

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ACT OF 1999

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Nondiscrimination in Employee Benefits Act of 1999. This legislation will require that employers offering benefits to associates of their employees who are not spouses or dependents of those employees not discriminate on the basis of the nature of the relationship between the employee and the designated associates.

For many years health and other benefits provided by employers were available only to the employee and his or her spouse and children. Today, more and more employers are permitting unmarried employees to designate someone else for similar coverage, but only if the employee and the other person declare that they are in a homosexual relationship. This is done in the name of nondiscrimination and homosexual rights. However, in too many cases these policies themselves discriminate, even against some family members. In one case involving constituents of mine, the employee has her mother living with her. Her employer-provided health insurance will not allow coverage of her mother; however if they were unrelated and declared that the relationship was romantic in nature, her company's policy would allow coverage. This is clearly unfair. Why should we, in this manner, set homosexual relationships above all other relationships between unmarried individuals? Mr. Speaker, my bill simply requires that if a company allows an employee to choose someone to receive such benefits, the choice must be open to all equally. I ask that a copy of the bill be included in the RECORD.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the "Nondiscrimination in Employee Benefits Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS.

Section 510 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended by inserting before the last sentence the following: "In a case in which an employer elects to offer benefits to associates of its employees who are not spouses or dependents of the employees, the employer shall offer such benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to the nature of the relationship between the employee and the designated associate."

BOLTZ JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers, and parents of Boltz Junior High School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty of Boltz, particularly Jennifer Gammon, Tony Garcia, Kirstan Morris, and Ali Shore, as well as all the students, parents, and individuals who contributed to their special benefit auction. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to families in Colorado for 3 years running. That the school raised \$1,200 for the benefit of two local families is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let the childrens' example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

IN HONOR OF CHRISTINA ROZSAKIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christina Rozakis a National Young Leaders Conference participant and a student at Lakewood High School in Lakewood, OH.

Christina has been selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC, this week. She is among 350 outstanding national scholars from across the country who are participating in a unique leadership development program. Since the theme of the conference is The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today, Christina is taking advantage of the opportunity to interact with key leaders and news makers from the three branches of government, the media and the diplomatic corps.

This week, she is also participating in a number of leadership skill-building activities such as a Model Congress and roll-playing the President, Members of the Cabinet and Members of Congress. The conference activities get young people on the right track to achieving their full leadership potential. I am certain that Christina will not only gain knowledge and experience here, but that she will also leave with a sense of accomplishment and an increased ability to face the challenges of the future.

My fellow colleagues please join me in congratulating Christina for all her accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM M. KELSAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to convey the appreciation of Santa Cruz County for the long and distinguished service rendered by William M. Kelsay. Bill is retiring from the Santa Cruz Supreme Court after 21 years on the bench.

Bill was born in Patterson, California, and graduated from Patterson High School in 1959. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from University of California, Davis and went on to study law at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. He was admitted to the California Bar in 1969, and worked in the Office of the District Attorney of Santa Cruz County until his appointment as Judge in the Municipal Court in 1977. Bill's appointment to the Superior Court came in 1985.

The legal community has relied on Bill's acumen and leadership for many years, and owes the current environment of collegiality and coordination to Bill's work to consolidate Santa Cruz municipal and superior courts. Bill's colleague, Judge Robert B. Younts, Jr. said of Bill "He is an astute student of human nature. He is respected by all. He is an absolute gentleman."

Bill has been generous of his time away from the bench in the non-profit sector, serving a term as Chair of the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center, and as a member of Santa Cruz County Fish and Game Commission. He has expressed an interest in participation on community boards and commissions in the future. Bill is also an astute student of piscine nature, and certainly will reserve time for studying steelhead very closely in their natural habitat.

Judge Kelsay's contributions form a continuing legacy to the legal community of Santa Cruz County. With his great range of interests, I am sure his retirement years will be filled and fulfilling. He has our best wishes for health and happiness into the future.

RECOGNITION OF ARTIST JOHN HOUSER INDUCTED INTO THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, EL PASO ARTISTS' HALL OF FAME

HON. SILVESTER REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Mr. John Houser as a recent inductee to the El Paso Artists' Hall of Fame. Mr. Houser was honored this past November in El Paso, Texas. John is an extremely talented artist and has many notable credits.

• 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.

He is truly outstanding among contemporary artists. His versatility, the thoroughness of his training, and the depth of his artistic sensibility are all part of his amazing talent. Born in Rapid City, South Dakota, to sculptor Ivan Houser, who was First Assistant to Gutzon Borglum in carving Mount Rushmore, we know that part of his talents were inherited. However, John has continually developed his God-given talents to become an accomplished painter and sculptor.

After moving to Oregon, John began sculpting and painting at the age of twelve. John Houser's entire life has been associated with art and sculpture. At age fifteen, he became the youngest active member in the history of the Oregon Society of Artists. He graduated from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, with a double major in natural science and art. He continued his formal art education with a graduate Alumni Fellowship to UCLA, where he received the Elizabeth T. Greenshields Award for independent European studies. He studied in Spain and Italy where he learned from the Florentine painter Pietro Annigoni and American sculptor Avard Fairbanks. Upon his return to the U.S., John studied with Classicist painter, R.H. Ives Gammel in Boston and at Harvard University in anatomy.

