

IN RECOGNITION OF A.E. "BEAN"
BACKUS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize one of America's greatest artists, A.E. (Bean) Backus, who I'm proud to say was a native and lifelong South Floridian. On canvas, he captured the very essence of our State's natural beauty.

I count myself among Bean Backus' admirers for portraying Florida as it was and as it should be.

From his earliest days on the Indian River, when he was given a set of watercolors at the age of eight to a lifetime body of work of over 6,000 paintings, Bean has left his indelible mark on all who have followed in the Backus style.

His works are collected and exhibited in Florida and around the world, each telling a story of South Florida's unique natural heritage. Most of it has disappeared from daily public view, left only to preserves and weekend nature trips, but through Bean it is kept alive in the homes of those fortunate to own a Backus or visit one in a museum.

If you squint your eyes and use your imagination, you can see Florida the way Bean Backus saw it. Today, the land where shopping centers and housing developments stand surrounded by traffic was once a place where roseate spoonbills fed and the only sound was the rustling of the Everglades' grasses. Wetlands have become parking lots, and marshes became mansions along our once pristine waterways. Thanks to Bean's visual legacy, their memory is kept intact for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Recognized as the "Dean of Florida Landscape Painting", he is the standard to which other Florida landscape artists aspire. His subtle mastery of light and color are copied by many but equaled by none. His Fort Pierce studio was always alive and open, with 50 students, children's art classes, the curious, those who just wanted to debate the news of the day or perhaps wanted to pick up a brush and try painting.

Bean Backus is the inspiration behind the much acclaimed African-American artists known as The Highwaymen, and counted them among his friends. His compatriot, the legendary author Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, was also a close friend. Though a frequent dining companion of Ian Fleming of James Bond fame, he was most comfortable sharing a sunrise breakfast with the fishermen, workers and tall tale tellers in his hometown.

Today, we can best appreciate Bean Backus at the gallery named in his honor in Fort Pierce that receives tens of thousands of visitors each year. It boasts the largest permanent collection of Backus paintings and annually each spring showcases a large selection of additional Backus paintings from private collections. According to Bean's wishes, admittance has remained free and is supported solely by private donations.

Mr. Speaker, occasionally when the light is right, in the early hours you can almost see Bean at his easel near a window in the gallery recreating the best of Florida for the world to enjoy. Thank you Bean Backus for keeping alive the real Florida, forever.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT
ADMINISTRATION ON ITS 30TH
ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution honoring the men and women of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on its 30th Anniversary. The DEA has played a vital role in the battle against the drug epidemic in our country.

Before being elected to Congress, I was a federal law enforcement officer in the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for 26½ years. Twelve of those years were spent as El Paso Sector Chief of the United States Border Patrol. One of the most important and most dangerous missions I had in the Border Patrol was the interdiction of illegal narcotics. I had the opportunity to work closely with the DEA in that mission, and can personally attest to the hard work, dedication and professionalism of DEA personnel.

Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to represent the city of El Paso, Texas, a border town in the western-most tip of Texas. This area plays a critical role in our country's war on drugs. Last April my colleague Mr. SOUDER of Indiana, who is the sponsor of the resolution before us today, held a field hearing in my district to highlight the impact of drug trade in our area. Mr. Sandy Gonzalez, DEA Special Agent in Charge in El Paso, was a witness at this hearing.

As one might imagine, DEA has a significant presence in my district. The DEA-led El Paso Intelligence Center, or EPIC, was established by the Department of Justice in 1974 as an intelligence service center to be staffed by representatives of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), U.S. Customs Service and DEA. Initially, EPIC focused on the U.S.-Mexico border and its primary interest was drug movement and immigration violations. Today, EPIC has the same mission, but has broadened its scope to include all of the United States and the entire Western Hemisphere.

