

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LADY LIBERTY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2001

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, everyone's thoughts and prayers are with those whose lives have been forever altered by this tragedy. Several days after the attack, I received a copy of a poem entitled "Lady Liberty Still Stands Tall." It was written by a good friend, Dr. Ken Webster. I wanted to share this touching poem with my colleagues.

LADY LIBERTY STILL STANDS TALL

(By Kenneth E. Webster)

The New York Harbor was attacked,
As the twin towers came tumbling down.
With Lady Liberty standing by,
She sheds a tear and a frown.

I've watched this harbor over 100 years,
And welcomed thousands to our shores.
The tired, poor and huddled masses,
As I lift my lite beside the golden door.
People come from all over the world,
Yearning for a life that is free.
They could count on safe harbor here,
For our democracy is the key.

But on September 11 the year 2001,
Some terrorists attack—what a pity.
I saw them fly right past my torch,
As others who visit New York City.
I could see the terror in the eyes,
Of everyone on board the plane.
It headed straight for the twin towers,
Soon to inflict them all with pain.
I saw the terrible crash occur,
I couldn't believe my eyes.
The buildings exploded into the sky.
And I knew many would lose their lives.
I've never cried here in the harbor,
I've always remained straight and strong.
But today my tears cover the world,
As terrorists perform a terrible wrong.
But I'm still standing for all to see,
That America is the land of the free.
We'll survive as we have before,
And I'll stay here for all to see.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JOHN F. FITZGERALD

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2001

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to Chief Master Sergeant John F. Fitzgerald upon his retirement from the United States Air Force.

Chief Master Sergeant John Fitzgerald has served our nation with honor and distinction for over 26 years, and his performance his entire career has been characterized by the highest of standards and professionalism. He was born in Evansville, Indiana, on 23 Feb-

ruary 1957. He graduated from William Henry Harrison High School in 1975 and entered active duty in January 1976. Upon graduation from basic military training in March 1976, he was assigned under the direct duty assignment program to Charleston Air Force Base and entered into training as an Administrative Specialist. After serving on the base honor guard and coaching little league, he was selected for promotion to Senior Airman Below The Zone and was reassigned to Camp New Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in August 1978.

Chief Master Sergeant Fitzgerald's outstanding job performance and professionalism led to his selection for a special duty assignment to join the elite USAF Air Demonstration Squadron, "Thunderbirds," in December 1981. While assigned to the team he was selected as the 1984 Fitzgerald Award Winner, given to the enlisted member of the squadron who contributed most to the team mission. At the culmination of this tour in December 1984, the chief was selected for another special duty assignment to the Headquarters, Tactical Air Command Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, at Langley AFB, Virginia. In August 1988, the chief was selected for a special duty assignment to the Commandant of Cadets, USAF Academy, Colorado.

At the end of this tour in December 1991, the chief was selected as a member of the base closure team to end the Air Force's 51-year service at Sondrestrom AB, Greenland. Upon closure of Sondrestrom Air Base on 30 September 1992, the chief was reassigned to Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

After assignment as the 45th Space Wing Command Section Superintendent, he was reassigned to the 45th Mission Support Squadron as the Military Personnel Flight Superintendent. In March 1999, he was selected to become the Command Chief Master Sergeant for Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia and OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH headquartered at Eskan Village, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In June 2000, Chief Master Fitzgerald returned to his previous position as the Superintendent, Military Personnel Flight for the 45th Mission Support Squadron at Patrick AFB, Florida, and in January 2001, moved to the 45th Space Wing Staff to a newly created position as Superintendent of the Wing Plans Division. In this capacity he supported various high level, special interest projects of vital importance to NASA, the Florida Spaceport Authority, and the 45th Space Wing, in the Development of the Florida Spaceport program.

Chief Master Sergeant Fitzgerald's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, USAF Outstanding Airman of the Year Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Southwest Asia Service Medal with star.

Chief Master Sergeant Fitzgerald is married to the former Phyllis Ann Vaught, and they have one daughter, Amanda.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the contributions Chief Master Sergeant John Fitzgerald

has made to the people of my State, the United States Air Force, and the country. I am certain my colleagues will join me in wishing Chief Master Sergeant Fitzgerald and his wife, Phyllis, all the best. We thank them for over 26 years of service to the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO FERRIS LIBRARY INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2001

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education at Ferris State University (FLITE), which is being dedicated today as a Federal Depository Library in the 4th District of Michigan.

