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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING PEPPERELL MIDDLE SCHOOL, ROME, GA, "34,288 CANS OF FOOD IN THE HALL"

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the main hall of Pepperell Middle School, located in the small community of Lindale, just outside the city of Rome, GA, has been lined with 12x25 inch cardboard boxes stacked halfway to the ceiling for several weeks. The boxes were crammed with more than 34,000 cans of food; all donated by students for this year's local Salvation Army Can-a-Thon.

Sponsored by Atlanta NBC affiliate WXIA 11-Alive; Rome radio stations WRGA, Q-102, South 107; and the Forum, the Salvation Army Can-a-Thon accepts donations of canned, non-perishable food items in the Forum's main parking lot on a designated day in December.

On November 1st each year, students begin to solicit canned goods from family, friends, neighbors, and others. Last year, over 24,000 cans were collected by students at Pepperell Middle School. The goal for 2001 was set at 26,000 cans. Once they exceeded that total, a new goal was set at 30,000 cans. On the morning of Friday, December 7, a large Marine Corps truck made its way to Pepperell Middle School. Upon arrival, students loaded 34,288 cans of food onto the truck which was escorted by the local police, and two bus loads of students from the school, making its way to the Forum.

The annual holiday Can-a-Thon collected more than 70,000 cans from throughout the city and county. Approximately 700 baskets will be filled with canned goods and will be given to families in need. The food will also go toward providing daily meals for men, women, and children who seek shelter at the Salvation Army.

Pepperell Middle School principal Frank Pinson is justifiably and extremely proud of his students, saying, "this is a big deal thing to them, and it teaches them one of the greatest lessons they learn." The students work ex-

tremely hard, soliciting in many ways other than just going house to house. Some students donated their ice cream money; they held a dance and a talent show to raise money. The school has led the entire state in Can-a-Thon donations for 8 straight years.

Eight years ago, a tornado hit the Lindale community, destroying or damaging many homes, and leaving many families homeless. The Salvation Army was immediately there to assist those families. The students of Pepperell Middle School decided at that time to secure canned goods for those who experienced losses due to the storm. They found great satisfaction in helping those in need; and the tradition continues each year with the Can-a-Thon.

The principal, staff, faculty, students, their families, and, indeed, the entire community, are to be commended for their outstanding participation in this event. It is with great pride I recognize them today as true community leaders. I am honored to serve as their Representative in the U.S. Congress.

TRIBUTE TO MR. PETE AND LENA NEIN

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Pete and Lena Nein of Crook, Colorado, on their 70th Wedding Anniversary. In honor of this extraordinary occasion, I would like to convey to them my genuine congratulations.

Pete and Lena were married on January 3, 1932 in Sedgwick, Colorado, where they began their lives together. Mr. and Mrs. Nein moved to Crook, in 1934 where they rented 160 acres of land and began farming with horse-drawn equipment. Their first house, in which they lived for 42 years, had electricity installed in 1936. Indoor plumbing was not installed until 1940. Pete and Lena have witnessed and experienced extraordinary events including the Dust Bowl, Great Depression,

World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, fall of the Soviet Union and now, the war against terrorism. Throughout this time period they have devoted their lives to agricultural production and determined community service. Pete was the president of the Crook Volunteer Fire Department for 27 years and Lena was the organist and pianist in a Crook church for over 45 years. The Neins serve as a shining example, not only for their community, but for all Americans.

As a husband and father of five, I have come to adore the example of a strong marriage and loving children. Pete and Lena started their lives together humbly, working hard to build a happy and successful life together. My admiration for them, and the fortitude and commitment they have demonstrated is deep. Through the good times and the bad, Pete and Lena's love has forged a seemingly unbreakable bond.

Pete and Lena Nein are amazing role models. As a Member of Congress, it is my honor to congratulate both Pete and Lena on their anniversary. Pete and Lena let nothing stand between their unceasing love for one another on their glorious day. I ask the House to join me in extending wholehearted congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Pete Nein.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in recognition of the City of Gainesville, Texas, which has recently instituted the Medal of Honor Host City Program. This program, unique in the nation, will provide a stipend to cover lodging, food and some travel expenses to Medal of Honor recipients visiting the City of Gainesville.

The Medal of Honor Host City Program seeks both to honor the 149 living Medal of Honor recipients and to expose the citizens of Gainesville—especially its youth—to true

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American heroes. The local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1922, and community leaders, initiated the project to help recognize these men of valor and to give the citizens of Gainesville the chance to hear, first-hand, their amazing stories.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society announced the project to its members at its October annual reunion. Two Medal of Honor recipients visited Gainesville on Veterans Day.

This program was organized before the tragedies of September 11, but in light of recent events, projects like the Gainesville Medal of Honor Host City Program highlight the sacrifice, patriotism and sense of duty that have been a foundation of our great nation. Our Medal of Honor recipients are living examples of those values and are the best messengers to tell the price of freedom. While in Gainesville, these extraordinary individuals will meet with school classes, speak to civic groups and others who would like to hear about their experiences. It gives the honorees a forum for their thoughts and gives Gainesville the chance to thank them for all that they have done for their country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Mayor Kenneth Kaden for his leadership in promoting this project. It is an honor to recognize such a unique and special program—The Medal of Honor Host City Program—and I look forward to seeing it succeed in Gainesville.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district during the following roll-call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below. Rollcall No. 499: Yes; 500: Yes.

