

example for others to follow and I am proud to call him my friend.

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection on the 51st anniversary of International Customs Day. On January 26, 1953, the World Customs Organization, formally known as the Customs Co-operation Council, held its first meeting in Brussels, Belgium. At this meeting, the Council designated January 26 as International Customs Day in order to recognize the role that customs services around the world play in facilitating trade while protecting national borders from importations posing security threats.

Finding this balance is particularly difficult given the challenges our country currently faces. It will be important for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to continue to offer the world class level of trade service and facilitation that U.S. business has come to rely on while ensuring that security needs are addressed. It will also be important to maintain the revenue collection linkage with the Treasury Department that has historically been so significant.

At one time, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, then the Customs Service, was the sole revenue producer for the young United States. Although that role has diminished over the years, Customs collected a record \$23.8 billion in revenue in fiscal year 2002. Today, Customs is still a major source of revenue for the Federal Government, returning about \$8 to the taxpayer for every dollar appropriated by Congress.

For nearly 125 years, Customs funded virtually the entire government and paid for the nation's early growth and infrastructure. The territories of Louisiana, Oregon, Florida and Alaska were purchased; the National Road from Cumberland, Maryland, to Wheeling, West Virginia, was constructed; and the Transcontinental Railroad stretched from sea-to-sea. Customs collections built the nation's lighthouses, the U.S. military and naval academies, and the City of Washington, and the list goes on. In 1835, Customs revenues alone had reduced the national debt to zero.

Customs was the parent or forerunner to many other agencies. In the early days, Customs officers administered military pensions (Department of Veterans Affairs), collected import and export statistics (Bureau of Census), and supervised revenue cutters (U.S. Coast Guard). Customs also collected hospital dues to help sick and disabled seaman (Public Health Service) and established standard weights and measures (National Bureau of Standards).

During the first stages of the response to the terrorist attack on September 11th in New York and Washington, D.C., Customs quickly assumed a leading role. The international nature of the terrorist threat means that international customs cooperation has become vitally important. In January 2002, Customs initiated the Container Security Initiative (CSI), which allows Customs officials to screen con-

tainers at designated foreign seaports. In CSI's first year alone, Customs reached agreement with 15 governments to place Customs personnel at 24 ports.

The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection also works with customs officials in foreign governments through the auspices of the World Customs Organization, which speaks for 161 Customs administrations drawn from every continent and representing every stage of economic development. The United States has been a member since November 5, 1970.

WCO Members are responsible for ensuring that more than 98 percent of international trade is conducted in compliance with national legislation and international agreements. The WCO renders technical assistance in areas such as customs tariffs, valuation, nomenclature, and law enforcement. Its objective is to obtain, in the interest of international trade, the best possible degree of uniformity among the customs systems of member nations. America benefits when both exporters and importers operate in an atmosphere of simple unambiguous customs operations around the world.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection for its fine work both nationally and internationally, and I look forward to the completion of work within the World Customs Organization to further harmonize and simplify the customs rules that affect international commerce.

HONORING THE NORTH HAMPTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the contribution of bravery and dedication of an outstanding unit of first responders in my area, the North Hampton Volunteer Fire Department.

The following firefighters reached important career milestones in 2003:

Adam Millstein: 500 career calls.
James Harrington: 500 career calls.
Paul Satzger: 1,000 career calls.
William Bailey III: 1,000 career calls.
Kevin Jordan: 1,500 career calls.
Richard Marsico: 1,500 career calls.
John Kuss: 2,003 career calls.
Albert Hahn: 3,000 career calls.
David Hoburg: 5,000 career calls.

The following firefighters responded to over 100 incidents of fire calls in 2003:

David Hoburg: 455 calls.
Paul Satzger: 346 calls.
Adam Millstein: 321 calls.
Richard Marsico: 307 calls.
Albert Hahn: 305 calls.
Jerry Wittmer: 298 calls.
John Kuss: 267 calls.
John Damski: 255 calls.
Richard Waucher: 248 calls.
Vincent Conti: 240 calls.
David Primrose: 232 calls.
Chris Wise: 163 calls.
James Harrington: 156 calls.
Mary Primrose: 156 calls.
John Schwend: 146 calls.
William Bailey III: 138 calls.

Josh Rosensteel: 135 calls.
Kevin Jordan: 119 calls.
Clayton Kerrigan: 118 calls.
Drew Leahy: 107 calls.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in praising these brave individuals on the commitment that they have demonstrated to their critical mission of responding to fire emergencies.

