

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES THE PLAINSBORO VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Plainsboro Volunteer Fire Company's 40th anniversary.

Over the last forty years, the members of this organization have made a tremendous contribution to their community by protecting their residents and assisting other local departments.

In the days when there were more cows than people in the Township of Plainsboro, a handful of farm workers and American Cyanimid employees decided to erect a fire station. In the first full year of operation, the Plainsboro Volunteer Fire Company responded to 30 calls for service.

In the early days of the fire company, the alarm was sounded by the stationary fireman on duty at a local farm who would blow the farm's steam whistle when a fire was reported. Firefighters living in the village section of the township could hear the alarm easily. Their family members then relayed the alarm by telephone to members living in outlying areas of the community.

The first truck used was a 1940 American LaFrance with a 640 gallon per minute pump—which stands in contrast to the current 1750 gallon per minute pump that the department uses today. The department has continued to update its fleet of vehicles, purchasing the newest and most efficient fire-fighting equipment.

Over the years, the Plainsboro Fire Company has drawn financial and moral support from Princeton University, one Fire District, and many appreciative citizens. These groups have aided the Plainsboro Fire Company by raising the funds to keep the department running smoothly.

What has not changed about the Plainsboro Fire Company is its dedication and commitment to serving the needs of its community. The 40th anniversary of the department is being celebrated tomorrow at an Anniversary Dinner. The dedication and hard work that is continually demonstrated by the members of the Company is to be admired. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the Plainsboro Volunteer Fire Company.

KID DAY AMERICA/INTERNATIONAL

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday May 20, 2000, the Wilbert Family Chiropractic office will be the official Chiropractic office representing the 6th annual "Kids Day America/International" event in Austell, Georgia. This event will focus on health, safety and environmental issues which affect children, their families and the communities in which

they live. This will be done with the help and support of the Austell Police Department, whose D.A.R.E. program will directly benefit from the event. The Austell Police Department will be on hand to fingerprint ID children, and the Wilbert Family Chiropractic will donate photos of the children. This information will be used to produce ID cards for the children. "McGruff" the Crime Dog will make an appearance and be joined by Leo the Lion of the D.A.R.E. program. The Austell Fire Department will be participating also, with their Fire Safety House, which helps teach children and their parents about fire safety.

I want to congratulate and commend Dr. Marci Wilbert and the Wilbert Family Chiropractic for sponsoring "Kids Day America/International." This program is a positive, grass-roots, community based effort which will help to strengthen our community, and have a positive impact on children and their families.

RESOLVING THE CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following editorial from the Boston Globe on April 29, 2000, for the RECORD. The editorial was brought to my attention by Mr. Shri Srinivasan, president of the Eelam Tamil Association of America and an activist in the Boston area that continues to call for observance of human rights in Sri Lanka and a peaceful settlement to the 17-year ethnic conflict. We must encourage the parties involved to stop the terror and negotiate a peaceful and immediate end to this war.

[From the Boston Globe, April 29, 2000]

PUSHING PEACE IN SRI LANKA

The long, lethal civil war in Sri Lanka receives little attention here, but for sheer senseless blood-letting it is comparable to the Balkan conflicts. The need for a cease-fire and mediated peace talks became more evident than ever this week when the separatist Tamil Tigers chased 17,000 Sri Lankan army troops from their key strategic position in Elephant Pass, straddling the narrow isthmus that links the south of the country of Jaffna, capital of the Tamil area in the north.

Both sides in this merciless war have committed atrocities, both have suffered terrible losses, and both have sought revenge for past outrages. When government forces recovered bodies of soldiers killed in the fall of Elephant Pass this week, they discovered to their horror that many of the corpses had been mutilated.

The Tamil fighters were taking vengeance for the desecration of their cemeteries four years ago and for acts of ethnic cleansing visited upon the civilian population of their northern province.

The Tigers have often sent terrorist packing suicide bombs into crowds of civilians. This past December they wounded Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga in one eye and killed 25 people in such an attack. To overcome the army's base in Elephant Pass this week they blew up wells, cutting off the troops' water supply in a dry climate where the heat surpassed 100 degrees. Senior officers dying of dehydration were airlifted out of their trap.

