

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO TOM RYDER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Tom Ryder, and all the great work he did as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives over the last 18 years.

Mr. Ryder was born in 1949, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Northern Illinois University, and received a Juris Doctor degree from Washington and Lee University. Then, in 1983, he was elected to the Illinois General Assembly as the Representative for the 97th District.

There he served with honor and distinction until his recent retirement on November 13, 2001. He was the Deputy Republican Leader of the House and Co-Chairman of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. In addition to his leadership responsibilities, he sponsored and cosponsored many important pieces of legislation, such as medical malpractice reform and the deterrence of welfare fraud and abuse.

But his good works were not limited to the House floor—he was also a civic and community leader. Mr. Ryder was an active member of the Peace United Church of Christ, Chairman of the Jerseyville All-Weather Track Committee, founder of the Jersey Community High School Theatre Friends, former chairman of the United Way, and former co-chairman of the Jersey County Cancer Crusade Bike-A-Thon. He is truly a kind and industrious person.

Mr. Speaker, we need more men like Tom Ryder. Not only has he admirably served both his country and his community for almost two decades in the Illinois General Assembly, but he also plans to continue his service after he retires, as Vice President of External Affairs with the Illinois Community College Board. For all of these things, he deserves the gratitude and well wishes of these chambers. May God bless him and grant him fortune in all his future endeavors.

ORZELL BILLINGSLEY, CIVIL RIGHTS HERO

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great hero of the civil rights struggle in Alabama, Orzell Billingsley.

Mr. Billingsley was one of the lead lawyers for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955, the struggle which is known as the first act of the modern civil rights movement. This historic movement created the freedom in America which blacks now enjoy.

One of the first ten blacks admitted to the Alabama bar, he then began a series of legal representation during civil rights cases, and was instrumental in taking the movement into the courts.

When Alabama created its "Freedom Democrats," named the National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA), Mr. Billingsley was General Counsel for the Party, and was a delegate for the NDPA at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in 1968.

Deeply concerned with real democracy, Mr. Billingsley was instrumental in the creation of over 20 small towns incorporated in Alabama. That these black majority towns were incorporated during the difficult days of the civil rights era shows how important his contribution to freedom and democracy was.

One of his most important cases was that of Caliph Washington, who was in a scuffle in 1957 with a policeman when the policeman's gun accidentally fired. While the officer's wife collected insurance money following what was ruled an accidental death, Mr. Washington was nevertheless charged with capital murder by an all white jury.

Mr. Billingsley fought the conviction through four trials over the next 15 years, finally winning an acquittal for Mr. Washington and ending the era of all white juries in Jefferson County, Alabama.

Through all these years of heroic work, Mr. Billingsley often was unpaid for his services as an attorney, because his clients were impoverished. He simply went on with his life saving work, putting people and freedom before money.

Mr. Billingsley was nationally prominent, and was the recipient of calls from Presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson during the civil rights crisis in Alabama.

Mr. Billingsley passed away on December 14, 2001. His work for freedom and justice will live on forever.

GIRL SCOUTS GOLD MEDAL
RECIPIENT: LAURA MANZI

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students: Laura Manzi. In February, the young women of her troop will honor her by bestowing upon her the Girl Scouts Gold Medal.

Since the beginning of this century, the Girls Scouts of America have provided thousands of youngsters each year the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

These awards are presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. The

Gold Awards represent the highest awards attainable by junior and high school Girl Scouts.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipient of this award, as her activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Laura, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young woman on her day of recognition.

HONORING ROBERT C. SHINN, JR.

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Robert C. Shinn, Jr., who served as the 11th Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) longer than any other commissioner in the DEP's 31-year history.

Bob Shinn also served as an elected official at the local, county and state levels for 26 years, where much of his effort was devoted to open space, Pinelands and farmland preservation, water supply and solid waste management issues.

Among his legislative accomplishments was authorship of New Jersey's Water Supply Critical Area Law, which gives the state the necessary authority to effectively manage threatened surface and ground water resources. He guided the passage of several key laws, including our state's Mandatory Recycling Act and the revision of the A-901 solid waste hauler screening program, and also authored the law regulating the handling and disposal of medical waste in New Jersey.

On the local level, Bob served as Township Committeeman and Mayor of Hainesport from 1968 to 1977. He served as Burlington County Freeholder from 1977 to 1985, and as Freeholder Director for two years. He was responsible for the formation of the Burlington County Pinelands Conservation Easement Advisory committee, and was instrumental in securing the first conservation easement in the Pinelands. To that end, he was elected vice-chairman of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission from 1979 to 1985.

Mr. Shinn was instrumental in developing Burlington County's Solid Waste Management Plan and its Environmental Complex, which serves as the county's multi-functional resource recovery facility as well as an environmental research and demonstration facility.

Bob Shinn has been a shining star in the annals of New Jersey's history, locally, on the

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county level, and state-wide through his work with the DEP. His commitment and dedication to our state and its people will be sorely missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during Thursday's rollcall vote on S. 1762, amending the Higher Education Act with respect to student loan interest rates. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this measure.

HONORING DR. DOUG LIGON, FINALIST FOR "COUNTRY DOCTOR OF THE YEAR."

