

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO WEST GENESEE'S HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' LACROSSE TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the West Genesee High School Boys' Lacrosse Team, which won the Class A state championship title.

The team won the Section Three championship in order to move on and become one of only 8 teams from around New York State to play in the state playoffs. In the state playoffs, they won their quarterfinal and semifinal games, placing them in the state final. The West Genesee team then traveled to Long Island, where they captured their third straight Class A championship title and ended their season with a record of 23 wins and only one loss.

Team captains Brian Stanton, Andrew Hanover, Tom Donahue, and Mike Malone led the state champion West Genesee Boys' Lacrosse Team made up of players Brian Griffin, Dave Osier, Joel Derrigo, Brian Cost, Jake Moulton, Mark Cometti, Josh Begley, Jeff Ryan, Alex Bily, Ben Mercado, Steve Prosonic, P.J. Motondo, Tim Spillet, Dan Balestra, Tim Griffin, Andrew Vecchio, Kevin Joy, Marc Cizenski, Tim Gearhart, Jaren Woepel, Matt Pompo, Kevin Simon, Tom Collins, Chris Duffy, Sean Leahy, Shane McConnell, Jon Keuchler, Mark Keida, Jeff Cleland, Tom Geiss, and Dan McKeon. Head coach Mike Messere, and assistant coaches Bob Deegan and Dave Metz guided the team in their outstanding accomplishments.

I would like to express my congratulations to the team for such an outstanding achievement and wish them luck in their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF AMBASSADOR C.J.
CHEN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join my colleagues in honoring a unique man and a graceful diplomat.

Ambassador Chen is returning to Taiwan after four years of exemplary service as the representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative office, the quasi embassy of the Republic of China. In fact, since joining his country's foreign service 37 years ago, Ambassador Chen has always been involved with the U.S.-Taiwan relations in his many job assignments both in Taiwan and in the United States. His diplomatic career mirrors very much the ups and downs of U.S.-Taiwan relations.

The nadir of U.S.-Taiwan relations came in 1979 when the Carter Administration severed

diplomatic ties with Taipei and recognized Beijing. C.J. Chen was then working in Taiwan's embassy in Washington. He spent days and nights negotiating and communicating with U.S. government officials and lawmakers in drafting the Taiwan Relations Act which became U.S. law on April 10, 1979. The TRA has enabled Taiwan to grow economically and politically in the last quarter of century.

In the subsequent years, in his many key roles in Taiwan's foreign ministry, C.J. made sure that the U.S. would play a role as balancer, stabilizer and facilitator in handling its relations with both Taiwan and the mainland. In addition, C.J. and other leaders in Taiwan have been successful in urging the U.S. to continue to provide Taiwan with the military sales necessary for Taiwan's self defense.

In the last 4 years, C.J., in his capacity as Taiwan's top diplomat in Washington, has further strengthened U.S.-Taiwan relations. U.S. confidence in Taiwan continues to rise and U.S.-Taiwan relations are now at its best since 1979. While there have been no major changes in the U.S. policy towards the two sides of the Taiwan Straits, U.S. tone towards Taiwan has markedly improved, since Taiwan is a democracy and democracies count for something.

In addition to the Bush administration's goodwill towards Taiwan, congressional support and friendship continues to grow, especially in the last 4 years. Since the inception of the 108th Congress, both the Senate and the House have introduced or passed a number of pro-Taiwan bills and resolutions such as Taiwan's participation in the WHO, a U.S.-Taiwan Free Trade Agreement, security in the Taiwan Strait, welcome for transits by Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian etc. All these achievements are directly attributable to the efforts of Ambassador C.J. Chen.

Mr. Speaker, C.J. and his wife Yolanda will be missed in Washington. I wish C.J. and Yolanda all the best and hope they will keep in touch with their many friends in Washington.

HONORING DR. CHARLOTTE GROFF

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inspiring career of Dr. Charlotte Groff, of Berrien Springs, Michigan. A dedicated and selfless individual, Charlotte has enthusiastically educated students of St. Joseph and Coloma schools over the past 50 years.

Since 1954, Charlotte's contributions to our community have been tremendous. Over this time she has played a role in the development and success of countless students, and watched as these students grew into pillars of the communities of southwest Michigan and beyond.

