

HONORING THE SAVANNAH SHAMROCKS RUGBY CLUB

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize The Savannah Shamrocks Rugby Club, which is a non-profit, charity aiding organization in Savannah, GA. The club was founded in 1978 and now has approximately sixty members. The club is comprised of Military personnel, Teachers, Scientists, Doctors, Engineers, Sales people, and College students. The team plays 24 games per year in Savannah, facing competition from local teams such as Georgia Southern, Hilton Head, Columbia, and Augusta. Occasionally, the club is given the opportunity to compete against International teams such as the British Navy, South America, and Canada. There are two seasons per year, one is played in the Fall and the other in the Spring.

The main highlight for the club is the popular, annual St. Patrick's Day Rugby Tournament. This tournament is held every year on St. Patrick's Day weekend, which makes it feasible for the "out of town teams" to compete. The tournament's overwhelming popularity on St. Patrick's Day is the main reason The Shamrocks is the number one amateur sporting event economically in the Savannah area. Based on sheer numbers of players and supporters, who attend this great event, it is estimated that approximately \$3 million is generated to the local economy over this one weekend. During the rest of the year the club spends about \$42,000 per year locally, and approximately \$54,000 on "out of town" spending. The club also donates annually to local charities and in nine years the club has donated over \$25,000 to MDA. The Shamrocks have hosted this tournament for the past twenty one years, and would like to continue to host the tournament for many more years to come.

It is my pleasure to commend this charitable organization, which provides many benefits to the community beyond the intense, competitive game of Rugby.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND RICHARD BURNS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it does my heart good to stand here and pay tribute to Reverend Richard Burns as he retires from the pulpit after more than 30 years of service.

Reverend Burns has spent many years bringing hope and comfort to people in his community. Rev. Burns, at the young age of 91, has been preaching at New Mount Elem Missionary Baptist Church for 32 years. Rev. Burns has dedicated his life to the upliftment of the word of the Bible to the people and his family of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Rev. Burns was born in Vicksburg, MS and has nine children, thirty-six grandchildren and fifty great-grandchildren. With an impressive

family roster as this one, Rev. Burns will be sure to have his time filled with enjoying his family. On February 19, 2000, Reverend Burns was honored for his service. He will be truly missed. However, it is pleasing to know that he will still be in the community doing his best to be a role model for many of us to follow.

TRIBUTE TO CONSTANCE AND DELBERT LORENSEN ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak briefly tonight about a married couple that have had an incredibly wonderful and positive impact on my life. I use the occasion of the golden wedding anniversary of Connie and Delbert Lorenson on February 11 to reflect on the important values I learned from them as a young man. I learned much as a friend of the family, a frequent visitor and guest at their home in Gladstone, Michigan, and as a Boy Scout under Delbert's leadership.

In 1950, so the Escanaba Daily Press reminds us, Delbert Lorenson married the former Connie Jacks of Detroit at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Stonington. 1950 was certainly a different world, as most of us know, and the tiny town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula where they were married was in some ways even more remote from today. Nowadays, it seems the expression "family values" often applies to a concept in political campaigns; in 1950 in this most rural region of the Midwest it was—and it remains—a foundation of our way of life.

Not that we thought ourselves rural or remote. Television was just about to be beamed north from Green Bay, and the Interstate Highway System was about to be born. Cars were about to become sleek and common. The world was becoming much smaller in that post World War II world for this veteran and his new bride.

In reality, however, our world would remain slower and quieter for another decade. I spent a lot of time with the Lorensons' son, Rick. Although he was one year older, we participated together in high school sports, especially in football and track and field. Perhaps most important to my ties with this family, we were also Scouts together.

Delbert was my Scoutmaster, helping Rick and me achieve the goal of becoming Eagle Scouts. So it's natural, I suppose, that when I have recalled my time with the Lorensons, the memory of working for merit badges and attending troop meetings is bound together with the memory of dinners at the Lorenson home and camping trips together.

But today, as I think of Connie and Delbert's 50 years together, the values learned in Scouting are foremost in my mind. These values aren't mere categories of accomplishment checked off as one moves up the ranks of Scouting. Scouts are taught life skills—discipline, responsibility, perseverance, teamwork, respect for others, a sense of community, sacrifice—and we were taught these skills

in the context of love, concern and a pervasive spirituality. What better skills can a couple possess to allow them to remain lovingly together for 50 years! What better skills can they teach to the next generation that might justifiably wear the label "family values!"

