

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO AMERICORPS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to over 100,000 individuals who have served the American community through their participation in Americorps. As this program completes its fifth year, I would like to recognize some of the outstanding work that Americorps members have been doing in the Los Angeles area.

Working with Building Up Los Angeles, over 100 Americorps participants a year serve thousands of young people from kindergarten through high school at 29 sites including public schools, churches and community centers. Corps members tutor and mentor children during the school year and deliver academic support services when school is out; provide health education and organize teen pregnancy and domestic violence prevention programs; and encourage residents to have pride in their communities through neighborhood clean-up and beautification projects and public art projects. Building Up Los Angeles serves East Los Angeles, Central City South, Hollywood, Northeast Los Angeles, Pico Union, Koreatown, the San Fernando Valley, Picoima, South Central, and Watts.

Over 100 individuals with the Southern California Environmental Resources Management AmeriCorps Program have been working to protect our environment by distributing over 30,000 water-conserving devices, such as low-flow showerheads, to residents in the Compton area and other communities in the greater metropolitan basin. The program, which is administered by the Executive Partnership for Environmental Resources Training (ExPERT), will mean a savings of over 4 billion gallons of water per year over the next ten years.

In Bellflower, California, approximately 65 Americorps tutors work with Project REACH (Reading Excellence Achieved with Community Help) and Project APPLE (After School Program Promoting Learning and Enrichment), which provide academic support and enrichment for 1300 students in grades K-8, with emphasis on grades three and four. This year, additional opportunities to serve through Project REACH and Project APPLE included a series of literacy programs designed to promote parent involvement; helping to organize the Special Olympics; assisting with a Community Immunization Project; planning activities for children in the performing arts; providing nutrition education; and developing initiatives that help children gain teamwork and leadership skills.

Through their work, Americorps members are helping to improve neighborhoods and schools, develop communities, and protect the environment. I am pleased to have this opportunity to commend and thank those individuals who have served through the Americorps program and made such valuable contributions in the Los Angeles area.

TRIBUTE TO HANK SMETAK

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hank Smetak. Mr. Smetak worked 50 years in the defense industry, helping keep America free, during times of war and peace.

Mr. Smetak's career in the aerospace defense industry has spanned over five decades, through conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf, and outlasting a Cold War that had an impact on almost every part of the world.

Mr. Smetak started his career at Vogt, now Lockheed Martin, from 1949 to 59, from 1959 through 1968 he was employed by Rohr Industries. Then he returned to Lockheed serving from 1968 to the present. From Rohr to LTV to Loral to Lockheed Martin, Mr. Smetak has been a constant through many changes, and he had helped make North Texas home to the cutting edge of America's defense industry.

Mr. Smetak, thank you for 50 years of loyalty to North Texas' defense industry. For 50 years, your work has contributed to defending America's freedom and our values, and has helped make us the world's only Superpower.

TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH A. SLOAN

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention an honor bestowed upon Deborah A. Sloan, a teacher at Zia Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ms. Sloan was selected as a participant in the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program.

Ms. Sloan, was selected from a national pool of more than 2,700 applicants for this honor. As a member of the Navajo/Hopi Tribe and a distinguished teacher she is an outstanding representative of the rich, diverse culture in New Mexico. Ms. Sloan joined 200 educators from throughout the United States to travel Japan. They visited primary and secondary schools, colleges, businesses and cultural sights to learn about effective educational tools and techniques. As a representative of New Mexico schools she shared her knowledge and insight regarding education with people from throughout the United States and Japan. Her participation is a tribute to her dedication and commitment to the children of Zia Elementary and the future of our community.

Please join me in thanking Deborah A. Sloan for contributions she is making to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT H. ROSENTHAL

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I respectfully pay tribute to a good friend and a wonderful constituent, Mr. Robert H. Rosenthal. He is an accomplished builder, humanitarian, and long time friend and leader of the American Jewish Committee. On February 10, 2000, the American Jewish Committee's West Coast Florida Chapter will honor Mr. Rosenthal with its 2000 Institute of Human Relations Award.

