

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF 2004 STATE OF MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER DORRENE GILBERT, OF GRAND LEDGE, MI

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise today to recognize Dorrene Gilbert, whose generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service has earned her the 2004 State of Michigan Volunteer Award.

Dorrene is an enthusiastic and energetic promoter of Grand Ledge, especially its historic and cultural projects. For forty years, she has notably spearheaded activities for the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society, the Art Guild, Ledge's Playhouse, Ledge Craft Lane, the Garden Club, Lincoln Brick Park, Michigan Week, and her church. Dorrene is extremely creative and well known for her cultural endeavors and bringing beauty to the community.

A founder of the Art Guild, Dorrene served as its president in the 1960s. She was Artist of the Month chairman for Ledge Craft Lane, a non-profit arts and crafts center, in the 1970s and still serves there as a volunteer. Known for her talent as a writer who has been publicity or promotion chairman for many groups in town, Dorrene has written and produced plays for church and for several style shows as fundraisers for the Opera House and Historical Society.

Having always been interested in gardens and nature, Dorrene has devoted a great deal of time and effort to the Garden Club and its projects. She has served as president twice, and program chairman many times, while remaining a long time geranium sale promoter and working on the gardens at the restored Opera House in downtown Grand Ledge. Dorrene has also been involved with the Memorial Tree Trail, where over 300 crab trees have been planted on the streets and in the parks in Grand Ledge in honor of or as memorials to residents.

When Dorrene's husband passed away, she decided that she wanted to do something special in his memory. She wanted to promote recreation and historical traditions at the Lincoln Brick Park, which, at the time, was just being developed. The Brick Factory on the park's grounds had been a part of his family's heritage. Working with the park staff, she helped develop the Ashley Gilbert Memorial Historical Trail. When her son passed away, Dorrene wanted to add something educational and beautiful to Lincoln Brick Park once again. The David Gilbert Memorial Sugar Bush, with 105 maples and dogwoods, was born from memorial funds, family contributions and a grant. She has also encouraged the Garden Club to plant at Lincoln Brick Park and is a

contributor and supporter of the Lincoln Brick 100 Club.

Furthermore, as a board member of the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society, Dorrene has chaired and presented several programs on the history of Grand Ledge over the years. She is currently planning a vintage clothing style show as a fundraiser for the Historical Society. Dorrene has also spearheaded Festive Tables at the Opera House during the Historical Society Annual Holiday Home Tour for several years. She has served her church as the Sunday School Superintendent, a Church Council Member, Fine Arts and Decoration Chairman, and often handles its publicity. Dorrene also wrote and produced a play on the 125 years of the church. She has served on Michigan Week Committees for nearly forty years as promotion and publicity chairman, hospitality chairman, and in recent years, on the Awards Committee. The list of her activities is vast, diverse, and always growing.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I join her many friends, admirers, fellow volunteers, and the people of Grand Ledge in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Dorrene Gilbert for winning the 2004 State of Michigan Volunteer Leadership Award. Her personal interest and active participation in her community are deeply appreciated and should serve as an example for us all.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MILLER WICK-LIFFE "WICK" LAWRENCE, JR.

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual from my district, Dr. Miller Wickliffe "Wick" Lawrence, Jr., who was just inducted post-mortem into the Corney Creek Hall of Fame. Dr. Wick's tireless service and genuine commitment to his patients, family and community were truly remarkable and inspiring.

Born in 1912 and raised in Bernice, Louisiana, he was a graduate of Bernice High School and Louisiana Tech University. While he aspired to a career in dentistry, the nation was suffering through the Depression, and his career was postponed while he taught chemistry at Bernice High School. In 1934, he enrolled in the Atlanta Southern Dental College, marrying Cortez Hicks along the way. Dr. Wick and his new bride returned to Bernice upon his graduation and he set up a practice, which he maintained for 40 years.

Dr. Wick served in the United States Army Dental Corp, enlisting at Fort Walters, Texas with assignments at Camp Livingston, Louisiana; Fort Lewis, Washington; Brigham City, Utah; Camp Beale, California and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He was honorably discharged in 1946 with the rank of Major.

