

COMMEMORATING JULIE M. AUSTIN'S SERVICE WITH FOOTHILL TRANSIT JULY 24, 2003

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to Ms. Julie M. Austin. On July 30, 2003, the Foothill Transit Executive Board will wish a fond farewell to Ms. Austin, who is leaving her position as Executive Director of Foothill Transit and Vice President of Transit Management for ATC/Forsythe & Associates, Inc., a post she has held since 1997.

Foothill Transit was created in 1988, making it one of the largest public-private transit partnerships in the United States. Since this time it has delivered cost-effective, safe and efficient bus service to commuters and residents in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, located in the eastern portion of Los Angeles County in southern California. Foothill Transit now operates on 32 routes with nearly 300 buses and almost 17 million annual boardings, a marked increase from the 9.5 million boardings at the time of the creation of the transit agency. As Executive Director, Ms. Austin is responsible for implementing Executive Board policies, developing policy recommendations and providing leadership and vision for the nationally recognized Foothill Transit.

Throughout her tenure with Foothill Transit, Ms. Austin has ensured that southern California commuters are provided with the safest and most efficient transit system possible. Under her leadership, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) recognized Foothill Transit in 2001 with a "Bus Safety Gold Award," dubbing Foothill Transit the safest transit agency of its size. Foothill Transit was also named "Outstanding Transit System" of its size by APTA in 1993 and 1995. The Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the National Safety Council recognized Foothill Transit in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2001 with first-place awards for its safety programs.

Ms. Austin was also instrumental in both expanding and modernizing Foothill Transit's mode of operations. In 2002, Foothill Transit opened a new era in fuel-efficient technology by beginning its conversion to a compressed natural gas (CNG) fleet with plans to have an all-CNG fleet by 2011. That same year, Foothill Transit opened its second operations and maintenance facility in Irwindale, joining its first agency-owned facility in Pomona, which opened in 1997.

She has contributed to the success of public transit in Los Angeles County as Director of Management Support from 1993 to 1995 at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and as Senior Transit Analyst/Manager of Transportation Policy from 1989 to 1993 at the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, where she oversaw a three-year evaluation of the Foothill Transit Zone. She also worked for the Southern California Association of Governments for three years and spent several years as a transportation consultant.

A resident of the City of Monrovia, California, Ms. Austin has a bachelor's degree in journalism from California Polytechnic State

University, San Luis Obispo. She is active in the American Public Transit Association (Legislative Committee), California Transit Association (Executive Committee), San Gabriel Valley Commerce and Cities Consortium Board, Women's Transportation Seminar, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Transit Committee, and West Covina Chamber of Commerce.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring this truly remarkable leader in the field of public transit and to wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING FALLEN HEROES OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

HON. MAX BURNS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this nation. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Georgia's Third Infantry Division proudly led the way to Baghdad. The road to Baghdad, however, presented substantial challenges and, unfortunately, some of these brave soldiers will not return.

Today, I acknowledge this Congress' deep appreciation for lives that were dedicated to the safety and security of our citizens. The soldiers epitomized the best of our country through courage, selfless service, and honor. Their lives will be remembered by family and friends; their service will be appreciated by us all.

I pay tribute to Mrs. Chanel Pedersen and her daughter of Savannah, Georgia, who lost her husband Sergeant Michael F. Pedersen in the Iraqi conflict.

I pay tribute to Mrs. Meighan Adamouski of Savannah, Georgia, who lost her husband Captain James F. Adamouski in the Iraqi conflict.

I pay tribute to Mrs. Maria Forey-Aitken of Savannah, Georgia, who lost her husband Captain Tristan N. Aitken in the Iraqi conflict.

I pay tribute to Ms. Annette Hale of Savannah, Georgia, who lost her stepson Captain Edward J. Korn in the Iraqi conflict.

I pay tribute to Mrs. Jenna Cosbey Kaylor of Savannah, Georgia, who lost her husband Second Lieutenant Jeffrey J. Kaylor in the Iraqi conflict.

I pay tribute to the stepchildren and niece of Sergeant Keman Mitchell, who live in Hephzibah, Georgia, and lost their father and uncle in the Iraqi conflict.

