

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, every year since 1963, when President John F. Kennedy officially established Older Americans Month, May has served as an opportunity to recognize the needs and contributions of older American communities across the country. This year's theme, "Aging Well, Living Well" offers us an opportunity to reflect on the shifting needs of seniors and to highlight the issues that contribute to improving seniors' quality of life.

In the last 100 years, the number of Americans 65 or over increased more than tenfold, and the growing number of racially and ethnically diverse communities continues to contribute to the unique character of American seniors. As a member of the Congressional Older Americans Caucus, I am well aware of the unique needs of our older population, especially in terms of accessing affordable health care, prescription drugs, and securing Social Security.

The Federal Government created the Medicare and Social Security program in order to guarantee that after a lifetime of working and paying into the system, retired Americans would have access to health care coverage and retiree benefits. I remain committed to strengthening and preserving these programs, which have allowed generations of retirees to live with dignity and integrity.

As a member of the Universal Health Care Task Force, I continue to work to ensure that health care is available and affordable for all Americans. We must be cautious of risky privatization schemes that could reduce access to affordable health care or Social Security benefits. Aging well and living well mean that health care, prescription drugs, and Social Security must be made affordable and accessible for all American seniors.

In recognition of Older Americans Month, I commend our nation's seniors for their many contributions to our society and I will continue to fight to protect and improve American seniors' quality of life.

### IN RECOGNITION OF WALTER CRONKITE RECEIVING THE HARRY S TRUMAN GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Walter Cronkite, recipient of the 2004 Harry S Truman Good Neighbor Award. In 1953, longtime friends arranged an

annual birthday luncheon for the then-retired 33rd President of the United States, Harry S Truman. After his death in 1972, the birthday celebration was continued in his honor through a local foundation established to continue to pay tribute to his virtues of courage and leadership. Each year, the Harry S Truman Good Neighbor Award Foundation recognizes the national and international ideals of President Truman and preserves his memory by honoring such local individuals and encouraging young people to pursue international study.

This year, the foundation has selected Walter Cronkite to the prestigious Good Neighbor Award in recognition of his outstanding career in broadcasting. For more than 60 years Americans nightly received unbiased and factual national and international wisdom from the golden voice of Walter Cronkite. This Northwest Missourian brought us reports from the European theater in World War II and reported on the Nuremberg trials. His insights to the turbulent 60's awakened us to civil rights and human rights issues. He comforted us through the grief of three assassinations in that same decade, reporting the dreadful news to a shocked nation with his characteristic insight and somber vision. When President John F. Kennedy was struck down in November of 1963, followed by the murder of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. just before Palm Sunday in 1968, and then-Senator Robert Kennedy's killing on the eve of his California primary victory in June of the same year, the loss of these great leaders was all but unbearable, were it not for the constant and reassuring presence of Walter Cronkite, reaching out to us with straightforward and thoughtful news reporting.

Walter Cronkite became a war correspondent again in the late 60's when he reported to a divided country on Vietnam. Following the Tet offensive in January 1968, often considered a turning point in the war, Cronkite visited the war torn country and called for diplomatic negotiations to end the stalemate. By then, the tide of public opinion had begun to turn against the war and President Lyndon B. Johnson announced that he would not seek reelection in March of that year. The decade ended on a high note, however, when the first manned spacecraft was sent to the moon and Walter Cronkite reported the launch with his infamous, "Go Baby, Go." On July 20, 1969, he shared the moon landing with an awestruck nation in what some called "Walter to Walter" coverage on CBS news. He provided continuous coverage for the almost 30 hours it took Apollo XI to complete its mission.

The 70's brought political scandal and Walter Cronkite reported to the nation with accuracy and balance from June 17, 1972, the morning after the Watergate breakin, through August 8, 1974, when Richard M. Nixon became the first President of the United States to resign from office because of scandal. Walter Cronkite's incredible career included interviews with international heads of state, while keeping the nation informed of worldwide events, as well as audiences with every U.S.

President since Harry Truman. He officially retired in 1981, but we are grateful that he continues to work on documentaries and programs for broadcast on PBS and the Discovery and Learning Channels.

