

THE HONORABLE DAN NOBLE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize the Honorable Dan Noble of Norwood, Colorado, who passed away on November 12, 2002. Dan Noble was an exceptional man who spent his life serving his community and his nation.

Dan was an Army veteran and served as a staff sergeant in a motor battalion in Korea from 1950 to 1952. When he returned from the military he married his wife, Donna, and attended the University of Colorado School of Banking from 1960 to 1962. He became the President and the Director of the San Miguel Basin State Bank in Norwood.

In 1970, Dan was appointed to fill a one-year vacancy in the Colorado State Senate. He continued to faithfully serve his constituents for a total of 17 years. He served seven of these years as the Majority Leader. Senator Noble was respected by all of his peers and his commitment to the people of Colorado is a great example for all who serve in the Colorado General Assembly.

Dan died of cancer at the age of 73, leaving behind his five children: Douglas Noble, Danette Christiansen, Darin Noble, DruAnn Nemecek, and Darcy Crotteau.

Dan Noble was truly a great man. It is with sadness that I inform the House of the loss of such an exceptional American. I ask the House to join me in extending its sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Noble.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JOHN N.
ABRAMS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career has come to an end. General John N. Abrams' 36 years of service to the nation has been marked by meritorious service in increasingly demanding command and staff positions, culminating as Commanding General, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), Fort Monroe, Virginia. Throughout, General Abrams demonstrated strong and inspiring leadership, unsurpassed executive ability, and an untiring dedication to the spirit and mission of the United States Army.

General Abrams was commissioned through Officer Candidate School at Fort Knox, Kentucky, on February 3, 1967, after enlisting in the United States Army on February 17, 1966. He is a graduate of Bowling Green State University in Ohio with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Shippensburg State University of Pennsylvania with a Masters of Science in Public Administration. He is also a 1986 graduate of the Army War College.

General Abrams has served in command and staff positions over the last thirty-five years. He is a combat veteran of Vietnam from August 1967 to July 1969 where he

served as an armored cavalry platoon leader and armored cavalry troop commander with the 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry, which deployed from the 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas. He commanded the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fulda, Germany, from 1988 to 1990; the 2d Infantry Division, Uijongbu, Korea, from 1993 to 1995; and V Corps, Heidelberg, Germany, from 1995 to 1997. Prior to assuming command of TRADOC, he was the TRADOC Deputy Commanding General from August 1997 to September 1998.

His service includes staff assignments as Chief of Staff of the 3rd Armored Division in Germany; Military Science Instructor at the United States Military Academy at West Point; Army Staff Officer in War Plans and Deputy Director of Operations Directorate in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations and Plans.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star with three oak leaf clusters and Valor device, and the Purple Heart. He has also received the Knight Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Throughout his career, General Abrams has made significant contributions at every level assigned. In his final assignment, he brought to bear the accumulated experience and dedication of a career spent serving the nation and our soldiers. He has provided continuity for the Profession of Arms—integrity, loyalty, dedication, mentorship, vision, and the willingness to take and stand behind the risks associated with implementing change in the Army. General Abrams' distinguished performance of duty will have far-reaching impacts on the future of the Army. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing General Abrams all the best.

H.R. 1070: THE GREAT LAKES
LEGACY ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the magnitude of the Great Lakes water system is difficult to appreciate, even for those who live within the basin. As the world's largest body of fresh water, the Great Lakes are sensitive to the effects of a wide range of pollutants. The sources of pollution include runoff from farm chemicals, waste from cities, and discharges from industrial areas and waste disposal sites. The large surface area of the lakes makes them vulnerable to direct atmospheric pollutants of all kinds, such as mercury.

H.R. 1070 amends the Clean Water Act to authorize \$50 million a year for fiscal years 2004 through 2008 for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carry out remediation projects in Areas of Concern (AOCs) surrounding the Great Lakes to monitor or evaluate contaminated sediment, remediate contaminated sediment, or prevent further or renewed contamination of sediment.

Contamination of the Great Lakes is an issue that directly affects my district. The city of Waukegan in my district was home to what

many have called the worst PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) contaminated site in the U.S. Waukegan lies fifty miles north of Chicago directly on the shore of Lake Michigan. Waukegan Harbor was designated in the 1980's an Area of Concern (AOC) by the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes, the United States EPA and the Illinois EPA.