His career has taken him across Europe and the United States from the eastern seaboard to the west coast. In order to realistically portray the human condition through his subjects, he has lived and worked alongside diverse groups such as Gullah Blacks of South Carolina, Italian street fakirs, hippies, migrant workers, Gypsies, and Native Americans. John has also traveled extensively in Mexico and the Southwestern U.S., sculpting the Pueblo, Seri, Lacandon, Tarahumara, and Huichol Indians. He has been the subject of several television documentaries and his work has been featured in Southwest Art, American Artist, Texas Monthly, ABC (Spain), Art Talk, Connoisseur, Palette Talk, The Artists' Magazine, Blanco y Negro (Spain), Texas Highways, Siempre!, Presencia de México, and Analysis (Mexico), and any more. His work is in private and public collections all around the world including The U.S. Library of Congress and The University of Texas at El Paso.

John's work has been featured in several national and international exhibitions. These include the National Academy of Western Art Exhibition and Sale in Oklahoma City, the National Sculpture Society, the Royal Danish Haveselskab in Copenhagen, Denmark, the Kermezaar Exhibition in El Paso, and the Western Heritage Show and Sale in Houston, Texas. He has also been featured in an exhibit by the Brand Library and Art Galleries of Glendale, California.

Throughout his career, John has received numerous awards and honors for his artistic endeavors. He is the honorary artist-in-residence for the Radford School in El Paso. In 1984 John won the Martin Luman winter Award from the Salmagundi Club in New York City for the bronze Barranca Overlook. Also in 1984, this bronze also garnered him the Council of American Artist Societies Award from the Grand National Exhibition of the American Artist Professional League in New York City. During 1986 at their 5th Annual Sculpture & Open Photography Exhibition in New York City, the Salmagundi Club further honored John with the Elliot Liskin Award for the sculpture Desert

Encounter. In 1987 at their 10th Annual Art Exhibition in New York City, the Salmagundi Club honored John with the Oil Pastel Association Award for Soft Pastel. In 1988, he received the Outstanding Alumni Award from Lewis and Clark College. In 1992, He won Grand National Prize in a photo essay contest with "The Sandimune Years." John won the Purchase Award for "Realism Up Close" in Santa Teresa, New Mexico in 1993.

John Houser is Sculptor and Director for the XII Travelers Memorial of the Southwest, a revitalization project for El Paso, Texas. His ideas for this project will not only enhance the revitalization of downtown El Paso but will give our city a unique identity. The Travelers Memorial of the Southwest celebrates the history and diversity of the region with a series of twelve twice-life-sized bronzes.

I admire John Houser for his talent, dedication, and achievements in the art world. I also am proud to recognize him here today for his remarkable talent and his continued contributions to El Paso.

FULLANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers and parents of Fullana Elementary School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty of the school as well as all the students, parents and individuals who contributed to their special canned food drive. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort and happiness to families in Colorado. That the school produced so much from their food drive for the benefit of local families through the Salvation Army is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let the childrens' example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

IN HONOR OF LISA NAFTZGER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisa Naftzger, an accomplished poet, National Young Leaders Conference participant, and a student at Shiloh Senior High School in Parma, OH.

Lisa has been selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC, this week. She is among 350 outstanding National Scholars from across the country who are participating in a unique leadership development program. Since the theme of the conference is The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today, Lisa is taking advantage of the opportunity to interact with key leaders and news makers from the three branches of government, the media, and the diplomatic corps.

This week she is also participating in a number of leadership skill-building activities such as a Model Congress and role-playing the President, members of the cabinet and Members of Congress. The conference activities get young people on the right track to achieving their full leadership potential. I am certain that Lisa will not only gain knowledge and experience here, but that she will also leave with a sense of accomplishment and an increased ability to face the challenges of the future.

In addition to honoring Lisa for her achievements, I would also like to commend to your attention the following poem that she has written titled "The Unknown Soldier."

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

By Lisa Naftzger, Shiloh Jr. High, April 1, 1997

So much strength and courage it certainly takes,
To fight for your country with so much at stake.
And this Unknown Soldier, that's just what he's done,
For my admiration he's certainly won.
So, to represent Shiloh and lay down the wreath,
To honor the soldier who is now at peace,
Would be the greatest honor I've ever known.
I know how much gratitude needs to be shown.
For the Unknown Soldier should certainly be,
Honored from now to eternity.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS OSMER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express both my appreciation and the appreciation of the people of Santa Cruz County for the leadership of Dennis Osmer on the Watsonville City Council. Dennis' term ended at the close of 1998.

Dennis was steeped in the value of community service from the time he first drew breath in 1957. His grandmother Lois served on the Pajaro School Board in Watsonville, CA. His father Frank was Watsonville's police chief for 15 years, and was elected to the city council upon retirement. Dennis fondly remembers how his mother Noreen imbued him with the importance of charity and service to the community.

Dennis attended local schools, graduating from Watsonville High School and attending University of California, Santa Cruz. He married Laurie Lynch in 1977 and they have two children, Brendan and Doreen. Dennis works as program director of Energy Services, a non-profit agency that assists low-income families with weatherization and energy bills.

When Dennis was first elected to the Watsonville City Council in 1987, his principal concern was drug abuse prevention. By addressing the issue in a variety of ways; funding youth programs, law enforcement, and job creation, the problem has been alleviated to some extent, but Dennis' efforts continued. Reelected to serve on the city council, Dennis was then appointed mayor. Dennis also worked on developing a long-range plan for the Pajaro River through cooperation with regional governmental entities. In addition to his