

RECOGNIZE REVEREND RONALD I.
SCHUPP FOR HIS DEDICATION
TOWARDS A FREE TIBET

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 6, 2001

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to give my full support once again to the work of Chicago civil and human rights leader Reverend Ronald I. Schupp, who is embarking on his fifth annual peaceful twenty-four hour fast and vigil outside of the Chinese Consulate in Chicago. Reverend Schupp is calling upon the government of the People's Republic of China to grant independence to Tibet and its people.

His vigil will be held on March 10, the day that is known each year as Tibetan National Day. This day recognizes the ongoing efforts and continuing struggle of the Tibetan people to gain their freedom.

I fully support Reverend Schupp and the vigil he is undertaking once again.

OBJECTION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 6, 2001

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, in a short while we will gather in a joint session to count the electoral vote from November's Presidential contest. We will count these votes even though the Republican appointees on the Supreme Court slammed the door in the face of thousands of Florida voters by refusing to allow their votes to be counted. Ironically, Republican legal advisors used the "equal protection" clause of the 14th amendment to argue their case while denying equal protection to thousands whose votes were never counted. The message calls to mind George Orwell's famous words that "some are more equal than others."

One fact is not in dispute: that Vice President AL GORE won over 539,000 more votes nationwide than George W. Bush. That makes it even more important that we get an accurate vote in Florida.

As a member of the House International Relations Committee, I have had the privilege of monitoring elections around the world. Never have I seen a case like this—where one candidate's first cousin was hired by a major news network to call the election results; where that same candidate's campaign co-chair had the authority to certify the election results and rushed to do so before all ballots had been counted; where the certification was signed by the candidate's brother, the Governor, and where Supreme Court members appointed by the candidate's father halted a vote count. Is this the model of democracy we want to hold up to the rest of the world? I urge my colleagues to refuse to be a part of this undemocratic process.

IN MEMORY OF PAUL STANLEY
EBENSTEINER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 6, 2001

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Paul Stanley Ebensteiner, a deco-

rated patriot, a successful businessman, a loving family man, a philanthropist, and a good friend.

Paul passed away Sunday, leaving behind a legacy of living, achieving and sharing the American dream.

He joined the Marines during the Korean War, where he served with distinction. An excerpt from his official service record book reads: "Combat operations against North Korean Forces; assault and seizure of Inchon, Korea; capture and securing of Seoul, Korea; operations against enemy forces in south and central Korea; is authorized to wear the Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Korean Service with three stars, Presidential Unit Citation with one star, Purple Heart, and the United Nations Service ribbons." Paul retired from the Marines at the rank of Technical Sergeant.

In 1970, he founded the Ebensteiner Company, one of the largest general engineering contractors in California. He was named Contractor of the Year in 1999, and was a member in good standing with the Southern California Contractors Association.

At about the same time as he founded Ebensteiner Company, he married June. Together they raised seven children: Paul George, Rebecca, Pennie, Debra, Suzanne, Therese, and Christine. Paul and June are also blessed with 10 grandchildren.

Paul Stanley Ebensteiner was a successful family man and businessman, and he believed in sharing his blessings with the community. Among the philanthropic organizations he and June supported were Mary Health for the Sick, the building of the Los Angeles Cathedral, the United States Hospice Foundation, and the June Ebensteiner Hospice Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, Paul realized his dream and then shared his dream with many, many more. He was, to me, the definition of a Great American. I know my colleagues will join me in sending condolences to his family and in paying tribute to his memory.

SALUTE TO FIRE ENGINEER CHRIS
ALTEN

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 6, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute Fire Engineer Chris Alten, the Montclair Fire Department Employee of the Year.

Our brave firefighters do a hero's work, exposing themselves to danger, in acts of selfless heroism. As Fire Engineer, Chris ensures that the Montclair Fire Department is in top condition to meet these challenges, contribution to excellent quality and livability of fire stations.

Chris joined the Montclair Fire Department as a Comprehensive Employment Training Act (C.E.T.A.) Firefighter in October 1976. Chris was hired as a regular Firefighter in October 1979. Chris' mechanical abilities and skills contributed to his quick promotion to Fire Engineer in July 1980.

It is a combination of Chris' mechanical abilities, his "can do" attitude and his steady and extremely dependable contribution to his crew and to the Montclair Fire Department that led to his selection as the Montclair Fire Department Employee of the Year.

