

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CHILD HEART AWARENESS DAY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to proclaim that today, February 14, 2000, is "Child Heart Awareness Day." More than 32,000 American babies are born each year with cardiovascular defects, which translates to 1 out of every 115 to 150 births. To put these numbers in perspective, 1 in every 800–1,000 babies is born with Downs Syndrome. Congenital heart defects make up 42 percent of all birth defects, making Congenital Heart Disease the most common birth defect. The American Heart Association estimates that there are approximately 1 million people living with heart defects in the United States today.

Today, I join all children and their families who are affected by congenital heart defects, in focusing public attention on this disease as we look toward the future in finding a cure. Prior to 1960, most children with heart defects died within the first year of life. In the subsequent decades of the 60's, 70's, and 80's, research produced by skilled surgeons and cardiologists led to a variety of different interventions, which allowed the vast majority of infants with heart defects to survive. However, these medical procedures place an enormous burden on the families of children born with congenital heart defects. In addition, many of these children who survive infancy still face a life of dependency on medications, medical procedures and open-heart surgeries.

I recently introduced legislation to lessen the impact of these huge medical bills on American families. H.R. 3325, the "Melissa Froelich Medicaid Congenital Heart Defect Waiver Act of 1999," would permit a State waiver authority to provide medical assistance in cases of congenital heart defects. I introduced this important legislation after learning of the plight of four-year-old Melissa Froelich, who has undergone multiple surgeries and procedures, including four reconstructive heart surgeries, since her birth in 1996.

As we continue to look for ways to cure this birth defect, I hope that the increased public attention on this widespread problem will help begin to ease some of the burdens families of children with congenital heart defects face.

HONORING BOB YOUNG, GLENWOOD SPRINGS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Glenwood Springs, Colorado Citizen of the Year. Mr. Bob

Young is an inspiration to many and a man who contributes much to his community.

Bob, founder of Alpine Banks, has adopted policies of doing right by his employees and giving back to the community. This, he says, is the bottom line. Bob's policies have won many awards for himself and for his banks, including Business of the Year in Grand Junction, Colorado. Bob has always been ready and willing to give whatever it took to contribute to his community. His charity has had a ripple effect throughout the Western Slope.

Bob has been dedicated to setting up training programs that ultimately employ area young people. When the economy was struggling, Bob did whatever he could to make sure that the citizens could remain valuable members of the community. If it had not been for Bob, many of these people would have been forced to move from the Western Slope. Bob has definitely been a great advocate for the community and is well-deserving of this award.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute to one of the leading businessmen in Colorado and a close personal friend, Bob Young. He is a great citizen who is dedicated to making our community a better place to live.

RECOGNIZING THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAMPION LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the 1999 Ludlow High School girls soccer team. The Ludlow girls soccer team won the program's third Western Massachusetts title last year by defeating defending state champion Cathedral High School. The Lions defeated Central Massachusetts Champion Shrewsbury en route to the state final match, where they fell just short of their goal.

The Ludlow girls soccer team finished the year with a record of 19–2–1. Ludlow was able to dominate a tough league in Western Massachusetts in 1999 by employing a highly skillful style of play. A team that was tough when it needed to be, Ludlow was capable of outclassing most of its opponents. As a result of their high class style, the Lions enjoyed the fervent support of the residents of the Town of Ludlow throughout the season.

Head Coach Jim Calheno has built a very successful program at Ludlow High School. Coach Calheno is well-respected in the coaching community and his team is duly feared. The Ludlow talent pool run very deep, and the Lions are certain to be the team to beat in 2000. A group of talented Juniors, including All-America selected Liz Dyjak and All-New England selection Stephanie Santos, will be looking to claim the state title next season.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize there the players, coaches, and managers of the 1999 Ludlow High School girls soccer team. The Seniors are: Melissa Dominique, Sandy Salvador, Angela Goncalves, Jen Crespo, Marcy Bousquest, Lynsey Calheno, Jenn Genovevo, and Leana Alves. The Juniors are: Nicole Gebo, Lindsay Robillard, Lindsay Haluch, Kara Williamson, Sarah Davis, Liz Dyjak, Stephanie Santos, and Jessica Vital. The Sophomores are: Michele Goncalves, Lindsey Palatino, and Kirstine Goncalves. The Freshmen are: Natalie Gebo, Lauren Pereira, Beth Cochenour, Darcie Rickson, and Amy Rodrigues. The Head Coach is Jim Calheno, and he is assisted by Saul Chelo, Nuno Pereira, Melanie Pszeniczny, and Mario Monsalve. The managers are Melissa Santos and Elizabeth Barrow.

