

ALL SEGMENTS OF COMMUNITY
MUST WORK TOGETHER TO END
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, our homes should be a safe haven where wives, husbands, and children are free from the fear of violence. In most homes in America, this is the case, but for far too many women and children this is not the case. The need to address this issue is something on which we can all agree.

I am pleased that increasing attention has been called to this issue and that there are numerous community organizations that have taken an active role in addressing this issue in their communities. Indeed it is in local communities where law enforcement and community organizations have gotten involved that we have seen the greatest success.

In fact, this weekend in my congressional district the Domestic Violence Coalition of Indian River County, Florida will be hosting a seminar on domestic violence in order to raise awareness and provide training for those who are committed to bringing this travesty to an end. At this seminar a host of community organizations along with law enforcement and local governmental agencies will make presentations directed toward raising public awareness and sharing professional expertise on domestic violence.

This Congress is due to consider the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. This act provides funding for some very valuable programs like domestic violence hotlines, shelters, law enforcement, and related training among other programs. I fully support the reauthorization of these programs and am pleased that many of the organizations participating in this event, like the Sebastian River Junior Woman's Club, support efforts to reauthorize and improve the effectiveness of this law.

Mr. Speaker I would also like to take this opportunity to bring to the members attention, related legislation that I have recently introduced in the House. My bill (H.R. 3088) would address one of the most heinous acts of violence to women in our society, sexual assault. Today, in many states the victims of sexual assault have no right to inquire into the HIV status of their assailant until after conviction of the assailant, and sometimes not even then. My bill would give the victims of this crime the right to know the HIV status of their attacker immediately after bringing charges.

Medical studies indicate that if anti-HIV drugs are begun within 48 hours of exposure to the HIV virus, the infection of the victim can actually be prevented. That is why it is so important that the victims of sexual assault be able to request the HIV status of their assailant as quickly as possible. It is literally a matter of life and death.

As a physician, husband, and father, I am deeply troubled that this is not already law in every state. For too long the rights of victims of sexual crimes have been sacrificed for the rights of criminals. No longer will the victims have to wait weeks, months or years for the crime to be fully adjudicated before they can find out if they have been exposed to HIV.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill as we seek to arrest the scourge of violence in our society.

TRIBUTE TO THE O'TUCKS

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, for four decades, the members of an organization known as the O'Tucks have dedicated themselves to serving our community and preserving the unique culture and traditions of Kentucky's Appalachian highlands.

If you're even remotely familiar with the rich and vibrant culture of Appalachian Kentucky, it shouldn't surprise you to learn that groups like the O'Tucks exist. But it might surprise you to find such a group thriving outside of Kentucky—in Butler County, Ohio.

The O'Tucks (as in "Ohioans from Kentucky") were founded 40 years ago by Mr. Stanley Dezarn, who was born in 1922 near the Goose Creek River in the Bluegrass State's Clay County. A lifelong educator and community leader, Stanley Dezarn founded the O'Tucks with a set of specific goals, which Ercel Eaton of the Hamilton Journal-News detailed last year: "to provide a common ground for exchange of ideas and experiences for people with common cultural and environmental backgrounds; to strive to preserve the rich qualities of folklore and music of the Appalachian highlands; [and] to work for the continuous improvement of the community by cooperating with and assisting civic leaders, organizations, and public officials in Butler County."

For years the O'Tucks have fulfilled these goals repeatedly and successfully in our community. They've enriched the lives of countless Butler County residents through their music and cultural events. But they've also contributed to our community through their service and spirit of volunteerism, which has helped more than a few of their fellow citizens realize the dream of getting a college education or pursuing a career in art, teaching, nursing and other fields.

Mr. Speaker, even after four decades of good times and good service, the O'Tucks have never strayed from the original goals of Stanley Dezarn. Fittingly, the O'Tucks will honor their founder late this month at their 40th anniversary banquet, and give thanks to Stanley Dezarn for his lifetime of dedication and service to the O'Tucks and the Butler County community.

Stanley Dezarn and the O'Tucks are an inspiration for all Americans. They're proof that what makes America a great society is not her strong government, or her time-tested institutions, or her mighty industries; what makes America great is the spirit and enthusiasm of her people. I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Stanley Dezarn and the O'Tucks organization for 40 years of distinguished service to the Butler County community and the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK CANYON
OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL
PARK AND THOSE WHO MADE IT
POSSIBLE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with an overwhelming sense of pride that I now rise to pay tribute to a truly historic event in the proud and distinguished history of the great State of Colorado: the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

As the House sponsor of legislation that redesignated the Black Canyon as a national park, it gives me great joy to describe for this esteemed body's record the beauty of this truly majestic place. In addition, I would like to offer my gratitude to a community of individuals instrumental in the long process that ultimately yielded the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has visited the Black Canyon can attest to its awe-inspiring natural beauty. Named for the dark rock that makes up its sheer walls, the Black Canyon is largely composed of what geologists call basement rocks, the oldest rocks on the earth estimated at 1.7 billion years old. With its narrow openings, sheer walls, and scenic gorges that plunge 2000 feet into the clear blue majesty of the Gunnison River, the Black Canyon is a natural crown jewel second to none in its magnificent splendor. Though other canyons may have greater depth or descend on a steeper course, few combine these attributes as breathtakingly as does the Black Canyon.

