

IN HONOR OF GINA BULLOCK'S SELECTION AS A 2005 PRESIDING OFFICER FOR THE YMCA YOUTH CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the 2004 YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs was held in Black Mountain, North Carolina. This annual conference brings together the best and brightest of the Youth and Government programs from across the country. Over 500 high school student leaders meet and discuss issues of national importance, and at the conclusion of the conference six graduating seniors are selected to serve as presiding officers for the next conference. This is considered one of the highest honors that one can receive in the YMCA Youth and Government program.

I join my colleagues in honoring Gina Bullock for being selected as one of the six presiding officers to serve for the 2005 YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs. Gina becomes the first Texan to serve as a presiding officer at this conference since 1997, and she will be a great representative for the Lone Star State.

I wish her continued success and thank her for outstanding leadership for Texas.

A BIRTHDAY GREETING FOR A HERO

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Pinar del Rio, Cuba, somewhere in the dungeon bowels of Prison Kilo Ocho, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet—prisoner of conscience—turned 43 years old.

Dr. Biscet is a hero of the kind that men and nations yearn for their entire lives.

He is a human rights activist, a man of peace and justice, and therefore a sworn enemy of Fidel Castro and his terrorist regime in Havana.

A student of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Dr. Biscet has led nonviolent opposition to Castro and his murderous, kleptomaniac government for years, whether on the streets of Havana or in the foul cages that pass for prison cells in Castro's Cuba.

Despite years-long separation from his wife and family, untreated illnesses, and ongoing abuse by prison guards, Dr. Biscet remains in high spirits today.

He is an inspiration to all who suffer for the cause of freedom, a threat to all who seek to undermine that cause, and a stinging indictment against free men the world over who would ignore the cries of injustice ringing out from an imprisoned island.

But this House and this Nation will not ignore, or forget, or bend in our determination to see human rights and human freedom restored to Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, these brief remarks may be little noted by journalists today and historians to-

morrow, but they merit the saying just the same.

That somewhere in Cuba today, an honest man suffers so his countrymen—so that all men—might be free is a heroic thing, one the world owes it to him, itself, and our Creator to notice.

I recognize Oscar Biscet today not because he needs us, but because we need him.

And I honor Oscar Biscet today, as we all should, Mr. Speaker, because by the life of service he has chosen, he honors all of mankind.

I wish him and his family health and strength for his 43rd birthday and send my hopes that this will be his last separated from his loved ones and suffering under the bootheel of evil.

BOB MICHEL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Illinois delegation in which Bob Michel served with honor and distinction for nearly 4 decades, I rise as an original cosponsor and in strong support of naming the "Bob Michel Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic."

I didn't have the privilege of serving with Bob Michel in this chamber, but when I worked at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, I found that the Republican Minority Leader worked tirelessly across party lines to serve the best interests of his district, our State, and our Nation.

The distinguished gentleman from Peoria exemplifies the best values of Middle America. Indeed, the values that define Bob Michel as a man and a leader—values like hard work, honesty, integrity and loyalty—are the values that make the State of Illinois a great place in which to live and represent in this chamber. I am proud to share that common bond with him.

Naming the veterans clinic in Peoria is a fitting tribute to an Army hero and veteran of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II—who 10 years after his retirement from Congress remains one of my State's most respected and revered leaders.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to support this measure in recognition of Bob Michel's strength and leadership throughout 38 years of distinguished public service.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN BOYERS, INC. 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Association of American Boyers on the occasion of its 100th year anniversary.

In 1905, the Association of American Boyers held its first reunion in Dryville, Pennsylvania.

The original attendees of that grand day have now grown to over 4,000 members. During the first reunion a mission statement was adopted which read "The object of this Association is educational, to hold reunions, and to foster, encourage, and develop the family spirit of the Boyer people."

A two-day celebration to commemorate 100 years of existence for the "Association of American Boyers, Inc." will be held Saturday and Sunday, July 24–25, 2004, on the grounds of the Central Pennsylvania College. On these dates Boyers from around the United States and various overseas points of destination will gather to celebrate their heritage, history, and family accomplishments.

