

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOUGLERSVILLE FIRE COMPANY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gouglersville Fire Company of Gouglersville, PA during its 75th anniversary celebration.

Without a fire company of its own, the people of Gouglersville, PA had to rely on companies located in neighboring communities. On March 8, 1928, citizens of Gouglersville attended a town meeting to discuss the formation of their own company. Over the next few months, the Gouglersville Fire Company was created. Members were recruited, officers were elected and the company constitution and by-laws were adopted. Finally, on September 4, 1928, the Berks County Court of Common Pleas granted a charter to the Company.

Over the next few years, the Company purchased a firehouse and its first apparatus. As time went on, the Company outgrew its original building and purchased a larger space to accommodate its increased membership and growing number of vehicles. The charter and by-laws of the Company were amended on August 3, 1950 to permit women to join. A Junior Brigade was started in 1972. As time has passed and the Company has changed, one thing that has not altered is the dedication of the firefighters to their duties.

For the past 75 years, the citizens of Gouglersville have been able to depend on the courageous men and women of Gouglersville Fire Company. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting Gouglersville Fire Company on reaching this milestone.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHNNY ALBINO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Mr. Johnny Albino, who will be honored this weekend as Yaucano del Año 2003. Mr. Albino is a renowned singer and songwriter who has recorded more than 300 records. He has traveled around the world sharing the gift of his music, in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe, as well as places as far away as Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Egypt and Israel, among others.

Mr. Albino was born in Yauco, Puerto Rico, on December 19, 1919. He was one of seven children. He went to school in Guayama, Puerto Rico, and planned to pursue law studies at the University of Puerto Rico, but in 1940 he enlisted in the United States Armed Forces. He served in the Corps of Engineers and studied to become a telegraph operator. During his tenure in the military, he also found a way to pursue his interest in music by forming a quartet and singing in U.S.O. sponsored events for servicemen. He served in the military for seven years, retiring as a Lieutenant.

When he returned to Yauco, he formed El Trio San Juan with Chago Alvarado and Ola

Martinez. They used to rehearse at a house on Tendal Street, on the way to Barrios Quebrada and Sierra Alta.

During his musical career as part of the famous Trio Los Panchos, with Alfredo Gil and Chucho Navarro, Albino traveled around the world seven times and had the opportunity to perform with luminaries such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Nat King Cole and Eydie Gorme. He also shared the stage with world-renowned figures like Xavier Cugat and Johnny Carson. He has been one of Puerto Rico's most talented musical ambassadors. He has been married for 43 years to Mrs. Maria Albino, who is also his manager.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Johnny Albino, an accomplished musician, for his achievements and for giving to the Hispanic community and to the world the gift of beautiful music.

CELEBRATING A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT AND THE LONGEVITY OF A LEWISTON LANDMARK

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the wonderful story of Toni Orestis and her lifetime of achievement. Marois Restaurant, a Lewiston landmark since 1919, is closing on May 31, 2003. Started by Antoinette Marois Orestis' grandfather, carried on by her father Leon, and now run by Toni for more than 35 years, Marois is a first class restaurant that has anchored the downtown area of Lewiston for almost 85 years.

Marois started as a lunch counter business and expanded over the decades into the full service restaurant that it is today. During the Second World War, the restaurant was open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, feeding the shipbuilders and other workers involved in supporting the war effort from home. When Lewiston and Maine had a need, Marois was always there to meet it.

Toni started working in the restaurant at the age of thirteen. She and her three sisters worked for their grandfather and father all through the years. In fact, no one knows the restaurant business better than Toni. Throughout the past 65 years she has performed every role, from starting as a helper, to becoming a server, then cook, and now owner and executive. Toni and Marois are an example of downtown Lewiston at its finest.

Along with her remarkable work ethic and business acumen, Toni has also been there for so many people in the community. From baptisms to bar mitzvahs, from weddings to anniversaries, from office and retirement parties to Christmas parties, and yes for funerals too, Toni is always there with wonderful food and hospitality. So many people remember fondly the food, the dessert cart, the French and Greek menus, the formal and correct table service, but most of all, the genuine and generous personality that is Toni Marois Orestis. No one ever went away hungry and everyone went away with a smile.