HONORING MR. KEITH SCHNEIDER

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Keith Schneider for his work as President of the Building Industry Association of Central California.

As outgoing President of the Building Industry Association of Central California, it is only fitting that I take a moment to honor Mr. Schneider's life-long commitment to our community and to the building industry.

Born on November 14, 1948, Mr. Schneider's dedication to his profession has only been surpassed by his dedication to his family. Raised in Eureka, Illinois with his two sisters and parents, Mr. Schneider excelled at school. As a member of the Boy Scouts he was able to earn the merit of Eagle Scout. Mr. Schneider participated in many other activities as he played the banjo and participated in musical competitions and he was also a member of his high school track team and the debate team.

In 1966, Mr. Schneider attended Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa where he graduated with a degree in journalism. After graduation, he entered law school in Chicago in 1970. During this time, Mr. Schneider served two years in the Navy, stationed in San Diego and at the Great Lakes in Chicago.

In 1973, Mr. Schneider worked at the Civil Defense Agency in Springfield, Illinois. He met and married his wife, Carol, two years later in 1975. While in Illinois, he joined the Home Building Association.

In 1981, Mr. Schneider moved to Modesto, California where he became the Executive Officer of the Building Industry Association of Central California until 1990. In 1990, he then joined the staff of the Oakwood Builders until 1993. Mr. Schneider then accepted the position as Development Coordinator for the Diablo Grande and continues in this role by providing housing for this destination resort.

Mr. Schneider's commitment to the building industry as well as to our community is undeniable. He certainly lives up to the motto of the California Building Industry: "We're yesterday's shelter providers, today's problem solvers, tomorrow's dream builders."

It is an honor to recognize all of Mr. Schneider's achievements and to thank him for his service to our community.

HONORING KATHY CLONINGER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as co-leader of the Honorary Congressional

Girl Scout Troop to honor Kathy Cloninger, the new Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of the USA. Kathy is fully deserving of the mark of distinction that Girl Scouts of the USA has placed on her as new CEO. She is a proven and respected leader.

Ms. Cloninger has a wonderful, long, and highly regarded history in Girl Scouting. For decades she has been a steadfast advocate for girls. Kathy comes to Girl Scouts of the USA from Cumberland Valley Girl Scout Council in Tennessee where she served as CEO. During her tenure there, she had incredible success increasing membership, especially in under-served communities, and her innovative leadership helped to create some of the most contemporary programming in Girl Scouting. Kathy has been bestowed with many prestigious awards recognizing her for her character and her profound vision.

Most notably, Kathy is a woman with a strong sense of purpose and a commitment to advancing her vision for Girl Scouts. Her goal is to increase the organization's strength as a national, aggressive advocate for girls in this country, and I am certain she will accomplish this goal with grace and ability.

Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's pre-eminent organization for girls, and for 92 years it has been dedicated to empowering girls to grow strong. Over 50 million women, including myself, have been Girl Scouts. Today, the organization continues to address contemporary issues affecting girls and boasts a membership of nearly three million girls and one million volunteers. I am proud to be part of such a remarkable organization and look forward to watching Girl Scouts of the USA grow and thrive under Kathy's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Kathy Cloninger in her new position and praise her for the exemplary work she has done and will continue to do as the new Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of the USA.

HONORING JOHN ROUNSAVILLE

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, this month begins a new year in which Congress will face new challenges and opportunities. The same is true in Mississippi where Governor Haley Barbour presented his first State of the State Address last night, after his inauguration earlier this month. A new administration requires experienced and talented individuals to shape the policy and politic of the state. Governor Barbour has one of those rising Mississippi stars in John Rounsaville. Today I make these remarks to honor John's service to me, to recognize the challenges we faced together as he now embarks on this new opportunity.

It was January 1999 when John Rounsaville first joined my team. After graduating from Calhoun City High School, he earned a degree in agribusiness and followed that with a Masters of Business Administration, both from Mississippi State University. He came to Washington, DC to work on my staff to address, among others, agricultural issues—a \$4.6 billion industry in Mississippi.

He demonstrated a keen insight on the legislative process and quickly grasped the intri-

cacies of Capitol Hill politics. Quickly, he moved from Legislative Assistant to Legislative Director, and most recently as my Deputy Chief of Staff. Over the years I grew to trust his counsel and respect his instincts as we successfully moved legislation into law, brought appropriations to Mississippi, protected our state's military facilities, and represented the needs of my constituents here in the Nation's Capital.

