

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. KENNETH E.
RUSSELL

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay special tribute to Mr. Kenneth E. Russell, a member of my constituency and a true American hero.

Ken Russell is the last surviving member of a group of 17 paratroopers who, in the early hours of D-Day in 1944, parachuted into the town of Ste. Mere Eglise, France.

Ken's heroism and bravery are to be commended. His actions during the D-Day operation have been included in many histories of the liberation of France, including D-Day and the Citizen Soldiers by Dr. Stephen Ambrose, among others.

As he made his way to the ground from his C-47 troop transport, Ken witnessed unthinkable violence. Many of his colleagues did not make it to the ground before being shot by German gunfire.

Both Ken and his friend, John Steel, landed atop a church in Ste. Mere Eglise. Ken landed especially hard, causing damage to his spine which limits his activities to this day. Both paratroopers were helpless as their parachutes were tangled in the church rooftop.

As he dangled helplessly above the ground, Ken was hit in the light hand by German gunfire from the ground below. While still suspended in their chutes, both Ken and John were spotted by a German soldier. Before the German could shoot at Ken and John, he was shot by another American, Sgt. John Ray.

After freeing himself from the church rooftop, Ken Russell blended into the landscape and later met up with paratroopers from the 82nd and 101st Airborne. Soon after, the troops set up a defensive position on a road leading to Ste. Mere Eglise and came under attack several times. Each time they were successful in defending their position.

For the wounds he sustained on the church rooftop, Ken Russell was awarded two Purple Hearts. For his determination and bravery, he was awarded the Silver Star.

Mr. Speaker, Ken Russell is a true American hero. His selfless actions during the D-Day operation saved lives and contributed to our great victory in World War II. I can say without hesitation that our country would be a much better place today if there were more people here like Ken Russell.

As we approach the 60th anniversary of D-Day, I hope all Americans will remember the sacrifices made by so many soldiers like Ken and will take time to thank them for their service.

100TH BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR
ANNA CHARLOTTE JILG
KOSLOWSKE

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anna Charlotte Jilg Koslowski who will turn 100 years old on September 29. She was born near Florissant, MS, to the family of Adolf and Caroline Jilg. Her father had immigrated as a child to America from Austria in 1859. The family had a vegetable farm outside of St. Louis, and the eleven children all learned the meaning of hard work and its rewards. They were all expected to help in the fields and in preparing the produce for market. Anna's father would drive the mule-drawn wagon into St. Louis to deliver the fresh produce. This way of life supported the family for many years.

Like many people from those days, Anna is pretty much self-taught, as children were needed to help at home or find work at an early age. Her teacher arranged for Anna to complete grades seven and eight in 1 year so the teacher could claim an eighth-grade graduate. After her graduation, Anna was hired by a family in St. Louis to care for the gentleman's terminally ill wife. Her compassionate and caring nature, in addition to her experience of living and working within a large family, made her an excellent candidate.

As a young woman Anna journeyed to Zap, ND, to visit her sister and while there, met the Rev. George Koslowski, a pastor in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. They were married on May 17, 1925, and to this union came seven children, all of whom are still living.

Anna moved with her husband from North Dakota to Waco, NE, where they served a rural parish, St. Johns, for 20 years. In 1950 they moved their family to Big Springs, NE, answering God's call to Zion Lutheran Church. During his ministry there, George was called home by the Lord in 1958, leaving Anna to provide for the two youngest children, ages 13 and 15. Anna worked then as a cook in the local Dairy King. Once the children were on their own, she served as a nanny for several families until 1974, when she moved to Holyoke, CO where she still resides.

Anna has been blessed with 15 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She also has one living sister, Lillian Dueker, who recently celebrated her 102nd birthday.

Anna and her children are grateful for the Lord's blessings during her 100 years. She has led a quiet, prayerful life. She was an excellent mother and mentor to her children, always stressing a Christian attitude. Her favorite reprimand was "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." She continues to be an example and joy to those around her.

I am proud to honor Anna on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Anna is a self taught,

hard working compassionate Christian mother and grandmother who is the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into the great nation it is today.