IN MEMORY OF HONORABLE R.
LAWRENCE COUGHLIN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today is a bitter-sweet day. It is with both great sadness and immense pride that I rise today in honor and celebration of the life of my friend, the Honorable R. Lawrence Coughlin.

Robert Lawrence Coughlin was born on April 11, 1929 in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and grew up on his father's farm near Scranton, PA. He served distinguishably as a Republican Member of the United States Congress for 24 years, from January 1969–January 1993 representing a portion of Philadelphia, PA and its surrounding suburban Main Line area.

Lawrence's accomplishments were great during his tenure in Congress. He was a man of great honor and truly a gentleman. I had the pleasure of serving with him while I was Chairman of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control and he served as the Ranking Republican Member.

At first glance, one would perceive our relationship as that of the "Odd Couple" as Law-

rence and I strolled side by side through the Capitol as he donned his signature bow tie and me wearing a more conventional necktie. He represented the wealthy suburban Main Line area of Philadelphia and I represent the vibrant Harlem area of New York City. However, we had many shared interests and experiences.

Lawrence Coughlin served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. His military training was evident in the way he conducted himself in the Congress. He was a very disciplined man who took a dogged approach to tackling the difficult problems that face the nation and the Congress. I remember his passion for the youth of our great nation. This passion was the source of his drive to do whatever was necessary during his tenure on the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control to rid our communities of the scourge of drugs. Although some would say, Lawrence had a Patrician air about him I would say he had the air of a proud ex-marine who viewed the war on drugs as a series of unending battles to be confronted head on until the war was won and victory proclaimed. As a man of great consciousness, I will forever remember his stamina and commitment in his efforts to eliminate drugs from our communities, making the world a better place for our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues join me in celebrating the life and the political accomplishments of my great friend, the Honorable R. Lawrence Coughlin.

INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL INDIAN RECOGNITION REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, our Federal Indian recognition process is broken. Recognition decisions don't take months to decide, they take years—and sometimes decades. Towns and other interested parties—sometimes forced to spend millions because of federal recognition policies—rightfully believe their concerns and comments are often ignored. Criteria for recognition has been overlooked rather than upheld under previous BIA administrators. In short, the public and Indian tribes have lost faith in the current recognition process.

A new administration has brought some hope in fixing this important process. To this end, I am rising today to introduce legislation that lays out a seven-point plan for reforming the federal Indian recognition process.

Specifically, my bill would first require the BIA to notify states whenever a tribe within them files for federal recognition. The state must in turn ensure that notice is given to towns adjacent to that tribe.

Second, the legislation would require the BIA to accept and consider any testimony—including from surrounding towns and others—that bears on whether or not BIA recognizes a tribe.

Third, under my measure, the BIA would be required to find affirmatively that all recognition criteria are met in order to confer federal recognition and any decision conferring recognition must be accompanied by a written set of

findings as to how all criteria have been satisfied.

Fourth, I put forth language that would double—from \$900,000 to \$1.8 million—the resources for the BIA's Branch of Acknowledgment and Research Division to upgrade its recognition process.

To help localities adversely affected by federally recognized tribes, my bill provides \$8 million in grants to local governments to assist such governments in participating in certain decisions related to certain Indian groups and Indian tribes. These grants could be applied retroactively to any local government that has spent money on decisions related to certain Indian groups and/or tribes.

In addition, my legislation also creates a grant program of \$10 million to be made available to federally impacted towns for relevant infrastructure, public safety and social service needs directly related to tribal activities.

And lastly, the measure would institute a "cooling off period" of one year, in which any high-level BIA official could not appear before their former agency.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this bill with three of my colleagues from Connecticut—Mrs. JOHNSON and Messrs. SHAYS and MALONEY—and the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. GREEN. I urge others who care about federal Indian recognition issues to join us in working toward a recognition process that is fair, open and respectful to all parties involved.

STUDIES ENDORSE PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring the results of two recent studies on the value of project labor agreements (PLAs) to the attention of my colleagues.

The California Research Bureau, a non-partisan confidential research arm of the Governor's office and the state legislature concluded that project labor agreements are "valued by owners and construction firms alike [because of] the role PLAs play in resolving disputes over roles contractors and subcontractors play in large and complex projects." The CRB report also credited PLAs for promoting local economic development, workforce training, and employment goals for women and minorities.

The UCLA Institute for Labor and Employment has also recently released a study that found that PLAs do not increase labor costs, do not exclude non-union workers, encourage competition, promote stability, cooperation and productivity, and reduce the likelihood of work stoppages or delays.

Mr. Speaker, these studies merely confirm what has long been understood by those involved in private and public sector construction who are not otherwise driven by ideology: Project labor agreements promote the timely completion of construction projects and increase productivity. They are good for business. They also promote apprenticeship training and help secure better working conditions. They are good for workers.