Rick and I have gone our separate paths, but our values were clearly formed in the same crucible. I have entered public service as a Member of Congress, and Rick has become a minister. Two other children, Tom and Pam, recently joined Rick in hosting a dinner and dance to celebrate their parents' 50 years together.

I treasure the wisdom I learned from the Lorensons. I wish them many, many more years of love, health and joy.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Ms. VELAZQUEZ Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March 26th as Greek Independence Day. In honor of this day, The Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York is organizing the annual Greek Independence Day Parade in New York City.

The Federation of Hellenic-American Societies of Greater New York was established on November 22nd, 1937 and has made the Parade a City ritual for the last 61 years.

In a March 24, 1999, proclamation declaring Greek Independence Day, President Clinton said "Greek thought and the passion for truth and justice deeply influenced many of our nation's earliest and greatest leaders. Americans of Greek descent have brought their energy, grace and determination to every field of endeavor, and they have added immeasurably to the richness and diversity of our national life."

New York has seen this passion, energy and grace ever since early days of Greek settlement in the City and I am proud to say that New York is the home of the largest Greek community in the United States.

This national holiday in Greece celebrates the anniversary of the country's proclamation of independence in 1821 after four centuries of Turkish occupation. The war that followed went on until 1829 when finally the Turkish sultan recognized the independence of Greece.

I thank The Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York for all the contributions they have made to our community and in their efforts to make each year's Greek Independence Day Parade more memorable than the last.

HONORING THE LATE MOSES COX AND JAMES RANSOME AVANT, DISTINGUISHED VETERANS

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize two distinguished veterans from Georgia, Mr. Moses Cox and Mr. James Ransome

Avant. On March 18, 2000 these two Veterans will be honored by their families and friends as they place Military Headstones on their graves in the Avant-Cox-Pierce Cemetery in Washington County, Georgia.

Mr. Moses Cox started his illustrious military career in our Nation's fight for freedom and independence. He proudly served as a Private (Scout) in the Revolutionary War with the North Carolina Militia for over three years. He fought in the victorious Patriot Battle of Moores Creek Bridge on February 27, 1776. This battle was a decisive victory over British Loyalists at a point in time that served to dramatically raise the morale of the Patriot forces. Soon thereafter Mr. Cox was called to bear arms in the battles of Brier Creek (GA), Battle of Catawba (NC), and at Gates Defeat (SC) where he was wounded in the right forearm. He gallantly continued the Patriot fight for independence and marched from Wilmington and Fayetteville, NC to Camden, SC.

Mr. Cox married Martha Patsy Avant; blessed with a large family, came by wagon train to Washington County, GA where he settled Cox Town Road and a small community called Coxtown, later changed to Oconee. He accepted over 400 acres of Pioneer Bounty land off Coxtown Road in Oconee, cleared the land, built a house and raised his large family. He was again called to arms to serve and protect his beloved country in the War of 1812. He served as Lieutenant in the 98th District of Georgia Militia from Washington County, Georgia. A fine soldier, father, and husband he was laid to rest on December 19, 1845 with only family honors.

Mr. James Ransome Avant proudly served as a Private in Company B, 12th Battalion Georgia Light Artillery, Confederate States Army during the Civil War. Mr. James Ransome was married to Moses and Martha Cox's granddaughter Lucretia Cox. Mr. Avant died in 1876 and also received a burial with family honors.

Family, friends, and guests will be gathering at the Avant-Cox-Pierce Cemetery off Coxtown Road in Oconee, Washington County, GA and honor these two Veterans. I would like to formally recognize the bravery, honor, and selfless services with which these veterans served as the families remember these special veterans on March 18, 2000.

TRIBUTE TO COACH SHIRLEY WALKER AND THE ALCORN STATE LADY BRAVES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you and pay tribute to someone who has been a pioneer in coaching women's basketball. Coach Shirley Walker, head coach of the Alcorn State Lady Braves won her first automatic bid to the NCAA tournament this past weekend as her Lady Braves won a convincing game (83–58) against Grambling State University for the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championship.

