

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote on rollcall votes 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 631, 632, 633. In addition, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 628, 629, and 630.

IN HONOR OF STIRLING D. SCRUGGS, DIRECTOR, INFORMATION, EXECUTIVE BOARD AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION DIVISION—UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, at the end of this year, Stirling Scruggs will be retiring after 22 dedicated years with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Stirling is a living example of the ideals behind the creation of UNFPA and the United Nations itself. A former high school football star in Tennessee, Stirling had many opportunities open to him in life. But his overriding ambition was one that so many of us shared in our youth: to make a difference in the world. Stirling has remained true to his youthful ideals and has made a difference, a substantial difference measured in millions of women and babies that survived because of his dedication and efforts; measured in the essential bonds between mothers and their children who survived to know each other and in the love of husbands and fathers who, rather than seeing their wives and children die in childbirth, have had long and full lives with their loved ones.

In speaking with his colleagues, there are three words that are always repeated when they describe Stirling Scruggs—Passion, Integrity and Kindness.

Passion: Stirling Scruggs has worked in some of the poorest places in the world. He has seen first hand the deprivations and struggles that hundreds of millions—in fact, billions of people—bear every hour, every day, every week throughout the year. Stirling Scruggs brings to his work a passion that bespeaks his own compassion and his own commitment to the cause of basic health, women and voluntary family planning around the world.

Integrity: Stirling combines his passion with unshakable integrity. He is unwavering in his commitment to basic health and rights for all the world's people. He has stood up for these ideals in some of the most difficult circumstances, including in China, where he worked tirelessly—as UNFPA does—to convince the Chinese about the greater wisdom of a voluntary, rights-based approach to family planning. Stirling Scruggs is a monument to personal integrity and professional dedication.

Kindness: Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Stirling brings to his work a core kindness—not only in his outlook to the dispos-

sessed in our world, but in his dealings with all people. Stirling always has a kind word and a warm smile for those he works with, on behalf of and for. He is a tender man, who has a compassionate outlook toward those less fortunate and a compassionate manner with everyone he relates to.

There are few better, kinder men than Stirling Scruggs. He has represented the United States so well in the United Nations system. All Americans can be proud of the service he has rendered and we all wish him well as he continues his efforts to make the world—and each of us—a little better.

TRIBUTE TO WESLEY HEDSTROM

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Cook County Commissioner Wesley Hedstrom, who passed away on November 7, 2003.

Wes Hedstrom was born in 1924 in Grand Marais, Minnesota, the youngest of thirteen children. After graduating from Grand Marais High School in 1942, Wes joined the U.S. Army and served during World War II. Returning to Minnesota, Wes, along with five of his brothers, took over operation of their father's business, Hedstrom Lumber, and he was company president from 1986 to 2000. In 1984, Wes was elected to the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on which he served for the next 16 years.

Except for the few years he was in the Army, Wes lived his entire life in Grand Marais, a small fishing town along Minnesota's north shore. Many people say that Wes was largely responsible for the enormous growth of his family's lumber business, turning it into one of the region's largest and most successful companies. For Wes, however, it was more than a business; it was a way of life. He had extensive knowledge of lumber and the woodlands. I learned more from Wes about forestry, forest management and sustainable yield forestry than from any other source.

Wes understood the need for balance between the lumber industry and protections for the environment. He applied that fair-minded attitude to all the projects he worked on in the community, both as a County Commissioner and as a civic volunteer. From the renovation of a local hospital, to the creation of a new airport, to the advocacy for education funding, Wes worked to nurture people, find a consensus, and do what was in the public's best interest. That was his signature and his trademark.

Some called him an activist. Others said he was a pioneer. All who crossed his path considered him a friend. I knew Wes since he worked on my first Congressional campaign in 1974, and over the years, I marveled at his friendliness, magnanimity and selflessness. To me, Wes was a teacher, counselor and partner in ventures for the Northland, and he was a good friend to me. He was one of those rare people who truly made a difference in his community. I know my colleagues join me in honoring Wes Hedstrom for his many years of dedicated service to his town, his State and his country.