Dr. Wick was a member of the Fifth District Dental Society, the American Dental Association,

the Fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry, the Louisiana Dental Association, and the Phi Omega Dental Fraternity. He was a founding member of the Bernice Volunteer Fire Department and served as town councilman for Bernice for 24 years. An avid horseman, he held memberships in the Louisiana Quarter Horse Association, the American Hereford Association and the American Junior Quarter Horse Association. Dr. Wick was also involved with the Louisiana Farm Bureau, the Union Parish Farm Bureau, the Louisiana Forestry Association and the Louisiana Cattleman's Association.

Dr. Wick was also heavily involved and supportive of youth programs in Union Parish. As a former Boy Scout, he donated money and volunteered as a merit badge counselor to Troop 48 of Bernice and Troop 59 of Ruston. His generosity was also bestowed in time and money to the Ouachita Valley Council and the Thunderbird District. Dr. Wick strongly believed that every child who wanted an education should have one, and he provided financial assistance to many young people for college and business or technical school. He opened his office doors to dental graduates to work in his practice until they were secure enough to establish practices in neighboring towns.

Dr. Wick passed away in September of 1999 at the age of 87. He was a father and grandfather and was married to his wife Cortez for nearly 63 years. His life was rich, and he enriched the lives of others by the charitable giving of his time and money to so many community and youth organizations.

Dr. Wick deserves the honor of Congressional recognition, for his outstanding contributions to his family, our community and our state and I am proud to recognize his notable accomplishments and manifold contributions.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT DE LA VIÑA ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American and one of my constituents, Mr. Robert R. De la Viña. Mr. De la Viña's life has been one of dedication. Dedication to his country, his community, his family, and his faith. Born in Edinburg, Texas on April 9, 1914, Robert De la Viña made a name for himself early in his youth as a self taught musician and award winning trumpet soloist. After high school, Mr. De la Viña received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&I College in Kingsville, Texas in 1937. It was after this period, that he returned to the Rio Grande Valley and started his long career in public education.

After teaching five years, however, his career as an educator was interrupted by the call

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of World War II. Mr. De la Viña was assigned to the United States Air Force and honorably served his country as a staff sergeant and mechanic for the B-26 Bomber. Later, he was assigned to B-29 squadrons participating in the Pacific Theater and was stationed in Guam and Tinian Island. After the war, he returned back to Edinburg and the familiar surroundings of the classroom. It was then soon after, Mr. De la Viña met and married a fellow educator, Miss Grace Watkins. From this loving marriage of 39 years, came one son and three grandsons.

Robert's dedication to the Edinburg public schools spans more than four decades. He served not only as a teacher, but as an Assistant Principal and Director of Special Services for the school district. After 37 years of commitment to the education and enrichment of the children from the Edinburg school district, he retired with numerous honors. Within a couple years of his retirement, Mr. De la Viña took his vision and passion for public education back to the community and ran for School Board Trustee. He served his community as Trustee for six years, giving a total of 43 years to the Edinburg School District and the community of Edinburg. His legacy and those of fellow De la Viña educators in South Texas, however, lives on, as March 23, 1986, marked the dedication of De la Viña Elementary School in Edinburg. On Robert's 85th birthday, the Mayor of Edinburg officially recognized his commitment to the city and people of Edinburg and proclaimed April 9, 1999: "Robert De la Viña Sr. Day."

Another phase of Robert De la Viña's life has been his devotion to his faith. Growing up in one of the founding family's of El Buen Pastor Methodist Church in Edinburg, Robert has helped the Church expand from the few families that assembled at his father's house to the hundreds that congregate today. Robert has actively participated in all phases of the Church's activities since his confirmation in 1926, such as Board Member, Choir and Youth Director and Sunday school teacher, a position he cherished for more than 30 years. Even to this day, Mr. De la Viña can be heard performing many of his original religious musical compositions on the piano at El Buen Pastor.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Robert R. De la Viña, as the oldest living member of a family that was designated a "Bicentennial Family" in 1976 by the American Historical Society, has touched the lives of so many people in South Texas. On April 9th of this year, Mr. De La Viña celebrated his 90th birthday. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing his dedication to public education and his decades of service to South Texas and this nation.