Throughout her vast career, Charlotte has held many teaching positions and has taught

in diverse teaching capacities—all with great distinction. Charlotte has taught every summer in the Coloma migrant program since its inception in 1968—except for the 2 years she worked on a doctoral degree. Also, since 1975 she has been a reading specialist for children from disadvantaged homes.

As Charlotte retires this summer, she closes one chapter of her inspiring and remarkable legacy of educating our youth. I am confident that this retirement is far from being the end to Charlotte's teaching. The numerous lives that will be educated and touched by Charlotte will no doubt continue for many years to come. The passion that she has for teaching is everlasting and I wish her all the best in retirement. Charlotte will be truly missed in Coloma Community School and throughout southwest Michigan.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4060, the Health, Safety, and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act of 2004.

The Peace Corps represents our nation's enduring commitment to progress, opportunity, and expanded development—beginning at the grassroots level.

Since 1961, more than 170,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 137 countries to promote the Peace Corps' mission of world peace and friendship.

Volunteers offer skills in education, healthcare, business, agriculture and the environment. They respond to the world's most challenging crises like poverty, hunger and HIV/AIDS. They are to be commended for their sacrifice, their hard work and their commitment to improving the lives of others.

Today, more than 7,500 Peace Corps Volunteers—young and old—serve in 71 countries around the world, including 25 volunteers from my Congressional District.

With an increase in volunteers comes a greater challenge for the Peace Corps to ensure the safety and security of all Volunteers. Expanding the Peace Corps' missions in Africa, the Middle East and other volatile regions increases the chance of criminal activities and requires the dedication of greater time, energy and resources toward safety issues.

H.R. 4060 takes a good step toward strengthening the Peace Corps and making sure all Volunteers are safe. The bill creates a Peace Corps Ombudsman to receive and inquire into complaints, questions, or concerns raised by current or former volunteers or employees of the Peace Corps. This legislation also establishes an Office of Safety and Security within the Peace Corps to help coordinate

• 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.

all security activities. These are important steps which I support.

I believe a Volunteer's safety is both the responsibility of the Peace Corps and the Volunteers themselves. Weeks of safety training and country background preclude any Volunteer's departure overseas and Volunteers are advised of the precautions necessary before integrating into some of the poorest and disparaged communities in the world. As Ambassador and Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Tony Hall said, "You have to go into the service with your eyes open". Nonetheless, it is appropriate that the House International Relations Committee worked with the Peace Corps to address the needed improvements to security for Volunteers and the Peace Corps has begun implementing these changes.

As a member of the House International Relations Committee and a strong supporter of the Peace Corps, I urge passage of this legislation. We must do everything we can to ensure the mission of the Peace Corps is carried on and our Volunteers are protected.

SET A GOOD EXAMPLE CONTEST

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the community of Harlingen, Texas, where area children are recognized for doing good deeds in their homes, schools, and communities.

With school resources so overtaxed, our community has partnered with the Concerned Businessmen's Association of America to sponsor the Harlingen area's Set A Good Example Contest, offered to all children from the surrounding communities.

The original school contest was launched in 1982 to recognize schools supporting student-oriented programs that positively influence other students by promoting moral values such as honesty, trustworthiness, responsibility, competence, and fairness.

The Concerned Businessmen's Association of America is a non-profit educational organization incorporating successful business strategies to combat the social ills and problems that face young people.

We watch our children with new eyes every day, wondering what is going on inside their minds and what motivates them. The Harlingen community's parents, business people, educators, counselors—and most importantly, children themselves—are working together to ward off problems that are plaguing society today.

The best messenger for young people is other young people. There will never be one single answer to preparing our children to withstand the complex social issues they encounter each day. But future behavior, future understanding, will be based on the foundation our communities provide now.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the people of Harlingen, Former Mayor Connie De La Garza, and Mayor Rick Rodriguez for their efforts to be part of the solution to a problem that affects all of us in America. I thank them for leading the way to a better world for us all.

TRIBUTE TO ST. ELIAS
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRIS-
TIAN CHURCH

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church of Syracuse which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

The Church's history begins a hundred years ago when St. Raphael, who is considered the father of the Archdiocese St. Elias belongs to, was the first Orthodox bishop consecrated in the New World. At this time, immigrants from Middle Eastern countries such as Syria, Lebanon and Palestine settled in Syracuse and formed the nucleus of the Antiochian Orthodox community there. Until the formal formation of St. Elias, visiting clergymen came to the community to administer the various sacraments to the faithful settlers.