Now Toni, at 78 years young, is finally retiring. When asked if she wanted to keep working, she said "Yes, but part time, maybe 35 or

40 hours a week". That is the true mark of dedication; a life lived purposefully and well. Mr. Speaker, please join me and the residents of Lewiston in congratulating Toni Orestis on her retirement and thanking her for all she has done for her community.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN BECKER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a firefighter who has gone out of his way to serve his country. Ryan Becker, a firefighter from Vail, Colorado, left the comforts of home recently to assist in the search for wreckage of the space shuttle *Columbia*.

Ryan's experience and training fighting wildland fires gave him exactly the kind of expertise NASA needed. So Ryan volunteered to help, and NASA supplied him and other members of his 18-person team with a map and put them to work in East Texas. The work wasn't always easy and at times was downright dangerous. Ryan walked through briar patches that tore his clothes and scratched his body, waded through muddy swamps and creeks, and dodged poisonous water moccasins and copperhead snakes; all in an effort to find a clue that might help investigators understand this tragic accident.

Yet despite the difficulties, Ryan and his teammates worked shifts up to 12-hours long, walked about eight miles a day, and covered many acres of territory. Their findings included debris that ranged in size from a four feet by six feet piece of the bulkhead to tiny chunks of about a quarter inch.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Ryan's contributions to our Space Shuttle program. This outstanding individual sacrificed in order to ensure that a calamity like the *Columbia* disaster will never happen again. I am honored to tell Ryan's story before this body of Congress today, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. REBECCA SUE SPEARS

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a remarkable woman on the occasion of a very special anniversary. In 1993, Mrs. Rebecca Sue Spears, of Fayetteville, Georgia, was diagnosed with breast cancer. This year marks the tenth anniversary of Mrs. Spears being "cancer free."

Today, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer approximately every 2 minutes. Thanks to the efforts of people like Mrs. Spears, we are making great strides to eradicate this devastating disease. As a breast cancer survivor, Mrs. Spears continues to raise money and awareness to fight breast cancer and is a true servant leader.

In 2002, at the age of 59, Mrs. Spears participated in the Avon 3-Day Breast Cancer

Walk in Atlanta, Georgia. During this inspiring event, Mrs. Spears walked twenty-miles per day for 3 days and represented women everywhere that are battling this terrible disease. Recently, in Atlanta, she walked in the Susan G. Kormen Race For the Cure; an event that is celebrating its 20th Anniversary and is now the largest series of 5K races in the world. Thanks to dedicated volunteers like Mrs. Spears, the Susan G. Kormen Breast Cancer Foundation has raised over \$250 million for education, research, screening and treatment. On June 7, 2003, Mrs. Spears will walk again in her quest to fight cancer, here in our Nation's Capital, in the National Race For the Cure.

I am honored to recognize Mrs. Rebecca Sue Spears on this momentous occasion. She is an inspiration to her husband, James E. Spears, her two daughters, Kathryn and Karen, her two sons Jimmy and Steven, her six grandchildren, and countless others who are battling this disease. In her own words she describes her relentless determination by saying, "I walk and will continue to walk until a cure is found with hopes and prayers that my daughters, grandchildren, other family members and friends, as well as millions of others, will never have to be told—you have cancer."

INTRODUCING DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia District Attorney Establishment Act of 2003 continuing a series of bills that I will introduce this session to ensure a continuation of the process of transition to full democracy and self-government for the residents of the District of Columbia.

This bill will establish an Office of District Attorney for the District of Columbia, to be headed by a District Attorney elected by D.C. residents. Accordingly, this bill would move the city a quantum leap toward full home rule for the District of Columbia and equality with other Americans. This bill effectuates a November 2002 referendum where D.C. voters overwhelmingly (82%) approved a locally elected D.A.

This important legislation is designed to put the District of Columbia on par with every other local jurisdiction in the country by allowing D.C. residents to elect an independent District Attorney to prosecute local criminal and civil matters now handled by the U.S. Attorney, a federal official. Instead the new District Attorney would become the city's chief legal officer.

There is no issue of greater importance to our citizens and no issue on which residents have less say here than the prosecution of local crimes. A U.S. Attorney has no business in the local criminal affairs of local jurisdictions. No other citizens in the United States are treated so unfairly on an issue of such major importance. This bill would simply make the D.A. accountable to the people who elect him or her as elsewhere in the country.