COMMENDING DENTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize the Denton Housing Authority to commend them for receiving three National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Merit Awards in Tampa, Florida this year.

The Denton Housing Authority has been active in the North Texas community for years, working hard to provide quality public and affordable housing. This year at the 2003 NAHRO awards ceremony, the Denton Housing Authority was recognized for their achievements in Program Innovation for Resident and Client Services. NAHRO President Kurt Creager said, "These agencies are accomplishing remarkable levels of service for their communities and their residents. They are setting up programs and establishing standards that can be duplicated by other housing authorities around the country."

The Denton Housing Authority was recognized for three of their programs. The ARTS program brings together the DHA, University of North Texas, Center for Public Service, and Greater Denton Arts Council to provide an arts program and promote social skills for disadvantaged youth in low-income neighborhoods. The New Direction of Community Oriented Policy Services (COPS) program partners with the Denton Police Department to encourage community outreach services to create and sustain safer neighborhoods. Also, the Phoenix After-School Program teams with the University of North Texas and DHA to encourage social and academic success for socially challenged youth 4–11 years old living in the Phoenix Development. These are the kind of great programs that will create a better society in the future by giving our youth a strong foundation and forming a safer environment for our neighborhoods.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the Denton Housing Authority for their innovation and hard work in providing community outreach services to the City of Denton and surrounding communities.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID A. WIRSING

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to my colleague and friend in Illinois, David A. Wirsing, State Representative from the 70th district. Dave went home to be with the Lord suddenly on Sunday, November 16, 2003. He leaves a loving wife of over 40 years, Nancy, four grown children—Mark, Steven, Angela and Susan—and 11 grandchildren.

Dave Wirsing was a friend in the truest sense of the word. He was a man of deep personal faith, a loving and faithful husband to Nancy and a wonderful father to his four children. He spent the majority of his life in agriculture as a former pork producer and grain

farmer. He and Nancy had the same phone number their entire lives, and their address always ended with "Sycamore, Illinois". Then, in 1992, he decided to enter public service and run for State Representative of the 70th district.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Dave today not only for his selfless public service to the people of Illinois, but to Dave as a friend. Before Dave ever ran for public office, he was simply a husband, father and grandfather. He raised his children with a sense of humor, a stern discipline, high moral standards, a deep and abiding faith in God and taught them leadership skills and simple common sense. Most-ly, he raised his children and provided his wife, Nancy, with love. Few knew at this point how much he would impact the lives of so many people or that so many would seek his counsel. His children never dreamed that the man they simply called "Dad" would become the man many would call "great."

Dave Wirsing was a friend to many. His small and large acts of kindness are unfathomable to some. However, to Dave, it was just the way he was meant to live his life. He was a humble man, never quite understanding why people outside of his family would honor him for achievements that to him were just what he was supposed to do. He was a man who dedicated his life—indeed, his heart and soul, to serving others—his family, his neighbors, his friends, his constituents.

Dave led by example—he lived by the Golden Rule, and yet he never expected anything in return for his kindness and compassion. He loved being around people—be it the company of his wife and family or in the presence of colleagues, acquaintances and even strangers. He was able to laugh at himself—a trait seldom seen these days. He dedicated his life to serving others. He helped his children grow, learn and prosper; he helped his neighbors in times of need; he helped his friends to resolve problems; he helped his colleagues see both sides of an issue and then beyond that to a resolution; he helped his constituents obtain the assistance and guidance they had a right to; he helped many young people grow in life through his wisdom, his gentle and jovial encouragement, his love and respect for each person as an individual, and his high regard for bettering oneself.

