

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING NEIL F. OBERTO ON BEING NAMED "OUTSTANDING ITALIAN AMERICAN"

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Neil Oberto for being named the "Outstanding Italian American" by the Hazleton Sons of Italy. It is an honor to join the members of this organization in paying tribute to his numerous achievements as he is honored at the Columbus Day Ceremony on Sunday, October 12th.

Neil Oberto is the third of four sons born to Anthony and Immaculata (Lombardi) Oberto. He was born and raised in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, and has lived there for most of his life. Neil exhibited leadership qualities early on in his life. He is a 1978 graduate of Hazleton High School where he served as the senior class president. He also attended Luzerne County Community College obtaining an Associate Degree in 1980 in Hotel and Restaurant Management, and was employed at a several restaurants and hotels throughout the area.

In 1982, Neil took a new direction in his life when he attended Borromeo College of Ohio, a seminary college outside of Cleveland to pursue his bachelor's degree and discern the option of joining the Capuchin Franciscans. He obtained a Bachelor's degree two years later in Social and Behavioral Science. In his senior year of college he was accepted as a postulant with the Capuchins. From 1984–1985, he spent a novitiate year with the Capuchins at their novitiate house outside of Pittsburgh.

He returned to Hazleton in August of 1985. Neil pursued a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Scranton and achieved that goal in 1991. He is a Nationally Board Certified Counselor and Licensed as a Professional Counselor.

Mr. Speaker, Neil Oberto has been working and volunteering in the social service field for the past 24 years. He began working with mentally challenged adults and children in recreational programs. While in Cleveland he did various apostolic and volunteer work with inner city youth, pastoral care in hospitals, and an inner city nursing facility for the economically underprivileged, along with other inner city service. In Pittsburgh, apostolic work was at a soup kitchen in the "Hill District" and hospital pastoral work. Upon his return to Hazleton he was employed at the Keystone Job Corp Center as a Residential Advisor, Luzerne County Children and Youth as a caseworker, and since 1989, Catholic Social Services of Greater Hazleton. He has been serving as Executive Director since 1995.

Neil Oberto is very involved in his community. He is involved or has had past affiliation with the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Adoption Committee, Greater Hazleton Civic Partnership, United Way Child Advocacy Committee, Hazleton Area Housing Coalition, Co-

Founder Habitat for Humanity, Tri-Area Joint Recreation Authority, Cranberry Creek Gateway Committee, Keystone Job Corp Center Community Relations Committee, numerous regional and state commitments through work, and a lector, catechism teacher and member of the Holy Name Society at Our Lady of Grace Church in Hazleton.

Neil has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Greater Hazleton Jaycees and was presented with a Leadership Award from Project Women in Need by State Representative Katie True.

He is married to the former Meralea Petrucci and is the proud father of four daughters, Danielle, Gina, Sara and Kristina.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honor to represent a man who is not only a leader in the Hazleton Community, but someone who has devoted his life to helping those who are less fortunate.

TRIBUTE TO EUREKA LODGE NO. 52

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional institution within my community, the Eureka Lodge No. 52, and to congratulate its members on reaching an exceptional milestone. Soon these men will celebrate the lodge's tradition of 100 years of dedication to their community and to each other.

From its humble beginnings in a barber shop in New Jersey, a group of men, led by Hodges Ford, sought to begin a Masonic Lodge in Montclair. The barber, Brother Joseph Hooper, joined these men, guiding their vision, and helping them to establish what is now Eureka Lodge No. 52.

The first lodge was founded on December 5, 1903, in Bloomfield, not Montclair, as there was no available hall to be found there. On January 22, 1904, Eureka Lodge No. 52 held its first meeting at Arab Hall, with 18 members—3 more than the minimum requirement of 15. In December of 1909, the Lodge was rewarranted and moved to Montclair at the request of the officers and members.

Thus began their many years of service to the community, remaining faithful to their claim that they are "founded upon unity and brotherly love."

The Eureka Lodge celebrated its 50th anniversary on December 3, 1953, at the Ivanhoe Inn in Irvington, NJ.

