

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF CLUTE, TEXAS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Clute, Texas, which will be celebrated on June 2, 2002. Clute is a city of just over 10,000 citizens in Brazoria County on the coast of Texas. Clute has a very rich heritage and played an important role in the development of the proud state of Texas.

The City of Clute began as land deeded to Alexander Calvit by Stephen F. Austin when holdings were parceled out to the "Old 300," the first settlers in Texas. These settlers had to be tough as living on the Texas coastland in the early days was not for the weak or faint of heart.

Though the living was hard these early settlers contributed many things to the advancement of our state. The first milled lumber plantation house was built in Clute. Bricks used to build homes and buildings all over the coast of Texas were made from the high grade clay that was found only in Clute. That clay was used to make structures at Ft. Velasco, where in 1832, the Brazoria Militia staged the first battle for Texas Independence.

Now, many years later, Clute is still growing and achieving. Citizens raise their families in quiet and serene neighborhoods while contributing to some of the greatest chemical and industrial achievements in modern America.

The face of Clute has changed but the people are still the same brave, hardworking Texans that helped mold the Republic.

I am pleased to extend my best wishes to the people of Clute as the town celebrates its 50th birthday of incorporation and over 170 years after habitation by the original settlers of Texas. I am sure all my colleagues join me in extending congratulations and wishes for many more years of progress to the community of Clute, Texas.

INDEPENDENCE OF EAST TIMOR

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 405, legislation commemorating the independence of East Timor and expressing the sense of Congress that the President should establish diplomatic relations with East Timor.

Independence for East Timor has been a long time coming. It was ruled by the Portuguese for 400 years and then more recently experienced 25 years of Indonesian occupation.

Unfortunately, many East Timorese suffered during the path to independence, particularly when Indonesian military backed militias went on a murderous rampage in 1999, after the people of East Timor voted for independence.

Thousands of innocent East Timorese were killed and hundreds of thousands became refugees because of the violence carried out against the East Timorese who were only seeking freedom.

Fortunately, the East Timorese have benefitted from having solid leaders. I met many of these people when I visited East Timor in 1997—people such as Roman Catholic Bishop Belo, bishop of Dili.

Bishop Belo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his invaluable work on behalf of peace and justice in East Timor. Representative TONY HALL and I nominated Bishop Belo for this award of which he so deservedly was presented several years ago.

I met with many other outstanding East Timorese volunteers, local leaders, NGO staff and religious leaders who also helped forge the way for a peaceful movement of independence. All are to be commended for their contributions that have led to East Timor's independence.

Recently elected President Jose Alexandre Gusmao also appears to be a leader who will serve his new country well.

He is emphasizing reconciliation rather than revenge for the sufferings and atrocities the people suffered at the hands of the pro-Indonesian militias in 1999.

I am hopeful that the new country of East Timor will be a reliable and worthy addition to the international community.

I want to congratulate the people of East Timor, President Gusmao, Bishop Belo, Jose Ramos Horta, and the many other East Timorese who brought their people and their nation to this historic point.

I also want to commend President Bush for his action yesterday recognizing East Timor as a nation and establishing diplomatic relations.

Lastly, I want to thank Representative SMITH for sponsoring this important legislation and for all of his work in this Congress not only on East Timor, but for human rights and religious freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF A TRUE HERO

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a true American hero, William Arthur Wood of Opelika, Alabama.

At this very special time of the year when we honor those who have so bravely fought for our country, I want to pay special tribute to this valiant soldier who served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and was a POW for 18 months. It is difficult to imagine what he must have had to endure during this time.

Mr. Wood's great niece and her family are bringing Mr. Wood and his wife to Washington, D.C. during this Memorial Day holiday. He is now 81 years of age and totally disabled but continues to be so proud of our country and to have fought to preserve our freedoms during World War II. I salute Mr. Wood for his service to our country.

A DOCUMENTARY RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC ROLE OF TURKISH DIPLOMATS DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, since September 11, our newspapers and airwaves have been filled with stories about heroes and ordinary men and women who have performed courageously in times of great peril. We are night to celebrate them and to acknowledge their heroism.