Although this was Coach Walker's fourth SWAC Championship, it was her first time earning an automatic invitation into the NCAA

tournament. Getting an automatic invitation to the tournament has been a goal that Coach Walker has lobbied for her entire 21 seasons at Alcorn State. Coach Walker has been credited for her efforts in developing women's basketball in the SWAC by her peers and is most deserving of this opportunity to display her talents on the highest level college basketball has to offer. Without her contributions to this cause, women's basketball in the SWAC may have never had the chance to be represented at the NCAA tournament.

Mr. Speaker, this upcoming Saturday, Coach Walker and her Lady Braves set off on a journey many dream of at the beginning of each basketball season, I ask that you join me in congratulating them and wishing them the best of luck in the "Road to the Final Four!"

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Martinez/Traficant amendment to increase the minimum wage by \$1.00 over two years.

I have been a proponent of increasing the minimum wage since elected to Congress. I feel strongly that we need to give the working poor an increase in their wages.

Our country is in the midst of the longest period of economic growth in our history and yet the disparity between rich and poor has never been greater. An increase of a dollar over two years is a highly effective way in which we can bridge the gap of the economic disparity in our country.

Over time, as the value of purchasing power of the minimum wage has been eroded by inflation, it has become impossible to expect workers to live a dignified life when they are employed at or below the minimum wage. That is why it needs to be raised now and why it needs to be raised by a dollar over the next two years. This increase would simply catch up the wage to inflation since the last time the minimum was raised.

There are over 12 million people working for or close to the minimum wage. Some studies have indicated that of these 12 million Americans who earn between \$5.15 and \$6.15, 15 percent are African-American, 60 percent are women; and nearly two-fifths are the only earner in their families.

Increasing the minimum wage to \$6.15 an hour will not eliminate jobs or put people out of work. There is little or no evidence that illustrates job loss or the loss of opportunity since the last increase in the minimum wage.

It is imperative that the wage is increased by \$1.00 over two years. Some have argued that a \$1.00 an hour increase over 3 years is suffice for the working poor. Unfortunately, a minimum wage of \$6.15 an hour would not lift a minimum wage earner out of poverty. Therefore, we in Congress owe it to the working poor to give them a raise over the shortest period of time—2 years.

A wage increase spread over 3 years would cost a full time minimum wage earner \$1000. \$1,000 may not seem like a lot of money to most people here but for minimum wage earn-

ers in Buffalo, New York and throughout the country that \$1,000 a year may mean 6 months of rent payments, groceries on the table, or presents under the tree.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. SUSAN SOLOMON

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that a constituent from my district, Dr. Susan Solomon, is the recipient of the 1999 National Medal of Science. Dr. Solomon is a senior scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, based in Boulder, Colorado, and is the first NOAA scientist to be awarded the medal, which is the nation's highest scientific honor. She is also the recipient of many other honors and awards that recognize her important work.

In commanding her accomplishments, Secretary of Commerce William Daley called Dr. Solomon "one of the most important and influential researchers in atmospheric science during the past 15 years." I know I join all my colleagues in congratulating Dr. Solomon on this well-deserved honor.

Dr. Solomon first theorized in the 1980s that the explanation for the Antarctic ozone hole involved chemistry on clouds, not just gas molecule reactions, as was thought then. Dr. Solomon confirmed her theories with solid data observed during two National Ozone Expeditions to the Antarctic in 1986 and 1987, when she identified reactions between two different forms of chlorine on the stratospheric cloud surface. These reactions release chlorine molecules, which separate and act as catalysts in destroying ozone.

Because of Dr. Solomon's discovery, scientists were then able to conclude that the chlorine responsible for the ozone hole originates from chlorofluorocarbons and other man-made compounds.

Dr. Solomon and other leaders in her field provide important role models for today's students as they prepare to meet the demands of tomorrow's technology-based economy. But it is not only the young who can benefit from Dr. Solomon's example. She cites as the most important lesson from her research the "need to keep an open mind on environmental issues." We should all heed her very good advice.

ON THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CAROLINE L. GUARINI: THREE CENTURIES AND TWO MILLENNIA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the distinguished Caroline Guarini, mother of our former colleague, U.S. Congressman Frank J. Guarini, Jr., on the celebration of her 100th birthday, March 25, 2000. After 100 years, Caroline continues to be an inspiration to us all, a model wife, mother, and human being. Her everlasting dedication to those who are less fortunate, combined