

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE WOODBRIDGE FATHERS BASEBALL LEAGUE ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2002

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to an outstanding organization in our community, the Woodbridge Fathers Baseball League, as they celebrate their thirtieth anniversary. This Saturday, I will have the honor of joining the WFBL as they kick-off this season with their Opening Day ceremonies.

For three decades, the WFBL has provided children between the ages of 5 and 15 with the opportunity to participate in softball and baseball—your country's greatest pastime. The league was born out of the concern of several fathers in Woodbridge who wanted to provide a more competitive baseball league for their children. In only a few short months, the WFBL was formed and, in its initial season, had about 200 children that made up fifteen teams. Today, with the addition of softball and a Rookies League Division, the WFBL has 575 participating children, making up forty-eight teams.

Baseball and softball, like all sports, teaches us the value of team work, practice, camaraderie, and commitment to excellence. These are the skills that will serve our young people well as they begin to make a difference in the world. Through baseball or softball, the WFBL has given the children of Woodbridge and Bethany the opportunity to develop strong bonds of friendship based on many years of teamwork that often last well beyond their high school years. This is the true gift that the WFBL has and continues to give to the young people of Woodbridge and Bethany.

As a symbol of the start of spring, Opening Day has always been one of my favorite times to visit communities—especially Woodbridge, Connecticut. Every year, families from throughout the community gather to celebrate the beginning of the season—it is one of this community's most enjoyable spring rituals. Every team is in first place, dreaming of a championship that will be theirs at the end of the summer. The smell of a new glove, the crack of a bat, and the chatter of the outfield remind us why this is America's favorite pastime.

This year, as the Woodbridge community celebrates Opening Day and what has become a symbol of America, we will also take a moment to reflect on one of our country's greatest tragedies. In the months that have passed since September 11th, the American people have struggled to regain a sense of normalcy. Who can forget the truly awesome scene at Yankee Stadium, with the brilliant voice of a New York Police Officer singing God Bless America as an eagle swooped through the stadium—unifying our nation and

strengthening our resolve. In these past months, communities across the nation have developed a new found respect for those who dedicate their careers to protecting our families and our communities. I am honored to join the Woodbridge Fathers Baseball League and the Woodbridge community in extending my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Department. Their commitment and unparalleled courage make a real difference in our community.

Celebrating thirty years of prosperity and fun, it is with my sincere thanks that I join the Woodbridge community in congratulating the Woodbridge Fathers Baseball League on their 30th Anniversary. From your first president, Tony Malafonte, to the current president Dwight Rowland, this organization has left an indelible mark on this community.

HONORING ROCCO COMPANARO

HON. FELIX J. GRUCCI, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2002

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Rocco Companaro, Field Plant Manager of American Bosch Arena, as he is recognized by the Long Island Federation of Labor.

Rocco Companaro, was a supervisor at Arma, a manufacturer of highly sensitive and sophisticated instruments for United States Naval battleships and submarines. Rocco supervised the ordering of new materials, machining of parts to final assembly, and testing prior to shipment to United States Government sites.

Rocco was Chairman of I.U.E. Organizing Committee at American Bosch Arma Corp., and was successful in organizing 6,500 new members. He negotiated the first contract for newly chartered Local 460, International Union of Electrical Workers.

American Bosch Arma's first major strike on Long Island was in 1955. 6,500 union members took to the streets over the issue of Equal Pay for Equal Work. The strike went on for four bitter cold winter months, November through February. They were victorious and became the first union in the country to have the clause, Equal Pay for Equal Work, in a contract.

Rocco Companaro was President of Nassau/Suffolk Congress of Industrial Unions in 1956–1959. In 1959 after the merger of CIO and AFL Councils into the Long Island Federation of Labor, Rocco was elected Vice President of the Federation. He had responsibility for carrying out all functions of the Federation and AFL–CIO Programs. Rocco has 55 years devoted to the Labor Movement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REGION 10

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Region 10 and congratulate all of its members on reaching an extraordinary milestone. As the organization celebrates its 30th anniversary, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate each and every member on so many years of excellence in serving its communities and, indeed, the entire state. The efforts put forth by this organization are very much appreciated by everyone who lives in the six counties that it represents, and I am honored to stand before you today and bring its many accomplishments to the attention of this body of Congress. For 30 years this organization has worked diligently to represent the needs and desires of its communities, and I, along with the many residents that reside in your counties, am proud and thankful for what you have accomplished.

For thirty years, Region 10 has served as a clearinghouse, resource center and facilitator of targeted community and regional programs on behalf of the six Colorado counties that it represents, which include Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray and Hinsdale. It has effectively presented a regional voice and unified position to local, state and federal government, industries and organizations, and has always conducted itself with the best interests and well being of its citizens in mind. Region 10 serves its communities in a myriad of ways, including sharing information among communities about local projects and programs, establishing a network of resource information and contacts for use by its communities, serving as a vehicle for coordinating funding opportunities on behalf of its communities, and engaging its membership in discussions about common issues affecting its communities. The organization has truly done an extraordinary job in its determination to enhance its communities and the lives of each and every citizen that resides within them. Their diligence and hard work has, indeed, paid off, and the contributions that Region 10 has made over its thirty years of service are immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to be able to congratulate each and every member of Region 10 on this historic occasion, and wish each of them all the best in what I'm sure will be an even more eventful and exciting next thirty years. I commend each of you for your work in ensuring that the needs of the communities you represent are addressed, and I am delighted to bring the efforts of such an extraordinary organization to the attention of this body of Congress. Keep up the great work; I look forward to the next thirty years!

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