I am honored to have assisted Richard Cochran, Dean of Library Services and Education, in making this day possible. Designating the FLITE as a Federal Depository Library will be a tremendous asset to the community, as well as the university's students.

This is a proud moment for everyone at the dedication today as the FLITE becomes one of more than 1,300 libraries across the country that offers the American public access to information from the three branches of government. As a federal depository library, the FLITE now has the responsibility for assuring that the public has free access to that material, and I am confident that Mr. Cochran and his staff will ensure that the public they serve will receive the kind of service expected from a Federal Depository Library.

On behalf of the 4th District of Michigan, I congratulate the Ferris State University community for joining a select number of libraries who serve our citizens with this important resource.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER OF TOM REED

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2001

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding public service of a great friend of mine, Murfreesboro City Attorney Tom Reed. Tom, who has worked for our city as an attorney for more than 29 years, is retiring at the end of this month.

Tom began his distinguished career with the city of Murfreesboro soon after his graduation from the University of Tennessee School of Law, helping guide the Middle Tennessee

● 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.

community through nearly three decades of unprecedented growth and prosperity.

Tom's keen legal mind aided city leaders and officials in their effort to make Murfreesboro, my hometown, one of America's most desirable places to live. Tom's influence has reached much farther than the legal interests of his city, though.

He has also been instrumental in bolstering the city's economic health and development. And he has been actively involved in many local, state and national committees, boards and professional associations.

His unflinching dedication and tireless service to the city will be sorely missed. I congratulate Tom on his outstanding career and with him well in his future endeavors.

VERMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2001

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

ON BEHALF OF HILLARY KNAPP AND CHRISTINE HARVEY—REGARDING HEALTHY CHOICES DURING THE TEENS YEARS, MAY 7, 2001

Hillary Knapp. In January, Otter Teen Network helped organize and run a peer leadership project, with the help of Green Mountain Prevention Project.

Christine Harvey. Otter Teen is a student-initiated and run organization that invites teens to work together to create a safe environment and positive school community at Otter Valley. And OTM encourages young students to develop leadership skills, have fun, and be high on life, not alcohol, tobacco or other dangerous drugs. One of OTM's goals is to empower individuals to respect themselves and others, and not give in to negative peer pressure. There are no membership requirements. All student and faculty are already members. As a member, you can become involved as much or as little as you desire.

Hillary Knapp. Peer Leadership Project is where certain kids from the school go and have leadership training for one weekend. And Green Mountain Prevention projects provided a facilitator, Workshop-presenter and team-building games. Through the PLP, we generated interest among the middle school students to get involved with planning and carrying out of our Power of Choice Day.

Christine Harvey. Our Power of Choice Day was a day where we had workshops for students to go to instead of regular classes, and the workshops were on healthy choices and the power you have to make your own choices.

Hillary Knapp. Students came to our Power of Choice Day thinking that it was going to be really boring and they were just going to sit there. And as they went to the workshops and did all the activities we had, they found that it was interesting and they liked the day. The preliminary results of the survey for the day showed that the vast ma-

jority of the students enjoyed the day and found it somewhat to be useful in their everyday life.

Christine Harvey. We have a packet on all the stuff that we did during the day, and some pictures.