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Doug Ligon, one of only four national finalists for "Country Doctor of the Year 2001." Dr. Ligon is a family doctor at Trinity Hospital in Erin, Tennessee, where his coworkers describe him as a big-city boy with a country heart.

Born and schooled in Nashville, Ligon attended Vanderbilt University and the University of Tennessee Medical School, then planned to stay in an urban area to work as a dermatologist. His plans would change, however, after he accepted what was originally to be a temporary job in the small town of Erin in Houston County.

Almost thirty years later, Dr. Ligon is still working in Erin. He says he could not leave, once he realized how much he was needed at Trinity Hospital, where he worked eighty hours each week as one of only a handful of doctors treating a five-county area. Dr. Ligon also acted as Houston County's medical examiner and county coroner, for which he would not accept pay, saying that the county needed that money more than he did.

Dr. Ligon says he appreciates getting to know his patients and their families over time, following the progress of babies he delivered, some of whom are grown now and have families of their own. He says working in a small town allows him to experience what being a family doctor is all about—getting to know his patients, treating them and being able to watch after their general welfare.

Dr. Ligon says his family has been supportive of his decision to remain in Erin. His wife Betsy is, in fact, the person responsible for nominating Dr. Ligon for the prestigious "Country Doctor of the Year" award, as a way to recognize him for the service he provides to the people of Houston County, Tennessee.

We know many medical professionals care deeply about what they do and the patients they see, but Dr. Ligon's years of free-hearted work have been invaluable to the people of Erin and the surrounding communities. He has proven time and time again that he is a leader among his peers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in thanking Dr. Doug Ligon for his years of selfless service and congratulating Dr. Ligon for his distinguished recognition as a national finalist for the title "Country Doctor of the Year."

GIRL SCOUTS GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT: STEPHANIE ROBEDEE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students: Stephanie Robedee. In February, the young women of her troop will honor her by bestowing upon her the Girl Scouts Gold Medal.

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These awards are presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. The Gold Awards represent the highest awards attainable by junior and high school Girl Scouts.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipient of this award, as her activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Stephanie, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young woman on her day of recognition.

A TRIBUTE TO MATT GREENE OF BIRMINGHAM

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to a fallen youth from my hometown of Birmingham, Matt Greene. Born Matthew James Greene, Matt was the youngest son of Ken and Barbara Greene and the brother of Michael and Laura. Matt was only 17 years old when he tragically died in the early hours of January 12, 2002, at his home in the presence of his family. He was only 30 days shy of reaching his 18th birthday of February 15, which he shared with his twin brother Michael.

Matt was an exceptional young man. He was handsome, tall and a little on the skinny side with a keen interest in having fun. He had a quick sly smile that melted the hearts of girls and guys alike. He always had a twinkle in his eye when he smiled, and had a zest for life that defied rhyme or reason. He was the Mas-

ter of his own destiny who loved to hunt and fish and reveled in telling a joke. He had great tolerance for all people and all beliefs and his one goal in life was to be loved and liked. He truly had no enemies or malice toward any people. He loved R.&B. music much to the amusement of his friends and frequently to the annoyance of his family, and especially his brother whose bedroom reverberated with the bass of Matt's music into the early hours of most mornings.

The death of Matt is very tragic because for just a few moments, Matt lost sight of his dreams, his future, his family and his friends. Matt forgot the past, denied the future and only focused on the NOW and the pain, which NOW contained. Matt died in an accident that no one had the power to prevent and for which no one should feel guilt. There is no one and nothing to blame, but the blinding light of pain, despair and misplaced loneliness. I say misplaced loneliness, for Matt had many friends, old and young, male and female, rich and poor, black and white. At Matt's funeral mass, over 1,200 people who loved him gathered together and prayed to God for Matt's eternal soul.

It has been said, "wishing on last night's star will not change tomorrow's dawn." However, instead of succumbing to the demons of anger and self-doubt, Matt's family and friends are turning instead to the balm of God's healing and understanding. All of Matt's friends will miss his crooked smile and his frequent requests of "Can you do me a favor, man?" His teachers and fellow students at his high school will miss his antics, and the Rite-Aid Pharmacy where he worked has lost a valuable team player and morale builder. Matt's family and loved ones miss his embrace, his kisses, his loyalty, and his unyielding love. Those people who love Matt have told me they will wait a lifetime to join him again. May the Congress, by these remarks, offer comfort and solace for Matt's family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO THE DISASTER MORTUARY OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM, REGION VI, OF LOUISIANA

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the nine Louisiana residents who put fear aside and risked their lives to recover those lost on September 11, 2001, during the tragic attack on the World Trade Center.

The Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT), administered through USPHS and funded through FEMA, provides assistance upon request of local authorities in the event of a mass fatality incident. Regional VI consists of participants hailing from Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. This team was deployed to New York City several days after the terrorist attacks to assist the New York Medical Examiner. Subsequent to this assignment, Region VI was then transferred to the American Aircraft crash in Queens, New York.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Commander Charles D. Smith, Jr., led Louisiana residents Anthony Buras, Jordan Charlet, Arbie Goings, Shelly