ELSAH SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the village of Elsah, Illinois and honor its sesquicentennial this year.

Elsah was founded in 1853, and named by one of its founding fathers, General James Semple. General Semple's ancestors were from Scotland, and, according to town tradition, the village's prominent limestone bluffs reminded him of an island just off the Firth of Clyde, "Ailsa Craig." Named after this Scottish island, the Mississippi River village slightly resembles a typical small, English town, with clusters of stone cottages mixed together with small yards and private gardens.

Recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, the village stands as a reminder of nineteenth century living along the Mississippi River. Its buildings represent a midwestern interpretation of nineteenth century styles, and many original buildings remain in place today. The newer buildings were built in the old styles as well, as the village wants to retain its historic feel.

However, in 1993, Elsah was greatly affected by the floods on the Mississippi River. Some nearby cities decided to take state and Federal aid and leave their waterlogged homes and businesses behind, deciding to rebuild elsewhere. The people of Elsah, however, recognized their city's historic foundation, and rebuilt their town. Damaged public buildings were refurbished, and residents worked together to rebuild their homes and lives; and they did so, successfully.

Elsah is quieter now than it was in the past, as mills, warehouses, river shipping, two railroads, local businesses, and farmers have gradually disappeared. But, the village remains strong. Inviting tourists to "leave the fast pace of everyday life" behind, Elsah represents a remnant of Midwestern, small-town life from the late 1800s. Its sesquicentennial this year is a significant milestone, and I wish the village and its people the best.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOSEPH
JOHNSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man of character and grace, Bishop Joseph Johnson. Bishop Johnson serves as the Presiding Bishop of the South Atlantic District of

• 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.

the A.M.E. Zion Church, which is comprised of five conferences, and as President of the Board of Bishops.

Bishop Johnson's record of service is impeccable. He served in the U.S. Army with 15 years experience in the Airborne Division. He has served as pastor of A.M.E. Zion Churches in three different North Carolina conferences, including seven years as pastor of Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Southern Pines, North Carolina. After serving as pastor of Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Greensboro, North Carolina he spent four years presiding as Southwestern Delta Episcopal District, which is comprised of six conferences.

But his reputable service extends well outside of the church walls. In 1993, Bishop Johnson delivered the Gardner C. Taylor Lecture & Preaching Series at Duke University Divinity School. He has published "A Manual for Ministerial Studies" for the A.M.E. Zion Church, in addition to several scholarly essays on Christian stewardship requisites for ministerial practice. He passed his skills and experiences to aspiring ministers when he served for ten years as professor of practical ministry at Hood Theological Seminary of Livingstone College in North Carolina.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Bishop Johnson grew up in Tampa and earned a degree from North Carolina State University. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School of Duke University.

Bishop Johnson is married to Dorothy Sharpe Johnson, who now serves as missionary supervisor and Episcopal secretary of the South Atlantic District of the A.M.E. Zion church. The couple has two sons.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Johnson has led an exceptional career dedicated to teaching and preaching the virtue of kindness. This year will be the last Palmetto Annual Conference where he would preside. He will be retiring next year, and deservedly so, as he has already contributed more to the betterment of our society than most people could hope for in one lifetime. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to this humanitarian.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN TOM
LEWIS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Lewis, a friend and former colleague who epitomized what being a public servant is all about.

Tom devoted his life to serving his country and his countrymen. He fought for America in the Air Force, serving tours of duty in both World War II and Korea during his eleven-year military career. Tom used the knowledge he gained in the Air Force later in life as a jet and rocket-testing chief for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, eventually supervising work on sensitive and sophisticated military and commercial aircraft systems.

Tom came to Congress the same year I did, in 1983, after serving as both Mayor and city councilman of North Palm Beach from 1964 to 1971. He then went on to represent that area in the Florida House of Representatives until 1980, when he was elected to the Florida Senate.

During his time in these hallowed halls, Tom zealously fought for the people of his district, whom he considered more than just constituents. He was largely responsible for saving the Hurricane Hunter Plane Program, the aircraft which fly into hurricanes to collect data so meteorologists can predict when and where these storms will hit. He also led the effort to build a much-needed VA medical center in his district, as well as to save the Big Cypress Natural Preserve, a unique part of Florida's environment.