The news has become the information tool that informs, stimulates interest, evokes debate, and ultimately protects our democracy. Walter Cronkite's dedication to his professional career is exemplary for its objective reporting, credibility, and his trademark delivery that has made an American icon.

President Truman's high regard of Walter Cronkite is reflected best in a letter to Mr. Raymond E. Dix, President of the Ohio Newspaper Association on January 1, 1966.

DEAR MR. DIX: I was glad to have your letter informing me of the contemplated presentation of the Distinguished Service to Journalism Award to Walter Cronkite. I know of no one more worthy of being so honored by a jury of his peers. For one who has had some slight exposure to the press—the spoken and the written—with some misadventures and collisions along the way, I continue to have a healthy respect for that all important free institution.

Here and there, over a span of time, some of the practitioners in that estate manage to rise to a special place of their own and become a force in their own right. Walter Cronkite looms large in that category and I always associate him with the quality of never failing credibility.

Please give Walter my warm personal greetings.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S TRUMAN.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in warm congratulations to our native son, Walter Cronkite, for receiving the Harry S Truman Good Neighbor Award for his outstanding contribution to journalism and his "neverfailing credibility." As a role model, he has inspired individuals like me to fight the good fight for a just cause, secure in the knowledge that armed with the facts and the passion for what is right and just, one can make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you, Walter Cronkite.

### HONORING THE SUN-REPORTER NEWS JOURNAL

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the Sun-Reporter, one of this country's most respected African American newspapers, on the occasion of their 60th anniversary. The Sun-Reporter serves as an indispensable voice for the African American community in the San Francisco Bay Area and across the Nation.

The Sun-Reporter was founded in 1944 at a time when African Americans were relocating to the Bay Area in large numbers to work in the wartime shipyards. Founded by Thomas C. Fleming, a brilliant journalist, the paper

• 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.

originated as The Reporter, but soon merged with the Sun-Reporter, a paper acquired in a poker game by Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, Fleming's longtime friend and a significant drum major for justice. Thus, the Sun-Reporter was born, with Goodlett as the paper's Editor and Publisher, Dr. Dan Collins as Co-Publisher, and Fleming as Managing Editor. In 1951, Dr. Goodlett became the sole publisher.

Under the leadership of Dr. Goodlett and Mr. Fleming, the Sun-Reporter became a vital source of news and an editorial voice for the Bay Area's African American community. Over time, it developed a reputation as one of this country's preeminent African American newspapers.

The paper has taken strong editorial stands against racism, segregation, war, and the unequal treatment of African Americans and other groups that have experienced systemic prejudice and discrimination. It has actively fought for civil rights, fair employment and housing law, and global peace.

The paper has taken courageous positions on a wide range of issues. It relentlessly challenged school segregation; it denounced Senator Joseph McCarthy's assault on civil liberties in the days of the cold war; and, as a result of its publicity, the Sun-Reporter was largely responsible for bringing Paul Robeson to San Francisco for a concert at the Third Baptist Church when he was barred from appearing in all other venues.

The Sun-Reporter has been a focal point for the African-American community in the Bay Area. It has been host to visits from many luminaries, including Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, Dick Gregory, and numerous civil rights activists.

Many young and talented journalists who got their start at the Sun-Reporter have gone on to successful careers in journalism, including Lance Gilmore, Edith Austin, Belva Davis, Valerie Coleman, and many more.

In 1997, Amelia Ashley-Ward succeeded Dr. Goodlett as the paper's Publisher. Ms. Ashley-Ward, an award-winning journalist and photo-journalist, has continually raised the Sun-Reporter's standard of excellence, and it remains an important and valued source of news and editorials for the Bay Area's African American community.

I take great pride in honoring the Sun-Reporter today for its excellence in journalism and for its unyielding pursuit of equality and justice for African Americans everywhere. We are grateful to have such a fine newspaper in the Bay Area, and look forward to many more years of success.

#### CONCERNS ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGN LABOR ON DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue about which many of my constituents are increasingly concerned: namely, the effects of immigration and foreign labor on our domestic job markets.