In addition to issues of democracy and self government, such as congressional voting

rights and legislative and budget autonomy that we are entitled to as American citizens, district residents are determined to make every effort to achieve each and every other element of home rule. Amending the Home Rule Act with a local D.A. provision would be a dramatic development toward our goal of achieving true self-government. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

CONGRATULATING MISS UNIVERSE AMELIA VEGA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. Amelia Vega of the Dominican Republic on being crowned Miss Universe in ceremonies held in Panama City, Panama on June 3, 2003. She was selected for this honor in a competition that featured more than 70 of the most beautiful young women in the world.

It was also a good night for the women of the Caribbean, who earned the pageant's other honors. Miss Dominican Republic, in addition to winning the big prize, was voted as the best dressed contestant while Miss Puerto Rico, Carla Tricoli, was awarded the title of Miss Photogenic and Miss Antigua and Barbuda, Kai Davis, was honored as Miss Congeniality.

Miss Vega, who is the first Dominican to win the beauty pageant, won the crowd and the judges over with a humble confidence that extended beyond her 18 years of age. She intends to spend the next year pursuing her dreams of an entertainment career and leading fundraising efforts on behalf of AIDS research and awareness.

The Miss Universe title opens doors for both its winner and her country of origin. As the native country of the current Miss Universe, Panama was able to host this year's pageant, helping to generate what government officials say could be as much as \$60,000,000 in revenues. Perhaps as important, it is also a source of national pride and inspiration for all those associated with the Dominican community, abroad and in the United States. As a representative of a district that contains the largest concentration of Dominicans outside of Quisqueya, I join the people of Washington Heights as they bask in the joy of seeing one of their own succeed on such a competitive world stage.

Miss Vega understands that alongside the numerous "once in a lifetime opportunities," her fame will allow her to affect the image that the world has of the Dominican people and its culture. Although potentially daunting, it is a responsibility that she is excited to accept. As she told the crowd last night, "I didn't come here just for the crown, but also to make my country proud."

Undoubtedly, she is on her way.

TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE NEWLIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand and pay tribute to an

outstanding educator from my district. Suzanne Newlin, a teacher at Montrose High School in Montrose, Colorado, is the recipient of this year's high school teacher of the year award from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Suzanne is an innovative teacher with an uncanny ability to motivate her students, and I am honored to recognize her commitment and dedication to education today.

Suzanne has made it her life's work to get her students hooked on physical activities that they can enjoy throughout their lives. Most kids won't take part in team sports as adults, so she introduces them to other activities such as bicycling, rock climbing and power walking. Suzanne not only participates with her students, but she teaches them how to get the most out of their workouts and individualize the sessions by including heart-rate monitors. Suzanne does teach traditional team sports as well, though she does so by personally demonstrating skills and techniques to make the experience more meaningful.

Mr. Speaker, Suzanne's positive spirit, creativity and innovation make her a true asset to the students of Montrose High School, and it is my pleasure to recognize her efforts here today. She not only touches the lives of her students, but she gives them the tools to succeed later in life. That is a precious gift, and it is a great honor to speak of her inspirational accomplishments before this body.

HONORING MARÍA ELENA DURAZO

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. María Elena Durazo who is receiving the 2003 Paul Wellstone Citizen Leadership Award for her outstanding service to the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union of Los Angeles.

As President of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union (H.E.R.E.) Ms. Durazo has helped the union emerge as a vital force in the life of Los Angeles residents, representing over 250,000 workers in the hospitality industry in the U.S. In 1996, she also became the first Latina to be elected to the national leadership of the H.E.R.E. International Union and has long served as a role model for other Latina leaders.

Ms. Durazo has worked tirelessly to obtain justice for the mostly immigrant-based union in Los Angeles, adopting a policy of bilingualism for its union meetings and newspaper. Furthermore, she has empowered countless bilingual employees to acquire positions and benefits they deserve. Under her leadership, the union has been widely recognized as one of the most active rank and file unions in southern California, striving to build valuable coalitions among community, church, academic, ethnic, and political organizations throughout the local area.

María Elena has further advanced the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union by securing and improving citywide hotel contracts, increasing wages and benefits for thousands of hotel workers in downtown Beverly Hills and the Westside. María Elena now serves as National Director of the Immigrant