

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 42ND INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago as it celebrates the 42nd anniversary of its Independence.

Trinidad was settled in the late 1500s by the Spanish, who annihilated the indigenous Arawak and Carib Indian populations on the island. It remained under Spanish rule until the British, enticed by the sugar and cocoa plantations throughout the island, captured it in 1797.

Tobago had a more unsteady development, changing hands over 22 times as the French, Dutch, and British fought over to possess it. Tobago was finally ceded to Great Britain in 1814, and Trinidad and Tobago were incorporated into a single colony in 1888.

Valued for its sugar during the 19th Century, Trinidad became a key oil interest for the British the 20th Century. Oil was discovered in three areas in Trinidad, and oil exports to Britain increased steadily throughout the century, buoyed by the advent of the automobile and the conversion of the British Navy from coal to oil.

In 1941 Britain permitted the United States to establish military bases in Trinidad in exchange for 50 destroyers given to the British government. This began an important period in the country; the G.I.s brought American money and culture to the island, and the Trinidadian people were steadily pulled away from their traditional British loyalties. The Marines also helped construct numerous roads in Trinidad, including the important Northern Coast Road, which is still functional today.

A nascent movement for independence was born in Trinidad and Tobago in the 1950s, when Eric Williams, a Ph.D. from Howard University, returned to his native country and founded the People's National Movement (PNM). The PNM prevailed in the 1956 national elections, and Dr. Williams became the chief minister of the country from 1956 to 1959, premier from 1959 to 1962, and prime minister from 1962 to 1981. It was Williams who led Trinidad and Tobago into full independence within the Commonwealth in 1962, and he is now considered the father of independent Trinidad and Tobago. Williams died while in office on March 29, 1981.

Trinidad and Tobago joined the United Nations and the Commonwealth immediately after its independence, and in 1967 it became the first Commonwealth country to join the Organization of American States (OAS).

Trinidad and Tobago has enjoyed cordial relations with the United States since independence. U.S. investment in Trinidad and Tobago is nearly two billion dollars, and Trinidad is the

leading exporter of liquefied natural gas to the U.S. Trinidad is also active in the U.S.-initiated Summit of the Americas process and fully supports the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

Further, many U.S. citizens and permanent residents call Trinidad and Tobago home, and keep strong cultural ties to their country of origin. Nearly 20,000 U.S. citizens visit Trinidad and Tobago for vacation or business every year, and over 2,700 American citizens are residents of the country. Americans celebrate the history and culture of Trinidad and Tobago with annual carnivals held in numerous cities across the U.S., with a major celebration occurring in Brooklyn every Labor Day.

A leading member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) and the most industrialized nation in the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago has become a symbol of what Caribbean countries can achieve if they have the opportunities and wherewithal to become economically successful and socially stable.

As Trinidad and Tobago celebrates the 42nd anniversary of its independence, let us join in honoring the achievements of a country that overcame many obstacles to reach heights of prosperity and stability.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EMERSON SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Emerson School in Grand Junction, Colorado. This school has educated students from Grand Junction for over a century and I am proud to join my colleagues here today before this body of Congress and this nation in recognizing this tremendous institution.

The Emerson School is the oldest building still owned by the in Mesa County Valley School District 51 that is still standing. It was constructed in 1903 during the initial phases of Grand Junction's planning when the town fathers divided the area into quarters and set aside land in each one for a park and a school. Although the school went through some name changes, and is now being used for administration offices, it has for the majority of its existence been reserved for elementary school students.

Mr. Speaker, Emerson School is an institution in Grand Junction that has been used for the important role of educating the youth of Colorado. Their presence in Grand Junction has been a wonderful benefit to the community and the country as these young children go on to future aspirations throughout our great country. I am honored to recognize Emerson School before this body and this nation for their devotion and commitment to education. Congratulations on your celebration of

a century of service and thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

HONORING BRANDON J. McDANIEL FOR HIS NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable actions of Brandon J. McDaniel, for which he was duly awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Corporal McDaniel received the award for superior performance of his duties as an avionics technician, Marine Attack Squadron 231, Detachment Bravo, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, on October 22, 2003. The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit was tasked with providing defensive counter air support to Air Force One and the President of the United States during his October visit to Bali, Indonesia. After an AV-8B was forced to return to the ship due to a generator malfunction, Corporal McDaniel proactively removed key components from another AV-8B and when the disabled aircraft landed, he quickly removed the faulty components and reinstalled serviceable components, enabling the aircraft to be returned to the air within an hour.

His quick thinking and sound decision-making directly contributed to the success of the mission and protection of the President during his Far East tour. Corporal McDaniel's initiative and selfless devotion to duty exhibited the highest standards of the Marine Corps and Navy.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Corporal Brandon McDaniel on his medal and commend him for his professional achievement and outstanding service to our Nation.

THE INDIAN COUNTRY EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Indian Country Educational Empowerment Act of 2004. This Act will facilitate economic growth and development in Indian Country by dramatically increasing the incentives for individuals with advanced degrees to work within and for Indian Country.

I am deeply concerned by the fact that Native Americans continue to rank at the bottom of every indicator of social and economic well-being in America. Unemployment continues to average near 50 percent in Indian Country and hovers well over 90 percent on many Reservations. Indian Country continues to

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have some of the highest rates of poverty, poorest health, highest mortality rates, and lowest levels of educational achievement in the United States.

A unique legal and political relationship exists between the United States and Indian tribes that is reflected in the Constitution, various treaties, Federal statutes, Supreme Court decisions, and executive agreements. This creates a responsibility for the federal government to facilitate and complement tribal governments' efforts to improve the quality of life for Native Americans and encourage economic development in Indian Country. This bill does just that.

