

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT C. "BOBBY" DUNCAN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, May 30, 1996, was an important day in the small McCreary hamlet of Silerville. Also called Strunk, the collection of scattered homes and former commercial buildings is located between Toeward and State Line. Robert C. "Bobby" Duncan completed his fiftieth year in the general merchandise business at the corner of Old U.S. 27 and State Rt. 1470. That day, his anniversary passed like most of the previous 15,500 days—closed only on Sunday and Christmas. Local residents stopped to buy gas, milk, bread, and hardware, and to discuss current events.

When Duncan's General Store opened in the spring of 1946, Harry Truman was President. Republican Simeon Willis was the Governor of Kentucky. Highway U.S. 27 was a major north-south route from Florida to Michigan. Young soldiers came home on the Greyhound bus, but often would have to take U.S. 27 north to find work. As the country recovered from World War II, tourists were stopping for gas and refreshments.

Change has been a constant requirement for Duncan's General Store. The building, however, looks remarkably like it did in 1946. The gray, two-story, tin-roofed building with its pot-bellied coal stove has not changed. Change has occurred with the needs of customers. Although Bobby Duncan has never changed locations, advertised or conducted a sale he is a perceptive marketer. He adapted as service stations sprang up to cater to travelers and as Interstate 75 diverted thousands of motorists 30 miles away. When futurists predicted that supermarkets would destroy mom and pop groceries, he shifted his primary product lines. Dry goods from Shaw shoes to Big Ben overalls were replaced by the new consumer products flooding America. Groceries carried out in Campbell soup paper boxes were reduced to make way for hardware and specialty items for mining and logging. Today, convenience items and gas have reemerged along with hard-to-find items. Former State Senator and merchant O.O. Duncan once said, "sooner or later everyone in the county goes to Bobby's store to find items that no one else has."

For three generations children from Strunk, Marsh Creek, Murphy Ridge, and Pine Knot have enjoyed trips to Bobby Duncan's. His endless patience with a 6-year-old customer who has a quarter to spend on mixed candy has ensured that successive generations know the joy of bon bons, rock candy, and orange drops mixed in a small brown paper sack. Nickel RC's and cakes are not available today, but the price was never as important as the considerations and kindness shown to tiny, often barefoot customers.

Adults frequent Duncan's store for many reasons. The store provides a cohesiveness for the community. Sitting on the front porch on the old church pew or on the nail keg next to the warm fire, smelling kerosene fumes or pickled pig's feet, you feel that the world has slowed. The conversations of the current generation of Murphy's, Ball's, Bairds, Trammells, are important. They come to the store to tell their stories, to inquire about their neighbors, or to express their views on political issues. They come to listen and to be heard. Bobby Duncan serves as a tax adviser, building consultant, agronomist, scribe, lawyer, minister, funeral singer, arbitrator, and friend. His services are often more important than his wares.

I don't know how many years Duncan's General Store will survive. A business that sells shoes and saddles, hair pins and horse-shoes, Tide and tires, feed and seed, with true personal service is unique in today's world. Congratulations on a successful 50 years, Bobby Duncan.

A TRIBUTE TO LANGDON "DON" OWEN

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Langdon "Don" Owen, who will be honored at a special event on July 19, 1996, when an endowed fellowship in water science and policy will be established in his name at the University of California, Irvine.

During his 3-plus-year career as one of the premier minds in water resources policy in the State of California, Don utilized every scientific and policy tool available to sort out the complex and often urgent issues in the State's long and troubled water history. Environmental impact studies, cost-benefit analyses, long-term planning, multiple-discipline approaches, creative problem solving, using reclaimed water as barrier to sea water intrusion, building consensus through innovative solutions and persuasion—Don had the capability and the creativity to use all of these scientific techniques and nontraditional methodologies.

Of his many career highlights, three merit particular attention for their foresight and the lessons they offer our great State as we continue to grapple with difficult water decisions: Bay Barrier Investigation, which led to the rejection of a 1954 proposal to close off the San Francisco Bay from the sea; the Water Factory, the landmark advanced wastewater treatment facility which provides reclaimed water for salt water barrier and ground water basin replenishment; and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, which brought three warring water agencies together to create a lasting partnership toward guaranteeing water quality and supply for the region.