On Monday, May 20, 2002, an extraordinary film was shown in the U.S. Capitol to Members of Congress and their staffers that celebrates heroes of the past. The film, "Desperate Hours," chronicles the heroic efforts of World War II Turkish diplomats who saved hundreds of Jewish people from almost certain death by providing them with the documentation and support necessary to leave Nazi-occupied Europe and enter Turkey safely.

This dramatic hour-long documentary included interviews with Turkish officials who intervened on behalf of the threatened Turkish Jewish community in Europe and those individuals that received the help of these brave diplomats. In their own words, these incredible individuals who survived Nazi persecution continue to tell a moving and uplifting tale of their struggle for freedom and the selfless acts of assistance they received from Turkish diplomats.

Mr. Speaker, it is extremely important that we acknowledge the heroes of today. However, it is equally important that we acknowledge and remember individuals like those Turkish diplomats who had the greatest respect for human life and dignity and acted as heroes during a period of great darkness. The movie "Desperate Hours" justly recognizes the heroism of these brave individuals who saved the lives of thousand of Turkish Jews.

TRIBUTE TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF BELLEVILLE

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding organization, the Rotary Club of Belleville, New Jersey.

It is only fitting we recognize this organization, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for it has a long history of caring, leadership, and commitment to its community.

Since receiving its charter from the Rotary International on April 22, 1922, the Rotary Club of Belleville has been an effective coalition of civic leaders, business professionals, and regular citizens dedicated to their neighbors.

The Club has personified its time honored motto, "Service Above Self" and "He Profits Most Who Serves Best," by sponsoring projects to aid children, the elderly, and the poor, and by sponsoring literacy programs.

An example of their work can be seen in the "Gift of Life Program." This initiative helps children around the world by providing doctor and hospital services to less fortunate kids in need of heart operations.

A major supporter of the Rotary International's PolioPlus program, the Rotary Club of Belleville has also helped to eradicate polio in developing countries worldwide.

Put simply, the Belleville Rotary Club has made its mission the advocacy for those in need. Its members have made a difference in countless lives, with their work serving as a beacon of caring and compassion for eight decades.

On Wednesday, May 22, 2002, the Club celebrated its 80th anniversary with a wonderful concert at the Belleville Public Library and Information Center. Club members, guests, and dignitaries from the Rotary, the Township of Belleville and the State of New Jersey joined in the celebration.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of organizations like the Rotary Club of Belleville.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Township of Belleville, the members of the Rotary, and me in recognizing the eighty years of outstanding and invaluable service of the Rotary Club of Belleville, New Jersey.

COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING TEAM OF THE QUEST PROGRAM

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Community Problem Solving Team of the Quest Program at the Dr. John Howard, Jr. School in East Orange, New Jersey. The September 11th tragedy has made them aware of the tremendous needs that follow a tragedy as well as the vast patriotic spirit that we possess as a country thus they decided to assist people who have experienced a personal tragedy in their lives so that their situation will be improved for a period of time.

This group of 12 fourth and fifth graders has become increasingly concerned about people who are experiencing difficulties in their own lives due to personal loss or economic strain. Thus they have striven to assist these members of the community through various means including: volunteering in an after school program for homeless children, visiting hospital patients, collecting for a toy drive for needy children, collecting canned goods and non-perishable foods for needy families and a food pantry. In addition, this group has received numerous grants and donations from organizations that have recognized the great potential that this group possesses.

These outstanding students will represent New Jersey at the International Competition in Storrs, Connecticut, June 5-11, 2002, having placed first in the New Jersey junior division of the Problem Solving Component of the International Future Problem Solving Program. It is with great pride that I recognize the Community Problem Solving Team of the Quest Program in East Orange, New Jersey. These

young people have taken great strides to assist the members of their community and to see that they have a part in securing a healthy future for our country. Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in wishing the Quest Program continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TUNICA-BILOXI TRIBE OF LOUISIANA

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD my congratulations and praise for the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana and its leaders, including Chairman Earl J. Barbry, Sr. From the time of their first contact with European explorers along the banks of the Mississippi River in the 1500s, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe has played an important role in the larger community—both as a partner and a friend.