Mr. Speaker, many families and friends mourn the loss of these and other lives lost during Operation Iraqi Freedom. I express my condolences to their families and friends and thank them for their dedication to a grateful Nation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING MR. HARLEY COON OF BEAVERCREEK, OHIO

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Harley Coon who resides in

Beavercreek in the 7th Congressional District. I have had the honor of meeting Harley at different community events over the years, and it is very appropriate that he was honored today on Capitol Hill by the Korean War Veterans' Association on the 50th anniversary of the armistice that ended the Korean War.

At the age of 19, Harley Coon was captured on Nov. 17, 1950 while serving with the 25th Infantry Division in Korea. Over the next three years Mr. Coon suffered greatly as a prisoner of war from hunger, exposure, and brutal conditions in the various prison camps where he was detained.

On Aug. 31, 1953, Harley Coon was released to U.S. Forces after 33 months and four days of imprisonment. After the war, Coon became a successful businessman, never forgetting how lucky he was to be around to enjoy his freedom.

Coon was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame for all his, commitment and caring in Ohio. He continues to travel nationally and internationally as the National President of the Korean War Veterans Association.

Harley received the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal with 10 battle stars, the U.N. Service Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

As the Congressman who represents Beavercreek in the U.S. House of Representatives, I offer my sincere congratulations to Harley Coon for this public recognition of his service to our country.

HONORING JOHN SEXTON OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate John J. Sexton of Chicago on his recent retirement from his position as Superintendent of the Meter Division of the City of Chicago's Water Department.

For the last 30 years, John Sexton has risen through the ranks with the City, from machinist, to foreman, to Assistant Superintendent of the Meter Division, and finally Superintendent. His dedication to his job and the city he loves is an example of why Chicago is known as "The City That Works."

John Sexton is very proud of the northwest side of Chicago, the area he has called home for his entire life, and of the Hiawatha Park neighborhood, the area where he and his wife have raised their family. John has been very active at the part and is a past president of the Hiawatha Boys Baseball Organization.

As church life plays such an important role in the lives of so many Chicagoans, John has been a member of several esteemed Northwest side parishes. He grew up in Presentation Parish, attended grammar school at St. Angela's and high school at St. Michael's. He currently is a member of St. Francis Borgia Parish.

The Northwest side has produced some of Chicago's finest leaders, and John Sexton has played an active part in the success of many of their careers. John's work in Chicago politics began when he was 16 as a precinct worker for former Alderman Thomas Casey. He is now a precinct captain in the mighty

36th Ward Regular Democratic Organization, working with Alderman William J.P. Banks and State Senator James A. DeLeo.

John would be the first to tell you that his family is his first priority, and they have provided support for all of his activities. He has been married for 31 years to his wonderful wife, Rosetta. His family also includes his daughter, Laurie Moran, and her husband Joseph, his son, John Jr., his daughter, Diana, and his sister Mary Kay Kuhter.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the people of Chicago in wishing John Sexton a happy and successful retirement, and wish him all of the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO RINBAN KOSHO
YUKAWA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Rinban Kosho Yukawa. Rinban of the Sacramento Betsuin is one of Sacramento's greatest citizen leaders. Rinban Kosho is retiring after forty-two years of wonderful service as an ambassador and teacher of Buddhism; Rinban Kosho will be retiring on August 31, 2003. As his friends and family gather to celebrate Rinban Kosho's numerous achievements, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting one of Sacramento's most respected and honorable citizens.

Rinban Kosho comes from a long line of Buddhist ministers of the Jodo Shinshu sect. A prominent branch in Japan and the faith embraced by the Buddhist Churches of America. Rinban Kosho's family has maintained a temple for about 250 years. Rinban Kosho's parents had immigrated to the United States, and he was born in Tacoma, Washington as the Depression started. In 1940, Rinban Kosho and his family moved to Japan, where they stayed until 1949. At the encouragement of his father, Rinban Kosho returned to San Francisco on his own to finish high school and junior college.

Rinban Kosho joined the U.S. Army and worked as an interrogator during the Korean War. Rinban Kosho's experience during the war affected him deeply, leading him to pursue a career in the ministry. After completing a seminary program in Japan, Rinban Kosho was ordained and assigned to the Sacramento church in 1961. During his first decade of service in Sacramento, Rinban Kosho served as a youth minister at a time when the baby boom was at its peak. At one time, Rinban Kosho had about 650 children enrolled in the Dharma School.

After his stint in Sacramento, Rinban Kosho worked at churches in Union City and San Jose before taking a five-year hiatus from the ministry to work in his brother's publishing business. The call to serve came back when Rinban Kosho was assigned to the Tacoma Buddhist Temple where his father had served.

