

HONORING MAYOR JOHN MASON
FOR EXEMPLARY CITIZENSHIP

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Mayor John Mason of Fairfax, Virginia for his strong showing of public service, citizenship, and dedication to Virginia's 11th Congressional District.

John has been a valuable civil servant for over 15 years. First elected as a Fairfax City Councilman in 1986, John's dedication to public service and administration led him to his first successful mayoral election four years later. John served as mayor for the City of Fairfax for 12 years. During his administration transportation was persistently a top priority for John. He champions the adoption of a long-range transportation plan for the Washington metropolitan area. Among his recent accomplishments, John was successful in enhancing emergency transportation units after September 11, 2001.

John, a renowned city leader, is recognized for revitalizing the City of Fairfax's economy and rejuvenating its residential and public areas. The City of Fairfax currently receives more Federal per capita spending than any other city in the United States. This advantage has greatly improved the welfare of the area. Since 1992, John decreased the City of Fairfax's office vacancy rate by nineteen percent. He has also sustained the city's niche as a desirable middle class community. Since 1990, the city welcomed a twelve percent increase in new homes.

John's work with the City of Fairfax's historic sites is also something to be commended. He rehabilitated the Old Town Hall, as well as the Ratcliffe-Allison House. Furthermore, believing that the future of the City of Fairfax relies on the preservation of its history, John commissioned a historic resources position to oversee his rehabilitation efforts.

During the past decade in office, John successfully addressed issues of public safety and environmental concern. City of Fairfax residents have not witnessed a single homicide since 1996, and other major crimes have decreased more than four percent. Improvements in the areas of conservation and the environment involved increased recycling rates and employing pilot environment-friendly, bio-engineering techniques.

John contributes beyond the responsibilities of his leadership position. While mayor, he served as chairman of the National Capital Regional Transportation Planning Board and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. In his professional career, John has been a vice president of the Science Applications International Corporation, and director of its Transportation Policy and Analysis Center.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my warmest gratitude to Mayor John Mason for his admirable contributions to the City of Fairfax. He has distinguished himself through his lifelong devotion to public and community service, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding his achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably absent and missed rollcall votes Nos. 249, 250, 251, and 252. If present I would have voted "yea."

HONORING DR. NANCY BECK
YOUNG—RECIPIENT OF THE D.B.
HARDEMAN PRIZE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Nancy Beck Young for receiving the D.B. Hardeman Prize from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation. The Hardeman Prize is awarded every year by the LBJ Foundation for outstanding works in the areas of biography, history, journalism and political science.

Dr. Young is a history professor at McKendree College in Lebanon, Illinois. In addition to her research, she teaches American political and women's history. She won the Hardeman Prize, a national competition, for her book Wright Patman: Populism, Liberalism, and the American Dream. This book chronicles the life of Wright Patman, who served for 47 years in the House of Representatives, representing northeast Texas. The book eloquently describes Patman's diligent work on behalf of World War I veterans and the business community.

Dr. Young received this honor for writing the best book published on a congressional topic in 2000. This shows her commitment to expanding the scope of knowledge about Congress, her literary craftsmanship, and her creative and thorough approach to research. She has also proven to be a valuable asset to McKendree College, and this award demonstrates the contribution small colleges and universities can make to the research and education community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the work of Dr. Nancy Beck Young and congratulate her upon the receipt of the D.B. Hardeman Prize and to wish her and her family the very best for the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 244, On Approving the Journal. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 245, H. Res. 451. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 246, the Neal Substitute Amendment. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 247, the Motion to Recommit with Instructions H.R. 4931. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 248, final passage of H.R. 4931, the Retirement Savings Security Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING NAVY LEAGUE
OF UNITED STATES ON ITS CEN-
TENNIAL

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise in support of H. Con. Res. 416, which congratulates the Navy League of the United States on the occasion of the centennial of the organization's founding. The Navy League was formed in 1902 as a way for citizens to educate the public about the sea services and to support the men and women that proudly wear the Navy, Marine, Merchant Marine and Coast Guard uniforms. The Navy League has done and continues to do a remarkable job.

Navy League Councils exist throughout this great nation where they honor outstanding officers and enlisted members, host awards ceremonies, sponsor the Naval Sea Cadets Corps and support ship commissioning events. On a national level, the Navy League is an invaluable resource to members of Congress and our staffs. They provide an excellent forum for the scientific, legislative and defense communities to discuss and understand the needs of our maritime services.

My home state of Rhode Island has almost 500 Navy League members. We are very proud of our Navy heritage in Rhode Island, where we create outstanding naval vessels in our shipyards and outstanding naval officers at the Naval War College in Newport. A strong navy can never be taken for granted. We have learned that we must be ever vigilant and in a high state of readiness. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution and I'm grateful that we have the Navy League to constantly remind us how valuable our Navy, Marine Corps, Merchant Marine and Coast Guard are to us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and consequently I was not able to cast my vote on 4 rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 249, H.R. 3937—to revoke a public land order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge in California, "yes".

Rollcall No. 250, H.R. 3786—To revise the boundary of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the States of Utah and Arizona, "yes".

Rollcall No. 251, H.R. 3971—To provide for an independent investigation of Forest Service firefighter deaths that are caused by wildfire entrapment, or burnover, "yes".

