

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. DENNIS WELLER

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mr. Dennis Weller. Mr. Weller was awarded the Contractor of the Year Award by the Associated Builders and Contractors on February 26, 2004. This award is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated significant accomplishment for Associated Builders and Contractors, the merit shop, and the construction industry.

Mr. Weller is president and chief executive officer of Structural Associates, Inc. in East Syracuse, New York. In addition, he has held numerous leadership positions with Associated Builders and Contractors, including vice chairman on the national executive committee and chairman of the chapter development committee.

Kirk Pickerel, Associated Builders and Contractors president and CEO, said of Weller, "He and his firm have pursued a free enterprise, merit shop approach to construction in a State and region that has long been dominated by those who oppose such concepts." Mr. Weller is a source of pride to our community and should be commended for his hard work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO ELDER ELLIS SMITH, JR.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize a respected member of my district, Elder Ellis Smith, Jr., as he and his congregation celebrate the dedication of their church on April 4, 2004. Elder Smith celebrates this event with his beloved wife, First Lady Elresia Smith, their three sons, Ellis Tarique III, Ellis Jerod IV, and Terrell, and their daughter, Jullisa.

Elder Smith was born in Newark in 1961, which makes him my neighbor for almost 43 years and counting. He is a graduate of West Side High School in Newark, Evangelical Bible Institute in Parsippany, and he attended Upsala College in East Orange.

Elder Smith formed Siloah Church in 1997 and had the first services at his kitchen table at his Parsippany residence. Sunday afternoon services were held for a brief period at Rouzeu's Manor in Orange. The Smith family eventually converted the family room of their residence into a Sanctuary, where Sunday morning services and Bible study continued until they acquired a site in East Orange in early 2001, changing the ministry's name to The Love of Christ.

From its nascency, assembled around his kitchen table, to its full emergence as The

Love of Christ Ministry, Elder Smith has nurtured this growing gathering of the faithful. As they celebrate and dedicate this special event, I hope that he will be encouraged as he sees the fruits of his labors and will be refreshed to continue his ministry with excitement and vigor.

It is my distinct honor to join with his congregation and our community in offering our encouragement and support as they celebrate the dedication of their church. I hope that this will be a time of great blessing for him and his family.

We are all grateful for his leadership and vision, as well as his community involvement through the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network and the Coalesce Youth Organization.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to Elder Smith for his years of pastoral ministry, and I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing him the strength and grace to continue for many years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH YEAR OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress and friends of Taiwan get ready to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, I rise to express my continued support for friendship between America and the Republic of China on Taiwan. Despite the regrettable fact that our two nations no longer enjoy formal diplomatic relations, the U.S. and the Republic of China on Taiwan have remained strong allies for the better part of a century.

Much of this strong relationship is based on the Taiwan Relations Act, which has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security and stability in the Taiwan Strait and the Western Pacific since its enactment in 1979. Over the last quarter century, the Republic of China on Taiwan has built a strong economy and a healthy, vibrant and fully functioning multiparty democracy, conducting free elections at all levels, including the recent and razor-thin reelection of incumbent President Chen Shui-Bian.

The 1979 Taiwan Relations Act viewed Taiwan's membership in international organizations as conducive to Taiwan's stability and economic prosperity. Over the years, the U.S. has continued to support the participation of Taiwan in international affairs, its accession to the World Trade Organization and the ROC's ongoing efforts to become an observer in the World Health Organization. I believe Taiwan's active participation and contributions to these and all international organizations will be beneficial not just to the people of Taiwan but to the international community at large.

Mr. Speaker, the last 25 years under the framework of the TRA have been positive for

both the Republic of China on Taiwan and the United States. The Taiwan Relations Act has helped to maintain stability and security for the people of the United States, the people of Taiwan and for those in neighboring countries.

Maintaining and enhancing the close strategic, commercial and military cooperation between the United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan have been of critical importance for the last 25 years and will remain so in the future, in large part thanks to the TRA.