For their part, government forces have been denounced by Doctors Without Borders and the Red Cross for denying medicines to everyone in the north, civilians and fighters alike.

The United States has had little to do with this war except to sell some weapons to the government and provide some military training. Many of the weapons have fallen into the hands of the Tigers, and the training has done little good. To save the lives that are being squandered on both sides, Washington should now counsel Kumaratunga and her government to accept a cease-fire supervised by international monitors and to pursue to peace talks that Norway has offered to mediate.

HONORING THUNDER BOY

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention the heroism displayed by Thunder Boy, the masked superhero of Albuquerque. Thunder Boy recently saved the city of Albuquerque from the clutches of the Evil Grouch. Though slow to anger, Thunder Boy does not suffer villains gladly. He rescued Weatherdog, turned the city's fountain back on, and recovered stolen toys for many sick children at Carrie Tingley Hospital.

Through his deeds, Thunder Boy has become Albuquerque's preeminent super hero. Time and again, through all adversity, he has proven himself a true hero, capable of whatever bravery and self-sacrifice are necessary to right a wrong or save a life. But, Mr. Speaker, let us not forget the joy that Thunder Boy brings to those around him daily, even when villains and evil-doers are on vacation.

Thunder Boy's generous heart is what makes him a true hero. He saved Albuquerque because he cares about our city and our neighbors. But his heroism shows in other ways as well. When he sees people who are sad, he smiles to brighten their day. He relishes the peace he finds in others' happiness and wants to spread joy to the world. Thunder Boy shows us that the most important superpower is the ability we all have to make someone else's life better simply by being kind.

Thunder Boy shows us that heroes are not only found in comic books or on television, but are here around us every day if we only look hard enough. Today we honor his strength and kind heart. His fight to help mankind will not be soon forgotten, and neither will his smile. May he teach us all the friendship and kindness that we may all become better people in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the newspaper in Albuquerque, formerly the Daily Planet but now known as the Albuquerque Journal, has been on the trail of Thunder Boy, trying to reveal his true identity. The paper has unconfirmed reports that Thunder Boy, when not battling the Evil Grouch, is a 4-year-old boy name Isaiah Perea, son of Alex Perea and Tanya Larranga, who is fighting another kind of battle—against Leukemia. His wish, through Make-A-Wish Foundation, was to be a superhero. On May 16, 2000, the Foundation arranged for him to save Albuquerque from the Evil Grouch. This report, of course, is still unconfirmed.

Whatever his true identity, the people of Albuquerque are grateful for all he has done for us.

Mr. Speaker, let us wish Thunder Boy God-speed in all the battles he faces.

A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO PROVIDE THAT ANCESTORS AND LINEAL DESCENDANTS OF PAST OR PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES SHALL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING WHETHER A VETERANS' ORGANIZATION IS EXEMPT FROM TAX

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from New York, Mr. RANGEL, in introducing our bill to fix a current problem in the Internal Revenue Code regarding use of American Legion Post facilities by members and their families. That is, who qualifies as a "member" versus a guest, for purposes of unrelated business income and the exempt status of the Legion Posts. We do not believe Congress intended or contemplated that use of the facilities by families of the member would result in unrelated business income, or worse yet, the possibility of losing the Post's tax exemption under Section 501(c)(19).

By congressional charter, only veterans who served during specifically designated wars may become "members" of the American Legion. Section 501(c)(19) requires only that 75 percent of the members be current or former members of the Armed Forces, and substantially all the other members are cadets, spouses, widows or widowers of past or present members. The IRS says substantially all is 90 percent. The Legion requires internally that 100 percent of its members be qualifying veterans. However, the Legion has many programs, such as the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), as well as programs involving youth and family support groups. All are designed to further the purposes for which the exemption was granted.

The Post is a family gathering place for many social and patriotic activities. As a result, many family members of numerous generations attend these events. At the present time, the regulations provide that certain relatives related to the war veteran qualify. These include grandparents, brother, sister, and grandchildren. Questions have been raised whether SALs count for the 100 percent or 90 percent test, or might be considered "associate or social members." The same questions arise regarding auxiliary members and relatives beyond the position of the regulation, i.e. great grandparents, great grandchildren, etc. The answers could determine the extent of unrelated business taxable income as well as exempt status. This is not an issue regarding true guests, i.e. unrelated individuals who are, and must be, accompanied by a member. Nor is any substantive change contemplated regarding the sale of life and health insurance to members as provided in Section 512(a)(4). That section would be

amended to conform the definition to Congressional charter members and their dependents.