The contamination of Waukegan Harbor took place over a 13-year period from 1959 to 1973. The U.S. EPA approximated that during that time 300,000 pounds of PCBs were discharged directly into the water of Lake Michigan and an additional 700,000 were discharged on the property by the Outboard Marine Corporation. An average 9–10 pounds of PCBs were discharged into Lake Michigan daily.

The cleanup of Waukegan Harbor has been successful thus far removing approximately 500 tons of PCB contaminated sediment from Waukegan Harbor. However, more corrective action is necessary before the harbor can be de-listed as an AOC. Passage of H.R. 1070 will go a long way in continuing the movement to de-list Waukegan Harbor and clean the remaining Great Lakes AOCs.

I applaud the Congress for taking this important step addressing contaminated sediments in the Great Lakes basin. The time has come to protect the Great Lakes from the other dangers, such as mercury pollution and invasive species. Earlier this session I introduced H.R. 5261, the Great Lakes Mercury Reduction Act, which will prohibit the issuance of new permits under the Clean Air Act that would result in the deposition of any additional mercury into the Great Lakes.

Congress must also adopt a comprehensive plan to stop the introduction of alien species into the region. H.R. 5396 and 5397 seek to reauthorize the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act to address existing loopholes in our laws and authorize much needed funding to upgrade the fight against aquatic invasive species, along with expanding the Aquatic Nuisance Species Dispersal Barrier on the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and thank Mr. EHLERS for his tireless work on H.R. 1070. His work on this legislation, and other Great Lakes issues, has been remarkable. I would also like to thank the groups involved in the Waukegan Harbor cleanup effort, including the U.S. EPA, the Illinois EPA, and the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group. Hopefully, the passage of H.R. 1070 will enable our community to celebrate the delisting of Waukegan Harbor.

AFRO-AMERICAN MUSIC
INSTITUTE

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to a milestone that was recently observed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On September 21, the Afro-American Music Institute celebrated its 20th anniversary.

The Afro-American Music Institute was established in 1982 by ethnomusicologist Dr.

James T. Johnson, Jr. and his wife Pamela Johnson. Dr. Johnson has been the director of the AAMI since its founding, and Mrs. Johnson serves as manager of this non-profit organization. They have worked tirelessly over the last 20 years to expand and improve the programs offered by the AAMI.

For the past 20 years, the AAMI has trained musicians of all ages and backgrounds in jazz, gospel, and blues for voice and instruments. Over that period of time, the Afro-American Music Institute has trained thousands of students. In addition to vocal and instrumental instruction, the AAMI curriculum includes such subjects as directing, improvisation, song writing and arrangement, and music theory, as well as the technical and managerial aspects of musical performance. The AAMI sponsors several musical ensembles, including a youth jazz group, a sacred music choir, a boys' choir, and a faculty ensemble.

The Institute was originally located in St. James AME Church in Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood, but in 1992, it incorporated and moved to its current location at 7227 Tioga Street. The AAMI has plans to relocate to a new building on Hamilton Avenue early next year.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I want to commend Dr. and Mrs. Johnson and the faculty and students of the Afro-American Music Institute for their educational and cultural contributions to our community and wish them continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 477, final passage of H.R. 5710, The Homeland Security Act of 2002, I was detained in traffic from an event honoring federal employees. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF REPRESENTATIVE
CARRIE MEEK

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my dear colleague, Carrie Meek, whom I have had the privilege of working with from the great state of Florida.

A freshman from the class of 1992, Carrie represents Florida's 17th district, encompassing large portions of my hometown, Miami.

In her very first term, we were all impressed by her ability to win a seat on the Appropriations Committee, the only freshman Democrat to do so. She has also served admirably on the Treasury Postal Service and VA/HUD Committees, consistently advocating on behalf of African Americans, fighting for job creation and business development through Federal programs.