Under Chairman Barbry, Sr.'s leadership, the Tribe has continued to be an integral part of the community of Central Louisiana. The Tunica are doing great things with their recent financial success in both the tribal community and the larger community.

The Tribe has come to this great moment in their history because they have worked well together and will continue in that great tradition of cooperation. The Tribe and its leaders should be commended for their vision and spirit of cooperation among tribal members, civic and governmental leaders and the community at large. I applaud their successful efforts at being good neighbors and economic partners and I wish them continued success.

OFFICERS OF THE UNIFORMED DIVISION AND U.S. PARK POLICE EQUITY PAY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today Representative TOM DAVIS and I have introduced a bill to provide the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division and the United States Park Police with the same locality pay adjustments as other Federal employees.

In the FY 2001 Omnibus Appropriations Act, Congress included a bill called the Law Enforcement Pay Equity Act. The purpose of the Act was to improve officer retention within the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division and U.S. Park Police. The Act's aim was to improve officer retention by raising the Uniformed Division and Park Police pay scales so that they were equivalent or similar to other pay scales in the Metropolitan area.

However, Section 903 of the Act froze the rate of locality pay the employees of the Uniformed Division and U.S. Park Police receive at the level in effect in the year 2000. This freeze in locality pay has caused the Uniformed Division and Park Police pay scales to lag behind the compensation scales of other agencies competing for the same workforce.

In the Washington, DC Metropolitan area, Officers of the Uniformed Division and the U.S. Park Police are currently locked into a locality rate of 9.05%, but the standard locality rate for U.S. Government employees in the Washington area is 11.48%, a difference of 2.43%.

By fixing this problem, the median salary of an Officer with thirteen years of service would increase by \$1,375 per year.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, in essence, unlocks the freezer door, opens it up, and allows the locality pay to thaw to normal levels. At a time when the Uniformed Division and Park Police are trying to increase morale and maintain top rate officers, this bill is a small but significant signal that Congress cares about their welfare. This bill fixes what I consider an unfair technicality and provides them with equitable locality pay.

HONORING VETERANS PARK CONSERVANCY

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make my colleagues aware of Veterans Park Conservancy, a community group founded in 1986 to help manage Veterans Park, which covers 700 acres of land in West Los Angeles, California. Originally gifted to the Federal Government, Veterans Park is home to a number of historically and culturally significant sites, including the Los Angeles National Cemetery, the Wadsworth Theatre, and several memorials honoring our veterans. It is also one of the last remaining open spaces in West Los Angeles.

The mission of Veterans Park Conservancy is simple: "Honoring our Veterans, Cherishing the Land." The Veterans Park Conservancy was organized to develop and implement a long-term plan to protect the park. Soon after its inception, the group developed a 25-year Master Plan that identifies key restoration projects. In 1998, the Department of Veterans Affairs officially granted Veterans Park Conservancy the authority to carry out these projects. The group's partners include veterans, the Federal Government, local and state agencies, community organizations, and private philanthropists.

Throughout its 16-year history, Veterans Park Conservancy has spearheaded several projects in West Los Angeles and their fine work is a testament to their dedication to America's veterans. Beginning in 1994, the group led the charge to improve a one-mile section of Wilshire Boulevard as "Veterans Parkway," and collaborated with Los Angeles County to improve the parkway with cobblestones, lighting, and 600 new trees. After the September 11th attacks, Veterans Park Conservancy worked with the Federal and local governments to install a permanent memorial of 100 American Flags, which fly proudly on both sides of the boulevard.

In 1998, Veterans Park Conservancy restored the Spanish-American War Memorial, which sits at the entrance of the Los Angeles National Cemetery. In 2000, the group gave the cemetery a stately new entrance, new trees an 7,800 feet of wrought iron perimeter