

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING OFFICER NICHOLAS K. SLOAN: A MAN OF COURAGE

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Nicholas K. Sloan for exhibiting tremendous courage while serving with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. During his tenure with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, Officer Sloan's energy, commitment and dedication to his job made him an extraordinary benefit to the entire St. Louis community.

Officer Sloan knew at an early age that he wanted to become a police officer, just like his father. After graduating from the Police Academy, he honorably requested to be placed with the Eighth District so that he could make a difference in the inner city. Officer Sloan later earned a spot on the Eighth District Weed & Seed Unit which is a Department of Justice Initiative that assigns officers to help designated neighborhoods work on some of their worst problems, mainly centered on narcotics and firearm violations.

Quickly becoming "streetwise" and impressing his supervisors, he knew first hand who the "players" were in the community. He was instrumental in helping the unit compile a substantial amount of arrests and seizures. During his time, the unit was credited with 396 total arrests, recovering 123 firearms, seizing 31 vehicles and collecting \$35,901 under Asset Forfeiture guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Sloan was just 24 years old when he was killed in the line of duty while proudly and heroically serving the St. Louis community. His immense contribution to reducing crime in St. Louis, his bravery and his kindness will never be forgotten. It is with great privilege that I recognize Officer Nicholas K. Sloan today before Congress.

HONORING JOSEPH BOMMARITO

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Joseph Bommarito upon his retirement after 32 years of service to our community.

Since his family moved to Redford when he was just 10 years old, Joe has been a staple in our community. Before accepting the appointment as Deputy Supervisor in January of 1997, Joe served the Redford Township Police Department for 25 years in the capacities of patrolman, sergeant, lieutenant and inspector. Joe's impact was immediately felt as he successfully negotiated cost saving contracts and gave the Townhall a new look.

His wife, Carol, and his sons, Joseph, Tony, Michael and Bryan, should be extremely proud

of the undeniable mark he has left on the community. We at home will sorely miss and always benefit from his dedication and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Joseph Bommarito, upon his retirement as Deputy Supervisor of Redford Township, for his fine service to our community and our country.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING CHARLES DAVIS PALMER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Brett and Emily Palmer are celebrating the arrival of their son, Charles Davis Palmer; and

Whereas, Charles Davis Palmer was born on the twenty-fourth Day of March, 2004 and weighed eight pounds and fifteen ounces; and

Whereas, Mr. And Mrs. Palmer are proud to welcome their new son into their home; and

Whereas, Charles Davis Palmer will be a blessed addition to his family, bringing love, joy and happiness for many years to come;

Therefore, I join with Members of Congress and Congressional Staff in celebrating with Brett and Emily Palmer and wishing Charles Davis Palmer a very Happy Birthday.

HONORING OFFICER GABRIEL KEITHLEY: DEDICATED TO SERVICE

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Gabriel Keithley for being extremely courageous and dedicated while serving with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Officer Keithley's strong work ethic and commitment to his job make him an extraordinary benefit to the entire St. Louis community.

Officer Keithley fulfilled his life's ambition when he was hired by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department in 2001. After graduating from the Police Academy, Officer Keithley was placed with the Eighth District where he gained the reputation of being a hard working and devoted officer. His endeavors have not gone unnoticed by his colleagues; in January of 2003 they voted Gabriel Keithley Officer of the Month. His supervisors later recommended him to the Eighth District Weed & Seed Unit. This is a Department of Justice Initiative that assigns officers to help designated neighborhoods work on some of their worst problems, mainly centered on narcotics and firearm violations.

Officer Keithley has been an immense asset to the Weed & Seed Unit. He has been instru-

mental in helping the unit compile a substantial amount of arrests and seizures. During his time, the unit was credited with 396 total arrests, recovering 123 firearms, seizing 31 vehicles and collecting \$35,901 under Asset Forfeiture guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Keithley recently exhibited exceptional bravery while in the line of fire. Having been critically wounded, he courageously fought back and forced an armed criminal to flee the scene. I am honored to recognize Officer Gabriel Keithley today before Congress.

