

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO VOLUNTEERS OF LAKE COUNTY PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm and respect that I wish to congratulate the multitude of volunteers who donate their time and effort to the Lake County Purdue University Cooperative Extension Office located in Crown Point, Indiana. The devoted assistance of these selfless individuals has brought a spirit of volunteerism to the Northwest Indiana community that embodies the culture of its people. The citizens of Northwest Indiana owe them a debt of gratitude, and they will be honored for their commitment, at a dinner reception celebrating National Volunteer Week on April 23, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, National Volunteer Week has been celebrated since 1974, when President Nixon issued an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration to honor those who volunteer at the local, state, and national levels, and also as an opportunity to impress upon others the benefits and sense of satisfaction that volunteerism provides. This year's theme, "Celebrate the American Spirit—Volunteer!", carries added significance after the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The outpouring of generosity was evident in the days and weeks following the attacks, as volunteers around the country helped initiate the healing process. Through the efforts to these courageous individuals, the Northwest Indiana community continues to unite.

Through a variety of programs, the Lake County Purdue University Cooperative Extension Office assistance to those throughout Lake County. The local 4-H Club is committed to positive youth development by planning camps, workshops, and other activities in which the young citizens of Lake County can participate. Master Gardeners is a program that provides volunteers an opportunity to revitalize their communities through activities related to gardening. Members of this group answer questions related to gardening, conduct gardening schools, and work diligently on community beautification projects. The Extension Homemakers Association works to strengthen Lake County families and help them to develop their homes and communities. Volunteers in this group assist families to maintain physical and mental health and to use their human and economic resources in the most efficient manner. These programs, along with the many others that the Lake County Purdue University Cooperative Extension Office provide, serve as vital resources to the citizens of Lake County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the volunteers of the Lake County Pur-

due University Cooperative Extension Office for their loyalty and dedication to the Northwest Indiana community. The contributions these individuals make to their fellow citizens and the improvements they provide to their communities cannot be measured with numbers. They create a feeling of camaraderie that expands throughout their neighborhoods and helps to bring a sense of belonging to each of their fellow citizens. Volunteers are a vital part of our community, and I am proud to represent these dedicated individuals in Congress.

IN HONOR OF THE PUERTO RICAN ACTION BOARD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Puerto Rican Action Board on its 30th Anniversary, which was celebrated on Saturday, April 20, 2002, at Pines Manor in New Jersey.

For three decades, the Puerto Rican Action Board (PRAB) has been developing proactive programs to address the needs of the community and improve the quality of life of our families. A private, nonprofit corporation, they have improved local neighborhoods by caring for our children, educating our youth, maintaining and improving our homes, ensuring job placement opportunities, and fighting for justice in our communities.

Serving all people regardless of age, race, creed, color, or national origin, the PRAB is the only social services agency in central New Jersey that offers comprehensive home improvement, preschool, and social services through a bilingual/culturally sensitive approach.

The present programs and services of PRAB include: Greater New Brunswick and Ocean County Multi-Service Program; Pilot Project for Better Housing; "Our Children" Project; Youth Development Program; Latino Scholars Program; Student Re-Engagement Program; Healing Through the Arts; Artists Mentoring Against Racism Summer Program; Bilingual/Multi-cultural Daycare and Preschool Program; Middlesex County Weatherization Assistance Program; Home Energy Assistance Program; New Jersey Statewide Heating Assistance and Referral for Energy Services; English Classes; and numerous other community-oriented programs.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Puerto Rican Action Board for its efforts to improve the quality of community life for all people. Their presence in our community does not go unnoticed and we give our heartfelt thanks for all that they do.

HONORING THE 7TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSUMER ART SHOW SPONSORED BY THE MORNING-SIDE-WESTSIDE COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morningside-Westside Community Action Corporation as they prepare to host the Seventh Annual Consumer Art Show in New York city.

Working outside the conventional restraints, art participants are mental health consumers from the five boroughs who employ art to communicate their singular expressions, idioms, and viewpoints. The artists represented in this show have one thing in common, and that is a history of serious and persistent mental illness. The beautiful and inspirational art in this show celebrates the artist's individual vision, humanity, and insight.

I applaud the good people at the Morningside-Westside Community Action Corporation for spearheading such a superb gathering of artistic genius.

Founded in 1994, Morningside-Westside Community Action Corporation is an organization that has been actively involved in issues of the mentally ill. Comprised of a group of mental health consumers, family members, providers, and friends—they work as a team to serve not only the mental health community, but the community at large. Through day-to-day activities, employment, and special events, the Morningside-Westside Community Action Corporation not only promotes the rights of those suffering from mental illness, but helps increase the understanding of these rights as well.

These dedicated individuals work hard in order to build a better future for those with mental illness. Their commitment to educate, empower, and enrich the mental health consumer should be an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF CLARENCE "PETE" PHILLIPS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding public service of a good friend of mine, Clarence "Pete" Phillips. Pete is retiring at the end of his current term as a representative of the 62nd Legislative District of Tennessee, a seat he has held since 1973.

During his nearly 30 years in the Tennessee House of Representatives, Pete served his constituents faithfully and honorably. He has

• 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.

done a remarkable job helping the communities he represents grow and prosper. Pete's never-ending work to bolster educational opportunities for our children is admirable. And his unflinching commitment to help communities provide better services and better jobs for their residents is unequalled.

Pete has never shied away from his commitments, a trait displayed not only in the Tennessee General Assembly, but also in the South Pacific during World War II. Pete's grit and determination to get the job done has benefitted a wonderful state and a grateful Nation.