Bob is a generous philanthropist, stalwart advocate of Israel, and a champion of disadvantaged children. For two decades, the American Jewish Committee has been a focus of Bob's wide-ranging efforts in public affairs, serving in a variety of positions, including President of the West Coast Florida Chapter for three years.

Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, Bob founded the R.H. Roberts Construction Company in 1952, serving as CEO and President until his retirement in 1980. Throughout the years, his company won awards for architectural excellence and he earned a reputation for promoting engaged corporate citizenship.

With his extraordinary talent for leadership and his great magnanimity, Bob has furthered the cause of all humanity. It is indeed a pleasure for the American Jewish Committee to applaud the civic concern and social vision of Robert H. Rosenthal, and, I honor him today as a friend and leader, and praise his contributions on behalf of the 13th Congressional District of Florida.

POTOMAC HERITAGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the occasion of the Third Annual Caucus for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail to be held October 22 at Oxon Hill Manor, in my District.

Since Congress designated the Potomac River corridor as a National Scenic Trail in legislation enacted in 1983, grassroots organizations have joined forces with federal, state and local government agencies to identify new opportunities to provide for public enjoyment of a trail that follows "Our Nation's River." Protection of our river—which is part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed—and its historic sites and natural areas must be a top priority for our region in the years ahead.

The National Park Service requires sufficient tools to help facilitate public involvement with

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this National Scenic Trail, which is why I support full funding of this effort under the Service's budget.

I congratulate the community of grassroots supporters of the Potomac Heritage Trail including the Potomac Heritage Partnership, Prince George's County government, the Accokeek Foundation and many other local groups and individuals. They are leading the regional effort to encourage conservation, historic preservation and sustainable commerce along the Potomac River corridor. They deserve our full support for their efforts.

SALUTING PATIENT APPRECIATION DAY

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our nation's doctors and patients. The Genesee County Medical Society has proclaimed today, and the third Tuesday of every October thereafter, as "Patient Appreciation Day." At events around Genesee County, doctors are expressing their gratitude to their patients and are recognizing the great benefits of the doctor/patient relationship. I commend their efforts to reach out to patients and share their gratitude.

At a time when the news is filled with negative stories about managed care, I believe Patient Appreciation Day is a positive way to recognize all the good things that are happening in our nation's health care system. Patient Appreciation Day is a time to mark the important role that patients play in making our nation's health care system the best in the world. It is a day when doctors take an extra moment with their patients to express their gratitude and celebrate the opportunities they are given to provide their life-giving services.

It is my greatest hope that the Genesee County Medical Society has started a nationwide trend and that doctors across the country join in celebrating "Patient Appreciation Day" in the future. The Genesee County Medical Society should be applauded for their positive efforts toward improving the lives of the patients they serve.

HONORING DR. RICHARD BERTKEN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Richard Bertken, a native of the San Joaquin Valley. Dr. Bertken returned to Fresno after completing his studies at USC, UCLA, The George Washington University, and Stanford University. He was one of the first medical practitioners with the University of California San Francisco Medical School, Fresno. Dr. Bertken has officially retired from his government position with Veterans Administration Medical Center, but will continue to see patients as a consultant.

Dr. Bertken achieved state of the art therapeutic modalities. Many patients with Rheumatological and Immunological problems

awaited his expertise. In a short time, his patients graduated from wheel chairs to crutches, to full ambulation; for many, a return to full employment and to all, an improved quality of life.

Dr. Bertken considered the needs of the whole person, displaying genuine concern. He is dedicated not to just lessen pain but to eliminate it and prevent disability. Dr. Bertken is a strong patient advocate, seeking access to the most recent approved medications and treatments for his patients.

With his enthusiasm and positive attitude, he empowers patients under his care to take an active participation in their treatment plan through education and self-management. His vision for patients living quality productive lives include not just our veteran population, but also those he treats at the University Medical Center where he practices with the UCSF program.

As a leader he has established a culture of integrity for both patients and staff, an accountable and truthful standard of practice in health care delivery.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Dr. Bertken for his service to the community and his patients. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Richard Bertken many more years of continued success.

HONORING REV. GUSTA BOOKER, JR.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Rev. Gusta Booker, Jr. for his 31 years of service at Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church of Houston.

For more than 3 decades, Reverend Booker has addressed the needs of the Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church's congregation. In celebration of the church's 31st Anniversary, the congregation held a "Celebration of Love Service" this month followed by "A Love Fellowship Reception." The growth and success that Greater St. Matthew has experienced under Reverend Booker's leadership reveals a Pastor who is truly connected to his community.

Reverend Booker is the youngest of nine born to the late Reverend Gusta Booker, Sr. and the late Mrs. Gussie Booker in Columbus, Texas. Reverend Booker married Theola Massie in 1964, and they are the affectionate parents of three children, Ronald, Gusta III, and Alita Corine; two daughters-in-law, Valree Booker and Nicole Booker; two grandsons Ronald, Jr. and Joshua; and one granddaughter, Peyton Nicole.

Pastor Booker was called to the ministry in 1967, and later founded Greater St. Matthew "Southeast" located at 7701 Jutland Street. In 1994 he founded Greater St. Matthew "Southwest" at 14919 South Main Street, giving rise to the congregation's concept "One Church in Two Locations." In 1995, the Lindler-Booker Family Life Center was constructed.

Reverend Booker shares his insight and experiences with those who seek knowledge and guidance. He has published two books: *After the Honeymoon* and *Living Beyond the Pain*. His television and radio ministries can be seen and heard in Houston, Beaumont, and Austin.

While Reverend Booker's religious and spiritual obligations to his growing congregation have always been paramount, as a community leader, he has shared his faith and free time as Founder and First Moderator of the Gulf Coast Baptist Association, past President of Central State Convention of Texas, and past Chairman of the Christian Education Board of the National Baptist Convention of America.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his 31 years as Pastor at Greater St. Matthew, Reverend Booker's intelligence, enthusiasm, and integrity has served his congregations well. He brings tireless energy and compassion to each of his endeavors, whether it's as a Pastor, community leader, or friend. His contributions to the ministry and his energy in addressing the needs of his congregation and surrounding community are truly commendable.

MATTHEW NONNEMACHER HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable young boy from my District in Hazleton, Pennsylvania—Matthew Nonnemacher. Matthew is only eleven years old, but he will be a participant this Friday in the White House Conference on Philanthropy. While most boys and girls his age are more concerned with getting their homework done, Matthew has been helping his disadvantaged neighbors.

Last year, Matthew's fourth grade teacher at St. Joseph Memorial School, Terri Smith, gave her students an assignment to draw a picture of the one wish they would like to be granted if they were on top of the world. Matthew's picture depicted him giving money to poor people. Later, after having asked his parents what would be the best way to help the poor, Matthew wrote a letter to the editor of his local newspaper, the Hazleton Standard Speaker, with the same question. Matthew received numerous letters suggesting projects such as food drives, clothing collections, and a dime drive. Matthew changed the latter suggestion to a penny drive, because he thought it would be more fun, and set an ambitious goal of collecting one million pennies, or \$10,000, a donate to the United Way of Greater Hazleton.

With the help of then-United Way of Greater Hazleton Executive Director James Settle, Matthew's project was named "A Million Ways to Care" when it began in August of 1998. Matthew visited almost every civic organization in the city with a request for pennies and placed hundreds of two-quart collection jars throughout his community of 26,000 people. School students throughout the community also enthusiastically collected pennies for him. On October 22, 1998, the pennies were collected and loaded on a flatbed truck, paraded through town with a police and school bus escort, and taken to First Federal Bank, where an enthusiastic crew of bank employees and volunteer spent thirteen hours counting more than 5.5 tons of pennies. The final sum amounted to \$18,196.91 or 1,819,691 pennies, which was promptly presented to the United Way of Greater Hazleton on last year's National "Make a Difference Day."