On November 21, 1965, the Lodge reached what it considers to be the pinnacle of their achievements—the laying of the cornerstone in their \$50,000 Masonic Building. This building has become a source of pride for its members and the people within the community as it continues to be a meeting place for an affiliation with a long and distinguished past,

proudly claiming 3 of its members as Most Worshipful Grand Masters.

I hope that you will all join me in congratulating the men of Eureka Lodge No. 52, whose members, both past and current, have been devoted to fraternity, fellowship, and service to their community.

THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to join my colleagues on the Hill in wishing the Republic of China a happy National Day, which occurred last Friday. Despite Taiwan's small size and lack of natural resources, in recent years Taiwan has emerged as an economic powerhouse. It is the world's 17th largest economy, with the world's 15th largest trade volume. This economic performance has contributed to both regional and global prosperity. At a time of economic interdependence among nations, Taiwan has a lot to offer to the world. On Taiwan's National Day, I would like to see Taiwan continue to play a major economic role in the world and further strengthen its economic ties to the United States. Indeed, bilateral trade between Taiwan and the U.S. topped \$66 billion last year and will continue to grow—to the benefit of both nations. Congratulations, President Chen. We wish you and your people the best of luck as you seek readmission to the United Nations and the World Health Organization. You deserve a prominent place on the world stage. I also wish to add that President Chen has pledged Taiwan's resources in helping us fight worldwide terrorism. President Chen believes any attack on America is tantamount to an attack on Taiwan and all the other peace-loving countries in the world. Terrorism must be stopped and Taiwan has done its best to help eliminate terrorism worldwide. We appreciate Taiwan's support.

CONGRATULATING THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE ON RECEIVING RECOGNITION FOR THEIR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENTS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Borough of Dunmore, in Lackawanna County, PA, for being nationally recognized once again for its National Night Out Events. I ask that my colleagues pay tribute to Dunmore, its citizens, Police Chief Sal Mecca and Mayor Patrick Loughney for winning this National recognition.

This year, Dunmore was named the second best event nationally in the under 15,000 population category. I was proud to participate in

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

this award-winning Night Out. They won "First Place" from 1999 and 2001 for the town's Night Out activities as the best in the Northeastern United States for towns with a population under 30,000.

Mr. Speaker, the first National Night Out in Dunmore was a 1-day festival in 1996 where there were just six block parties held. This year, it grew to 20 block parties, a parade, a safety fair and a cookout. Dunmore earned rookie honors in 1996. Its National Night Out has been growing ever since, and the borough prides itself on this 3-day event.

The event has been so successful, the city of Scranton and the Borough of Throop got their advice and held successful events as well. This year marked the 20th anniversary of National Night Out. The first year, 400 communities from 23 States took part. This year, 10,000 communities from all 50 States were involved. More than 34 million people participated.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honor to represent citizens of the Borough of Dunmore who have shown such a commitment to their community and have been justly recognized nationally for their involvement and spirit.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE
LIEUTENANT GALVANN R. SMITH

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Detective Lieutenant Galvann R. Smith for his faithful service of 25 years to the Michigan Department of State Police.

Galvann began his career in 1978 with the Michigan Department of State Police as a Trooper at the Michigan State Police Bridgeport Post. In 1989 he was reassigned to the Michigan State Police Bridgeport Laboratory Latent Print Unit. In 1998 he was promoted to Detective Lieutenant, where he served as the supervisor of the Latent Print Unit. Galvann has been honored with several awards, including the Michigan State Police Award for Professional Excellence, Michigan State Police Unit Citation for Professional Excellence, Exchange Club of Saginaw's Officer of the Year 1998 and 2003, and numerous letters of appreciation from police agencies, prosecutors and civilian groups. Galvann Smith will be greatly missed by his co-workers, and greatly appreciated by the citizens of Michigan.

I am honored today to recognize Detective Lieutenant Galvann R. Smith for his auspicious dedication to serving the State of Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO COMPEER

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dual milestone in the history of Compeer, Inc., an outstanding organization based in my district of Rochester, NY. Compeer was founded to foster friendships between its caring volunteers with adults and

children with mental illness. Since its establishment, Compeer has mushroomed into an international program with chapters in 100 cities, 30 States, Canada, and Australia. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Compeer's founding in Rochester, its 20th anniversary of operations across the Nation.