St. Elias Syrian Orthodox Church of Syracuse, the forerunner of St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church, was born November 10, 1929. First incorrectly incorporated as an Episcopal Church in 1930, this was corrected and reincorporated in 1960 and again reincorporated in 1988 when the Archdiocese changed its official name. The first home of the church was at 241 West Lafayette Street and the first permanently assigned Pastor was the Reverend John Khoury.

In 1939, a gathering which would become the social event of the year for the Arabic speaking community of Central New York and a tremendous fund-raiser was instituted. This event has turned into a successful Middle Eastern Festival bringing hundreds of people of Arabic and other backgrounds together to enjoy each other's company while becoming a large part of the St. Elias Parish Annual Budget when combined with the souvenir journal of the festival.

Over time the Church has evolved to include a Church School Program (1945), an English Liturgical Choir (1945), a Youth organization (1953), and the St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women group (1966). In 1963, land was purchased on Onondaga Hill and the new St. Elias Church was consecrated on August 17, 1969 by Metropolitan Philip Saliba.

The founders of this parish established an ethnic church in the inception, in that most of the parishioners were of Arabic speaking background. However, St. Elias has become an American church made up of the melting pot that has made America. I congratulate the St. Elias parish on its 75th anniversary and wish the church continuing success.

HONORING THE 43RD ANNUAL
YMCA YOUTH GOVERNOR'S CON-
FERENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 43rd Annual YMCA Youth Governor's Conference scheduled to be held in

Washington next week. I am pleased to once again have the honor of being the Congressional sponsor for the Youth Governor's breakfast with my fellow colleagues in the House.

The YMCA Youth Governor's Conference brings together some of the most outstanding youth leaders in America. YMCA Youth and Government is a nation-wide program that allows thousands of teenagers to simulate state and national government.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally recognize each of this year's YMCA Youth Governors for their dedication and service to America's youth.

Grant Reid of Texas; Jason Hill of South Carolina; William Bloom of Alabama; Cori Trazwell of Arizona; Xavier Lopez-Ayala of California; Elizabeth Brittenham of Connecticut; Angelyn Tinsman of Delaware; Nithya Krishnam of Florida; Jess Morgan of Georgia; James Hess of Idaho; Dustin Herr of Illinois; Lisa Wanninger of Indiana; R.T. Lowry and David Padron of Kentucky; Patrick Coco of Louisiana; Ben Crockett of Maine; Allison Korycki of Maryland; Emily Sheehan of Massachusetts; Brandon Laventure and Shaundra Crittenden of Michigan; Zachary Skalko of Minnesota; Robert Goggins of Mississippi; Alex Ricke of Missouri; David Earl of New Jersey; Jackie Burns of Model United Nations; Jamie Brooks of New Mexico; Alex Bowerman of New York; Rob Stephens of North Carolina; Joshua Watkins of Oklahoma; Jakob Wilson of Oregon; Sara Gellatly of Pennsylvania; George Richardson and Patrick Fox of Tennessee; Matthew Sundquist of Virginia; Joseph Jenkins of Washington; Nathaniel Cole of the District of Columbia; and Loren Balhorn of Wisconsin.

I wish all of the 2004 Youth Governors a very successful conference here in Washington, and I encourage them to continue their sincere devotion to leadership and public service in this and their future endeavors.

HONORING MONSIGNOR SEARS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inspiring and passionate career of Monsignor Sears, of St. Joseph Parish of Michigan. For the past 20 years, Monsignor Sears has devotedly served the community of St. Joseph and beyond.

Since being assigned to St. Joseph Parish in 1984, Monsignor's contributions to our community have been remarkable. Monsignor has brought guidance, knowledge, and inspiration to all who had the blessed opportunity of meeting with or hearing one of his famous homilies. It is well-known that Monsignor always used story-telling and anecdotes as a way of teaching and inspiring his congregation. His ability to reach and move all those fortunate enough to cross his path has been well-known throughout Southwest Michigan for sometime now.

Highlights of Monsignor Sears' wonderful career include meeting with Mother Teresa in 1979, and speaking with Pope John Paul II during a visit to Rome. Locally, Monsignor was instrumental in starting the church's tithing in