

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LARRY SHEHADEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Shehadey on the occasion of being granted an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Humane Letters from California State University, Fresno. Mr. Shehadey received the degree during graduation ceremonies on May 25, 2002.

Shehadey, a prominent Fresno businessman, and patriarch of Producers Dairy Foods, a well-known and respected Fresno-based business, is well known for his generosity and contributions to the community. The eight-story clock tower of the new Fresno State athletic facility will be named "The Larry A. Shehadey Clock Tower," and the Grand Lobby at the Southeast entrance will be named after Shehadey's late wife, Elayne.

In 1949, Shehadey sold a successful soap business to Safeway Supermarkets and bought a major interest in Producers Dairy Foods. Larry built the company into one of the largest independent family owned milk producers in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Shehadey for his honorary degree bestowed by California State University, Fresno. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Shehadey for his support of the Fresno community, and wishing him many more years of continued success.

KATIE WEST: A COWGIRL'S PORTRAIT OF THE OLD WEST

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to artist and cowgirl Katie West for her work portraying the Old West and for her passion for living the cowgirl lifestyle on the Rocking KT Ranch with her quarter horses and collie dogs. Katie has always strived for perfection and is considered one of the finest pen-and-ink artists in the nation.

Besides her pen-and-ink drawings, Katie has earned a worldwide reputation for her oils on canvas, watercolors and her own unique process called petrography, which is fine line engraving in granite, crystal and solid jade. Her technique allows her to hold more detail in granite than anyone in the world. Katie's depictions of animals, particularly horses, and the Old West has brought her wide acclaim. In fact, others have proclaimed her work to be in form and quality a worthy heir to the great western artistry of Charles Russell, Frederick Remington and Frank Tenney Johnson. In addition, Katie has been nominated to the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Her oil paintings, including "The American Cowboy," "Forever Eternal Red, White and Blue," "God Bless the U.S.A.," and a painting of a real cowboy on the range called "Born in the U.S.A.," evoke strong emotions and recall a simpler time when the lines between good and evil seemed as clearly defined as the difference between a white hat and a black one. Her petrigraph engravings also are stirring, including "Comanche," and studies of Clayton Moore as "The Lone Ranger," John Wayne, Gene Autry and Gary Cooper.

Katie also has been a featured artist at a wide-range of art shows and other events across the nation. She has appeared on local and national television shows and her work has been illustrated in magazines from coast to coast. Her art, music and writing have spread joy and happiness to fans young and old all over the world. Collectors of Katie's work include such luminaries and fans of the western tradition as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, jockeys Bill Shoemaker and Gary Stevens, singer Pat Boone and astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the United States Congress for the artistry of Katie West. Her dedication to conveying the strength of spirit and the vigor of the Old West in her artwork serves to preserve and rekindle the romanticism and patriotism that have always helped our nation overcome obstacles and adversity. I can think of no better time to have an artist such as Katie West riding the range for our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 253, on Agreeing to the Journal. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 254, H.R. 4858, To Improve Access to Physicians in Medically Underserved Areas. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 255, H.R. 4679, the Lifetime Consequences for Sex Offenders Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 256, H.R. 4623, the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act of 2002. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 257, H.R. 4846, the Securities and Exchange Commission Authorization Act of 2002. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

IMPROVING ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS IN MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer my support for the bill H.R. 4858, which will extend and expand the J-1 visa waiver program. This legislation is vital for Maine and other states that have difficulties in finding physicians to practice in rural and underserved areas. Workforce shortages threaten access to care for all our citizens, and rural areas in particular face significant obstacles in attracting healthcare professionals. This legislation extends for an additional two years the successful state J-1 visa waiver program.

The ability for states to sponsor foreign physicians began in 1994. Until this authority expired at the end of May, states were able to sponsor 20 physicians a year, allowing them to remain in practice in underserved areas.

Maine's sponsorship of J-1 waiver applicants began in 1997. The State has used close to the maximum number of slots each year. Recently, the State of Maine responded to growing demand by expanding the scope of the waiver program, allowing specialists to apply for J-1 waivers. Additionally, more areas of the state were deemed eligible for such waivers. Consequently, Maine now maximizes its number of available sponsorships. This bill goes the step further to expand the current number of state waivers from 20 to 30, and therefore greatly enhances the ability of my State and many others to meet future needs in underserved areas.

There is some urgency to this matter, because the Department of Agriculture has suspended its processing of J-1 waiver applications. Therefore, this state waiver ability remains the only route left to ensure these primary and specialty physicians remain in underserved areas.

As a Member of the bipartisan House Rural Health Care Coalition, I've been involved in efforts to maintain the current J-1 visa waiver process. This particular waiver program is not a long-term solution to healthcare workforce shortages, but it is providing valuable resources right now to underserved areas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JERRY MORAN for introducing this legislation, and encourage all my colleagues to support H.R. 4858.

● 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.

HONORING DEBORAH A. CHAMBERS, CRNA, MHSA PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding resident of South Carolina, Deborah A. Chambers. Ms. Chambers will soon complete her year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am very pleased that one of South Carolina's own was tapped as the 2001–2002 president of this prestigious national organization.

The AANA is the professional association that represents over 28,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Founded in 1931, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists is the professional association representing CRNAs nationwide. As you may know, CRNAs administer more than 65 percent of the anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia provider in over two-thirds of rural hospitals, affording these medical facilities obstetrical, surgical and trauma stabilization capabilities. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; ambulatory surgical centers and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and plastic surgeons.

