

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HONORING LEVI JOHN CHETTLE FOR EARNING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Levi John Chettle, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 370, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Levi has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as Camp Bartle and the Sea Base High Adventure. Over the 5 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 58 merit badges. Additionally, Levi has held numerous leadership positions, serving as patrol leader, troop quartermaster, den chief, historian and assistant senior patrol leader. Levi also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with such awards as the World Conservation Award, the Heritage Trail Award, the 50-Miler Afloat Award, the National Camping Award, the 12-Month Camping Award 4 years in a row, Warrior Little Silent Stalking White Bear in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and the Brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Levi mulched a playground, painted benches and trash receptacles, and planted 11 flower beds at Riverside Park. Additionally, he applied painted stencils to over 100 drainage manhole covers in the City of Riverside.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Levi John Chettle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## A TRIBUTE TO BOB BAKER

### HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2003*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a national leader in civil aviation. Robert J. Baker, an executive with American Airlines and its parent, AMR Corp., for some 35 years, died April 20, at the much-too-young age of 58.

In his three-and-a-half decades of service with American, Bob Baker rose from marketing trainee to Vice Chairman. He joined the airline in 1968. By 1985, he was running its operations. He was named Vice Chairman of AMR in 1998, and held that title until he retired last year.

Bob Baker served his country by sitting on several national commissions and advisory panels. President Clinton appointed Mr. Baker to a special commission on aviation manage-

ment. Bob Baker also chaired a Federal panel on the concept of "free flight" as a remedy to airway congestion. In the dark hours following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, President Bush tapped Bob Baker for the "rapid response team to analyze and revamp the nation's airline security."

When American Airlines bought TWA, Bob was named chairman of TWA and operated that airline until it could be integrated with American, forming the world's largest airline.

Bob Crandall, long-time chairman of AMR, noted that Bob Baker was born into the American Airlines family. His father was a station manager and headquarters executive at the airline.

"Bob was the kind of guy who came to work early, stayed late and understood the old saying that 99 percent of genius is perspiration," Crandall told the Fort-Worth Star-Telegram.

Crandall's successor, Donald Carty, worked closely with Baker since the late 1980's. Carty said, "We have lost a true aviation pioneer. Bob helped shape our company, and, in fact, our entire industry."

Mr. Speaker, aviation has lost a premier professional; an objective, seasoned, thoughtful voice of reason and balance in this contentious market sector; and an uncompromising, persistent advocate for safety. Bob was both a friend and counselor, I shall miss him greatly, as will all of aviation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Marty, his four children and six grandchildren.

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF OPERATION RESPECT

SPEECH OF

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2003*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not able to speak on behalf of H. Res. 161, Recognizing the Achievements of Operation Respect and the "Don't Laugh at Me" program, when it was debated and passed by the House of Representatives on Monday, April 28, 2003.

I strongly support H. Res. 161 and the work of the Operation Respect program and its founder, Peter Yarrow. Operation Respect and its "Don't Laugh at Me" program is engaged in a national effort to transform after-school programs and children's summer camps into more compassionate and respectful environments. The "Don't Laugh at Me" program addresses the issues of emotional and physical violence among children. It helps to prevent bullying and promotes compassion and tolerance among children.

Operation Respect and its "Don't Laugh at Me" program has been presented at over 200 workshops for children in after-school programs and children's camps. Over 18,000 educators in 27 states have received training

materials and curriculum to increase mutual respect and fellowship and create an environment for children that focuses on their school-work and promotes social and emotional growth.

Peter Yarrow, the musician and social activist, who is a member of Peter, Paul, and Mary created the "Don't Laugh at Me" initiative. Peter, himself, has appeared before over 240 educational organizations in over 36 states on behalf of Operation Respect.

Peter Yarrow is a talented, compassionate man with a lifelong message of humanity and caring. We have had the joy of working together on several occasions. Through his music, Peter has addressed numerous social and political causes, none more significant than Operation Respect: "Don't Laugh at Me." This man, whose songs have had the power to stir social consciousness and effect change, is passionately dedicated to developing an environment of safety, respect, and tolerance in American schools.

So it is with great pleasure that I join my fellow Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to recognize the work of Peter Yarrow and this outstanding program, which has the enthusiastic support of educators and school children alike.

## HONORING STEVEN E. MCKEE FOR EARNING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven E. McKee, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 370, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Steven has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as 33 monthly campouts with the troop, 4 Camporees, and 3 Scout mall shows. Over the 4 years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 45 merit badges. Additionally, Steven has held numerous leadership positions, serving as patrol leader, historian, quartermaster, guide and senior patrol leader. Steven also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with such awards as the World Conservation Award, the Religious Knot, Brave Son of Mighty Silver Bird in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say Award, and the Brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Steven landscaped the entire front area of the grounds of the Church of the Redeemer, after construction of the new addition of the church was finished.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven E. McKee for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America

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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.

and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR  
H.R. 1949, VENDEE LOAN RESTORATION ACT

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 1949, the Vendee Loan Restoration Act. This legislation, which is cosponsored by my friend LANE EVANS of Illinois, the Ranking Member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, will re-establish the Department of Veterans Affairs' highly effective loan program, which VA terminated administratively on January 23, 2003.