ON BEHALF OF JOSH SMOLKIN—REGARDING LEGALIZING CANNABIS, MAY 7, 2001

Josh Smolkin. My name is Joshua Smolkin. Thank you for letting me speak here. Cannabis legalization has been increasingly popular. This push is misunderstood by those who discredit and close their ears to the cause. This push has not come from people who merely wish to walk down the street and smoke a joint without getting apprehended. It comes from intelligent individuals who wish to make as much use of a significant resource as humanly possible. Cannabis is the only plant that has resilient enough growing habits, frugal value, and the versatility to provide all the basic necessities of life while helping to save our ecosystem and supply all the energy we would ever need. I feel it is in our best interest to legalize cannabis. Hemp is a form of the cannabis plant that does not contain enough tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive chemical found in cannabis, to get an individual high. It would astonish me as to why we have been confronted with so many problems whenever there is an attempt to use it industrially. That is, it would astonish me if I did not know that it is because hemp poses a huge threat to the timber and oil companies, both of which exert huge influence within the United States. Hemp can be effectively made into all sorts of energy products that are practically sulfur-free and cleaner burning than currently used national resources such as crude oil, its by-products, and coal. It can be easily made into a biomass form of charcoal and gasoline. While when burnt, it will release carbon dioxide, while it is growing, it uses up CO₂, creating more of a balance. I am convinced cannabis is one of our prime allies in the fight against the greenhouse effect and pollution. This possibility is definitely not given enough credence. I guess it is a horrible thing to explore likely ways to save our ecosystem. The truth is, our oil supplies are not going to last that much longer. Why destroy our world for the hundred some-odd years it will take for our oil to be depleted, at which point we will just have to run to a savior such as hemp out of necessity? Pulp hemp is a prime candidate for paper production. The cannabis plant has four times as much paper-useable pulp per acre as trees do. Furthermore, it grows back in about four months. Hemp fibers are very long, and grow in the organically binding glue found in plant cells, allowing for environmentally safe chlorine-free bleaching. These fibers can be made into various household items and clothing, far superior to cotton in durability, insulation, UV protection, and is easy to mass-produce. Hemp produces fibers which are 15 feet long and is health-conducive to the soil, while cotton produces fibers 1 to 2 centimeters long and destroys the soil. All products made are biodegradable. In a composite form, it is twice as strong as wood, and can replace timber in most all its forms. Hemp seeds are highly nutritious, even more so than soy. They are roughly 25 percent protein, 30 percent carbohydrates, and contain a whole list of vitamins, minerals, essential fatty acids, and contain rare linoleic that is good for the immune system. Hemp seed oil is good for lowering cholesterol levels and strengthening the cardiovascular system. Besides hemp, there are various strains of budding cannabis containing higher levels of THC. Even these are relatively harmless compared

to other substances which are legal. There has never been a death caused solely from marijuana. This was confirmed by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Meanwhile, alcohol and tobacco have a combined death rate of over 500,000 annually, give or take a few thousand. It is hard to count with that many deaths. Even caffeine and aspirin cause upward of a thousand deaths or more a year, individually. In 1972, commissioned by President Nixon, the National Committee on Marijuana and Drug Abuse concluded that "marijuana's relative potential for harm to the vast majority of individuals and its actual impact on society does not justify a social policy to seek out and punish those who use it." I think that the accepted belief is that Marijuana is on a similar level with alcohol. Of course, there are those who would say it is far worse, and others who say it is less harmful. The fact is, if an individual of legal age can go home and drink a few beers and watch TV, why can't a person go home after work, smoke some marijuana, and watch TV? Is just so happens that, during the cultural development of our country, some substances became more socially acceptable than others. I think the main position taken by anti-marijuana legalization advocates is that it is a gateway drug. This assumption, made by those who would see cannabis hung, is false. In 1999, the Institute of Medicine reported on the so-called "gateway theory." The report says that, "although marijuana use often precedes the use of harder drugs, there is not conclusive evidence that marijuana acts as a 'gateway' drug that actually causes people to make this progression." If marijuana is a gateway drug, then alcohol or tobacco or Tylenol PM would be a gateway drug. The medicinal uses of cannabis and hemp are only now being understood and applied, in spite of the fact that it has been used medically for thousands of years. The flowers of marijuana, smoked or eaten, are used to treat many ailments. Marijuana treats nausea for cancer and AIDS and patients going through chemotherapy. For glaucoma sufferers, marijuana relieves the pressure in their eyes. It is a great pain-reducer, effective against migraine headaches and postmenstrual cramps. In asthma patients, marijuana smoke dilates the bronchial passages, opening the airways. There are many more known and unknown uses for medical marijuana. No matter how much credit we give ourselves, money is the strongest factor behind a lot of our actions. Upwards of \$9 billion or more tax dollars was spent on antimarijuana in individual past years. It was estimated that \$11 billion in tax revenues could be collected, not to mention income from legal sellers, producers and distributors. If cannabis were legalized that would be over \$20 billion we could put towards education. It's clear we're not getting all we should out of our current money spent on this issue. Prohibition is a failure. Millions of Americans smoke marijuana despite laws outlawing its use. Law enforcement arrests a marijuana smoker every 54 seconds in America, at a tremendous cost to society. Over 10 million Americans have been arrested on marijuana charges since the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse issued its recommendations to Congress in 1972 to decriminalize the plant. Non-violent marijuana offenders often serve longer sentences than rapists or murderers, and there are currently 60,000 in jail. This means that peaceful middle-class people are thrown in cells with rapists and murderers. Civil forfeiture laws allow the police to seize the money and property of suspected marijuana offenders; charges need not even be filed. Vigorous enforcement of the laws forces hardened criminals to take over marijuana trafficking. This causes violence and