The legacy of the Boyer name can be traced to the fourth and second centuries before Christ. Carrying the name of Boiare early settlers moved into Germany, France and England. Many variations of the Boyer name such as Bayer, Baier, Beyer, Beier, Byer and Bowyer arose in the years to follow.

Segments of these first "Boyers" came to the United States in the 1600's. Transition of some family members brought a Boyer presence to Pennsylvania in the early 1700's. Approximately forty Boyers had settled in Eastern Pennsylvania by 1775 and many served as soldiers under George Washington. Boyers have since spread throughout all of Pennsylvania, maintain large populations in Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, New York, California, and Maryland and are present in some number in all fifty states.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the long standing history of Boyers and their impact since coming to the United States and thank them for the many contributions they have made to the growth of our great nation.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD "RIP" HAMILTON

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard "Rip" Hamilton for his distinguished career in professional basketball and for the contributions he made to the 2004 NBA Championship team, the Detroit Pistons.

Rip Hamilton first made his mark in basketball when he was a high school student at the Coatesville Area High School in Chester County, Pennsylvania. During his senior year, he was voted to the First Team All-State Basketball team and participated in the McDonald's All-American game before his graduation in 1996.

Upon graduation from Coatesville Area High School, Rip continued to pursue his passion for basketball at University of Connecticut. At UCONN, Rip finished 2nd in career scoring and was the only Connecticut player to score at least 700 points per season twice in his career, and 500 points in his first three seasons. Rip spent three years at UCONN perfecting his game and, in 1999 after scoring 27 points in the Huskies' 77–74 championship win over Duke, Rip was voted the most valuable player of the Final Four. That same year, Rip was also voted 1st Team All-American by the AP and he was also awarded the Big East Conference and ECAC Player of the Year.

After three years playing basketball for UCONN, Rip was the 7th overall draft pick for the NBA. Rip then began his professional basketball career with the Washington Wizards. He spent three years with the Wizards and made his NBA debut scoring ten points against the Atlanta Hawks on November 2, 1999. On April 13, 2000, he registered a career-high 26 points against the Chicago Bulls. He set or tied career highs in every major statistical category except blocks in the 2000–2001 season. Then in 2001, he was acquired by the Detroit Pistons where he became one of their star players as the shooting guard. Rip has been with the Pistons for two years now and helped lead his new team to the 2004 NBA Championship with a 100–87 win over the Los Angeles Lakers in game five of the NBA Finals.

Not only is Rip Hamilton an outstanding basketball player, he is also known for giving back to his community. Each year, Rip sponsors the “Rip City Day” in Coatesville, Pennsylvania. It is a citywide celebration with food and entertainment for everyone. Rip also annually sponsors basketball camps throughout Chester County, Pennsylvania to give high school students the same opportunities he was given during his childhood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing an outstanding citizen and athlete who exemplifies the dedication and hard work it takes to reach the pinnacle of his sport.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER JOHNSON ON
HIS RETIREMENT AS SEC-
RETARY-TREASURER OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO LABOR COUNCIL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Walter L. Johnson, a dedicated union leader and a dear friend of mine. Walter recently announced his retirement as Secretary-Treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council and is being honored on his tremendous career and his lifelong commitment to the labor movement at a banquet on August 6th, 2004.

Born and raised in North Dakota, Walter immediately enlisted in the army to serve his country during World War II. Serving as a Combat Engineer, he saw military action in Germany and Austria. At the end of the war, Walter returned to America where he moved to San Francisco and began work as a salesman at Sears Roebuck. He joined the Department Store Employees Union Local 1100 and immediately became an active member.

Walter's passion for the union's ideals led to a meteoric rise in the union as he became a business agent for Local 1100 in 1957 and was elected as its President one year later. By 1960, Walter had been elected to the union's top position, Secretary-Treasurer, where he would remain for the next twenty-five years. Winning reelection an astonishing eleven times, Walter's continual success was the result of his continuous commitment to end discrimination in the workplace.