Mr. Speaker, I can personally attest to the value of the DEA in El Paso. I urge every Member of this House to join me in congratulating the DEA for 30 years of service in our country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PETE AND
POLLY CONLON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to two people responsible for continuing a great tradition of entertainment in Beulah, Colorado. Pete and Polly Conlon's Flag Mountain Grill is a family-oriented attraction center that has been a source of entertainment for the citizens of Colorado for over a century. The Flag Mountain Grill is an incredible asset to the city

because it engages the community members in such a dynamic way, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing the Conlon's tremendous service to the Beulah community.

Pete and Polly Conlon are the owners of the Flag Mountain Grill, formerly known as Gayway Park. Currently, the Flag Mountain Grill serves as a restaurant but it began as a small boating pond that was carved out of a mountain valley. Over time, it expanded to include numerous baseball fields, the valley rodeo, and many other community events. During its heyday in the 1950's, Gayway Park was the weekend destination for the Pueblo community as a vibrant music and dance hall.

Mr. Speaker, the Flag Mountain Grill continues a long tradition, dedicated in bringing the people of Colorado together. Pete and Polly Conlon have enjoyed taking on the task of running this landmark institution in Beulah, and their enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I regret that an International Relations Committee hearing on Haiti yesterday caused me to miss Rollcall vote 38, on final passage of H.R. 1561, the United States Patent and Trademark Fee Modernization Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall vote 38.

RECOGNITION OF COLORADO
NONPROFIT WEEK

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Colorado Nonprofit Week, an annual event organized by the Colorado Association of Nonprofit Organizations (CANPO) and volunteer committees around the state. The purpose is to recognize and celebrate the vital impact Colorado's nonprofits have on our economy and quality of life.

In Colorado, there are over 16,000 nonprofits and nationwide there are over 850,000 charitable nonprofits. One-third of charitable nonprofits work in the area of human services, helping to meet the needs of all of our citizens through food banks, job counseling, shelters, domestic violence just to mention a few essential areas.

The other two-thirds of the nonprofit sector serve an even broader constituency—all of those who attend cultural performances, view exhibitions, visit galleries, take their children to museums, provide educational programming, work with animals and protect the environment, and many other vital, day-today parts of our lives.

The Colorado Association of Nonprofit Organizations has worked hard to make Colorado Nonprofit Week a success. Their goals have been to increase the visibility of nonprofits and

their important contributions throughout the state; to strengthen relationships between nonprofit leaders and public officials; and to encourage individual nonprofit leaders to see themselves as part of the greater nonprofit sector.

In 2001 (the last year data was analyzed) nonprofit expenditures totaled more than \$9 billion in Colorado for the 5,400 largest nonprofits and \$822 billion in the United States for the nearly 267,000 largest nonprofits.

The Colorado Association of Nonprofit Organizations represents organizations across the state that provide hope for thousands of Coloradans. They educate youth, help the disabled, protect children, provide needed services to adults and promote culture and the arts. From bettering the lives of individuals to improving the overall economy of our entire state, there is almost no aspect of society that nonprofits do not touch. One thing is for sure; our state would not be the incredible place it is today if these crucial organizations did not exist.

Mr. Speaker, nonprofits in Colorado and across the country are an essential piece of the fabric of this country. I am pleased and proud to have this opportunity to salute them today.

EXTENSION OF NATIONAL COMMISSION ON TERRORIST ATTACKS UPON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I come before you in opposition to the extension of the 9/11 Commission. From the outset, I've been opposed to the creation of this blue ribbon panel. A year and a half ago I voted against the Roemer Amendment which created this panel because I felt the panels work would be duplicative to an already established blue ribbon panel, the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Aside from its duplicative nature I was also concerned over the political intent behind the creation of the blue ribbon commission. I feel that if the panel generates any type of report that focuses on the Bush Administration ignoring key pieces of intelligence it can only be construed as being political. Given the fact that there were tens of thousands of intelligence memos regarding terrorist threats, if this panel criticizes a particular Administration for failing to react to one briefing memo then their report can only be seen as seen as politically driven.

