

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO JAMES A.
GALLAGHER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to James A. Gallagher, who is retiring after 28 years as the voice and face of the San Mateo County Transit District, which operates throughout my Congressional District. For almost three decades Mr. Gallagher has worked to improve our community, and he has left a lasting mark on the agency and the Bay Area as a whole. Both his colleagues and the citizens of San Mateo County will miss his leadership.

Born in Fresno, California, James Gallagher joined the United States Marine Corps where he served our country for two years. After his service in the Corps, James worked for several newspapers throughout the region, before becoming the sportswriter, copy-editor and city editor for the Redwood City Tribune in my district.

James left the newspaper industry to become the fifth employee hired at the San Mateo County Transit District in March 1976. Back then the transit district operated in a dozen cities in San Mateo County and served 7,500 riders per day. Today, SamTrans connects 100,000 people each day to all 20 communities in the county, as well as cities from San Francisco to Gilroy, California. SamTrans has become a major player in transportation in the Bay Area through its gifted employees, and due, in no small measure; to the perseverance of Mr. Gallagher. James rose up through the ranks at SamTrans, from the Public Information Officer to the Director of Administration and Marketing and finally the Deputy General Manager.

Mr. Speaker, when James went to Stanford University, he would have to race his teammates each week to make the traveling squad for the university track team. His friends like to say that even then he was racing to catch the bus. At SamTrans, James worked tirelessly to ensure that not one resident would have to run to catch the bus. He will be remembered as someone who, among other things, attempted to make the county accessible for those who were underprivileged, underserved and underrepresented. Mr. Speaker, James A. Gallagher's contribution to the growth of SamTrans cannot be measured or replicated. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to James A. Gallagher, and wishing him well on his well-deserved retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MATT
HEMINGWAY

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, the 2004 Summer Olympic Games are returning to the birthplace, Athens, Greece. The Games are an opportunity for the world's athletes to showcase their talents, and have the possibility to earn the distinction of the World's best of their sport.

Matt Hemingway, a relative of Ernest Hemingway, has trained rigorously to earn a spot on the 2004 American Olympic team; to be classified as one of America's best high jumpers. Hemingway cleared 7 feet, 7.25 inches, winning the silver medal. The gold medal winner, Sweden's Stefan Holm, jumped 7-9.

At the 2004 Olympic trials, Matt placed second with a jump of 7-6.5, a foot more than his 6' 7" frame. In 2000, Hemingway reached his personal best height of 7-9.5, the best jump in the world that year; earning him the 2000 United States Indoor title.

Matt occupied a two year hiatus by acting as a whitewater river guide in Colorado. However, his passion for the sport and the thrill of competition called him back to competing. Matt now trains by playing basketball and running in the Colorado hills. Colorado's high altitude and temperate climate provides an excellent environment for Olympic caliber athletes to train and live.

Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of the 2004 Olympic athletes are awe-inspiring. Matt and the other Olympians have made us all proud.

HONORING MARTHA VIRGINIA
PENNINO

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Martha Virginia Pennino, a former vice chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Mrs. Pennino died September 17, 2004 at Inova Fairfax Hospital at the age of eighty-six.

Mrs. Pennino was born in 1918, in Roanoke, Virginia and was raised in Gloucester, Massachusetts. She received a bachelor's degree from Emerson College in Boston.

Mrs. Pennino served three terms on the Vienna Town Council prior to being elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in November 1967, representing what was then the Centreville District. From 1968 to 1991 Mrs. Pennino was at the center of nearly every major decision made in Fairfax County. She was involved in such projects as the Dulles Toll Road, Reston Hospital Center, South

Lakes High School, the Reston Community Center and the Reston Regional Library. Mrs. Pennino played an instrumental role in the planned community of Reston, which was taking shape when she took office. She became one of the longest-serving members of the Board of Supervisors spending 24 years on the board. Mrs. Pennino served as Vice Chairman for 17 years.

During her many years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Mrs. Pennino was deeply committed to helping the poor and homeless. She pushed for the building of the Embury Rucker shelter for the homeless, supported building low-cost housing and buying and renovating the run-down Stonegate apartment complex. Prior to the construction of the shelter, she even provided cots in her supervisor's office and opened it at night to people with nowhere else to go.

Mrs. Pennino received many accolades for her work in Fairfax County. In 1985, she was awarded the Tom Bradley Regional Leadership award from the National Association of Regional Councils. The group cited her efforts in developing the first energy policy for a metropolitan area; the region's car-pool program and a fair-share housing program. In 1986, Washingtonian magazine named her "Washingtonian of the Year."

Mrs. Pennino was also involved with many community boards and foundations. She was a member of the advisory board of the Northern Virginia Youth Services Coalition, director of the Northern Virginia Community Foundation, a commissioner on the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and a member of the Board of Visitors of George Mason University. Additionally, Mrs. Pennino served as president of the Virginia Association of Counties of the Virginia Municipal League and was a member of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments for 17 years, holding posts of president and chairman.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Martha Virginia Pennino for her service to Fairfax County. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Mrs. Pennino's past accomplishments and remembering her dedication to her community.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL CHARLES
COMPTON

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Charles Compton, a World War II veteran who resides in the Fifth Congressional District of Florida.

On August 16, 2004, I had the pleasure of recognizing Corporal Compton for his heroism and bravery as a U.S. Marine who fought in the Second World War from May 1943 until November 1945.

• 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.

After serving his country for just over a year fighting in the Pacific, Corporal Compton was injured in a blast in June of 1945. The force of the blast knocked him unconscious. He was evacuated to a hospital ship but returned to the front lines to continue fighting the enemy.

I presented Corporal Compton with the Purple Heart, the oldest military decoration in the world, more than 50 years overdue.