Individuals with mental illness often face a daunting array of challenges. In addition to their diagnosis, they may be faced with difficulties in finding or keeping employment opportunities, housing, and other basic necessities. Too many lack a support network of family and friends to buoy them during tough times. Compeer helps to fill that gap by enabling friendships to form and grow. Isolation and loneliness often accompany mental illness, but they do not have to be inevitable.

Compeer has enabled hundreds of people to live independently as mentally and emotionally healthy individuals. Under the Compeer model, patients, volunteers, therapists, and staff work together to promote the total health of a client. In an era of rising health costs, Compeer provides an affordable, effective method of improving the quality of life for individuals battling mental illness.

The Compeer program has been replicated many times across the Nation, and has received numerous awards, including being named a model program by the National Institutes of Health in 1982. In 1999, executive director Bernice Skirboll represented Compeer at the landmark White House Conference on Mental Health, where the program was praised.

Indeed, no tribute to Compeer would be complete without acknowledging the unparalleled devotion of CEO and Founder Bernice Skirboll. Bernice, or "Bunny" to the many who know and love her, has been the driving force behind Compeer's success. Her tenacity, compassion, and commitment to individuals with mental illness are legendary. Her great legacy will be the continuation of Compeer's good work for decades to come.

Compeer staff and volunteers should take great pride in the knowledge that they have made a difference. Through their selfless work, they have shown that the power of love and friendship can triumph over loneliness, isolation, and mental illness.

I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 30th anniversary of Compeer, Inc., and in honoring the volunteers, therapists, and staff of Compeer for their concern, compassion, and tireless efforts.

TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE BILLER
GREEN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. BERMAN, to pay tribute to our good friend Marjorie Biller Green who is retiring after 16 years as the Director of Educational Policy and Programs for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Marjorie's strong leadership and vision have played a vital role in furthering ADL's mission and we are grateful for all she has done.

Prior to joining the ADL, Marjorie enjoyed a long and successful career in education. She

served as the Executive Director for the California Coalition for Public Education, the Coordinator for the Wilshire Community Educational Complex of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Community Liaison for the Integration Team of the Los Angeles Unified School District and as an Educational Consultant for the Rand Corporation.

All of this experience helped make her an incredibly effective Director of ADL's Educational Policy Programs—the position she has held since 1987. However, it was her passion, creativity, and dedication that made her a great leader. As Director of Education Policy and Programs and as Assistant Director of ADL's National A World of Difference Institute, Marjorie proved that with the right combination of innovation, collaboration, and commitment one person can make a tremendous positive impact.

During Marjorie's tenure with ADL, she helped schools promote religious diversity; publishers improve textbooks to promote Jews and other minorities accurately and without stereotypes; educators, here and in Israel, foster skills to combat bigotry; parents and educators learn how to help children cope with traumatic events such as 9/11; the Shoah Visual Historical Foundation develop a Holocaust education curriculum; and teens recognize the common humanity of all people through programs such as the Children of the Dream Program. These are but a few of her many impressive accomplishments. She will be missed at the ADL and by our entire community.

Mr. Speaker, we invite our colleagues to join us in thanking Marjorie Green for her exemplary contributions to the Anti-Defamation League and to wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

ON THE OCCASION OF MOTHER
TERESA'S BEATIFICATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on October 19, 2003, Mother Teresa will be beatified by Pope John Paul II. In the Catholic canonization process, beatification is the last step before sainthood. This step formalizes what much of the world has known for years: That Mother Teresa selflessly gave her life, her energy, and her love to those most in need.

The name Mother Teresa has become synonymous with charity and commitment to the poor the world over. Born in 1910 in Albania to middle class parents, Mother Teresa realized early on that she would dedicate her life to serving God and her fellow man. She joined the Loreto Sisters of Dublin, Ireland and trained to be a teacher. She taught History and Geography in Calcutta, India for 15 years.

Though she loved teaching, Mother Teresa felt she was destined for a different calling. With the blessing of Pope Pius XII, Mother Teresa began serving the poor and neglected in the slums of Calcutta, India. She taught the illiterate children of the area to read and write, but soon realized that her energies were desperately needed elsewhere. With so many homeless people dying in filth and indignity, she put her efforts toward caring for the poor