

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THANKS TO FOUR DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANTS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to rise today to give a special thanks for a job well done to four loyal public servants who recently retired from Federal service with a combined total time in the Government of over 100 years: Ms. Joan Barnard, Ms. Charlotte Walch, Mr. Bill Lohr, and Mr. John Shwab. These four hard-working individuals dedicated the final years of their Federal service to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau in the Department of Health and Human Services, ensuring that the unmet needs of mothers and children were identified and addressed.

These four individuals represent the best things in our Nation: hard work, optimism, love of family, and dedication to their country. As I deliver these words of praise, I realize that the people who will miss their work the most are the members of the public who benefited from their hard work, as well as their friends and fellow coworkers.

We wish them all happy retirement and congratulations on a job well done.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MORTON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the girls' basketball team of Morton High School in my district.

The squad recently won its first ever regional title in the Illinois State basketball tournament. In fact, this was the first Morton team—boys or girls—to advance past the regional round of the playoffs since 1972.

Unfortunately, Morton's dream season ended with a defeat to perennial power Mother McCauley in the sectional semifinals last week.

Nonetheless, I congratulate the team and its first-year coach, John Monitor, for bringing home the regional championship and basketball pride to Morton High School.

HONORING BETTIE HELTERBRAN ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Bettie M. Helterbran will retire from Federal

civil service with the National Guard Bureau on March 30, 1996. Her most recent assignment has been as the Deputy Chief, Office of Policy and Liaison, The Pentagon, Washington, DC. Mrs. Helterbran's distinguished career had encompassed over 40 years. She has served long and well and will be missed by the National Guard Bureau and the legislative community.

Mrs. Helterbran started her civil service career on 16 June 1952 at Fort Belvoir, VA. Her first position was as a GS-3, typist, in the Department of Non-Resident Instruction of the Engineer School, in a typing pool using a manual typewriter and individual sheets of carbon paper. Her starting salary was a whopping \$2,950.00 per year. By 1958, she had been promoted to GS-5, statistical clerk. In 1958, she left Fort Belvoir for Fort Greely, AK, and began again as a GS-3 clerk typist, in the S-1 Office at post headquarters. While there she was promoted to GS-4. In 1960 she departed Fort Greely for Fort Knox, KY. At Fort Knox, she was a GS-3, clerk typist/secretary in the commissary office and later a GS-4, secretary in the engineer field maintenance shop. In mid-1961 she departed Fort Knox for Babenhausen, Germany, where she was without employment for 3 years. In January 1965 she returned to Fort Belvoir, VA, and became a GS-4, clerk-typist in the Office of the Adjutant General. Shortly thereafter, she was promoted to GS-5, secretary. From there she was promoted to GS-6, awards and decorations clerk, and then on to a GS-7 congressional liaison assistant position and the start of her career in the congressional arena. Over time she was promoted to GS-9, GS-11 and given the title of Congressional Liaison Representative. During this time her position was transferred from the Office of the Adjutant General to the Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities.

In 1982, after an uninterrupted 17 years at Fort Belvoir, she accepted a GS-12 position in the Office of Policy and Liaison at the National Guard Bureau. In 1987 she was promoted to GS-13, Congressional Liaison Officer and to GM-14, Deputy Chief, Office of Policy and Liaison in July 1991.

In all areas Mrs. Helterbran has demonstrated a strong sense of loyalty, honor, and distinction as a leader. Her energy and tireless devotion above and beyond the call of duty single her out as one of America's best and reflect great credit upon herself, the National Guard Bureau, and the National Guard of the United States.

TRIBUTE TO FRIENDS OF KAREN

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the great dedication and good work of a Purdys, NY-based organization called Friends of Karen.

When Sheila Peterson heard that the 16-year-old daughter of her neighbor and friend was dying of Lafora's disease in 1978, she knew she had to help. Sheila petitioned the community to help her raise thousands of dollars in order to allow Karen to spend her remaining months at home. After young Karen passed away, it was apparent that the services performed for her and her family were desperately needed by many others, hence the formation of Friends of Karen.