The people of Bedford and Lincoln counties could not have asked for a better public servant. His leadership and work ethic will be sorely missed in the General Assembly. As his wife, Faith, once told me, "If ever a man had his heart in his work, Pete Phillips did." I cordially congratulate Pete on his distinguished career as a public servant and wish him well in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NEW LIFE MEMBERS
AND OTHER MEMBERS OF GARY,
INDIANA BRANCH OF NAACP

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize and commend the members of the Gary, Indiana, branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). On Friday, May 3, 2002, the Gary NAACP will hold its 39th Annual Life Membership Banquet and Scholarship Dinner at the St. Timothy Community Church in Gary, Indiana.

This annual event is a major fundraiser for the Gary branch of the NAACP. The funds generated through this activity, and others like it, go directly to the organization's needed programs and advocacy efforts. In addition, the dinner serves to update and keep the community aware of the activities, accomplishments, and accolades of the local and national chapters of the NAACP on an annual basis.

The featured speaker at this gala event will be Ms. Janette Wilson, Director of Community Intervention and Human Relations for the Chicago Public School System. She has worked diligently to develop partnerships with local schools and public agencies. This network provides mentoring programs, community service programs and assistance with after-school homework centers.

This year, the Gary NAACP will honor seven outstanding community leaders for their lifelong efforts to further equality in society, as well as one sorority. Joining more than four hundred outstanding civil, community, and religious leaders of the region, the following distinguished individuals will be inducted as life members of the Gary NAACP: Larry Pruitt, Willie Watkins, Mary Dennis, Hollis Hite, George Tardy, Barbara Bolling, and Cherone Reed. Additionally, the Sigma Phi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., will be inducted.

The Gary NAACP was organized in 1915 by a group of residents that felt there was a need for an organization that would monitor and defend the rights of African-Americans in North-

west Indiana. The organization focuses on providing better and more positive ways of addressing the important issues facing minorities in social and job-related settings. Along with its national organization, the Gary branch of the NAACP serves its community by combating injustice, discrimination, and unfair treatment in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the new life members, as well as the other members of the Gary NAACP for the efforts, activities, and leadership that these outstanding men and women have championed to improve the quality of life for all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO RENAME THE POST OFFICE
IN LAKE LINDEN, MI, AFTER
THE HONORABLE PHILIP E.
RUPPE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay much deserved tribute to former Congressman Philip Edward Ruppe, who ably represented the people of northern Michigan, in Congress, for over a decade.

This bill, introduced by Representative BART STUPAK, designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Calumet Street in Lake Linden, Michigan, as the "Philip E. Ruppe Post Office Building." I am pleased to report to my colleagues that the entire Michigan House delegation has signed on as original cosponsors of the measure.

Congressman Ruppe, whose family has lived in northern Michigan since the late 19th Century, was born in Laurium, Michigan on September 29, 1926. He is not only an active civic leader but also a businessman, actively involved in the community, and a veteran, who served his country as a lieutenant in the United States Navy during the Korean conflict.

In 1966, Congressman Ruppe was elected by the people of northern Michigan to serve in the 90th Congress. He served his constituents faithfully until January 3, 1979. As a member of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, as well as the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Congressman Ruppe was able to devote much of his focus to the specific needs of northern Michigan. Congressman Ruppe demonstrated his devotion to his constituents by becoming the first Congressman from the district to operate district offices.

Congressman Ruppe has dedicated his life to serving his community and his country. He is an example of everything that is good and decent in public service and this institution. Naming the post office in Lake Linden, Michigan is just one way we can pay tribute to this fine man and I urge support for the bill.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FORT
HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY DE-
BATE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING
TEAMS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, it has been a year of remembrance for Fort Hays State University, which is in the midst of celebrating its centennial year. Few events provide greater reason to pause and appreciate the continuing excellence of this university than the accomplishments of the last week. In the course of one week the university claimed not one, but two national championships. I stand today to recognize this tremendous feat. It is truly an honor to represent such an outstanding institution.

Two students from my own district, Joe Ramsey of Nickerson and Jason Regnier of Salina started this remarkable week by winning the Cross Examination Debate Association National Tournament. These students captured the individual team title and were honored as top speaker in the tournament. The team was challenged by opponents from a number of the country's most well known universities, however they proved that some of the brightest minds reside in western Kansas and at Fort Hays State University. I commend Joe Ramsey and Jason Regnier on their tremendous drive and resolve over the course of their competitive debate careers. Their success speaks highly of their talent and commitment, as well as that of their coach Dr. William Shanahan and teammates Brent Saindon and Paul Marbrey.

Following the triumphant return of the debate team, three more students from my district were declared national academic champions. This time Sarah Evans of Garfield, Steven Sutter, of Abilene and Nicolette Zeigler of Mankato were honored for their victory at the American Express Financial Planning Invitational. This prestigious competition tests the financial knowledge of students at top universities from across the country. Once again, Fort Hays State University students proved themselves among the best in the country. I commend these students for their dedication and energy in preparing for and attaining this victory. It is a clear testament to their financial knowledge, motivation, and academic ability. I also offer my thanks to Dr. Thomas Johansen and Dr. Rory Terry for preparing this team so very well.

It is a tremendous accomplishment to be recognized as the very best. This level of achievement would not have been possible without the leadership of President Edward Hammond and the support of many other members of the Fort Hays State University community.

I congratulate the Fort Hays State University Debate and Financial Planning Teams on their victories. They have helped make the history of Fort Hays State University that much richer in this its centennial year.