Always fighting for the underdog, Carrie has served with an iron fist in a velvet glove. Al-

though we sit on opposite sides of the aisle, I have always respected her work and welcomed the arrival of her son, Kendrick, to the Congress. My office and the entire Florida Delegation look forward to working with him. We are certain he will carry on Carrie's fine family tradition of lawmaking.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Florida's 17th Congressional District have been better served for Carrie's service in Congress. This body exists so that the people of our country have a voice in their government. The votes Floridians cast to send her to Washington brought this House reasoned judgment, energetic lawmaking and strong conviction. Today we honor her service to her country and wish her well.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE
HONORABLE CHARLES ROSSOTTI

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service to our country that has been performed by our outgoing Internal Revenue Service Commissioner, Charles Rossotti.

Commissioner Rossotti was one of the longest serving Commissioners in the history of the Internal Revenue Service and the first to have a five-year term as recommended in the landmark IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1988. During his tenure, Commissioner Rossotti provided the IRS with the leadership it needed as it went through the most dramatic change in its history. The structural and cultural reforms he implemented will have a positive impact on both the IRS and taxpayers for many years to come.

Under Commissioner Rossotti's leadership, the IRS was reorganized into four divisions, each of which is responsible for a specific segment of taxpayers. This model allows taxpayers to receive expert and personalized service and permits the IRS to more efficiently use its resources. Another significant accomplishment under Commissioner Rossotti's watch is the expanded ability to exchange data electronically. During the last tax season, nearly one in three Form 1040s was filed electronically, and the IRS Web site has become one of the most popular sites on the Internet. Charles has managed the implementation of many taxpayer rights contained in the IRS restructuring law, such as the innocent spouse and collection due process protections, and has strengthened the role of the National Taxpayer Advocate.

Commissioner Rossotti's accomplishments have set the IRS on the right track to providing top-quality service and fairness to all taxpayers. He is to be commended for his efforts to transform the IRS into a performance-based organization, and dispel the belief that customer service and enforcement are mutually exclusive. Perhaps the broadest indicator of Commissioner Rossotti's impact on the IRS has been the steady rise in the public perception of the IRS in the last four years.

Mr. Speaker, Charles accomplished all of this at a time in his life when he was ready to leave full-time employment and enjoy a slower paced life. He and his wife, Barbara, put their

personal plans on hold for the past five years while he served our country nobly and well. He is a true citizen servant in the great tradition of the Roman hero Cincinnatus. Our country owes him a debt of gratitude for his outstanding public service. We wish Charles and Barbara the very best.

FAMILY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE
IN CONGRESS

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on my last 12 years here in United States Congress. I have enjoyed this experience and consider it to be one of the most gratifying opportunities of my life. I am grateful for the people of the Third District of Indiana who allowed me to serve with such intelligent, honorable and talented people. It is my hope that we have made some strides in making the lives of Americans better and more prosperous for the future. As I leave this body, one of my regrets will be that this institution did not set more of a priority on scheduling, which is essential to a balanced, family and professional life. With a quote, I would like to point to the following example of our colleagues across the Atlantic who have set a family-friendly precedent as part of their agenda.

Winston Churchill once said, "There is no doubt that it is around the family and the home that all the greatest virtues, the most dominating virtues of human society, are created, strengthened and maintained."

According to an article in the New York Times, Members of the British Parliament recently reaffirmed their commitment to this principle. The House of Commons voted to end a centuries old tradition of late-night sessions, moving the start of business up to 11:30 a.m. from 2:30 p.m., and declaring that the latest a session can go is 7:30 p.m. This is three hours earlier than the usual closing time. This vote apparently came after a nine-hour debate that ended at midnight.

This schedule is all too familiar to us here in the United States Congress. We have had more than our fair share of late nights. Some of these nights have been essential, especially when we are considering measures on how to combat the war on terrorism or balance the budget. Oftentimes, these sessions are indeed vital. However, more often than not, there was no compelling reason to be in session so late.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the hard work of my colleagues during this 107th Congress and past Congresses. I am, however, concerned about the impact of inefficient scheduling on our spouses and children. This ritual has become a norm in this governing. We have struggled through many late nights only to accomplish very little at times and only to disappoint our families when we cannot get on a plane to get home or make it back in time to tuck our children into bed.

As Co-chairs of the Members and Family Committee, my friend, the gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. PICKERING, and I have worked with the Committee to make it possible to mesh family time with Congressional business. We have hosted dinners and movie nights and brought in speakers to make this body a more