Now John has returned home to Mississippi and will serve as policy adviser to our new Republican governor. Our office will miss his experience, knowledge, and skills, but Mississippi will continue to benefit from his hard work to the service of our great state.

Governor Barbour has hired a good man. John mastered the practices and methods of success in Washington, but never forgot those Mississippi values taught to him by his parents. John never lost his roots, never forgot his home, and never lost sight of our goal to serve Mississippi. John's heart has always been in Mississippi and now he returns there to continue to advance smart, conservative, positive public policy.

John Rounsaville left a formative mark on the shape and operation of my office. We will miss his good nature, humor, and dedication to his work. But I thank him for his service to this office and to Mississippi.

HONORING CHIEF LARRY D. PLANTS

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Larry D. Plants as he retires after 25 years of service as a member of the University Police Services at California State University, Stanislaus.

Born on July 1, 1952, Chief Plants has spent his life as a public servant to our community. After obtaining an Associates Degree in Police Science from Butte Junior College he went on to receive a Bachelors Degree from California State University, Stanislaus in Organizational Communication.

As a police officer with the City of Modesto Police Department and then with the City of Reno Police Department, Chief Plants earned the respect of his fellow law enforcement officers. Always a professional, he was then hired by CSU, Stanislaus as a member of the University Police where he excelled and earned the respect of students, faculty, and fellow officers. He was then promoted as Chief and Director of Public Safety. At this post, he was responsible for the Office receiving nearly \$1 million in grant funds.

Not only has Chief Plants been a dedicated member of the CSU Public Safety Department but also to his profession. He is a member of the Central Sierra Police Chiefs Association and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement. Chief Plants has also been the Past President of the Stanislaus County Peace Officers Association and served as the 2003 President of the Stanislaus County Law Enforcement Executives.

Chief Plants is an extremely dedicated member of the community. Further evidence of this commitment is his involvement in civic

organizations such as the Civitan Club, Theta Chi Fraternity, and the Evangelical Free Church.

Chief Plants' career as a dedicated police officer and community leader is a testament to his character. While being Chief of his Department was his second biggest honor in life, he quotes his first biggest honor as his family.

As a fellow brother of Theta Chi Fraternity it is my honor to recognize all of Chief Plants' achievements and to congratulate him on his retirement.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today, in honor of Catholic Schools Week (January 25–31, 2004), I would like to recognize the contributions of Catholic schools to the academic and moral education of children in Guam and throughout our nation. Also, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. David Vitter, for his steadfast support of Catholic education in our country and for introducing House Resolution 492, honoring Catholic Schools Week.

Guam has a long and rich history of Roman Catholicism dating back to the arrival of Ferdinand Magellan in 1521. The island eventually became an important stop along the Spanish Galleon Trade Route, eventually bringing Padre Diego Luis de San Vitores, who was on his way to the Philippines, to Guam.

Padre San Vitores would return to Guam in 1668, with a party of missionaries to bring Christianity to the people of Guam. They established a mission in the village of Hagatna which later became the site of the first Catholic Church and is now the seat of the Archdiocese of Guam. From these humble beginnings, the Roman Catholic faith has continued to grow, expanding its ministries to meet the changing needs of the faithful.

Recognizing the need for quality education rooted in the moral values of the Catholic faith, the first Bishop of Guam, Bishop Appollinaris Baumgartner invited the Religious Sisters of Mercy from North Carolina, the Stigmatine Fathers of Massachusetts, and the School Sisters of Notre Dame from Wisconsin to come to Guam where they eventually opened schools in villages throughout the island. Today, members of these Orders, as well as members of the Dominican, Franciscan, Jesuit, and Marist Orders continue to teach our children in the Catholic education system.

Guam's first Chamorro Bishop, Archbishop Felixberto Camacho Flores, made Catholic education a priority increasing the number of Catholic schools, expanding programs and improving school facilities.

Today, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hagatna remains committed to serving the people of Guam. Under the direction of the Most Reverend Anthony Sablan Apuron, OFM Cap, DD, Metropolitan Archbishop of Hagatna, the Catholic schools on Guam have remained committed to providing a quality academic education, grounded in faith and emphasizing service to humanity.