

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNCLE ELI'S QUILTING PARTY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2004

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 1, 2004, several hundred people will gather at a location in my congressional district for the 73rd year in a row to commemorate what some fear is becoming a lost art—quilting. No one knows what the future holds for this wonderful tradition, but thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers, there will be a permanent reminder to all who travel to our area.

On April 1, an historic highway marker will be unveiled commemorating "Uncle Eli's Quilting Party." Named after Eli Whitney—the father of the cotton gin—"Uncle Eli's Quilting Party" has been a tradition in Alamance County, North Carolina, since 1931. The unveiling will take place in front of the community center that bears Eli Whitney's name on the "Football Road" (SR 1005) in southern Alamance County. Community volunteers wanted to mark the historic and cultural significance of "Uncle Eli's Quilting Party" with a roadside historical marker. The state of North Carolina agreed that it met the standards needed for the sign's erection, but it did not have any available funding. So, like the determined quilters the sign commemorates, the group pitched in, raised the needed funds themselves, and convinced the state to manufacture the sign. On April 1, all will gather with pride when the sign is unveiled.

To fully appreciate the wonderful traditions kept alive by the quilters, allow me to quote Erma Kirkpatrick from *Quilting in America, Beyond the Myths: Selected Writings from the American Quilt Study Group* (edited by Laurel Horton):

"The day begins early. By 8:00 a.m., the first cars have parked outside the big old brick gymnasium, which is the Eli Whitney Community Center. Nannie McBane, quilter, quilting instructor, and coordinator of the quilting party unlocks the door. Inside, the gym seems huge, cavernous and bare. One or two quilts have been 'put in' the previous day so the quilters can get an early start. Otherwise the gym is empty, with bleachers folded against the wall and tables stretched out along one end ready to receive food. Gradually the room comes to life. A table is placed by the door so that everyone can sign the register and make a name tag to wear. Early arrivals unfold chairs brought from the storage room and begin to wipe off the bleachers. As women bring in quilted items for display, willing hands help drape the quilts over the now-dusted bleachers or hang them on clothes lines which are stretched around the walls. Suddenly there is a quilt show! . . . The day and the quilting progress. Around noon the covered dishes are uncovered, the line forms, a blessing is asked, and a serious attack is made on the heavily loaded tables . . . The quilters take pride in their cooking as well as their quilting."

Erma Kirkpatrick also writes that in the last few years, the focus of "Uncle Eli's Quilting Party" has changed: "Today the quilting party is a social gathering for which the Eli Whitney community is well known. People attend from as far away as 50 miles. There is less dedication to putting in and completing a quilt. In fact, seldom is a single quilt completed by the end of the day. The number of quilts in frames has gone down and the number of visitors has increased. It has become a spectator sport."

No matter what the future holds, "Uncle Eli's Quilting Party" will continue to mark the start of spring in southern Alamance County. And thanks to a group of dedicated, civic-minded quilters and their fans, a highway marker will let the world know that there is a quilting party every year in North Carolina that would make Uncle Eli proud.

HONORING THE STATE CHAMPION CLARKRANGE HIGH SCHOOL LADY BUFFALOES

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Clarkrange High School Lady Buffaloes' for winning this year's Tennessee Class A basketball championship. This is the Lady Buffaloes seventh state title. In winning their seventh title they knocked off the defending state champions.

When people talk about this team you hear words like grit, determination, and cohesion. All three are part of the formula that makes a winner. Clarkrange residents can be proud of the accomplishments of the Lady Buffaloes, who last made it to the state championship in 1995.

The following are the members of the 2003–2004 state champion Lady Buffaloes: Coach Lamar Rogers, Jordan Ramsey, Miranda Cravens, Jaclyn Upchurch, Kari Jones, Michelle Snow, Amanda Beaty, Lindsay Parris, Diane Beaty, Kayla Crabtree, Ashley Jones, Jessica Green, Amy Miller, Brianna Pinson, and Nakeisha Cottle. As is the case in most team sports, cheerleaders are at the forefront of pumping passion and spirit into the crowd. Those assisting the Lady Buffaloes were: Coach Tinker LaRue, Heather Smith, Cassie Hoover, Nekedra Terry, Lauren Moody, Traci Ipock, Alicea Barnett, and Shelly Pack.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Lady Buffaloes and would like to express that the United States House of Representatives recognizes their accomplishment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PETE JONES

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Pete Jones of Buffalo, Wyoming, who passed away recently at age sixty-nine. I personally knew Pete well, and he was a devoted family man, a dear friend, and a beloved member of his Buffalo, Wyoming and Glenwood Springs, Colorado communities. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community and state.

Pete was a man of the highest integrity and ethics. During his years spent in Glenwood Springs, he was known in the business community for his fair dealing and problem-solving skills. In his spare time, he immensely enjoyed the rodeo, competing in rough stock events, and also trained and worked as a smokejumper. However, he found the most joy in life spending time with his wife Doris, his children, grandchildren, and the families of his brothers and sisters.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to Pete Jones. I am proud to have known such a great man who enriched the lives of his family and community. My heart goes out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

HONORING SHERIDAN AND MILDRED OSTRANDER

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Sheridan and Mildred Ostrander of Chicago on their recent Golden Anniversary celebrating 50 years of marriage.

Both Sheridan and Millie have been active members of the community and continue to support the many causes important to them.

Sheridan, now retired, has owned several businesses and worked for CNA Insurance for a number of years.