Mr. Speaker, once again, allow me to congratulate the Ludlow High School girls soccer team on a season well played. I wish them the best of luck for the 2000 season.

TRIBUTE TO DERRICK THOMAS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a leader beloved in my city and an athlete admired throughout our nation. Kansas City Chiefs #58, Linebacker Derrick Thomas, died February 8, 2000 at the age of 33. Derrick was a star for our nation. His philanthropic commitment is an inspiration to us all.

Derrick Thomas was an exceptional football player. He participated in nine pro bowls, more than any other player in the Chiefs franchise history. Derrick holds the team record for sacks and the most NFL sacks in a game. In December 1997, Derrick gained his 100th sack, 1 of 16 players in the entire NFL ever to achieve this. Team leaders regarded him as a player who could single handedly influence the outcome of a game. Derrick captured 10 playoff appearances and was the Chiefs Most Valuable Player in 1991 and 1994. As 8-time AFC Defensive Player of the Week, a club-record, his athletic brilliance reflects his love and commitment for the game.

Derrick has made a lasting impression on our community through his Third and Long Foundation, which encourages young students from the inner city to embrace the power of literacy. His moments shared in reading to children turned quickly to lasting friendships. Children have shared stories about Derrick's kindness, his dedication of time to help them with their academic needs, and his willingness to listen and be their friend and role model. His Foundation also assists families with their parenting and literacy skills. He has been recognized for these efforts by receiving numerous awards, including the prestigious 1993 Edge NFL Man of the Year and the 1995 Bryon

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White Humanitarian Award for service to team, community, and country by the NFL Players Association. Former President Bush recognized his achievements by declaring him the "832nd Point of Light."

His father, Robert Thomas, was a role model who motivated and inspired him to excellence. While returning from a mission in Vietnam in December 1972, Air Force Captain Thomas was shot down. Derrick delivered the keynote address at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial during the 1993 Memorial Day remembrance ceremony in honor of his late father.

Derrick achieved many of his life long goals. He made a difference in our lives. We will always remember him. We will always remember his smile. May we learn from his tragic death the need to buckle up and in his memory remember each life is precious. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in saluting this incredible man and in extending condolences to Derrick's family, teammates, and friends.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALPHONSE D. MANSI

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and recognize the many achievements and contributions of Mr. Alphonse D. Mansi. Mr. Mansi will be retiring in February from the Boeing Company, where his presence will be sincerely missed.

Mr. Mansi began his career with The Boeing Company in Philadelphia in 1960. After serving a four-year assignment under the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Mansi began in the Boeing manufacturing department. Mr. Mansi's skills and talents brought him to the Labor Relations department in 1962, where he has worked for close to forty years. Mr. Mansi has aided in the global expansion and successes of The Boeing Company by holding Labor Relations positions both in America and Canada.

Alphonse Mansi was appointed Director of Labor Relations activities within The Boeing Company in March of 1976. During his appointment, he was responsible for all of the labor relations within Boeing Defense & Space Group, Helicopters Division. Mr. Mansi's dedication and loyalty to The Boeing Company has been unparalleled and has stood as a model for fellow colleagues and peers. I would care to extend my congratulations to Mr. Mansi and thank him for all of his years of hard work and commitment.

HONORING RALPH LEON "SPEED" SHELEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause and remember a man that will be missed by all those who knew him. Ralph "Speed" Sheley passed away on January 12, 2000. He was 80 years old.

Ralph was born on September 27, 1919 in Dove Creek, Colorado. Ralph spent his child-

hood in Kansas and Nebraska. When the United States entered World War II, Ralph was drafted in the Army where he served in the Signal Corps. Ralph was one of the first Americans in Hiroshima after the bombing. Our country is certainly indebted to him for his service and commitment to our country.