Debbie has been a nurse anesthetist since 1981. She received both her anesthesia training and Masters of Health Service Administration at the Medical University of South Carolina, in Charleston, SC. She has been a solo practitioner since 1993 at the Microsurgery Center in Anderson, SC, as well as in both Greenville Memorial Medical Center and Saint Francis Bon Secours Hospital System in Greenville, SC. In addition to her role as a solo practitioner, she was the Clinical Coordinator at the Medical University of South Carolina School of Nurse Anesthesia at Greenville Memorial Medical Center from 1988–2000. Even with her demanding schedule as a practicing nurse anesthetist and AANA president, Debbie has continued to be active as a CRNA representative for pharmaceutical advisory panels such as Pharmacia and Glaxo Smith Kline since 2001 in order to advance the practice of anesthesia.

Debbie has held various leadership positions in the AANA as regional director, vice president, and president-elect before becoming the national president of the AANA in 2001. Ms. Chambers has actively served within the SC Association of Nurse Anesthetist as a District Representative on the board of directors and then in 1994 as state president. Since 1994, Debbie has taken her experience and knowledge from the work place and her AANA leadership roles to lecture on political and academic anesthesia related topics before different professional groups and societies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing Ms. Deborah A. Chambers, CRNA, MHSA, for her notable career and outstanding achievements. Congratulations Debbie.

STATEMENT COMMEMORATING THE PASSING OF AMVETS FOUNDING MEMBER ALBERT C. GEREMIA

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the recent passing of a former constituent of Rhode Island's Second District, Albert C. Geremia, native and long-time resident of the City of Providence. Mr. Geremia passed away on June 4th at Hickory House Nursing Home in Honeybrook, Pennsylvania. Mr. Geremia was a Navy veteran of World War II and had a long and distinguished career in management for two Providence firms. As a Navy veteran, Mr. Geremia was a founding member of the Congressionally-chartered veterans service organization, AMVETS, of which Mr. Geremia was the last surviving founder.

Mr. Geremia was one of eighteen individuals who began AMVETS. He worked to secure its Congressional charter and to establish an office in Washington, DC. For his efforts, AMVETS awarded him the organization's "Ray Sawyer Award" at their 1952 National Convention. Since its founding in 1944 in Kansas City, AMVETS has worked tirelessly on behalf of America's veterans and the community at large. Veterans across the nation owe men like Albert Geremia a debt of gratitude for all they have done to keep and protect those benefits promised to our veterans.

Our nation can never have too many men the caliber of Albert Geremia. By helping to found AMVETS, he strove for something larger than himself. A man should not be remembered for the wealth and possessions he earned in life, but rather, for what sort of man he was and what he did to make the world a better place.

Mr. Geremia is survived by his wife, Anne, a daughter, Linda, and son, Paul. I offer them my deepest condolences at this time of great loss, and I hope they will take great comfort in knowing how fondly Albert will be remembered by those whose lives he touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, due to commitments in my home state of Michigan, I was unable to cast votes on Monday, June 24. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall 249, on agreeing to H.R. 3937; "yea" on rollcall 250, on agreeing to H.R. 3786; "yea" on rollcall 251, on agreeing to H.R. 3971; and "yea" on rollcall 252, on agreeing to H.J. Res. 95.

HONORING DR. WALTER L. BUSTER, ED.D.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Walter Buster upon his retirement as Superintendent of Clovis Unified School District. Dr. Buster was honored at a dinner among his colleagues, friends, and family.

Dr. Buster has dedicated his life to education and has served many communities throughout California. Walter's colleagues agree, regardless of his position, he contributes vision, leadership, and ingenuity to his team. He has orchestrated many programs in the Clovis Unified School District in the seven years he has been there. Four of his top programs illustrate his unique ability to visualize current needs with respect for the future. He implemented "Laptops for Learners," a joint venture with Microsoft and Toshiba to supply all students with laptops to perform their daily classroom activities. Dr. Buster saw another of his visions come to fruition with the development of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology. The center will provide up to 1,800 11th and 12th grade students with advanced project-based training in 12 different technology based laboratory environments. Walter realizes the importance of reading to students, and put into action yet another program, called "Community of Readers." Volunteers from the community dedicate one hour per week to read with the students. Always keeping in mind the importance of being an influential citizen within the community, Dr. Buster started "Character Counts!" a program that teaches students six core principles: responsibility, respect, fairness, caring, citizenship, and trustworthiness.

Dr. Buster's contributions to the Clovis education system are obvious, but he has also made a tremendous impact on the community. He serves on many state and local education and business committees. The State Board of Education recently appointed Dr. Buster to the WestEd Board of Directors, a non-profit research, development and service agency dedicated to improving education and other opportunities for children, youth and adults.

AN AMERICAN COWBOY LEGEND:
BEN COOPER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the voluminous and noteworthy acting career of Ben Cooper, a performer whose work in the Western genre has informed and entertained generations of youngsters about the history and the myths of the Old West. Many fans may recognize that Ben has always had a special place in his heart for the Western, but perhaps not everyone knows that he met his wife, Pamela, while working on the "Wagon Train" series with Ward Bond.

While Ben is perhaps best known for his role in the non-western drama, "The Rose