I remember Don best as an instrumental participant in the efforts to end the water wars between southern and northern California.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Langdon "Don" Owen, a remarkable man who has made lasting and positive contributions to the California environment and who has taught, and will continue to teach, important lessons in environmental science, creativity, innovation, and cooperation. I can think of no one better suited to represent a fellowship that will educate and empower the next generation of our environmental water scientists that Don Owen. He is truly one of the crown jewels of California, and Orange County and UC Irvine are fortunate to be associated with him.

THE QUEENS BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY—SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 100 YEARS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today so that this body may take note of a very special organization in my district—the Queens Borough Public Library. This organization celebrates the anniversary of its founding this year. I wish to congratulate them and offer my voice in support of their tireless efforts to educate and serve the residents of Queens Borough.

As I have told many of you before, Queens is a very special place to me and to those who live there. Its nearly two million residents make up the most ethnically diverse community in the United States. For years, the face of Queens has been the face of the many cultures of the world.

In that vein, the Queens Library system reaches out to this microcosm of the American mosaic and provides not just books, but citizenship education classes, English as a second language [ESL] classes, job training, and access to the information superhighway. In fact, the Queens Library offers over 18,000 programs to the community at large. Sixty-three facilities scattered throughout the borough are wellsprings of learning from which the community benefits.

On top of all this, the Queens Library is adding an international resource center [IRC] to the redesigned Flushing Branch, which will enable it to showcase many of the cultures reflected in the borough population. Using the latest technology, this unique facility will provide cultural background, business information, and educational materials on the varied peoples of the world.

With its expanded facilities, the Queens Library will be able to host even more high quality exhibitions. For example, last year, it presented an excellent exhibit with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities [NEH] on Lewis Latimer, a 19th-century inventor, and on Korean-style printing with movable metal type—a technique perfected in Asia well before Gutenberg and his printing press.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Many of my colleagues know that I have had a longstanding interest in the Asian region, and therefore, I am delighted Queens is becoming an increasingly recognized center of Asian commerce in the United States. I wholeheartedly applaud the Queens Library for its diligent efforts and foresight in this regard.

For a hundred years, the Queens Library has nurtured the community, supplying its needs for information and community services. As it heads into its next hundred years, I wish them the best, and look forward to the new developments it will surely bring.

IN RECOGNITION OF VICTOR
BACELIS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Victor Bacelis on the receipt of the Jefferson Public Service Award, which he received on Wednesday, June 19, 1996. The Jefferson Award was founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Senator Robert Taft, Jr., and is presented each year by the American Institute for Public Service as part of a celebration of service to America. Mr. Bacelis is a model constituent who received this award as the result of a selfless act which helped a fellow Californian.

Victor's native Mexican village in the Yucatan Peninsula was so poor there were no schools. His family never had much in the way of material luxuries, but was rich in the values of hard work, generosity, and kindness. He was working between 96 and 100 hours a week at three different jobs to support himself and those he cared about. He was mopping the floor in a Fremont McDonalds when he found \$600 on the floor. Most people would have kept it and told no one. After all, it was cash, and certainly would have tempted even the most honest person. But Victor did as the law instructed; he reported it. The money remained unclaimed. Victor then made a decision that very few people would make. Even though he was saving to buy a house, he gave the money to charity.

A local family had recently made a public plea for help. Adrian Sandoval, a 22-month-old boy, needed a bone marrow transplant, and his parents could not afford the procedure. Victor was touched by the story of this family, which had already lost one young child to the same rare genetic disease. Mr. Bacelis contributed the cash he had discovered and in doing so, saved a young and innocent life. He says, and I quote, "I couldn't accept what was happening at the time. I would have traded places with that baby, but that's impossible and I had to be a realist and take another form of action. * * * It was not my intention to be recognized as a 'hero,' I just wanted to help. It's part of my obligation as a human to help others."

