

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING THE TOWNSHIP OF BERNARDS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 240th Anniversary of the founding of the Township of Bernards, County of Somerset, New Jersey.

Allow me to recount the history of the town. Its earliest inhabitants were the Lenape Indians. It was the Chief of the Lenape, named Nowenoik, who in 1717, sold the first 3,000 acres of the land which would become Bernards Township to an agent of King George I of England for \$50. William Penn also purchased some of the land in this area later that same year.

In 1733 the name Basking Ridge first appeared in the ecclesiastic records of the Presbyterian Church and is recorded as being derived from the fact that the "wild animals of the adjacent lowlands were accustomed to bask in the warm sun of this beautiful ridge."

In 1760 King George II of England created Bernardston Township by charter. This was in honor of Sir Francis Bernard, provincial governor of New Jersey from 1758–1760, who created the first Indian Reservation at Brotherton, New Jersey at the close of the French and Indian Wars.

During the American Revolution, Bernardston provided over 100 soldiers to the war effort. It was in the Widow's White Tavern at the corner of Colonial Drive and South Finley Avenue that General Charles Lee, second in command only to General George Washington, was captured by British Troops. Years later, during the Civil War, Bernards Township was a production center for Union uniforms and for axles and wagons in its hub and spokes factory.

Bernards Township has continued to be a location for significant events into the 20th century. The Basking Ridge village green was the site for a speech given by Woodrow Wilson just before the first World War.

Bernards Township is now home to the headquarters of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the Bonnie Brae Educational Center, Lord Stirling School, Hooper Holmes, Ingersoll Rand, Fellowship Deaconry, and the United States Golf Association.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 240 years, Bernards Township has played a significant role in creating the cultural fabric of our state and nation's history and will most certainly continue to do so in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to congratulate the citizens of the Township of Bernards on this special anniversary year.

LEGGZ DANCE'S TAP 2000: TAP INTO AMERICA'S HEARTS TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on May 25th National Missing Children's Day, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and Leggz Dance will coordinate Tap 2000: Tap into America's Hearts to Keep Our Children Safe in Rockville Centre, in my home district of Long Island. NCMEC is teaming up with performers and studios across the country in a grassroots effort to raise awareness about child safety.

The average victim of abduction and murder is an 11-year-old girl, a child with a stable family, and frighteningly, she had initial contact with an abductor within a quarter mile of her home. This is exactly the audience that TAP 2000 reaches by having local dance teachers "tapping for safety."

The goal of TAP 2000 is to entertain through Leggz Dance while educating via valuable child safety literature provided by NCMEC. Tap 2000 is one of the many vehicles that the NCMEC uses to emphasize the importance of children's photographs. One out of six missing children is found as a result of someone recognizing a photo. Tap 2000 will begin May 25 and will continue throughout Nassau County when participating studios hold their showcases and tap festivals.

I commend this important public safety workshop sponsored by both the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Leggz Dance. It is important that we take every step possible to prevent child abductions in our communities.

JOHN RIGAS BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. John Rigas, of Coudersport, Pennsylvania, recently celebrated his 75th birthday and 48th year in the cable business. I have come to know him well over the years—unfortunately not seeing enough of him.

The son of Greek immigrants, he was born in an apartment above his parents' restaurant in a small town in rural western New York. After receiving a degree in management engineering, he returned home to help out with the family business. However, John Rigas had other aspirations and he accepted a position as a Sylvania plant engineer in Emporium, Pennsylvania. After borrowing from family and friends, he purchased the local movie theater in nearby Coudersport.

To protect his movie theater business, he invested \$100 in a cable television franchise

to provide signals to a rural community with little or no off-air reception. Flash forward several decades. This fledgling enterprise became Adelphia, the Greek word for brother, which John Rigas and his family have turned into one of the nation's largest telecommunications providers, serving more than 5 million customers in 30 states, including a significant presence in Florida.

John kept the company headquarters in Coudersport, a community of about 2,500 where he purchased the old high school on Main Street and converted it into Adelphia's corporate headquarters. John's love of Coudersport and its residents transcends almost everything in his life except for his family. That's why he has chosen to remain in that community. Now, they have added Adelphia Business Solutions, a telephone subsidiary and the company provides high speed cable modem connections to the Internet, digital programming tiers, and long distance telephone service.

This year marks the fourth anniversary of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. It is fitting that the exciting new services made possible by this act are being developed and delivered by the entrepreneurship of people like John Rigas. Happy birthday, John, and thanks for fulfilling the American dream in a way that provides exciting new telecommunications services throughout our country.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4475 making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 4475, the Fiscal Year 2001 appropriations bill for the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies. This important legislation contains federal transit capital funds that are vital to the success of the Denver Regional Transportation District's new light rail transit corridors projects, the nearly completed South West Corridor, and the new South East Corridor.

I want to thank Transportation Subcommittee Chairman WOLF, Ranking Member SABO and the rest of the Committee for including \$20,200,000 to help complete the SW Corridor project, which opens for revenue service this July. In addition, I appreciate the Committee's support for our new SE Corridor extension, which received an earmark for \$3,000,000. These funds are derived from the

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Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grants program which finances transit new starts projects.

Transportation is a key issue in the First Congressional District of the State of Colorado. I am proud that Denver's light rail and multi-modal corridors are a growing local success story and that the efforts of the Colorado delegation to win support for these projects have been fruitful. The SW Corridor project will be completed in the coming months with this year's appropriation of the final federal installment of its full funding grant agreement. The new SE Corridor multi-modal project, combining highway and light rail elements, is anticipated to complete all the steps necessary to receive a full funding grant agreement as early as this year.