After twenty-five years of tireless dedication most people would be content to retire and

rest on their laurels. Not my good friend Walter, who was elected to his current position as Executive Secretary-Treasurer at the San Francisco Labor Council in 1985. As with everything he does, Walter tackled this project head on and the San Francisco Labor Council, which had just been chartered only two years prior to Walter's arrival, quickly grew in stature and importance. In fact, many of the Labor Council's great successes on behalf of San Francisco's working people can be attributed to him.

Mr. Speaker, as leader of the San Francisco Labor Council, Walter represents over 140 San Francisco unions and over 80,000 members. He has guided San Francisco's labor movement to great heights, championing a living wage for San Francisco workers, better benefits for city employees and safer working conditions. Under his leadership the Council continues to strive to broaden the city's employment opportunities and to expand the diversity throughout the Bay Area's workforce. His accomplishments include fighting for better working conditions for home care workers, efforts to bring more diversity to the San Francisco City College faculty and advocacy for more affordable housing in the city.

Walter's commitment to his community can also be illustrated through his involvement in the countless boards and committees to which he is associated. To name a few, Walter has served on the United Food & Commercial Workers International Union Advisory Board, UFCW International Foreign Affairs Committee, the Board of San Francisco Bay Area Girl Scout Council, the President's Advisory Board of San Francisco State University and is a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in South San Francisco.

Although Walter will be leaving the Labor Council, I know that his presence in the community and the foundation he has created in the San Francisco labor movement will continue. On top of his heavy workload, Walter is a dedicated family man and I am sure his wife, Jane and his children and grandchildren are looking forward to seeing more of Walter in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in commending Walter L. Johnson for his forty years of dedication to the labor movement, his strong advocacy on behalf of the working men and women of this nation and his commitment to the betterment of his community. Walter's service and compassion toward helping his fellow working men and women is truly an example to all of us and his contribution to working America will be evident for generations to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARLENE
DEMAIO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Dr. Marlene DeMaio of Edgewater, Maryland and congratulate her on receiving the Frank Brown Berry Prize in Federal Health Care for her exceptional contributions to medicine. Dr. DeMaio, who is the first female to be recognized with this high honor, has shown an outstanding commitment to our

nation's armed forces while serving in the United States Navy as a surgeon and medical researcher in body armor technology. It is with great satisfaction that I recognize Dr. DeMaio for her well-deserved award and acknowledge her many accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation today. Her service to the Navy and to the nation has been exemplary.

While researching at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Dr. DeMaio worked tirelessly to improve body armor for our soldiers. She realized there was an important need for improving body armor when she learned from some of her Navy SEALs patients that they would remove their body armor because they found it burdensome and noisy. Her breakthroughs in body armor technology came through using more realistic models that more accurately measured the impact of various weaponry on body armor. This method of testing is responsible for the improvements in the Interceptor Body Armor in use today, which has saved countless lives and resulted in fewer chest and abdominal injuries to our nation's troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

A captain in the United States Navy, Dr. DeMaio is currently serving at the U.S. Naval Academy Clinic in Annapolis, Maryland. She has received an appointment to the Bethesda National Naval Medical Center and serves as Chair of Orthopedic Surgery, Sports Medicine and Podiatry at the United States Naval Academy. In the past, she has worked as an assistant professor of surgery in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. In addition, she has served on various medical boards and has authored significant academic papers.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Marlene DeMaio has shown a tremendous dedication to our military and diligence in the field of research medicine. Her contributions have done much for the safety and well-being of our troops, and are worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. It is my privilege to extend to Dr. DeMaio my sincere congratulations on receiving the 2004 Frank Brown Berry Prize in Federal Healthcare, and to wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

RANCHO VALMORA: 100 YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming 100th anniversary of Rancho Valmora, nestled on the eastern side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at the juncture of the Mora River and Wolf Creek.

Rancho Valmora was originally established as a revolutionary health center for tuberculosis patients and bears a National Historic Marker for this heritage. Valmora Ranch Company was founded in 1904 by healer and visionary, Dr. William T. Brown. This tuberculosis sanatorium became nationally renowned and a bright star in the medical world as thousands of patients sought out “the cure” at Valmora. It was believed the aged canyon walls, the warm sun, the ongoing medical research and the northern New Mexico ambience provided the ingredients to heal.