Our bill would eliminate these potential issues by providing that the definition of "member" for purposes of the exemption status and unrelated business income would be expanded to include "ancestors or lineal descendants of the member" (i.e. past or present member of the Armed Services meeting the congressional charter definition).

We believe this change is not only fair, but recognizes the original intent of Congress, and the fact that more distant relatives of the member will come into existence over time. We hope our colleagues will join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

THE 3M SALUTE TO SCHOOL LIBRARIES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate 3M, in partnership with the American Association of School Librarians, for their donation of \$1 million in detection systems to school library media centers in 2000.

In an effort to help school libraries maintain their valuable resource, 3M, a leader in library security, has launched "3M Salute to Schools," a program which will donate up to \$1 million in 3M detection systems for up to 100 schools in the United States. The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) will be responsible for receiving applications and selecting recipients for the donations.

The program is open to middle and high schools in the United States. Schools selected will be awarded a 3M Detection System for the entrance/exit of their media center, a supply of 3M Tattle-Tape security strips for marking items in their collection and necessary materials processing accessories. Individual donations will vary depending upon the size of the collection and the physical layout of the media center. To receive the donation, a school must meet eligibility requirements, including demonstrating a need for a security system.

Schools must apply by May 31, 2000, applications are available by calling the AASL Fax on Demand at 1-800-545-2433, then press 4 and request document No. 802. Recipients will be announced at the AASL Annual Conference, July 8-11.

For more information about "3M Salute to Schools," contact the AASL awards program at 1-800-545-2433 ext. 4383 or cattenh@ala.org.

This important award program reflects 3M's and AASL's shared commitment to education and investing in our nation's schools.

It is with this outstanding award, Mr. Speaker, that I offer this tribute in honor of 3M and their contribution to our nation's school libraries.

REGARDING: MR. B AND SOUTHMOST COLLEGE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in commending one of the pillars of my South Texas community, Mr. Raul Besteiro, as he is recognized by the University of Texas at the Brownsville (UT-B) Texas Southmost College as a "Distinguished Alumni" on Friday, May 12.

Mr. B, as Raul Besteiro is affectionately known throughout South Texas, is an educator with the biggest heart I have ever known. We have known each other nearly 20 years. He is a gentle and respected friend who shares my love for all things in South Texas. First as an educator, then in a second career as the Chief Executive Officer and Director of the Port of Brownsville, Mr. B has energetically served the people in the Rio Grande Valley over the course of his life. His work at the Port brings an enormous volume of trade through the Valley, bringing jobs to our area.

It is entirely appropriate that Mr. B be chosen for the honor of Distinguished Alumnus, for he has dedicated his life to the education of young people. He spent the first 33 years of his career in the service of the Brownsville Independent School District (BISD), first as a teacher, then later as Superintendent. He has remained committed to education while in his career as Port Director, offering advice to the school district and employees, and even had a school named after him in 1994. He is a unique educator for the community of Brownsville with the example of his life's work.

The community of Brownsville is lucky to have Raul Besteiro in it. He taught us all the meaning of courage and the remarkable nature of human will when he faced down cancer in the early 1990s. His most recent educational legislative interest, the Brownsville Wetlands Center Act, was signed into law in 1994. This important coordination of industry and UT-B teaches students how to protect, restore, and maintain the fragile ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico region.

This project—in which Raul Besteiro was a prominent and influential player—combines his love of this community, his dedication to education, and his vision of a future in which the environmental concerns of industry and NAFTA are solved by the people who live in a community inspired ever forward by free trade.

Mr. B is a unique patriot, citizen, and family man, respected by so many people because he offers respect to everyone he meets. I ask the colleagues to join me in commending Raul Besteiro for the honor of indeed being a distinguished alumni of the Brownsville (UT-B) Texas Southmost College.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BRIAN CRAM

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man who has