In 1996 Rinban Kosho returned to the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. During his tenure, Rinban Kosho successfully made the Jodo Shinshu sect of Buddhism relevant to third and fourth generation Japanese Americans, as well as to other ethnic groups. Because of his great reputation as a minister,

mentor, teacher of the Dharma and his popularity as a caring friend, the Sacramento Buddhist Church has become the largest membership temple within the Buddhist Churches of America.

Rinban Kosho's unparalleled success in the ministry and in the community truly makes him one of Sacramento's most accomplished and treasured citizens. His commitment to help others is a shining example to everyone who follows his leadership. In his retirement, Rinban Kosho plans to return to his native Tacoma/Seattle area with his wife, Michiko. The Yukawas look forward to being near and enjoying the company of their children and their families.

Mr. Speaker, as Rinban Kosho friends and family gather for his honorary farewell banquet, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable residents. His success are considerable, and it is great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his contributions. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing Rinban Kosho Yukawa continue success in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE VILLAGE AND
TOWNSHIP OF CALUMET, MICHIGAN
ON ITS SELECTION AS A
MICHIGAN MAIN STREET COMMUNITY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of historic Calumet, Michigan, which was named as one of four Michigan Main Street communities for 2003 in a statewide competition.

Calumet is in the northernmost part of my 1st Congressional District, halfway to the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula. Between 1867 and 1884, Calumet alone produced half of this country's copper from the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company mines.

Parts of its historic downtown have formed an integral part of the Keweenaw National Historical Park, which tells the riveting economic and cultural story of the migration of miners and their families to the wilds of northern Michigan to work the copper range in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Recognizing the value of its historic resources and the economic benefits of the Main Street program, in January 2003 Calumet formed a steering committee and this spring submitted its application for the Main Street designation. A hallmark of the presentation was communitywide cooperation between public and private resources.

The managing director of the team from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation which administers the program said that out of literally hundreds of communities MEDC has worked with, Calumet's combination of public/private sector effort was very rare. As reported by the Houghton Daily Mining Gazette, the director described Calumet's presentation before an MEDC and Michigan State Housing Development panel in Lansing by saying, "[Calumet was] absolutely the top presentation we had in those two days . . . [It] left a buzz in that room."

Calumet had to come up with substantial seed money toward administrative costs, and it has done that through pledges from the Village of Calumet, Calumet Township, the Downtown Development Authority, Keweenaw National Historical Park and local businesses. Main Street program professionals will visit Calumet on a regular basis to work with local participants as they market Calumet's historical community and encourage economic development.

The aim of the program is to stimulate economic growth, and Calumet's successful application may result in a return of nearly \$40 for every dollar it spends, according to Main Street's 2001 national re-investment statistics. The program was developed by the National Historic Preservation Trust.

Calumet already has embraced the concept of preserving its historical resources. It welcomes and entertains the many visitors it receives every year with proudly preserved facilities such as the Calumet Theatre, the Upper Peninsula Fire Fighters Memorial Museum, Larium Manor and the Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's. The work that resulted in the Main Street designation is just one more example of Calumet's legacy of community effort in support of its history. Calumet already knows the value of sharing that history with visitors and scholars, and will bloom even more beautifully as a Main Street community.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my Colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating everyone in Calumet who put their effort, heart and history into Calumet's selection as a Main Street community. I offer my heartiest congratulations.

With this honor, Calumet will move even more quickly to transform its downtown into a thriving, appealing Main Street center of commerce.

HONORING CHESTERFIELD SMITH

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Chesterfield Smith, a man of the highest principle, who in his long legal career has touched the lives of countless Floridians and left his mark on our state's and Nation's legal system.

After receiving a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart in World War II, Chesterfield returned to Florida to study law. He quickly rose to partner of Holland, Bevis and McRae and helped lead the firm through a successful merger with Knight, Jones, Whitaker and Germany in 1968. Under his watch, Holland & Knight LLP grew to become the Nation's eighth largest law firm.

Chesterfield had a passion for his work. Whether his client was rich or poor, as partner of Holland & Knight, he worked long hours fighting for justice with irrepressible conviction. Born and bred in a segregated society, Chesterfield was a leader in integrating the legal profession by hiring women and minorities.

In addition, Chesterfield, who strongly believed in the need to give back to one's community, pushed to incorporate pro bono work as regular practice for attorneys. Donating