Millie has been a devoted wife, mother, and homemaker and remains active in Our Lutheran Church and Luther North High School Women's Organizations.

Together Sheridan and Millie have lived in their present home for 48 years. They have two children, Janice Fleck and James Ostrander.

The Fleck's, Janice and Michael, are the proud parents of two children, Sarah, who attends Oakton Community College; and Jessica, who attends high school in Niles, Illinois. James and Christine Ostrander have two children, Megan and Kevin, who both attend grammar school in Schaumburg, Illinois.

• 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.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the Fifth District in congratulating Sheridan and Mildred Ostrander on their fiftieth wedding anniversary, and wish them and their extended family all the happiness in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, I was in New York City for meetings to discuss a number of homeland security issues with various officials and, therefore, missed two recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted, "yes" on recorded vote No. 94 and "yes" on recorded vote 95.

TANF REFORM

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we have failed to make a real TANF reform that helps the working poor low-income single parents, children of poverty stricken families, and especially the men and women who have a drug conviction.

The TANF program contains several provisions that could decrease funding for individuals who received a drug felony conviction, which includes use, possession, or distribution. There is a lifetime ban on TANF and food stamps for individuals who receive a drug felony conviction after August 22, 1996, unless the State enacts legislation to disregard the ban completely or narrow it. Only 7 States and the District of Columbia have completely opted out of the ban with another 18 states allowing benefits to be paid to individuals with drug felony conviction in certain circumstances. For instance, in only three states the ban does not apply to those who finish their sentence and comply with their parole or probation, six states do not apply the ban to those in treatment or who have completed treatment. However, 41% of States ban TANF and food stamps based on the conviction alone. A report in 2002 estimated that the ban affected 92,000 women in 23 States studied.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a State issue. This is our Nation's issue. If we do not help all of those in need, if we stop giving assistance to some of our most needy, those with an addiction or who have been falsely accused of this conviction, our Nation will end up paying for it with higher rates of crime, higher recidivism rate, and a number of individuals remaining drug-users. The National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study found that women treated in federally funded treatment programs increased their employment and decreased their use of welfare. The number who reported being employed in the year after treatment increased by 25 percent. Incomes also increased by 6 percent while the number receiving public assistance decreased by 8 percent.

This clearly demonstrates that punishment and banning assistance is not the answer. Instead, federal assistance will assist to produce working, tax-paying citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 94 and 95. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of those rollcall votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 93, HR. 3905—Community Recognition Act of 2003, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SGT. ROBERT JEPSEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to an outstanding patriot from my home state of Colorado. Sergeant Robert Jepsen recently returned from serving our nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom. While there, Robert was injured in a terrorist bombing attack near Baghdad. Sadly, the attack also claimed the lives of three of Robert's fellow 82nd Airborne Paratroopers. While we mourn the loss of Robert's comrades, I think it is appropriate to call the attention of this body of Congress, and our nation, to the sacrifices that Robert and his fellow soldiers have made on behalf of a grateful nation.

After graduating from high school, Robert answered his country's call to duty when he entered the United States Army. From the outset, it was clear that Robert had the qualities of a tremendous soldier. His bravery, intelligence and outstanding leadership did not go unnoticed, and Robert earned his Ranger Tab with the 101st Airborne Division, (Air Assault).

Throughout his recovery, Robert has drawn on the qualities that made him a great soldier. He continues to maintain a positive attitude and high spirits while recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and plans to return to school to realize his dream of becoming a pediatrician.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise and pay tribute to Sergeant Robert Jepsen. Robert's personal sacrifice and unwavering heroism is the true embodiment of patriotism. On behalf of my fellow Coloradans, and Americans, I wish to thank Robert for his bravery and noble service.

TWO OTHER WAYS TO HELP AND HONOR OUR TROOPS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of two important bills enacted by the House earlier today that will provide much-needed and deserved assistance to the families of U.S. troops, and provide special recognition for the distinguished service of our military personnel in the global war against terrorism. This legislation would reimburse U.S. service personnel for their transportation costs and create two new campaign medals designating military service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The first bill, S. 2057, builds on the much-needed and highly successful Operation Hero Miles, which allows Americans to donate their unused frequent flier mileage, by also reimbursing troops for travel expenses to their final destinations. Under the U.S. Armed Forces Central Command Rest and Recuperation Leave Program, those troops who traveled before Dec. 19, 2003 are not eligible to be reimbursed for commercial airfare beyond U.S. points of entry—Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas-Fort Worth, or Los Angeles. Also, there is still a need for travel assistance for soldiers on emergency leave, and for family members of soldiers being treated at U.S. military hospitals. This bill would allow troops to seek reimbursement retroactive to Sept. 25, 2003 which will help many of their families save hundreds of dollars each.

I am also proud to cosponsor and vote for a second bill passed by the House today, H.R. 3104, which would create separate campaign medals specifically designed to recognize service by members of the Armed Forces who participated in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. These decorations will be worn proudly by our troops and provide important symbolic recognition by distinguishing their service in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and emphasizing their specific and unique significance in our mission to win the global war against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the troops for their continuing valor, patriotism and commitment to our Nation. We thank them for their heroism and sacrifices, and we support these bills to honor their service and to provide much-needed relief for their families. Now that a year has passed since U.S. troops were deployed to Iraq, we wish them all a safe return and hope this legislation makes their trip home a little easier.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLIMATE STEWARDSHIP ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that global warming is happening and that man is contributing to it. Now, it is our responsibility to work to mitigate the impacts of potentially catastrophic climate change.