Mr. Speaker, Dave Wirsing's accomplishments were many, but most importantly, not a day went by that he did not share himself with someone. Solutions and advice came to him from principle and philosophy. He was not out to make a name for himself, he just wanted to make things right in his part of the world. If he did not have the skill necessary to help someone, he sought it out. He lived by the philosophy that if you always tell the truth, you won't have to remember what you said. Dave Wirsing did not live his life to achieve great moments, but instead had a lifelong commitment to a set of values and ideals. As I reflect today on the whole of his life, that is his greatest accomplishment. He leaves behind a legacy of faith, kindness, compassion and love for his family, friends and constituents. He will be deeply missed.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA OF THE KOREAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 30th anniversary of The Korean American Medical Association of District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, Incorporated.

The Korean American Medical Association of District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, Incorporated (KMA) is one of the most respected Korean-American nonprofit organizations in America. The association was founded in 1974 by a small group of respected Korean physicians. The KMA was the first Korean Medical Association in the United States. Its hard work and dedication has led the association to grow from a handful of members to a membership of about 400 physicians from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

Since its inception, the association's involvement in the Great Washington, D.C. Metropolitan community has been commendable. The KMA provides health care services, seminars and educational opportunities to the community. The dedication that the members of the KMA have to its community is exceptional.

The KMA provides a forum for its members to exchange ideas and continue education helping its members continue to provide excellent service to the community. The care and services these physicians provide to their neighbors and friends is a testament of their hard work. The KMA certainly has distinguished itself as an outstanding group.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, with all the contributions to the community made by The Korean American Medical Association of District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, Incorporated, we have a great reason to celebrate today. I want to commend the association 30 years of excellence and extend my warmest wishes for the years to come. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the KMA on its 30th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF LOULA LOI-ALAFYOIANNIS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Loula Loi-Alafoyiannis, the Executive Global President and C.E.O. of the Euro-American Women's Council (EAWC). Loula has spent her professional life facilitating the needs of Greek and American entrepreneurial communities and advancing the cause of women's rights in the areas of business and education.

Loula has demonstrated that intelligence, integrity, energy, clear objectives and the love of a task well executed create credibility. Her love for Greece and her desire to promote greater understanding between Greece and

America has made her a strong advocate and a wonderful ally.

Loula, like so many talented women of her generation, has had several careers. For two decades, Loula served as an elementary school teacher, helping to ensure that young people have a strong educational foundation. Her work with young people inspired her to create a Youth Leadership Award given annually by EAWC.

She then turned to the challenges offered by business, public relations and event-planning. Loula's entrepreneurial skills are widely recognized and, as a result, she has served as a delegate to White House Conferences on small businesses since 1990, and has advised numerous public officials and government leaders. Loula has also sponsored numerous White House luncheons for prominent and influential business women from across the United States and Greece.

In 1991, she founded and organized the "Best Buddies Foundation" in Greece, along with Anthony Kennedy Shriver, who serves as its Global President and C.E.O. As the Founder and the executive Global President of Euro-American Women's Council, Loula has established a spirit of cooperation among business women globally. The women of EAWC bridge nations and cultures, set trends, exercise influence, innovate positive change and make a difference around the world. Since 2001, Loula has been the Coalition Partner for Europe of the Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) organization. She is currently a board member to the Human Rights Advisory Council of New York.

Loula has received a number of prestigious awards for her outstanding contributions, including the Crown Award, which recognizes her as one of the most creative minds of the top leading entrepreneurial women of the world. She has also earned the distinguished award of "Honorary Citizen of Baku" as a result of her pioneering efforts to improve entrepreneurial training in the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding work of Loula Loi-Alafoyiannis. Her unwavering dedication to improving relations between the Greek and American entrepreneurial communities and promoting opportunities for women is truly worthy of our recognition.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. JOHN L. GILES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the Reverend Dr. John L. Giles in recognition of his pastoral anniversary.

While Reverend Giles was born in the tiny town of Sanger, TX, located 38 miles southwest of Fort Worth, he considers himself a native of San Francisco. It was during high school that he joined St. Kevin's Catholic Church and learned the Catholic discipline. He was also a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church. Upon graduating from Balboa High School, he had saved enough money to attend college and support himself. Through his hardships, he learned independence, responsibility, the importance of healthy living, and helping others and his family.