If ever there was a place worthy of the prestigious status that only national park status can afford, Mr. Speaker, it is the Black Canyon. But as you know, national parks don't just happen. In this case, it took nearly 15 years, several Congressional Representatives and Senators, innumerable locally elected officials, and a virtual sea of committed citizens in western Colorado.

Included in this group are the good people of Hotchkiss, Colorado. During this long and at times difficult process, Hotchkiss' civic leaders have given tirelessly and beyond measure in the hopes of making the Black Canyon a national park. Again and again these great Americans rose to the challenge, doing everything in their power to fulfill this dream. Without Hotchkiss' leadership and perseverance, none of what we have accomplished would have ever been possible.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I give my thanks to the people of Hotchkiss who played a leading role in making the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park a wonderful reality for Colorado, America, and the world to enjoy.

RECOGNIZING THE ST. JOSEPH,
MISSOURI POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seven law enforcement officers from the St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department who

are being recognized with the National Association of Police Organization's prestigious TOP COPS Awards. These brave individuals are receiving these distinguished awards for their valiant efforts in protecting their community from an armed killer on November 10, 1998.

On that date, Sergeants Terry White, Steve Gumm and Billy Paul Miller, Patrolwoman Rebecca Caton, and Patrolmen Roy Wedlow, Henry Pena, Shawn Hamre and Bradley Arn, responded to his high-priority call to subdue an armed sniper who was randomly firing at vehicles attempting to cross a busy local intersection. The assailant fired approximately 200 rounds of bullets from his assault weapon, fatally wounding Officer Arn, before being shot and killed by sergeant Miller. Thanks to the quick response and undaunted courage of these brave officers, no innocent bystander lost their life as a result of this tragedy.

In addition, I wish to pay a special tribute to the family of Officer Arn. Survived by his loving wife Andrea and two-year-old twin daughters Molleigh and Mallorie, Officer Arn will be forever remembered in the hearts of the residents of St. Joseph for making the greatest sacrifices while protecting the community. He was truly one of America's finest, and I am honored to offer this tribute to him—as well as his family—today.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the heroic acts of these brave law enforcement officers have not gone unnoticed, and I rise today to express my appreciation to them for their dedication in protecting the St. Joseph community. Each of these officers exemplify the finest of traits one must possess to be a member of the law enforcement community, and I congratulate them on receiving these awards.

HONORING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF SMITH COUNTY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th birthday of Smith County, Tennessee, one of the most scenic and friendly communities you'll ever come across.

Smith County, the fifth county created in Middle Tennessee, was established by Private Act in October of 1799 and was named in honor of Daniel Smith, a Revolutionary War officer, surveyor and U.S. Senator.

Nestled among the gently rolling hills and the pristine fish-filled streams that meander through Middle Tennessee, the county is home to some truly wonderful folks, including Vice President AL GORE. The vice president's late father, Al Gore Sr., also called Smith County home and proudly represented the county and region in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, as did another famous resident, Cordell Hull, who also served the nation as Secretary of State.

I congratulate the county's residents for their invaluable contributions to the state of Tennessee and the nation as a whole. Happy Birthday Smith County and thanks to its residents for letting me serve them in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO BERNT BALCHEN

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, October 23, 1999 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late great Norwegian-American pilot, military leader, and Arctic and Antarctic explorer, Colonel Bernt Balchen.

Bernt Balchen was born in Tveit, Norway, on October 23, 1899, the son of a physician with an ancestry of military leaders and sea captains. His love of nature and wildlife, his artistic talents, and his sensitive, discerning eye were revealed in his sketch books begun at an early age.

His love of outdoor life and sports was coupled with a keen spirit of adventure and discovery which was kindled when he met the great explorer Roald Amundsen, shortly after his successful expedition to the South Pole in 1913. This meeting fired young Balchen's imagination and determination to explore the mysteries of the Polar regions.