For the past 17 years, this organization has provided financial, emotional, and advocacy support for more than 1,000 catastrophically and terminally ill children and their families. Spending more than \$500,000 a year on as many as 200 families, Friends of Karen spends 80 cents out of every dollar directly on services to those in need. Administrative costs are kept down, by having 11 part-time employees and only one full-timer. In order to accomplish as much as they do, Friends of Karen relies on more than 100 dedicated volunteers.

Social workers at Friends of Karen help families maximize their assistance from insurance plans, government programs, and related community agencies. They provide financial assistance for real life problems related to children's illness. This can include everything from transportation to and from medical treatment, to in-hospital expenses such as telephone, TV, parking, and meals for parents, to child care for siblings, and even to family bereavement support.

Having served on the board of directors of Friends of Karen, I know first hand what a great organization this is. These are people who care deeply about the welfare of sick children and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to have an organization like Friends of Karen in my community. From the bottom of my heart, I thank Friends of Karen for their commitment to the welfare of our children, and for the tremendous contribution they make to the quality of life in our community.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE ANN GRIEST

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding scholastic achievement of a young woman from my hometown, Corpus Christi, TX. Stephanie Ann Griest, a student at the University of Texas at Austin, was 1 of 20 students chosen nationwide to be a member of the USA Today's All-USA College Academic First team.

As someone who has spent most of their public career promoting educational excellence, I am delighted by Stephanie's success and achievement. The importance, and the value of education are things we cannot emphasize enough to the youth of today. It is with great pleasure that I recognize such an

• 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.

outstanding young woman, student, and community leader. Chosen for her exemplary academic successes and community involvement, Ms. Griest's determination, commitment, and hard work is exactly what we should attempt to encourage in all our students and in all our schools.

I would also like to acknowledge Stephanie's parents, Lloyd and Irene Griest. As a farther, I recognize the commitment parents make in raising their children, and I commend them for the job they have done in raising Stephanie.

I spend a great deal of time in my congressional district encouraging educational opportunities at every occasion possible. My message to young people is: education is the way out—and up. I tell them that education is their right, their responsibility, and their gateway to a better life. As 1 of only 20 students chosen nationwide, Stephanie is capitalizing on that right, focusing on her responsibility, and passing through the gateway to a better life.

I would also like to commend USA Today, for selecting and rewarding these 20 students, and offering them as examples of what our youth are capable of achieving. I encourage other elements of the private sector to take the time, and make the investment in our children, by promoting education and rewarding our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending this young lady. Stephanie, you have made us all very proud. Keep up the good work.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN: YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago in 1976, the month of February was officially set aside by Congress to pay tribute to, honor, and respect African-Americans who have made key contributions to the diversity and greatness of the United States. The purpose of Black History Month this year is to reflect upon some of the African-American women who have made extraordinary achievements in civil rights, politics, science, entertainment, literature, and athletics.

African-American women have proven themselves invaluable as leaders in the evolution of our great Nation. Their vigorous and passionate participation in the age-old struggle for freedom has resulted in a rich history of heroines. As the list of these women and their accomplishments is long, I regretfully must choose only a few examples.

In July 1849, the ex-slave abolitionist, Harriet Tubman, assisted in the underground railroad to free over 300 slaves. Her courage and selflessness demonstrated her character of integrity and honor while in the pursuit of freedom and right. She is known as the Moses of her people. Nearly a century later, this same courage and fight for equality was demonstrated by Rosa Parks in Montgomery, AL, when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white person when she was ordered to move by the bus driver. As a result of her unyielding character and strong belief in what

is right, a bus boycott occurred, after which segregation on buses was declared as a violation of guaranteed American rights.