I have supported a robust FY 2001 appropriation of \$63,000,000 for the SE Corridor project. As I mentioned, the bill before us contains just \$3,000,000 for the new corridor, which I hope will grow as the bill progresses through the many steps of the congressional appropriations process. This request, while large, is amply justified because Denver residents have voted overwhelmingly—66 percent supported the initiative—on last year's ballot issue to approve local funding for this multi-modal approach to improving Denver's transportation system. Their support has been strong because our needs are strong.

The rapidly growing transit needs in the Denver region are clear. The Regional Transportation District (RTD) provides public transit service to over 2 million residents of the six counties and 41 municipalities in its 2,400 square mile district—one of the nation's largest transit districts. RTD's fleet of 933 buses and 17 light rail vehicles carried over 74 million passengers in 1999, its thirteenth consecutive year of increased ridership.

The RTD has continued its progress in developing rapid transit by extending construction of light rail from the successful Central Corridor light rail line to the SW Corridor. The 8.7 mile SW Corridor light rail extension will serve three major activity centers: the Denver central business district, a regional retail and commercial center in Englewood, and the Littleton Central Business District.

Not only has Denver RTD demonstrated a strong commitment to keep the SW Corridor project on schedule by advancing its own local funds, but it also has a proven record of building light rail projects. Through its efficient handling of the construction of its existing Central Corridor line, and now the SW Corridor line, RTD has demonstrated its ability to successfully manage light rail projects. Building on this experience, RTD together with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) are now poised to implement the SE multi-modal project. This project will include 19 miles of light rail line which will run alongside Interstate 25 (for 15 miles) from Broadway in Denver to Lincoln Avenue in Douglas County and within the median of I-255 (for miles) from I-25 to Parker Road.

The SE Corridor connects the two largest employment centers in the region—the Denver Central Business District and the SE business district, together these two employment centers account for 18 percent of the metro region's employment. The SE Corridor project is a joint effort of four agencies (for which inter-agency agreements are already in place): The Federal Transit Administration; the Federal

Highway Administration; the CDOT; and the RTD. These agencies working together in a "One Dot" approach will insure the efficient delivery of this project.

In conclusion, completion of our SW Corridor light rail project is vital to our region's ability to meet the challenges of rapid growth responsibly. Moving ahead quickly with the multi-modal SE Corridor will demonstrate the federal government's support for communities that are willing to invest in cost-effective transportation solutions to traffic congestion.

Mr. Chairman, I support this bill and I thank the Committee for the critical funding it contains for transportation needs in my district.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4475) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I stand in support of the FY01 Transportation Appropriations bill, and in strong support of the funds allocated for Washington State's Sound Transit Program. The funding provided in this legislation will help Sound Transit deliver a regional high-capacity transit system to the citizens of urban King, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

As anyone who has traveled to my home state knows, bad traffic is the one thing that can make even the beautiful Puget Sound area seem less inviting. In fact, the Central Puget Sound Region has the 4th worst traffic in the country. It is estimated that bottlenecks on both the highways and on the train tracks costs our local economy billions of dollars every year. That's why this investment in our infrastructure is so crucial. The Sound Transit system—which employs a combination of commuter rail, electric light rail, HOV Expressways, and regional express bus service—will go a long way toward relieving congestion and, importantly, improving quality of life for citizens throughout the Puget Sound.

On behalf of the citizens of my district, I also want to thank the Chair, the Ranking Member and the Members of the committee for their support of Sound Transit. This program will truly be one of the crown jewels of America's public system and I'm proud to stand in support of this program.

MAY SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named W. Tresper Clarke Middle School in Westbury as the School of the

Month in the Fourth Congressional District for May 2000. It was one of 34 middle schools and 32 high schools to be named a National Service-Learning Leader School, and will be honored by the White House in June.

I want to congratulate the Clarke Middle School community on receiving this national honor. Nassau has noticed the difference Clarke students make in our community as a result of their education. They deserve recognition on a national level, not just on a local one.

Ivy Diton is the Principal of Clarke, and Dr. Robert Dillon is the Superintendent of Schools in the East Meadow School District. The school teaches children in grades six through eight.

The educational initiative of service-learning is on the rise in the United States. More and more schools are beginning to incorporate community service into standard subjects. Clarke Middle School was recently recognized as one of 34 middle schools in the nation who have shown excellence in service-learning. Clarke was the only school selected from the Long Island-New York City geographical area.

The pre-teen and teen years are crucial for our kids. We know how capable they are, and Clarke Middle School has used this to teach their students the importance of giving back to our community. They are sending future generations of Long Islanders into their adult world as better citizens.

Service-learning is the term Clarke and other schools use to describe their way of teaching. It involves a healthy combination of academics and community service, and is based on the joint efforts of teachers and students to make a difference. Students benefit from this approach because standard course material is supported by lessons of civic responsibility. By teaching teens the importance of volunteering and helping others, they learn invaluable lessons that will strengthen our communities.

One hundred percent of Clarke's student body and faculty participate in service-learning. Ten subjects, including English, science, math, social studies, music, and art, feature a blend of community service and normal academics.

Clarke teachers have noticed a significant increase in their students' discipline, academic performance, and level of responsibility. They have become more involved in the Long Island community by mentoring elementary school students, reading to preschool children, and teaching senior citizens about computers.

There are so many opportunities for our teens to get involved in the community. Everyone can use some help now and then. Whoever Clarke students are helping, they are giving something back to Long Island, to the people that have helped them before or need help now.

SHOVALS HONORED BY B'NAI B'RITH

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to my very good friends, Susan and Judd Shoval, from my district in Pennsylvania.