The panel's recent request for an extension to its pre-established May 27th deadline only reinforces my pre-held belief that the panel is going to be used as a political vehicle and not serve its original intent which was to provide recommendations for guarding against future attacks. In my opinion, the panel should have either produced a report within the original time constraints or extend the deadline till after the November elections so that the findings don't get bogged down in election year politics.

The way in which the House passed the extension yesterday on voice vote with no ad-

vance notice is also troubling to me. Had the House conducted a recorded vote on the extension, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, I missed rollcall votes 32, 33. Had I been here, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 32; and "aye" on rollcall 33. I request that my comments be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the appropriate section.

TRIBUTE TO KURT DOUGLAS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a talented and dedicated athletics coach from Rangely, Colorado who is retiring after many years of service. Kurt Douglas uses his creative guidance to inspire people to achieve their best and make the most of their talents and abilities. His enthusiasm spirals through the community as he passes his love for sports on to his student-athletes. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Kurt's tremendous service to the Rangely community.

Kurt Douglas has been coaching for over twenty-seven years. He started his coaching career in Crowley County in 1975, where he served as an assistant baseball coach for six years and assisted with the boy's basketball team for two more years before becoming head coach. After Crowley County, Kurt went on to coach at Rocky Ford, working with the Meloneer's baseball team for 13 seasons, which included two trips to the state finals. He also coached the girl's basketball program and assisted the football team for a combined 12 years.

Kurt has led three basketball teams to the state tournament and participated in four all-state games, two in basketball and two in baseball. His favorite aspect of coaching has been the opportunity to guide his three daughters through their own basketball careers. In the midst of all this, Kurt has found the time to work as a full time teacher, while serving as the activities director for the high school.

Mr. Speaker, Kurt Douglas is a truly dedicated individual who uses his talents to enrich the lives of the students in his Rangely community. Kurt has demonstrated a love for sports that resonates in his compassionate and selfless service to many athletic programs and the student-athletes who participate. He has given up countless hours of his free time in order to give kids a chance to pursue their dreams, and I commend him for his service to our youth. Thanks for all your hard work Kurt, and I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate an organization that has dedicated its efforts to the education and prevention of tobacco use among our Nation's young people. Founded on March 4, 1999, as a result of the historic Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA), the American Legacy Foundation celebrates its 5th anniversary this week.

Over the past 5 years, the American Legacy Foundation has made great strides in improving health for all Americans by creating an environment which allows young people to reject tobacco products and assists others to quit.

The American Legacy Council is best known for their award-winning truth youth counter market campaign. Truth advertisements provide a blunt and frank approach to the negatives of smoking and tobacco usage. These advertisements are credited as one of the reasons for the recent declines in youth tobacco usage. Additionally, the foundation's programs extend well beyond targeting youth. Through their cessation programs, the Circle of Friends creates circles of support around women who wish to quit, the Great Start Program helps to provide counseling for pregnant women regarding the risks of tobacco usage during pregnancy, and the Priority Populations Program focuses on those groups disproportionately harmed by tobacco use.

In addition to celebrating the American Legacy's Foundation wonderful achievements, I wish to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues the very real threat to the financial existence of programs such as truth, and the existence of the Foundation itself. This year the American Legacy Foundation has received its last payment from the MSA. Because of the dramatic reduction in resources, all of the successes that the Foundation has achieved are in jeopardy. Already, the Foundation is cutting programs. It is imperative that members of Congress join together to not only congratulate the American Legacy Foundation on their great success over the past 5 years, but also join together to ensure that the American Legacy Foundation will be able to continue on their path for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE YOSHIDA HONDA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place into our Nation's RECORD the tribute which was given by Art Honda at the memorial service for his sister-in-law, Jeanne Yoshida Honda, beloved wife of Congressman MIKE HONDA, on February 21, 2004.

"Jeanne would really be blown away with all of you being here (especially in this weather). She would also be a little embarrassed but pleased all the same. Thank you for being