CHINA AND WTO RULES

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, there is a problem that Congress needs to pay attention to in terms of the dramatic increase in the price of scrap steel. It is hurting manufacturing in Michigan and around our country. China is bidding up the price and hoarding steel. If China won't conduct business and comply with WTO rules, then we need to consider drastic action, such as cutting off imports coming from China. If the shelves of some of our discount stores go bare, buy American.

TRIBUTE TO THE JAMESVILLE-DEWITT BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Jamesville-Dewitt boys' varsity basketball team. The team went undefeated this season with 29 wins and no losses or ties. The team rose to become class A State federation champions, defeating St. Joseph's of Buffalo in overtime by a score of 78 to 73. The team's 29 wins were the most recorded by any team in section three history.

There were six outstanding players who made big plays to bring their team to victory in the final game of the season. Senior co-captain Jeremy Black led the squad with 20 points and was 6 of 8 from behind the three-point line. Junior Andy Rautins, the tournament MVP, finished with 18 points and six assists. Junior Ari Greenberg also scored 18 points; and senior Reggie Flynn scored 8 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and had five assists. Jamesville-Dewitt's coach, Bob McKenney said of the team, "I've never had a group with a will to win like these guys."

The team includes Corey Becker, Jeremy Black, Zach Bratek, Corey Chavers, Andrew Cottet, Zachary Drescher, Reggie Flynn, Aaron Greenberg, Manuel Karam, Tim Palma, Andy Rautins, John Romano, Justin Stern, Spencer Traino, Micke Triche, and Chris

• 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.

Vieau. They are coached by Bob McKenney along with assistant coaches Lisa McKenney and Charlie Falgiatano. These boys are a source of pride to our community and should be commended for their hard work and dedication.

CELEBRATING GREECE'S 183RD
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, as a long time supporter and member of the Hellenic Caucus, I would like to recognize and congratulate the people of Greece on their Independence Day, which they celebrated last week. 183 years ago, the Greek people won their freedom and independence from the Ottoman Empire. This is a great event, not only for Greece, but for all countries because it represents and reaffirms our belief in self-determination and democracy.

Our nation is built on the principles of the ancient Greek philosophers. Our founding fathers looked to Greek political and philosophical ideals while forming our nation. Years later, we were able to return the favor when the United States independence movement helped fuel the strength of the Greek people in seeking their own sovereignty from a foreign empire.

I am also proud to say that the Greek community is especially prominent in New York State. We have the largest Greek Community in the U.S. and we are home to the Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

I am honored to join my colleagues in celebration of this significant achievement in history and to congratulate the Greek people on their independence day.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST
ADAM FROEHLICH

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Army Specialist Adam Froehlich who was killed while serving our country in Baqubah, Iraq on March 25, 2004. He was a member of 2nd Platoon, Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, a part of the 1st Infantry Division and stationed in Bamberg, Germany.

Specialist Froehlich was a true patriot who, deeply moved by the attacks of September 11th, joined the Army after graduating from Overbrook High School in Pine Hill, New Jersey. At Overbrook High School he was a varsity wrestler. After fulfilling his commitment to the Army, Specialist Froehlich planned to use the GI bill to attend college and become a gym teacher.

Specialist Froehlich's love of his country predated his enlistment in the Army. His decision to serve his country was a natural path

for him to take. Even at his young age, he understood the connection between the freedom that we all enjoy and the historical sacrifices of those in uniform.

Specialist Froehlich is survived by his parents Stephen and Rosemarie, his brothers Steve and Jeff, his sister April and his grandfather John, all of South Jersey. He will be laid to rest with full military honors on Saturday April 3, 2004 in Berlin, New Jersey.

I extend my deepest sympathy to the Froehlich family and express my immense gratitude for the heroic service of Specialist Adam Froehlich.

TRIBUTE TO CURTIS WILLIAMS,
SR.

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, Curtis Williams, a great and patriotic American, passed away in Lenoir City, Tennessee.

Mr. Williams, or Curtis to almost everyone, was a City Councilman in Lenoir City and a former member of the Loudon County Commission. He served on many boards and committees and worked with numerous civic and charitable organizations. He loved people and obviously wanted to help as many as he could.