PRESIDENT'S DAY

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last month America celebrated President's Day. In recognizing a generic holiday, though, perhaps we didn't take the time to focus on our first President, George Washington. A friend, advisor, constituent and cousin, Frates Seeligson of San Antonio, wrote an article for the San Antonio Express-News that conveys the greatness of the individual called, "First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen." I hope my colleagues and others will enjoy Mr. Seeligson's trenchant observations.

[From the San Antonio Express-News, Feb. 22, 2004]

OLYMPIAN IN WAR, SAGACIOUS IN PEACE
(By Frates Seeligson)

During the past three decades, knowledge and appreciation of George Washington have declined to an all-time low.

One survey has revealed that Washington's coverage in history textbooks has declined by 90 percent since the 1960s. One high school textbook has only a paragraph on George Washington but more than two pages on Marilyn Monroe.

For that reason, his birthday today is an appropriate time to remind ourselves about his wonderful contributions to America, which resulted in his being known as the "Father of his Country." It is even more appropriate at a time when we constantly are looking for role models.

Consider Washington's greatest services in the creation of our country:

For 8½ years, he commanded the Continental forces, which won our independence.

He presided over the constitutional convention that produced the document under which we live, and without his support it would not have been ratified.

He became the first president of the United States.

Washington was a magnificent horseman and looked every inch a general. He was one of the wealthiest men in America, yet he pledged his life, his future, his beloved Mount Vernon and his sacred honor to win our freedom. At one battle he stopped his retreating army, turned them around and fought the British to a draw.

The Marquis de Lafayette described the effect of Washington's arrival on the tired, discouraged, beaten men: "His presence stopped

• 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.

the retreat. His fine appearance on horse, his calm courage, roused to animation by the vexations of the morning, gave him the air best calculated to excite enthusiasm."

Lafayette also recalled how later he "rode all along the lines amid the shouts of the soldiers cheering them by his voice and example and restoring to our standard the fortunes of the fight. I thought then, as now, that never had I beheld so superb a man."

After the war, no one knew whether the 13 states would separate into different countries or become one nation. The government under which they lived was basically a league of states absorbed in their own concerns.

The country found it impossible to operate under this type of government, and a constitutional convention was called.

Washington was already a legend.

As John Adams said: "He made every crowned head in Europe look like a valet. Noble, incorruptible, Olympian in war, sagacious in peace, he was the ideal man to preside over the convention."

The Constitution that the founding fathers created was absolutely new and revolutionary for its time. To create it was one thing; to get it ratified by the states was another. Washington's support was essential to its passage.

As he said: "It is too probable that no plan we propose will be adopted, perhaps another dreadful conflict is to be sustained."

"If to please the people, we offer what we ourselves disprove, how can we afterwards defend our work. Let us raise a standard to which the wise and the honest can repair."

Once the Constitution was ratified, most of the European powers felt there was no question it would be a failure.

They underestimated the first president. He guided the nation through its first eight years and set it on a course that has lasted to this day.

Washington's last service to his nation was to retire after two presidential terms.

To paraphrase what has been written before, there are two roads: one to absolutism and another road to democracy. On the first we see Napoleon and emperors, perpetual presidents, Mussolinis, Hitlers, Maos and directors of the proletariat advancing to band music to the death of political freedom.

On the other road, to democracy, there is a solitary figure in a rusty blue and buff uniform hastening to the happy halls of Mount Vernon.

All hail to Washington. First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen.

FREEDOM FOR MARIO ENRIQUE MAYO HERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Mario Enrique Mayo Hernández, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Mayo Hernández is a lawyer by profession who was fired by the Castro dictatorship from his job as a lawyer because he believes in freedom and democracy. After being terminated for his democratic opinions, Mr. Mayo Hernández began working as an independent journalist so the world could understand the reality of Castro's hideous oppression. Using the limited tools of independent journalism in a totalitarian state, Mr. Mayo Hernández courageously wrote about the bleak, broken, society that is the result of the tyrannical policies of the Cuban totalitarian dictatorship. In order to better disseminate the truth about totalitarian Cuba, Mr. Mayo Hernández eventually became the director of the press agency "Félix Varela."

On March 18, 2003, as part of Castro's brutal March 2003 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Mayo Hernández was arrested by the tyrant's police thugs. According to Amnesty International, he was accused of "creating conditions" that would allow the UN Commission on Human Rights to condemn the totalitarian regime for its gross human rights violations. In the sham trial that sentenced him to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag, Mr. Mayo Hernández was convicted because of "counterrevolutionary" articles on the abhorrent prison conditions and the situation of families of political prisoners.