During his employment, Chris has saved the City thousands of dollars in both time and material through a variety of construction projects that would have otherwise been done by outside vendors. Examples include: the replacement of all of the sinks and faucets in the fire stations, several remodeling projects that included framing, drywall and the installation of windows and doors in both stations and innumerable small projects.

Chris is a multi-talented and valued employee of the Montclair Fire Department. We in the Congress salute him for his selfless efforts and achievements.

A TRIBUTE TO HENRY SCIARONI
ON THE OCCASION OF BEING
AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 6, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, 56 years ago Lt. Hank Sciaroni led a group of U.S. troops through hostile Nazi territory after his bomber crash-landed on an Italian beach. His heroics went unrecognized until December 18, 2000 when he was finally honored for his valor with the Bronze Star.

On October 20, 1944, when Lt. Sciaroni realized that his B-24 Liberator bomber wasn't going to make it back, he told his pilot to crash land on the Italian beach below because he knew that the B-24 was a heavy plane that would sink before the crew could get out.

It was not the only time Lt. Sciaroni would have to think quickly. After the wheels-up crash landing, Lt. Sciaroni took command of one of the three groups created by the downed crew members. For the next two weeks Lt. Sciaroni used his training, his quick thinking and his ability to speak Italian not only to evade capture and get his group back to safety, but to collect vital intelligence along the way. The other two groups of crew members were captured by German forces. Lt. Sciaroni would have been recommended for a medal, but by the time he made it back to his squadron his commanding officer who would have nominated him had been killed in action. Lt. Sciaroni went back into action and served out the War.

When I became aware of this war time story, I committed myself to secure the honor which had evaded this young and brave Lieutenant for 56 years. While it is extremely rare for medals to be awarded so long after an episode has occurred, we searched the military archives for crew reports. Fortunately, Hank Sciaroni had saved a copy of a report the frontline unit made when he reached friendly forces. After petitioning the U.S. Army, they granted our request and Hank Sciaroni was finally honored.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Hank Sciaroni with the Bronze Star. He represents the collective courage many of our

soldiers displayed during WWII and we are a grateful and better nation because of him.

COMMEMORATING THE COMPLETION OF THE 103-MILE ADOPTED REGIONAL METRORAIL SYSTEM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 6, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this region, and indeed this Nation, can take great pride in the fact that on Saturday, January 13, 2001, the final rail transit segment of the planned 103-mile Adopted Regional Metrorail System will be put into service. This most significant milestone represents the culmination of a great dream of a visionary group of people in the 1960's that our Nation's Capital would join other great capital cities in having a rapid transit system.

Congress was a full partner in the creation of WMATA, beginning in 1952 when Congress passed the National Capital Planning Act mandating that plans be developed to facilitate movement throughout the region. In 1967, the

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority was created by Congress to build and operate a premier subway system worthy of the Nation's Capital. Every Congress and Administration since has recognized and confirmed the Federal commitment to the Metrorail and Metrobus system.

From the outset, construction of the Metrorail system was a monumental undertaking. As directed by President Lyndon Johnson, it was monumental in design, befitting the beauty and dignity of our Nation's Capital. Metro's designers used architecture that is aesthetically compatible with the history and symbolism of the capital city. Architects sought simplicity, durability, and a sense of timelessness that would serve future generations.

On January 13th, we will gather at the Branch Avenue Station in Prince George's County Maryland to symbolically drive the last spike in the 103-mile Metrorail System. We can only marvel at the handsome return on investment on the public's \$10 billion investment and remember that in today's dollars the 103-mile system would have cost \$22 billion.

Since opening day in March of 1976, more than two billion transit rides have been taken. We have revitalized communities in the vicinity of rail stations. Engineers and contractors from

throughout the nation have benefitted from jobs and construction contracts. We have reduced energy consumption, improved air quality and enhanced mobility for the transit dependent. Everyday the Metrorail and Metrobus system take thousands of people to jobs, schools, hospitals, family and other pursuits. It is virtually impossible to truly quantify the unlimited contributions our world acclaimed Metro system has made to the quality of life in the national capital region.

Metrorail ridership has been topping records over the past year. Of the top twenty-five weekday ridership records in Metrorail history, twenty-two have occurred in the last year, as Metrorail carried over well 600,000 trips on those days.

We in Congress, the region, and the Nation can be proud that we have created such a fine public transit system, worthy of our capital. The success of the beautiful Metrorail system is testament to the vision and federal-regional cooperation over the past fifty years, as well as the profound dedication of the people that designed, built and now operate the finest transit system in the world. Please join me in congratulating WMATA on achieving this awesome milestone.