After the war, Ralph returned to Kansas, but moved shortly thereafter to Colorado. He met and married Billie Bradford in 1947 and in 1997, they celebrated 50 years of marriage. Ralph loved working in the orchards, farming, gardening, and spoiling his grandchildren and spending time with his family. Ralph always had a smile and a kind word of encouragement for everyone.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute in honor of Ralph "Speed" Sheley. He was a man who fought for his country and loved his family.

RECOGNIZING THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE CHAMPION LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the 1999 Ludlow High School boys soccer team. The Ludlow boys soccer team reclaimed the Massachusetts State title last November by trouncing their opponents from Needham 4-0. The Ludlow team finished the season with a record of 17-3-1, but their final game was their most impressive as they dominated Needham from start to finish. This team, like many Ludlow teams before it, played a skillful soccer style which allowed them to outplay virtually every opponent they faced.

Ludlow has been the heart of Western Massachusetts soccer for as long as anyone can remember. The town residents follow the high school teams with a fanaticism rarely seen in the United States, and during the 1990s, they have had a lot to cheer about. The Lions won the Western Massachusetts title five of the last six years, and won the state title in 1995, 1997, and 1999.

The success of the Ludlow boys soccer team can be linked directly to the coach. Head Coach Tony Goncalves has built a dominating program centered around skill and class. His knowledge of soccer is unparalleled in Western Massachusetts, and his coaching style is one that commands respect from his players, his opponents, and his fellow coaches. Coach Goncalves is quick to praise others, he is gracious in victory or defeat, and he is an inexhaustible resource for young coaches. He is the center of, and driving force behind, the success of the Ludlow High School boys soccer team.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize here the players, coaches, and managers of the Ludlow High School boys soccer team of 1999. The players include Seniors Jonathan Witowski, Jason Chelo, Jason Dacruz, Justin Bruneau, John Reilly, Dave Fonseca, Dave Gwozd, Rich Zina, Kevin Crespo, and Dan M. Santos, and Juniors Joe Jorge, Jason Devlin, Steve Jorge, Helder Pires, Mike Pio, Brian Cochenour, Chris Chelo, Manny Goncalves,

Tim Romanski, Ray Cheria, Paul Martins, and Dennis Carvalho. The team is led by Head Coach Tony Goncalves, long time Assistant Coach Jack Vilaca, assistants Greg Kolodziey and Jonathan Cavallo, and managers Audrey Vilaca, Sarah Russell, Jennifer Russell, and Jillian Dube. Mr. Speaker, once again I am proud and honored to congratulate the 1999 Massachusetts State Champion boys soccer team from Ludlow High School in Ludlow, Massachusetts.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY PERRY

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fellow Kansas Citian Judy Perry. Judy has served as the Executive Director of Harvesters Community Food Network in Kansas City, MO for the past 15 years. Harvesters has worked tirelessly to provide meals to less fortunate Kansas Citians and their families. Under Judy's direction Harvesters has tripled in size to serve twenty-six counties in Missouri and Kansas with more than 15 million pounds of food.

Judy's experience prior to her involvement with Harvesters was a Regional Administrator for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, which is a Congressionally chartered neighborhood revitalization program headquartered in Washington, DC. Her service has also brought her to Santiago, Chile with the Peace Corps where she taught English in a rural school. Judy's experiences in Chile sent her home with the whole new perspective on poverty and what Americans take for granted.

It is on the local level that we have truly seen Judy's dedication in her efforts to strengthen the bonds of our community. In addition to her work with Harvesters, Judy has served as chair of Mayor Richard Berkeley's Task Force on Food and Hunger. She has served as the co-chair of the Heart of America Hunger Network. She is currently the first vice-president of the Board of Directors of the Greater Kansas City Association of United Way Agencies. Judy also serves on the Board of Directors of Foodchain—The National Network of Prepared and Perishable Food Rescue Programs. I was honored to nominate Judy and Harvesters to receive the Congressional Award of the "Victory Against Hunger" campaign, which they were awarded in 1995.

Judy Perry is an inspiration to us all. Her dedication and commitment to public service serves as an example to all of us who work to make the world a better place. This month Judy will celebrate her 55th birthday with her retirement from harvesters. Judy plans to stay involved with the community and with hunger issues through volunteer and consulting work, and she hopes that someday she will return to the Peace Corps. Judy's immediate plan is to spend time with her four grandchildren. May she find relaxation and contentment in the adventures that await her. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Judy for her service to our community and the Nation.