Mr. Mayo Hernández is currently languishing in the oppressive conditions of the totalitarian gulag. According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Mayo Hernández has been held in conditions of "maximum harshness" that include being locked in solitary confinement, having to wait four months between family visits, and being transferred to a cell with common law criminals. Let there be no doubt, Mr. Mayo Hernández is being tortured in the totalitarian gulag. Because of his belief in freedom and democracy, because of his truthful depictions of the decrepit reality of the Castro regime, Mr. Mayo Hernández has been "sentenced" to 20 years in Castro's violent, corrupt, inhumane, totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Speaker, it is categorically unacceptable that peaceful pro-democracy activists languish in the gulags of tyrannical regimes. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Mario Enrique Mayo Hernández and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING JULIE AND JIM TURNER

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I attended the 10th Annual Awards Luncheon of the Senior Source, formerly known as Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas. At that event, the Senior Source presented its Spirit of Generations Award to Julie and Jim Turner, two highly respected citizens of Dallas.

Jim Turner, an internationally recognized leader in the soft drink industry, is CEO/President of the Dr. Pepper/Seven Up Bottling Group in Dallas. Over the years, Jim Turner and his company have been good corporate citizens and have made many contributions to the betterment of Dallas.

I would like to insert in the RECORD at this point the description of Julie and Jim Turner that appeared in the program marking the occasion of the presentation of the Generations Award.

JULIE AND JIM TURNER

Julie and Jim Turner work tirelessly to improve the well being of the community in which they live and conduct business. Throughout their 35 years of marriage, they

have given and received their energy from family, faith, and friends. And they have generously extended that strength to others. They have taken an active part in numerous nonprofit and corporate boards and are the force behind Dr. Pepper/Seven Up Bottling Group's outstanding role as a corporate citizen. In recognition of Julie and Jim Turner's contributions to the greater Dallas community, The Senior Source is pleased to honor them with the 10th Annual Spirit of Generations Award.

Jim Turner, an internationally recognized leader in the soft drink industry, is part owner and CEO/President of the Dr. Pepper/Seven Up Bottling Group. He has been recognized with the two most coveted awards in the beverage industry: Man of the Year from Beverage Industry and Beverage World's Hall of Fame. He has also received the nationally prestigious Horatio Alger Award, as well as the Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award, the Baylor University Distinguished Alumni Award, and has been inducted into the Baylor Sports Hall of Fame. He serves on the board of Baylor Health Care System, Boy Scouts of America Circle Ten Council, and Alzheimer's Association, among other local and national organizations.

Like her husband, Julie Turner is involved in the business affairs of the company and actively supports many local organizations. She serves on the boards of the Baylor Health Care System Foundation, Dallas Historical Society, is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Dallas Baptist University, and is a member of the Crystal Charity Ball Committee. A former teacher, she has served as PTA President and was awarded Life-time Membership in the Texas PTA. She is committed to a number of local causes including, among others, American Heart Association, Kidney Texas, Inc., AWARE, and Dallas Symphony Association.

The Turners are members of Park Cities Baptist Church and enjoy family time with their daughters, Jenna and Amy, Amy's husband, Brent, and their new pride and joy, grandson Turner.

With the Spirit of Generations Award, The Senior Source is honoring this extraordinary couple for their selfless work throughout the greater Dallas area.

HONORING STEPPENWOLF THEATRE COMPANY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Steppenwolf Theatre Company for three decades of excellence in Chicago's fine arts community for producing highly popular and consistently first-rate theatre.

Steppenwolf Theatre Company began performing plays in a church basement of Highland Park, Illinois back in 1974. With the leadership of Terry Kinney, Jeff Perry and Gary Sinise, the group incorporated in 1975 and has now grown to include thirty-five premier theater artists with wide-ranging and nationally recognized talent.

In that time, Steppenwolf Theatre has made Chicago proud time and again by making tremendous advancements in the vitality and diversity of American Theatre—both for its actors and its audience. Today, the city demonstrates its appreciation and continued patronage with a subscription base of 25,000 members and growing.