When a purchaser agrees to buy a foreclosed VA home, VA may offer to finance it through a "vendee" loan to encourage the prompt sale of the property. Vendee loans are made at market interest rates and often require a down payment. Borrowers are assessed a 2.25 percent funding fee that is paid in cash.

I view vendee loans as an important tool to obtain a higher return on property sales, which reduces the overall cost of program operations. In the past, VA made, and subsequently sold, \$800 million to \$1.2 billion in such loans each fiscal year. There is an ample body of empirical data indicating that offering vendee financing is cost effective. In March 2002, Booz, Allen, and Hamilton, Inc., independently analyzed the cost effectiveness of vendee loan financing. Their report indicated a savings to the Government of \$16 million in fiscal year 1999 due to vendee financing. We believe the vendee loan program is based on sound business principals and should be re-established.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING CHIEF EDWARD L. STINETTE UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2003*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Chief Edward L. Stinnette upon his retirement as Fire Chief of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department after 30 years of distinguished and dedicated service to the Department.

Chief Stinnette first joined the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in January 1973 as a firefighter. From 1973 through 1985, he gained a great deal of operational experience within the Department as a company officer. He also did tours as a shift commander, recruit school coordinator, and station coordinator. Chief Stinnette was promoted to Lead Battalion Chief in 1985, and 2 years later was named Deputy Fire Chief.

Starting in March of 1992, Chief Stinnette became responsible for the daily operations of

the department as Assistant Chief of Operations. He also served as the leader of the Virginia Task Force One when it was deployed to Oklahoma City, following the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building. Initially appointed as Active Fire Chief December 7, 1998, he was appointed to Fire Chief on April 19, 1999.

As Fire Chief, he has been responsible for over 1,400 uniformed and civilian employees, hundreds of volunteers, and a budget of \$112 million. Chief Stinnette is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the State Fire Chiefs Association of Virginia. His strong leadership skills and devotion to serving the community will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish the very best to Edward Stinnette as he is recognized for his years of service to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. During his 30 years of service, he certainly has earned his recognition, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding his tenure.

HONORING GARRET THOMAS COCHRAN FOR EARNING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Garret Thomas Cochran, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 370, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Garret has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as the Sea Base High Adventure, 5 Camporees, 4 Scout mall shows and never missing one, a total of 63 campouts with his troop. Over the 5 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 66 merit badges. Additionally, Garret has held numerous leadership positions, serving as patrol leader, historian, den chief, quartermaster, guide, instructor, scribe, assistant senior patrol leader, and senior patrol leader. Garret also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with such awards as the Brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow, Warrior Honored Son of Little Lone Yellow Fang in the tribe of Mic-O-Say, the 12-Month Camping Award 4 years in a row, the World Conservation Award, the Coup of the Long Trail Award, and the Coup of the Far Traveler Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Garret created Flag Plaza and erected a flag pole at Vineyard Church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Garret Thomas Cochran for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN  
AND THE CONSTITUTION

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2003*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the young scholars of Smyrna High School, in Smyrna, Delaware who represented my home state of Delaware in the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. They were part of a group of 1,200 students from across the country who came to Washington, DC, to compete in the national finals of this program. These young scholars worked diligently and persistently to reach the national finals and through this program have gained a deeper knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The names of the honored students are: Kevin Allen, Christy Baldwin, Joshua Chavez, Tiffany Coleman, Mike Crain, Alana Cruz, Jennifer Davis, Tom Garnett, Ashley Gillespie, Stacey Goldsberry, Joshua Hastings, Rebecca Huff, Erica Huss, Melvin Jamann, Amber Lech, Aaron McKinney, Jordan Mebane, Mary Naylor, Shannon Neal, Jessica Oliver, Michelle Paulish, Jason Reames, Justin Ritter, Souvenir Ros, Bill Spencer, Stacey Sudler, Heather Szymanski, Alison Wilson, Kalya Wolbert, and Mustafa Zia.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to their teacher, Mr. Marc Deisem, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the team.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young students about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day final competition consisted of hearings modeled after those in the United States Congress. The students made oral presentations before a panel of adult judges and testified as constitutional experts before a "congressional committee." A panel of adult judges represented various regions of the country and a variety of appropriate professional fields served on the congressional committees. These judges followed up the testimonies with a series of questions designed to test the students' depth of understanding and their ability to apply constitutional knowledge to given situations.

The We the People program is administered by the Center for Civic Education, and has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. This program has promoted civic competence and responsibility among young students as well as awareness for contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The team from Smyrna High School conducted much research in preparation for the national competition here in Washington, DC. I congratulate them for their fine work that enabled them to come so far in this competition and to have visited our nation's capital.