Rollcall No. 252, H.J. Res. 95—To designate an official flag of the Medal of Honor and providing for presentation of that flag to each recipient of that Medal of Honor "yes".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 252, 251, 250, and 249, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

BRONZE STAR EVENT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, in a year of honoring heroes, on July 2, 2002, I will have the privilege to honor nine men in my district for their heroism and bravery. These men all fought in World War II and were never awarded the Bronze Stars, which they rightfully earned more than 50 years ago.

These veterans, like countless other men and women of their generation, heard the call and bravely fought to defend the United States and our allies. They put the early years of their adult lives on hold to fight in the deserts of Africa, the islands of the Pacific and in the embattled towns and countrysides of Europe. Some of these soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice and never returned from the war. The fortunate ones who came home made sure to take their civic responsibility to heart. Having defended our freedoms on the battlefield, they realized the importance of preserving these same freedoms at home. Like veterans of all wars, those who fought in World War II continue to play a vital role in our communities by voting, participating in civic affairs and sharing their stories with younger generations so that their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the nine men who will finally receive their Bronze Stars on July 2, 2002: Charles Anders of Redmond who served in Europe, Harold Enger of Bothell who served in Europe and Africa, The late Charles Iffland who served in Europe and Africa, The late William Nielsen who served in Europe, James Owens of Redmond who served in Europe, Ernest Schaefer of Kirkland who served in the Pacific, Trevor Wilkinson of Redmond who served in Europe, Robert Zappone of Kenmore who served in Europe, The late Elmer Peal, who gave his life for his country while serving in the Philippines.

I am proud to have these men and their families in my district. They are true American Heroes.

HONORING THE NORTHEAST ALLISON COMMEMORATION COMMUNITY PROJECT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor the men and women who were a part of the Northeast Allison Commemoration Community Project. This project was composed of citizens, community leaders, civic clubs, churches, and local government and business who banded together for each other after the devastating flooding caused by Tropical Storm Allison.

Last June, when Allison began moving into the Houston area, few had any idea the disaster that lay ahead. Over the week beginning June 6, Allison sat over Houston, Texas, and dumped rainfall in excess of 10"-15", with some areas in the 29th District receiving over 30", with the majority of that falling in a 24 hour period.

Flooding from this storm was severe and widespread, with streets and freeways impassible, residents being rescued from their roofs just before their homes were completely submerged, and schools and other public places transformed into hastily-organized shelters.

The damage to both homes and businesses was estimated at over \$5 billion. However, that total is low, when you consider the inability to completely replace treasured mementos and other valuables that were left behind and washed away or ruined by floodwaters.

In the aftermath of this disaster, the Northeast Allison Commemoration Community Project was formed. This organization helped address the overwhelming sense of helplessness with crisis counseling; strengthened the unity of the community; served as a remembrance to those who lost their lives; and brought healing to the devastated neighborhoods.

This Saturday, the Project will hold a gathering to celebrate their recovery. This gathering will allow members of this community an opportunity to close the door on this difficult period. However, the bonds which were forged and strengthened by this flood will continue, as we all work together in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS L. PIROZZI

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas L. Pirozzi and offer heartfelt congratulations for a successful Battalion Command. Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi is the commanding officer of the 626th Forward Support Battalion, stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and currently on duty near Kandahar, Afghanistan. On July 8, 2002, Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi will be changing command in Afghanistan and will subsequently return to the United States for his next assignment, in Washington, D.C.

Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi was born in Bayonne, New Jersey on November 6, 1961 to

Eli and Elaine Pirozzi. He graduated from Bayonne High School and was commissioned into the Quartermaster Corps through the Rutgers University ROTC program, where he earned a Bachelors degree in Business Administration and American Literature. Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi also holds a Masters of Military Science Degree from the Marine Corps University at Quantico, Virginia.

Prior to taking command of the 626th Forward Support Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi served in a number of positions around the world, including Chief of Logistics Information Systems for the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany; Executive Officer, 82nd Forward Support Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division and XVIII Airborne Corps Airdrop Officer at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Forward Area Support Coordination Officer (FASCO), 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and Commander, 53rd Quartermaster (Airdrop Support), Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi's awards and decorations are as impressive as his service around the world. They include, the Bronze Star Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Campaign Medal (with two Bronze Star Devices), Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Liberation Medals, the Air Assault Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, and the Parachute Rigger badge.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear through his numerous assignments and awards that Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi has served his country with honor and pride. Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking him for his service to our country and to the cause of Freedom, not only here at home, but abroad. I would also ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi home from Afghanistan and wishing him good fortune in his new assignment in Washington, D.C.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHERYL BAKER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to pay tribute to Cheryl Baker who was recently appointed as Mayor of Cortez. This is a special occasion for both Cortez and Cheryl, the first woman to be elected Mayor of Cortez. This position is a reflection of Cheryl's hard work and dedication to improving life for the citizens of Cortez.

The Cortez City Council unanimously nominated Cheryl for the position of mayor by merit of her hard work and leadership skills, which she has so often demonstrated. I am confident that they will serve her well throughout the course of her term and although Cheryl will undoubtedly face many difficult challenges and decisions in the following months, she has clearly exhibited a dedication and willingness to tackle any obstacles that may lie ahead.

Cheryl has expressed considerable concern about the financial state of Cortez and has already begun development on a five-year plan