Numerous external efforts at economic development in Indian Country have proven unsuccessful. The most successful efforts have been initiated from within native communities themselves. Economic development efforts that empower native communities and give them the tools to make their own decisions should be encouraged and pursued.

I believe that education and economic development go hand-in-hand in Indian Country. Indeed, higher education is a fundamental form of economic development. Yet, an uneducated workforce continues to be a cyclical obstacle to economic growth in Indian Country.

The cycle is vicious. Businesses are often unwilling to locate in to Indian Country because of the lack of an educated workforce and Native American youth see little value in an advanced degree because there are no jobs on the Reservation that would reward one. Those native youth that do obtain a higher education often do not return to their communities because there are no jobs.

Higher education is costly to attain. As college and graduate school costs continue to swell, students are increasingly shouldering high levels of debt to pay for a college education. In fact, thirty-nine percent of student borrowers now graduate with levels of debt that require monthly payments in excess of eight percent of their total monthly incomes.

Loan repayment assistance for higher education graduates choosing to work in Indian Country will help break this cycle of poverty and promote economic development. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAROLINE CRYER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, all too often as I watch the evening news or open the paper, I am bombarded with stories of teens going down the wrong path. Today, I have the pleasure of celebrating a teen from my district, Caroline Cryer, who is excelling as an athlete and a student.

Caroline, who is the captain of the Cherry Creek lacrosse team, has been named All-American for the second-straight year. This past spring the senior was second in the state in assists (43) and points (101) after winning her third state championship in lacrosse. In addition, she was named both the Rocky Mountain News and Denver Post player-of-

the-year and the Denver Post/Denver Athletic Club High School Student-Athlete of the Year.

Lacrosse is not the only sport Caroline has shown a talent for; she has excelled in both varsity field hockey and varsity basketball. She won a state championship in 2002 for varsity field hockey.

While participating in these extracurricular activities, Caroline has maintained a 3.76 GPA and graduated with the highest honor roll honors. She has decided to attend Duke University this fall, where she is sure to succeed after taking four college AP tests.

Mr. Speaker, with students like Caroline Cryer in our communities, the next generation promises to do great things. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Caroline here today, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DAVID UETTERLING ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ELECTION TO STATE COMMANDER OF THE OHIO DIS- ABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Mr. David Uetterling of Defiance, Ohio on the occasion of his election as state commander of the Ohio Disabled American Veterans.

David Uetterling has a lifelong record of service to the people of Ohio and the people of America. David entered the United States Army in 1965 and served an 18-month tour of duty in Vietnam. David was injured while serving his country in Vietnam.

A resident of Defiance, Ohio, David has been a life member of the Disabled American Veterans Defiance Chapter 36 since 1982. He served 4 years as commander of the Defiance chapter. David has held various DAV offices at the state level and most recently served as bingo chairman and adjutant/treasurer.

During the 83rd Annual State Convention from June 10–12 in Dublin, Ohio, David Uetterling was unanimously elected state commander of the Ohio Disabled American Veterans, an organization comprised of more than 48,000 veterans. In addition to his service in the DAV, David is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, ELKS, and American Legion.

Mr. Speaker, the service of our disabled veterans is vital to the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio. David Uetterling has effectively displayed leadership to his community through service to the many veterans organizations in which he is involved. His passion to advance the issues that affect veterans most makes him a model citizen of the Fifth District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to David Uetterling. Our communities benefit greatly through his service. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize David Uetterling's great achievement. We wish David and his family all the best as we pay tribute to one of Ohio's finest citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARK BURGET

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Mark Burget of Boulder, Colorado and his hard work to advance the goals of The Nature Conservancy. Recently, Mark announced he would be leaving his position as the Colorado Director of the Nature Conservancy and moving on to The Nature Conservancy Director of the Global Priority Group. As he moves on in his career, I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Mark spent his childhood in Chester County, Pennsylvania. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College, and his master's in business and Juris Doctoris degree from the University of Virginia, he began his work for the Nature Conservancy in 1992. Soon after, he accepted the appointment as Colorado State Director for the Nature Conservancy. He was Colorado Director for eleven years, where he worked hard to protect 416,000 acres of natural land in Colorado. His new position with the Nature Conservancy will be the Director of the Global Priority Group, where he will work to identify and to act on the most urgent needs for conservation across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, Mike will serve The Nature Conservancy well in his new capacity. He has already done much to protect natural lands in the state of Colorado, and I am confident he will continue to build upon this proud legacy. I congratulate Mike on his new job and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER "MACKINAW"

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary vessel stationed in my district. For the last 60 years, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw* and her crew have sailed the northern Great Lakes, keeping these vital waters open and safe. On August 12, past and present crew members of the *Mackinaw* will gather in Cheboygan, Michigan to celebrate the ship they affectionately refer to as "Big Mack" or "Queen of the Seas," and its six decades of service to the State of Michigan and the United States.

In 1941, the United States Congress authorized the construction of a new ice breaker for the Great Lakes. Three years later, on December 20, 1944, the *Mackinaw* was commissioned in Toledo, Ohio and made its maiden voyage to its new home, Cheboygan, Michigan. At 290 feet long, the *Mackinaw* was, and is, the largest and most powerful Coast Guard vessel on the Great Lakes.

Today, there are still men and women in Cheboygan who remember the *Mackinaw's* arrival in their harbor when thousands gathered on Christmas Eve to welcome the new cutter to their city. Since then, the residents of