearing people throughout the world who either know sign language or would like to learn it. If you are one of them, I would encourage you to learn sign language—it can open up a whole new world for you!

NOTE: Philip Bilgray has received commendations for administering first aid to a passenger on a United flight and for participating in Dulles' annual Christmas Fantasy Flight for critically ill children.

LEAH MCCANDLESS TRIBUTE

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, one of our Nation's unsung heroes is celebrating yet another milestone. Mrs. Leah McCandless is turning 95 years old this week.

While many of my colleagues may not know Mrs. McCandless, House and Senate members who have had to run for office representing Hobart, OK know Mrs. McCandless very well. It has become a sort of ritual for candidates to stop by her home for some pie and

coffee and a nice chat. Every politician stops by the McCandless home hoping to receive her blessing.

Her word goes a long way back in Hobart. She is the matriarch of the community—a real force back home. She counsels her fellow citizens and offers longtime wisdom on everything from marriage to divorce.

But it is her lifelong devotion to her children that makes her most proud. She raised five sons—three of whom served in World War II—and she is proud and delighted to tell you about them.

Her oldest son, Bill, was a successful businessman before his death. He also served in the Johnson administration working as co-chair of Ozarks Regional Development. Jack is retired vice president of Gates Corporation of Denver. Earl is a retired Army Colonel who served as social aide to President Kennedy and is an accomplished musician. John is a successful attorney in Oklahoma City and served in the Army's Counter Intelligence Corps. Bob worked for Senator Robert S. Kerr, directed Senator Humphrey's 1968 presidential bid and is now a prominent attorney in our Nation's Capital.

Mrs. McCandless also has worked tirelessly on behalf of her Presbyterian Church. She has been active for some 80 years and has served many roles at the Church.

It is with great pleasure that I urge my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to this outstanding woman, mother, neighbor, community leader, political advisor, and unsung hero. Mrs. McCandless has helped make this country great and we owe her our thanks and admiration.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. LAVIN

HON. DICK ZIMMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mr. ZIMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize a remarkable individual, Thomas Lavin, who has been highly instrumental in promoting Irish-American awareness in New Jersey. Tom is now recovering from a near-fatal car accident, but even this has not dampened his spirit or his energy.

Tom almost single-handedly created the Irish American Public Action Committee, Inc., an organization dedicated to promoting the Irish culture and heritage. This organization also collects, through contributions and purchases, Irish books and tapes and donates them to libraries. In addition, IAPAC organizes lectures on Irish matters of interest and arranges traditional Irish entertainment for colleges and universities. The son of Irish immigrants from County Mayo, Tom was IAPAC's first president and serves as a director today.

I would like to join IAPAC in honoring Tom for all that he has done for Irish-Americans in New Jersey. Although still confined to a wheelchair, Tom has enjoyed a phenomenal

recovery and looks forward to many more years of sharing his Irish heritage.

TRIBUTE TO THE RED DEVILS TENNIS TEAM

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the old saying that it is sometimes better to be lucky than good was turned on its head recently by a high school in the Sixth District of North Carolina. The Graham High School doubles tennis team proved that sometimes it is better to be good than lucky.

The Red Devils tennis duo proved this by losing the draw for team seedings but then going on to capture the North Carolina high school boys doubles tennis championship. Graham tennis coach Jim Melvin told the Burlington, NC, Times-News that he tried to get the No. 2 seed for his team. "They did it the hard way," Melvin told the newspaper. "I tried to get them seeded second, but they wound up getting the third seed. A coin flip put them with the No. 1 seeds. Obviously, it wasn't a perfect draw. But they beat the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds. They did not back into it."

Stuart Melvin and Jeremy Wyrick defeated doubles teams from Mt. Airy and Elkin to capture Graham's first tennis title. What made the duo even more special for Coach Melvin was that one of its members was his son, Stuart. "It's Graham's first-ever tennis championship of any kind, and your son being part of it made it even more special."

I am sure that the championship was special for everyone at Graham High School. Congratulations to principal Brad Evans, athletic director Mike Williams, the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Graham High School. The entire Sixth District of North Carolina is proud of your first-ever tennis championship.

MEMORIAL DAY 1995

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, on May 9, 1995, an extension of remarks that appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on page E980 was accidentally attributed to my dear colleague, BOB STUMP. I regret this confusion and here follows the correct text of my Memorial Day message for 1995.

MEMORIAL DAY 1995

Sacrifice. It's a word we all know. All of us have made some sacrifices in our lives. We make sacrifices for our family, for our close friends, even for our neighbors and coworkers. Persons in the Armed Forces make many sacrifices, and over one million Americans have given their lives, the ultimate sac-

rifice, while serving in our Nation's armed forces. Throughout history, members of the Armed Forces have risked their lives not merely for their family or their coworkers, but for a cause represented by the American flag, and the freedom to choose and the liberty to succeed which it embodies.

Some Americans are too young to remember; others have too quickly forgotten. How important, therefore, that we honor our veterans, that we learn from them, and that we teach others about history, about war, about sacrifice. We are still reminded about Korea, Vietnam, and more recent encounters. We should not, however, allow the memory, the lessons, and the sacrifices of our terrible world wars to fade. Proud veterans of those wars are among us today. Their presence bears witness to sacrifice.

Fifty years ago this month, our Nation was beginning to absorb the meaning of victory in Europe, to realize what the final tally was in terms of lives lost or shattered as the result of the awful conflict in Europe and North Africa. In April of 1945, President Roosevelt had died of a cerebral hemorrhage at Warm Springs, Georgia. The battle in the Pacific still raged as scientists neared completion of the first atomic bomb. The sacrifices would continue for four more months, and then the bloodiest of all wars would be over.

Veterans of World War I saw staggering losses in bitter trench warfare and history's first use of such horrible tactics as gas warfare. Fewer than 20,000 veterans of that brutal conflict are still alive today.

Cemeteries in two small towns in northwest Maryland contain the dead from the battle of Antietam, where more casualties occurred in a single day than on any other day of the Civil War.

The United States and the world learned of the awful toll of war when two of Mathew Brady's assistants photographed the dead of Antietam. The pictures brought home the shocking toll of war and its accompanying sacrifice when they were first displayed in 1862, and they are no less shocking today. It is fitting that each Memorial Day, the 2,100 graves of the Union dead are decorated with small American flags, a scene which stirs the conscience, but which only hints at the sacrifices which took place on the day of the battle. In a nearby cemetery, there are no decorations for the graves of 2,400 Confederate soldiers. We hope that these graves will be decorated on Memorial Day.

Battlefields and cemeteries remind us of the terrible sacrifices and loss of life in war. But many of us or our family members remember all too directly the experience of war. The first half of this century saw two world wars. These were the "wars to end all wars". How wrong we were to think the experience of war was behind us! Consider Korea. Vietnam. Lebanon. Grenada. Panama. The Persian Gulf. Somalia. Haiti. We have asked much of our fighting men and women.

Although many members of our Armed Forces are buried on foreign soils, there are cemeteries throughout this country which contain the remains of the very best that America had to offer. Remembering is what Memorial Day is for, and what gives it meaning is how each one of us remembers the great sacrifices which have made possible the blessings we share as Americans today.