After completing his education in Forestry Engineering at Harnosand, Sweden, interspersed with practical work in Norway's lumber camps, Bernt Balchen underwent training in the Norwegian Army. At 18, he volunteered for service with the White Army in Finland, serving first in ski patrols and then in the cavalry. A Russian bayonet almost cost him his life. He confounded doctors who predicted he would be permanently incapacitated by later becoming a member of Norway's Olympic boxing team, then setting records in cross-country skiing and bicycling. He built a strong physique, great endurance, keen perceptions and the quick reflexes which were to serve him, and others, so well in the rugged life ahead.

Bernt Balchen's eyes turned skyward. He entered the Royal Norwegian Naval Air Force, graduating at the head of his class and receiving his wings in 1921. He became an instructor in navigation and participated in the planning of some of the first Arctic serial expeditions from Norway. While working on preparations for Amundsen's first flight across the North Pole in the dirigible *Norge* based at Spitsbergen, Balchen was directed by Amundsen to assist Commander Richard E. Byrd in equipping his plane with skis of Balchen's design. This plane was to be flown by Floyd Bennett, with Byrd as a navigator, in an attempt to reach the North Pole.

Impressed with Balchen's many skills, Commander Richard Byrd asked that Balchen be given leave from the Norwegian Naval Air Force and join his party on its return to the U.S. Balchen then became chief test pilot for the famous aircraft designer, Tony Fokker, joining the Fokker Aircraft Corporation at Teterboro, New Jersey. In 1927, Balchen was assigned to Western Canada Airways at Hudson, Ontario, to teach Canadian pilots how to handle ski-equipped planes—the beginning of "bush flying"—then to transport men, equipment and supplies from Cache Lake, Manitoba, the northern terminus of the Hudson Bay railway, to Fort Churchill, Manitoba, within a prescribed period of time. As one of the two pilots selected for the job, he flew an open cockpit plane during six weeks of savage weather, with temperatures hitting 65 degrees

below zero. In paying tribute to the importance of this operation, which was an important factor in changing the economy of Canada, the government of Canada stated, "There has been no more brilliant operation in the history of commercial aviation."

After the crash-landing of the plane *America* on a test flight in which the pilot Floyd Bennett was badly injured, Balchen became involved in preparations for Byrd's Trans-Atlantic flight in 1927. He was chosen to be a co-pilot, along with Bert Acosta. As harsh weather conditions developed on that flight, Balchen took over the piloting of the plane for 40 hours, and finally saved the lives of all aboard by making an emergency landing off the coast of France. Balchen subsequently became the third person to successfully fly across the Atlantic Ocean.

In 1928, Balchen piloted one of the relief planes flying to the crash site of the German aircraft *Bremen* on Greenly Island, off Labrador. The next year he piloted now-Admiral Byrd across the South Pole in the *Floyd Bennett*—the first flight over the South Pole. In addition to his work as pilot for the Byrd Antarctic Expedition I, Balchen played a major role in designing equipment and working out problems in logistics, constructing snow hangars and other equipment. The following year, back in the U.S., he instructed Amelia Earhart and redesigned her aircraft for her successful flight across the Atlantic.

In 1931, through a special act of Congress, Colonel Balchen became a U.S. citizen.

Balchen served as chief pilot for the Lincoln Ellsworth Trans-Antarctic Expeditions (1933–1935). Upon completing this association, he returned to Norway to work in aviation and the development of the Norwegian Airlines, and the laying of the foundation for a united Scandinavian airlines system.

With the invasion of Norway by Germany, Bernt Balchen became associated with the British Royal Air Force in ferrying planes over the North Atlantic and in transport flights from San Diego to Singapore. He carried out the first flight from San Diego to Singapore.

In 1941, as the U.S. began to ferry bombers to England, Balchen was requested by General "Hap" Arnold to join the U.S. Army Air Force and to build a secret base in Greenland—code-named Bluie West 9 (8W-8). From this base, Balchen and his men carried out spectacular rescues of downed American bomber crews by dogsled and plane, one of which involved a belly-landing of a PBY by Bernt Balchen on the ice—a feat never before attempted. In 1943, he led successful bombing missions against German installations on the east coast of Greenland; later, in Iceland.

In 1944, Balchen became the commander of the Allied Air Transport Command for Scandinavia and the USSR, with a secret base in Leuchars, Scotland. This became part of the Carpetbagger Operation (OSS), involving the organization of an air route to Sweden using civilian plan markings and unmarked, black aircraft used for flights into Norway to supply underground forces and to carry out bombing missions. Close to 4,000 Norwegians were safely transported through the Sweden air route to England. His command supported Norwegian forces and helped in the evacuation of 70,000 Russians from slave labor camps in northern Norway, as well as participating in the destruction of the German "heavy water" development center. The Distinguished Flying Cross, the Legion of Merit, the