Curtis was not rich or famous, but much more importantly, he was a kind and good man. He loved his family first and his community and his Country next, and this shone through in everything he said and did.

This Nation is a better place today because of the life Curtis Williams led, and I want to commend and praise the work he did.

I want to also call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the article about Curtis that was published by the Knoxville News Sentinel.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, Mar. 31, 2004]

COUNCILMAN'S DEATH LEAVES BIG HOLE IN LC
COMMUNITY

(By Ann Hinch)

Monday's presentation of a \$215,000 FEMA grant at Lenoir City Fire Station No. 1 promises all the hallmarks of an event Curtis Williams Sr. would've loved: his little city and his firefighters benefiting from much-needed federal funds, politics and old friends.

Sadly, the famously cheerful councilman will attend the April 5 presentation only in memory. Williams, 77, died of congestive heart failure at midnight March 15.

He'd been absent from most of the semi-monthly council meetings in the months preceding his death, wanting to attend but ultimately too ill and tired to do so. He would have especially enjoyed Monday's event, as he was also the city's fire commissioner and helped snag the FEMA grant.

"He'd get ready to come to the meetings, but at the last minute, he'd just be too tired," daughter Debbie Cook explained.

Cook, one of Williams' and wife Tiajaunia "Ty's" three children, said her father's doctor told the family in January that Williams didn't have long to live. In typical fashion,

rather than mourn his mortality, she said her father asked frankly about funeral plans, regaled with old stories and made the most of time with family during his last weeks.

"I remember telling him that last weekend, how when I was growing up I remember him always helping the 'little man,'" Cook recalled, adding with a laugh, "and he answered, 'Well, I was the little man!'"

"He saw himself as a true public servant. If someone called him asking for help to get a job, or a place to live, or food, he'd help them as much as he could."

Williams served on the city council from 1997 until his death, but was hardly a political neophyte. He spent 11 years on the Loudon County Commission until a heart attack forced him to leave in 1980 and also retire from his job as assistant plant manager with the local Charles H. Bacon Co. textile plant.

Taking a break from political office didn't mean a break in politics. An avid Democrat all his life, Williams volunteered for at least six boards, not including the committees he chaired and served on during his 18 years of elected office. And he even counted the occasional Republican among his political comrades, including Rep. JOHN J. DUNCAN Jr., and his father, the late Rep. John J. Duncan.

"It seemed almost every time me or my dad came to Loudon County, we would see him," recalled Duncan, whose father began campaigning for office there while the younger Duncan was in high school. "He was a real strong supporter of both of us."

"I think that he set a good example for anyone in public office. He had a heart for service and liked to help people."

Duncan will make the grant presentation.

Loudon County Attorney Harvey Sproul was county mayor while Williams served on the commission. He recalls the projects they worked on to modernize the county, including being one of the first Tennessee counties to institute planning and zoning in 1972.

"He was supportive of trying to get things done and trying to establish a foundation for future county growth," Sproul said. "He was almost unequaled in public service; he served on so many boards, and was very progressive."

Duncan had the most contact with Williams through veterans' organizations. Williams was proud of his three-year tour of duty in the Navy during World War II; Cook said Williams was proud to serve his country, to the point of having his legal guardians (he and his siblings were orphaned young and lived with relatives) help him lie about his age at 17 so he could join the Navy in 1943.

"They didn't ask for anything (age proof) back then," Cook said. "They just said, 'Do you want to fight?'" Williams helped storm the beach at Normandy on D-Day and was a gunner in the Pacific.

After the war, Williams returned to his job at Bacon, where he'd worked since he was a boy; he would work there 36 years. He married his childhood sweetheart, earned his GED, and attended classes at the University of Tennessee not toward a degree, but simply to learn more. Two of his three children—Cook and Curtis Williams Jr.—followed him into local politics (daughter Bernita Gamble did not). He left behind a large family, including seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He also left a hole on the city council, where his term would have ended next April. Mayor Matt Brookshire, who is now responsible for appointing the position, said, "His presence here was missed for a long time, and he'll continue to be missed. He did enjoy (his work)."