His involvement in the Sandovals' lives did not end with the \$600 contribution. He makes an effort to support transplant patients by recruiting potential bone marrow donors for other children. He volunteers his time to the San Francisco-based Latino Marrow Donor Program. And even as public recognition of his efforts grows, he continues to decline any

personal gain. He has been offered money awards, a full scholarship and housing at Stanford University, and even a job with the San Francisco 49'ers, but none of these offers interested him. Instead, he wants everyone who finds value in his actions to become registered donors.

Mr. Speaker, Victor Bacelis has found a cause in which he believes. Through a simple twist of fate, he has taken the opportunity to touch the lives of others more needy than himself. His story restores and reinforces faith in the integrity of the American people. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing Victor Bacelis for his magnanimous contribution to the lives of transplant patients. I wish him much success in all his future endeavors.

THE CHAPMAN REUNION—A
FAMILY TRADITION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, family reunions are an important part of our personal histories. During the July 5th weekend, the descendants of Lemon and Joanna Chapman gathered in White Hall, MD, for their 22d annual family reunion.

Families are important institutions. They are, so to speak, our proving ground. Our first lessons in life are taught and learned in the family. It is there that we learn to love, dream, respect, disagree, forgive, share, take orders, have faith, along with other life skills. The foundation of the family is there when we need it. The stronger and more stable the foundation/family the safer and more confident we are when we venture.

We often hear about the destruction of the family and how our young people are without family values. Unfortunately, for some, those are valid statements but there are many, many strong and caring family units in our communities. The Chapman family is one of those strong and caring families. I commend the members of this family for recognizing the importance of the family, its values, and its history. As a society, we must do all we can do to build upon the strength of these families to help strengthen the fabric of the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the Lemon and Joanna Chapman family has produced many fine citizens. I would like to wish them and their friends a healthy, happy, safe and prosperous year until they meet again.

ISADOR BERENSTEIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it seems that it is emigrants who epitomize the American ideal of success through hard work. Isador Berenstein was born in Poland and achieved some success there only to see it destroyed by the Nazis. He barely escaped with his life when Dachau was liberated only a day before the Nazis were to kill him. He came to Amer-

ica to start over and made his way to the Arthur Avenue indoor bazaar. There, for the next 40 years, he ran the housewares stand. There are only in America facets to his story; his bargaining in Yiddish-accented Italian with newly emigrated Italian housewives, his reorganizing the market when the city allowed it to deteriorate and his being chosen to lead by the overwhelmingly Italian-American merchants for more than a generation. I have known him for 20 years and have admired his good works and his commitment to the community. His retirement is a loss to all of us.

IN MEMORY OF MOLLY BEATTIE

HON. BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an extraordinary woman—Molly Beattie, who recently passed away. Molly was the first woman Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and in her short tenure, earned the admiration and respect of lawmakers who work with her on wildlife issues.

I did not always agree with Molly. However, she never failed to listen to the other side of an issue in order to resolve policy disagreements. She was an unfailing and dedicated public servant.

She came to Arkansas to hear my constituents protest her proposed closing of some of our fish hatcheries. She listened, then worked with me and other Members of Congress to establish a commission to examine the health and benefits of America's national fish hatchery system. Her common sense approach will mean that inefficient hatcheries will be closed and efficient facilities will continue generating revenue for the Government.

Molly stepped in again early this year to help me develop legislation that will prevent closure of national wildlife refuges in case of another Government shutdown.

Molly will be sorely missed by her friends and admirers in this body but most of all by the fish and wildlife she was sworn to protect.

She walked her walk and talked her talk and was true to her beliefs. She took her job very seriously setting a new standard for environmental consciousness. I believe that she loved her job and those around her, but was most comfortable in her cabin in the woods. I join my colleagues in honoring Molly Beattie as a thoughtful and dedicated human being whose life on her beloved earth was cut all too short.

TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE IN SAUDI
ARABIA

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 26, 1996, 19 young American airmen tragically lost their lives in Saudi Arabia. My sympathetic prayers go out to those families and friends across this grieving Nation whose lives' paths have now been painfully altered in bearing the great weight of so precious a loss. In particular, my deepest regards