Though he earned this honor, he never received it from the Defense Department and I am honored to have the opportunity to present to him the Purple Heart for his selfless devotion to duty and service to the United States.

IN HONOR OF ANGELICA
HARRISON

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angelica "Angel" Harrison for her outstanding commitment to serving her community. She is being honored today, September 21, 2004, with the Mary T. Norton Memorial Award by the United Way of Hudson County at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, New Jersey.

Mrs. Harrison has shown remarkable passion for helping the homeless. She has helped countless people make the transition from poverty to self-sufficiency and has helped raise critical funding for those in need. For 33 years, she has worked at the Hudson County Division of Welfare, serving as a social worker, supervisor, administrative advisor, and deputy director. Since 1983, Mrs. Harrison has been the director of the agency.

Mrs. Harrison's dedication to public service is demonstrated by her participation in numerous agencies throughout the community. She is a member of the State Medicaid Planning Committee, the State Corrective Action Panel, and the Hudson County Child Care Committee. Mrs. Harrison has also shown great leadership, serving as a board member for the Human Services Advisory Council; chairperson for the Comprehensive Emergency Assistance System; two-time past president of the New Jersey County Welfare Directors' Association; and current president of the Hudson County Pension Committee.

Over the years, Mrs. Harrison has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those in need. She opened a food pantry at the County Welfare Agency to help those ineligible to receive food stamps. In addition, she established the Supportive Assistance to Individuals and Families (SAIF) program, which aids clients in the transition from welfare to self-sufficiency. She successfully secured a \$1.8 million grant for this program in Hudson County.

Mrs. Harrison was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey. She received her bachelor's degree in both education and psychology from Jersey City State College.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Angelica Harrison for her remarkable work in Hudson County and her outstanding contributions to the social welfare and outreach programs in her community.

IN HONOR OF THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF MARVIN C. SHARP
TO THE DELAWARE FIRE-
FIGHTER COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, during my service as a Member of the House of Representatives, it has been my honor and privilege to rise and pay tribute to organizations and people who really make a difference in the Delaware community. Today, I rise to recognize Marvin C. Sharp, President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (DVFA).

Marvin C. Sharp has been an extremely active and influential member of the fire prevention community for years. President Sharp is a Life Member of the Carlisle Fire Company of Milford where he served in several capacities as an emergency responder—including Ambulance Captain. He was "Fireman of the Year" in 1980 and "Ambulance Attendant of the Year" in 1986.

Marvin Sharp was formerly the President of Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association. He served as President of the Kent County Ambulance Association and as President of the Delaware State Ambulance Association. As a result of his demonstrated leadership Marvin was subsequently nominated and elected as the Second Vice President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association in 2001. He was elected First Vice President in 2002, and President in 2003. This year he was elected Fourth Vice President of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. His various positions within the fire services community are a testament to his dedication to the public, as well as the faith that President Sharp's leadership resulted in an amendment to the by-laws of the DVFA which allowed the Wilmington Fire Department, our state's only fully career fire department, to join the Association as a full member. In an era where some volunteer and career fire departments are experiencing problems in working together, Delaware again stands tall by including every fire company in Delaware under the DVFA banner.

The Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association has been served well by President Marvin C. Sharp. Along with my fellow Delawareans, I would like to commend Marvin, not only for his tireless efforts on behalf of the First State, but also for his tremendous contributions to the DVFA. Marvin is an exemplary model of commitment and excellence, and a valuable member of the Delaware community. I salute Marvin C. Sharp for his efforts to keep the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association a strong and vital part of Delaware.

HONORING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE OF CHRISTINE HUDDLESTON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding community service of Christine Huddleston, who has taken care

of the needs of the homeless for 50 years. In fact, she has been running a homeless shelter in my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for nearly 18 of those years.

Room at the Inn is a clean, safe place for the homeless to get their lives back in order. While Christine compassionately nurtures those who stay at the shelter, she expects everyone to pull his or her own weight. Accordingly, residents are expected to get gainful employment and do their fair share of chores around the facility.

She has helped everyone from college professors to the working poor get back on their feet again. That's why many who stay at the shelter lovingly refer to her as "Ma." Christine's unique understanding of human nature has allowed her to help people strengthen their self esteem and make a better life for themselves. But make no mistake about it, she is not a push over and knows when to practice tough love.

Christine's dedication to her work and the Room at the Inn has garnered her much support and admiration from the community. What started out as a small operation supported by only seven local churches has evolved into a community-wide effort aided by 70 churches, the business community and the city of Murfreesboro. I commend Christine for her hard work and tireless service to the homeless. She epitomizes what it means to be a Christian.

CONGRATULATING ST. MARY'S
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on the joyous occasion of its 100th anniversary.

This church has a rich history in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The first immigrants to the area from Syria and Lebanon traveled to our region in the 1890s. By 1904, there were about 35 families who grouped together to form the first parish of St. Mary. On March 13, 1904, Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeney organized St. Mary's Syrian Orthodox Men's Group. In the Spring of 1904, a young man named John Michael Curry Saba was ordained as the first priest of St. Mary's.

The parish bought the land on which to build a church at 132 High Street for \$300. From 1904 through 1908, the congregation gathered in a private home. In 1907, Father George Kattouf was ordained and became pastor of St. Mary's.

By 1907, the parish had grown to about 65 families. A Russian Orthodox contractor named Michael Hlipko offered to build the church for \$8,500.

St. Mary's was the first Antiochian parish established in the United States. On November 3, 1908, the parish received its official charter of incorporation for Luzerne County and the state of Pennsylvania. The official name was St. Mary's Syrian Greek Orthodox Catholic Church of Wilkes-Barre and vicinity.