Patricia Robert Harris, a lawyer and diplomat, became the first African-American woman Ambassador to be appointed to an overseas post. Three years later, in 1968, Shirley Chisholm was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Recently in 1992, Carol E. Moseley Brown was elected to the U.S. Senate. I applaud my past and current colleagues for their fine and distinguished leadership.

In 1873, Susan McKinney Steward overcame great obstacles to become the first African-American woman to be formally certified as a doctor. Her innovative and stalwart personality enabled her to create the Women's Loyal Union of New York and Brooklyn and to cofound a women's hospital in Brooklyn. The medical field, thanks to her pioneering example, has opened its doors to women. Today, women are entering the medical profession in increasing numbers, often representing a majority of the student body at our leading medical schools.

Additional accomplishments by African-American women in America are found in the space program. Mac C. Jemison was the first African-American woman in space in 1992. Another grand achievement is the work of Katherine Johnson, an aerospace technologist with NASA. She is a pioneer in new navigation procedures to track space missions.

African-American women have excelled in the entertainment world, covering the spectrum of music and dance to books and TV journalism. Due to her outstanding performance in "Gone With the Wind," actress Hattie McDaniel was the first African-American woman to win an Academy Award. Maya Angelou, the actress, dancer, writer, and poet, who is well known for her book "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," stands apart as a distinguished and invaluable asset to a greater understanding in this country. A few years back Toni Morrison was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in literature. News reporter Carole Simpson has made significant advancements in the media profession, moving from a Chicago TV reporter in 1970 to the anchor of ABC's "World News Saturday."

Athletically, African-American women have demonstrated outstanding strength, skill, and discipline in many sports. In 1951, Althea Gibson was the first African-American woman to play at Wimbledon, and later went on to win the singles and doubles title—with her partner, Darlene Hard—in 1957. In the Olympics, Jackie Joyner-Kersey is acclaimed internationally as the world record holder in the heptathlon.

Each of these extraordinary African-American women has set her sights high and tackled difficult challenges to reach her goals. In African-American communities and in all of America, these women provide valuable examples of success. Still, there are countless African-American women who have dedicated their lives to something they wholeheartedly believe in, but many never receive public recognition. I am delighted to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding African-American women of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO THE LYONS, IL, FIRE DEPARTMENT ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization that has been protecting lives and property in a community for a century—the Lyons, IL, Fire Department.

The department was founded in December, 1895 by village ordinance. But as anyone who has ever had dreams of racing to the scene of a fire in a red engine will tell you, it did not really start until January 21, 1896, when the department's first vehicle, a nonmotorized, man-powered horse car, was purchased.

From those humble beginnings, the department has grown into one of the finest in suburban Chicago.

The village and its fire department will commemorate 100 years of service with numerous ceremonies this year, including a dinner-dance this month, a muster with interdepartmental competition in May, and a picnic for past and present firefighters in June.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the department and its personnel on its century of success and wish them many more years of effectively protecting lives and property in their community.

ALEX WEDDINGTON HONORED BY MERIDIAN'S JUNIOR AUXILIARY AS 1996 HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend my friend, Alex Weddington, for being selected Humanitarian of the Year by the Junior Auxiliary in our hometown of Meridian, MS.

The Junior Auxiliary presents the award each year to a person, organization or business in recognition of their contribution to the betterment of the community. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Alex. He is making a positive difference in our community.

I want to share with my colleagues this article about Alex and his work with the Masonic Home for Boys and Girls. It was written by Ida Brown of the Meridian Star.

SPENDING TIME WITH THE KIDS—ALEX WEDDINGTON SHARES TIME WITH CHILDREN FROM MASONIC HOME FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

(By Ida Brown)

Although he looks forward to every day, Meridian businessman Alex Weddington probably enjoys Fridays even more. After a busy week at the office, he and his wife, Ann, usually spend the evening with the kids—all 23 of them.

For 15 years, Weddington's Friday evenings—and many other days of the week—have been shared with the residents of the Masonic Home for Boy and Girls.

"The kids are wonderful and you get so much more out of doing for them than you put in," Weddington said.