After his retirement from Congress in 1994, he worked to protect Florida's agricultural interests during trade negotiations and led a campaign which raised \$66 million to improve a stretch of U.S. Highway 27 on which more than 100 people died between 1982 and 1997. That portion of highway in Palm Beach County now bears Tom's name.

My colleague from Florida, the distinguished Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, said it best when he noted a decade ago that there was "not a corner of his vast district that you can go without seeing the fruit of Tom's work."

Mr. Speaker, Tom was much more than a dedicated public servant. He was a loving husband to his wife, Marian. He was a devoted father to his three children. He also was one of my closest confidants in Congress. It saddened me to learn that he passed away last month. I am comforted, however, in the knowledge that he will be remembered as one of the most respected, accomplished, and honorable members of this institution.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Leadership Training Institute of America and their inspiring mission of faith for America's youth.

LTIA originated in my home district of Northwest Arkansas and has successfully spread throughout the country and even to places as far away as Russia. Their purpose is to provide America's future leaders with a strong Christian foundation of faith in today's secular society.

The participants of the program attend weekend seminars that teach them how their faith is a logical solution for many of the world's most challenging problems. They learn how to debate their worldly colleagues in an intelligent and inviting method. Furthermore, the students may attend a weeklong seminar once a year—here in our nation's capitol. While here, they meet with leaders in the Christian movement, attend discussions with their colleagues from all over the nation, and meet with their Congressional representatives.

I believe this training is vital in preparing our future leaders to take their place in society. The youth of today face physical, emotional, and social challenges that shock the imagination. They are inundated with graphic images of sex and drugs everywhere they turn. Yet, we expect them to maintain their childhood innocence, without providing them with the tools

they need to combat the horrible examples they receive. LTIA provides America with a wonderful solution of a generation steeped in their Christian faith and trained to face a materialistic society.

As the former President Ronald Reagan said, "The future doesn't belong to the faint-hearted; it belongs to the brave." I believe the students involved in the Leadership Training Institute of America are part of our brave future and I applaud their efforts to make America an even greater nation than she is today.

HONORING BRAVERY OF MARINE
STAFF SGT. BRIAN IVERS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Staff Sgt. Brian Ivers for his bravery in the face of combat during Operation Freedom in Iraq. Mr. Ivers is a resident of Fort Collins and is a Police Officer of that fair city.

Serving his country on active duty in the Fox 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 1st Division, his company was ordered to rescue a group of Marine artillerymen who took a wrong turn in the town of Al Gaharraf. Encountering a near blinding sand and rain storm as they entered the town, no air support could be provided.

Staff Sergeant Ivers' platoon came under fire as they entered Al Gaharraf. As the first platoon dismounted, they immediately engaged with the enemy. Sergeant Jim Cawley's platoon worked to suppress the enemy long enough to allow Sergeant Ivers' platoon to enter the town.

Sergeant Cawley's platoon fought a gun battle while occupying a building. A grenade was launched into the building and leveled many of the marines because of the concussion. Enemy fire had increased all around them while they were returning fire. One of the marines was trapped inside the building.

Staff Sergeant Ivers attempted to rescue him. In his own words, Brian said, "I got up to get him as I thought I could just grab his hand and drag him out. As I moved along the wall, rounds began to punch holes out of the concrete in front of me. I turned to go back to where I had just come from and was struck in the side with a round. The force of it spun me around and at the time I thought I had been hit in the kidney."

Later, Brian would realize that the bayonet had taken the impact of the round, deflecting it to his flack jacket, thus saving his life. His platoon was in contact with the enemy for over a half hour and was running low on ammunition. They were finally told to pull out because air cover was expected. A tank showed up about 40 minutes later.

Brian's ribs were blue with bruises. Months later, Brian found out that he had broken the eleventh rib—a good reminder that their battle had saved a unit of the eleventh Marines.

Because he received a wound while in combat, Staff Sergeant Brian Ivers will receive the Purple Heart. Mr. Speaker, we are so fortunate to live in this great country where freedom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted. It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed