

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD CLASSEN

#### **HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2001*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Howard Classen as he celebrates the end of his tenure at the Natividad Medical Center in Monterey, California. Mr. Classen retired from his position as Chief Executive Officer last month, and will be honored by his colleagues, friends and admirers in a dinner on Sunday, March 11, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join these people in saluting Mr. Classen's enormous contributions to the Monterey community. Natividad Medical Center is Monterey County's public hospital, and its obligation to both serve the residents of the county and continually restructure its caregiving operation has proved a daunting challenge to all involved in its operation. Mr. Classen, however, has embraced the recent changes in medical care and administration, and in the process has strengthened Natividad's scope and presence in the Monterey Bay area.

Howard Classen was raised in Chicago, Illinois, and obtained his Master's Degree in Hospital Administration at Cornell University in New York. Before coming to Natividad, he worked in a number of acute care hospital administration positions, including chief executive officer positions with National Medical Enterprises, Inc., and San Mateo General Hospital in San Mateo, California. Mr. Classen has also been active on State committees in California regarding the issues that have arisen with the changes in Medicaid, which is known as Medi-Cal in our State. He has also consulted on major managed-care plans and has been involved in the design, financing and construction of several major hospital projects.

One of the many projects in which Mr. Classen was instrumental was the remodeling and modernization of the Natividad Medical Center and its facilities in 1998. This state-of-the-art facility will no doubt continue to facilitate treatment well into the 21st Century, and much of the credit for this goes to Howard.

Beyond the scope of large projects such as this, Mr. Classen has also shown his dedication to the day-to-day operation of Natividad Medical Center. He is truly committed to the Center's mission of providing high-quality, cost-effective healthcare to all residents of Monterey County, and has worked hard to reach out and collaborate with others on major projects and minor details.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that we have lost an inspirational member of the Monterey County healthcare profession with Mr. Classen's retirement. I am sure that I speak for many when I say that his tireless work will not soon be forgotten, and we are all thankful. I would like to personally wish him well in this new stage of his life, and hope that he continues to be a presence in the Monterey Peninsula healthcare community.

### TUNISIA'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

#### **HON. EARL F. HILLIARD**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2001*

Mr. HILLIARD Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to congratulate the Republic of Tunisia on its 45th anniversary of independence, to be celebrated on Tuesday, March 20, 2001. I invite my colleagues to join in extending our congratulations to the people and leaders of this important friend in Africa.

The Republic of Tunisia has been and continues to be a model of economic growth. Moreover, Tunisia has been at the forefront of normalization with Israel as the Middle East peace process develops.

Today, Tunisia maintains a more stable democratic system of government, and a steadily increasing middle class. The country continues to make every effort to broaden its political debate.

We should be proud to recognize our friendship with Tunisia, which spans more than 200 years. The U.S. was the first great power to recognize Tunisia's independence in 1956, and in keeping with that tradition, I congratulate the Republic of Tunisia and urge my colleagues to do the same.

### IN HONOR OF FALLEN ELKHART POLICE OFFICER

#### **HON. TIM ROEMER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2001*

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Patrolman Douglas Michael Adams of the Elkhart, Indiana Police Department, who died last week in a tragic automobile accident while on duty.

Officer Adams was killed in Elkhart when his patrol car was involved in a collision while he was responding to a call for assistance from another officer. His tragic death reminds us once again of the great personal risks which our nation's law enforcement officers take every day, and the sacrifices which they and their families often make in the line of duty.

All too often we take our police officers for granted. We forget that behind their badges are human beings who put themselves and their families at great risk every day in order to serve their communities. The thin blue line which protects society from criminals is even more fragile when it comes to the police officers themselves. Surely, we owe our nation's law enforcement officials a great debt of gratitude for the courage and dedication they display every day.

Patrolman Adams was an outstanding officer. In fact, he was described by Elkhart Police Sgt. Brett Coppins as "the best officer he had ever trained." Officer Adams grew up in

Florida and moved to Elkhart in 1995. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he graduated from the Indiana Police Academy in 2000. Although he had been on the Elkhart police force for less than a year, he had already established himself as one of the most respected and effective officers in the department.

Officer Adams will be missed by his family, his colleagues in the Elkhart Police Department, and the entire Elkhart community. My sympathies and prayers go out to his wife Janet and the entire Adams family.

### HAZLETON BPW CELEBRATES 80TH ANNIVERSARY

#### **HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2001*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to pay tribute to the Greater Hazleton Business and Professional Women's Club, which will hold a celebration of its 80th anniversary on April 22.

The Hazleton BPW was chartered on February 21, 1921. To put that in historical context, that was just six months and three days after ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed women's right to vote nationwide. The membership of 40 professional women, led by President Alma Gorby, met at the Priscilla Tea Room on South Wyoming Street in Hazleton and paid two dollars each in dues to the national federation. They began right away to make a difference, and that tradition has continued for 80 years.

They gave of their time to sponsor young women in the professions. They donated more than \$50,000 in war bonds, while also sponsoring Chinese nursing programs, donating blood, rolling bandages and helping countless infants and women during the war years. They also attended state and national BPW conventions. They did all these things hoping to make a difference, and they certainly have.

With the help of the BPW members in Hazleton and across the state, the Pennsylvania Federation of Business and Professional Women has established a scholarship program as well as other free educational assistance programs for women. The Pennsylvania BPW also helps women affected by disasters, annually honors women who have achieved prominent elected and appointed positions, sponsors a public speaking program to aid professionalism in the workforce and encourages younger women through career programs.

The Greater Hazleton BPW, led by President Maria Damiano, is the oldest local in the 10 counties of District Eight, which is led by another Greater Hazleton BPW member, Rita S. Kurland.

I am pleased to say that the members of the Greater Hazleton BPW have for 80 years upheld the BPW Federation's objectives: to elevate the standards for women in business

● 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.

and the professions, to promote the interests of business and professional women, to bring about a spirit of cooperation among business and professional women of the country, and to extend opportunities to business and professional women through education along the lines of industrial, scientific and vocational activities.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the 80th anniversary of the Greater Hazleton Business and Professional Women's Club, and I wish its members all the best as they continue to serve the women of the region and the entire community.

IN TRIBUTE TO JIM B. NIELSEN

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jim B. Nielsen, a man who made deep and lasting contributions to Watsonville through his achievements in industry and civic service. Before Jim's death at the age of 90, he enjoyed a successful and storied career in the produce industry beginning in 1929, raised a family, and contributed decades of civic service to the Watsonville community.

Jim's experience raising crops began at age 8 on a Pajaro Valley Farm, where he helped his family cultivate crops using horse drawn implements. He operated his own produce company for 60 years, earning a reputation for fair dealing and conservation. He served as President of the California Warehouse association, and his flair for leadership carried into other areas of his life.

His achievements as a leader within the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, with whom he served for 65 years, won him election to the position of Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight, one of the most honored posts within the national, 1.5 million-member fraternal organization.

Beyond the Elks, Jim served the Watsonville community as a Santa Cruz County Grand Jury member, by working on the California Draft Board, as director of the Watsonville Red Cross Chapter, as a volunteer fireman, and as a member of the board of directors of the Valley National Bank.

Jim was an avid sportsman and an outdoor enthusiast. He managed and played on the Watsonville Falcons and later played semi-pro football with the Watsonville team. He and his wife Marilyn spent much of their time riding jeeps, hiking, enjoying the mountain country, and managing their horses at their Heaven Hill Ranch in San Benito County.

Jim's family grew to include his wife Marilyn, a son and daughter, two stepsons, one step-daughter, three grandchildren, and three great-granddaughters.

Jim can best be remembered as a pillar of the community and as a template for a life

well-lived. His decades of hard work in the produce industry and his steadfast commitment to civic service stand as positive examples to his community. His devotion to many interests, including sports and the outdoors, lasted throughout his life, giving him truly golden "golden years". His leadership and his kindness will be missed by all who knew him.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF  
CHRISTINE PIKE

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, throughout my military career I have had the honor of associating with more than a few gallant men and women who served our country in times of conflict abroad. However, heroes and patriots may be found here on our home front as well. These are folks who quietly live their lives helping others, and who, through their leadership, commitment, and most of all their example, support and defend our American way of life. Christine Pike will always be a true American home-front hero.

Mrs. Pike, a native of New Britain, Connecticut, lived for many years in Wethersfield, Connecticut, where she became active in the League of Women Voters. Throughout her life, she loved aviation. She was passionate about aviation history, its pioneers, and those who courageously defend our country from in the sky. Christine was, in fact, an aviation pioneer in her own right. At a time when there were few women in the field, she became a pilot. She flew Taylorcraft and J-3 Cubs in the 1940s and in 1946 she joined the ranks of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

In 1962, Mrs. Pike moved to Reno, Nevada, where she became a successful business leader. She launched her own company, Pike Advertising, and counted many of the area's major hotels and casinos among her clients. However, her favorite clients were in the field of aviation, the Reno Air Races and Bill Stead's Smirnoff Bearcat for whom she handled both public relations and advertising.

Christine moved to San Diego, California, in 1968, and wore many hats during her nearly thirty years there. She had a tremendous respect for law enforcement officials and spent much of her time pursuing related fields. She served as a municipal court clerk. She worked in the field of private investigation. Additionally, she was, for many years, a welfare fraud investigator for the County of San Diego.

Also in San Diego, Mrs. Pike worked as a travel consultant with a company known as The Travel Center. During this time she put together a number of high profile tours, occasionally accompanying her clients to make sure there were no bumps in the road. Among her accomplishments in this field was a nostalgic tour she organized for the members of Consairways, a commercial airline that flew C-87 Liberators and other transports in support of the Army during World War Two.

One day, early in my first bid for a seat in the House of Representatives, Mrs. Pike walked into my campaign office. Things were never quite the same after that. She had an incredible facility for organization and for establishing critical relationships with key people in the community. As my volunteer scheduler, she worked tirelessly making sure I was always in the right place at the right time. For all intents and purposes, Christine halted her business activities so that she could devote her attention, full-time, to my campaign. She continued in this way throughout my first term in office and my second successful campaign in what was at that time the newly formed 51st Congressional District. Throughout this time, Christine was always ready and willing to take on any task or assignment. Every job, no matter how large or small, was handled with consummate professionalism and meticulous attention to detail. Her services were so valuable that many times she was asked to take a permanent position on my staff. But, she would always laugh and tell me that she preferred simply being a volunteer.

In the early 1990s, Mrs. Pike left San Diego and moved to Tennessee. There she continued her active support of Republican causes. She continued to work as a travel consultant and she began to cultivate her long-standing interest in the activities of the Union Army during the Civil War. After a few years though, poor health caused her to return to Reno. We maintained contact after Christine moved to Reno. Sadly, after a long and courageous fight, Mrs. Pike passed away there last December.

Trying to summarize Christine Pike's life in these few sentences would be an injustice to her, because she accomplished so much more than I have recounted here. She was passionate about honesty and justice. She had no time for fabricators and prevaricators, but she was sensitive to the needs of those who were lost or less fortunate. Always a private person, Christine seldom talked about the many lives she touched. During one of her many "power walks" in the Point Loma area of San Diego, Mrs. Pike befriended a homeless woman, found shelter for her, and faithfully brought her food, blankets and clothing on holidays. In another instance, Mrs. Pike worked to bolster the career of a struggling trumpet player. She tirelessly worked to create relationships that would help small businesses in my Congressional District. Additionally, she worked quietly and behind the scenes to help many of those in law enforcement. For these reasons, and many more, I have established the Christine Pike Volunteer of the Year Award for campaign volunteers in my District.

In closing I would simply like to say that Christine Pike was truly an American patriot. Mrs. Pike's multitude of friends will truly miss her. However, her spirit, her example, and her many selfless acts on behalf of others will live on in the memories of all who knew her, and now, in the RECORD of this hallowed hall.