#### WALNUT CANYON STUDY ACT OF 2004

**HON. RICK RENZI**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2004.

The Walnut Canyon National Monument was originally designated by Presidential proclamation on November 30, 1915, to protect Sinaguan cliff dwellings. Since the original

designation, the Walnut Canyon National Monument has been expanded to include 3,580 acres to protect additional ruins adjacent to the Monument.

In the past few years, several groups have proposed expanding the Monument with surrounding Forest Service land and designating this expanded area as a National Park. To further explore the options of the Walnut Canyon National Monument and potential inclusion of this expanded area, I have introduced the Walnut Canyon Study Act.

The Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2004 directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study on the management of certain land adjacent to the Walnut Canyon National Monument.

Coconino County and the City of Flagstaff have both passed resolutions supporting further review and study of the management options for the Walnut Canyon National Monument. In both resolutions, support for maintaining certain public uses in the Monument was relayed, as well as the need for the protection of the resources in the Monument.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides for public input into any recommendation that is forwarded by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. Within the study, the legislation requires the Secretaries to look at the management objectives of the Forest Service and the National Park Service, as well as the opportunities for maintaining existing public uses, such as grazing, hunting and recreation. In addition, my version of this legislation ensures that any appropriation made available in this legislation will not affect the amounts made available for Forest Service or National Park Service activities in the State of Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2004. My intent in introducing this legislation is to help resolve the question of future management of the Walnut Canyon National Monument.

#### TRIBUTE TO FLOYD STEWART

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute today to a close, personal friend of mine, Floyd Stewart. He is a man of great integrity and character, and I join today with family and friends in honoring his remarkable achievements throughout his life.

Floyd served admirably in the armed forces during WWII and fought on the front lines of our military for 11 months. He was stationed in Normandy and Luxembourg during this time and was a member of the Combat Engineers, Unit 148. He was also a soldier in the Battle of the Bulge, the largest land battle of World War II featuring over 500,000 Americans and over 80,000 casualties.

Throughout his time serving our nation, Floyd exhibited tremendous passion, pride, and a deep resolve to fight for the freedoms that we, as Americans, have been fortunate to experience. He continues to be respected member of his community and beloved member of his family. His kind and passionate spirit are an incredible resource and blessing to those who know him.

I have had the distinct privilege of enjoying Floyd Stewart's friendship for several years now. I have played golf with him at El Rancho Verde Golf Club, where he is a member, and seen firsthand his generosity of spirit and love for his fellow man.

It gives me no greater pleasure than joining today with family and friends in paying tribute to this great man. His unselfish duty to our country should not be overlooked. He is a symbol of all that we, as Americans, strive to be and I present to him today my steadfast thanks for his service.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF FALLEN SOLDIERS FOR SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, ninety years ago this month, President Woodrow Wilson stood in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and said of America's fallen soldiers: "We are expected to put the utmost energy, of every power that we have, into the service of our fellow men, never sparing ourselves, not condescending to think of what is going to happen to ourselves, but ready, if need be, to go to the utter length of self-sacrifice."

Today, American troops are again in harm's way risking their lives in defense of freedom and democracy. In Afghanistan and Iraq, we are confronting forces opposed to these values. They represent the darkness of oppression, fanaticism and fear. But America—led by its troops—will prevail. To those brave men and women who have given their lives in this pursuit, I join my colleagues in recognizing their noble sacrifice.

#### A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE GRAND LEDGE ISLAND RESTORATION PROJECT FOR WINNING THE 2004 STATE OF MICHIGAN COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the community of Grand Ledge, Michigan for the successful completion of the Island Park Restoration Project. For the past five years, countless individuals and groups have persistently worked with patience and pride to restore the luster of the cultural, recreational, and economic gem nestled in the heart of Grand Ledge.

The Island Park is a 2.5-acre recreation facility in downtown Grand Ledge. It is an integral part of Grand Ledge's history and culture, and it serves as one of the city's main tourist attractions. Beginning in the 1870s, Grand Ledge was characterized as a charming summer resort town situated on the banks of the majestic Grand River. The principal attraction was the picturesque scenery, with intermingled cliff, river, and island views. As many as 12 trainloads of visitors from across the state would visit the city each day.