It is no secret that the American economy has lost 2.6 million jobs since President Bush

first took office in 2001. My home state of Pennsylvania has been one of the hardest hit in this area, losing over 135,000 manufacturing jobs in the last three years.

This destructive trend has also begun to expand into other sectors of our economy as companies seeking to cut costs have started shifting engineering, technology, and other service-related jobs to places such as China, India, and the Philippines. Moreover, my constituents are increasingly troubled by the decisions of many American employers to bring foreign workers to the United States in record numbers. As a result of these developments, many Americans are either losing their jobs to cheap foreign labor, both at home and abroad, or are accepting lower wages due to the huge influx of domestic foreign workers, both legal and illegal.

In these matters, I am very concerned about the failure to enforce effectively our immigration policies and prevent illegal immigration. In addition to the millions of legal immigrants already residing in the United States, experts now estimate that ten to fifteen million additional illegal immigrants now live here with roughly another 500,000 added yearly. The huge increase of foreign workers moving to the U.S. in recent decades has occurred because of our weak and short-sighted immigration policies.

Mr. Speaker, our immigrant heritage, in my view, has helped to make the United States the greatest nation in the world. It is, however, at least equally, if not more important, that we do all we can to protect American workers, citizens, and taxpayers from the costs and potential security risks associated with illegal immigration. The President's recent proposal on immigration unfortunately falls considerably short of achieving real reform. Consequently, the Congress needs to rethink our immigration policies and develop a long-term, workable plan for addressing these important matters.

While I support keeping an appropriate level of legal immigration, we must put an immediate halt to our tacit approval of those who flaunt our laws and come here illegally. We must also ensure that a sufficient number of temporary work visas are available in selected areas, such as nursing, agriculture, and tourism, but only where an adequate supply of domestic workers is not available. Finally, we must ensure that current American workers are not losing their jobs or being forced to survive on depressed wages because we are voluntarily importing far more foreign workers than we need through legal and illegal immigration.

In sum, Mr. Speaker, we need to restore the balance between protecting American workers and promoting effective immigration policy. We must also correct our flawed immigration policies in order to protect national security and promote economic growth at home for the benefit of both current U.S. workers and future generations of Americans.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JIM DUNN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Grand

Junction, Colorado resident Jim Dunn for his efforts to help comfort our nation's veterans. For several years, Jim and his wife Margaret, who sadly passed away this March, took the time nearly every holiday to bring candy and fruit baskets to the men at the Veteran's Association Medical Center. Jim's service reminds us all of the great importance of and need to care for and cherish America's great heroes, and it is my honor to recognize his dedication to our veterans today.

Jim and Margaret began their visits to the medical center eighteen years ago, often going several times a month and enlisting others, such as the City Market, to help in their cause. They also grew grapes and pears on their ranch to bring to the men. It is Jim's hope that more people will take up the mantle from Margaret and him in order to brighten the holidays for the veterans who ensured our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Jim Dunn before this body of Congress and this nation. His efforts to brighten the lives of our veterans are truly remarkable. The freedoms we enjoy today are a direct result of the sacrifices made by veterans throughout our nation. I sincerely thank him for his dedication.

#### HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF MIKE WEBB

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding public service of a good friend of mine, Mike Webb. Mike served on the La Vergne, Tennessee, Board of Mayor and Alderman for 16 years, including the last 10 years as mayor.

Mike has helped La Vergne grow from a sleepy little community to a major distribution hub. In 1990, for example, the city had a population of 7,499. Now that population has grown to nearly 22,000 people. Mike can be proud of the leadership and integrity he has provided during that tremendous growth.

Issues ranging from trash pick-up to fire and police protection, and everything in between, have crossed Mike's desk during his tenure as an alderman and a mayor. His common sense and wit prevailed through it all. Some facilities of note that occurred under his administration are the construction of a 20,000-square-foot award-winning library, a 10-million gallon-per-day water treatment plant, and several major road improvement projects.

His years of experience and leadership have created a fiscally sound and well-managed city government. The city of La Vergne will sorely miss Mike's leadership, his unflinching dedication and his tireless service. I congratulate Mike on his outstanding public-service career and wish him well in his future endeavors.