

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Corporal Forest Jostes who recently was killed in action fighting for freedom in Iraq.

Corporal Jostes was a 21-year-old from Albion, Illinois who served as an Army Corporal with the 1st Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division from Ft. Hood, Texas. He was a 2000 graduate of Edwards County High School, after which he joined the National Guard at the age of 17. He had only been in Iraq for about a week, when military personnel say his Humvee was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing Jostes and the driver, in a suburb of Baghdad.

Corporal Jostes is survived by his parents, Von and Diane Ibbotson; a sister, Michelle Lee Teeter; two brothers Benjamin L. Jostes and Evan R. Ibbotson; and his grandparents, John and Laura Ibbotson, Glen and Darlene Kellison and Norman and Shirley Costley. I am proud of the service this young man has given to our country and the service he and others are doing everyday. Not enough can be said about Corporal Jostes and our other brave men and women who are serving in Iraq. It is troops like him that are risking their lives everyday to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the rest of the world. I salute him and my best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL ROCCIA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize an outstanding member of my community, Mr. Michael Roccia. For 63 years, he has been fighting to improve the working conditions and lives of American workers. He has spent 32 years with Local 262 in New Jersey, and has served our community well.

He was Shop Chairman for Local 305, CIO from 1940–1969. During that time he organized 500 employees of the L.S. Branch Co. for Playthings, Jewelry, and Novelty Workers, CIO Local 305. When Local 305 became Local 301, he became General Organizer, and when that merged with Local 262, he continued to work, serving as Business Agent for as many as twenty shops. He would go on to serve as Local 262's General Organizer, and eventually became their President. He has been Vice President of both the IUC and the RWDSU, and has served on the Advisory Committee of the UFCW.

Mr. Roccia has lived the life of a worker and an activist. He has labored on an assembly line, organized workers, walked the picket line, negotiated contracts, handled grievances, argued arbitrations, and fought for health and welfare plans. He has led and inspired the men and women of Local 262 in New Jersey to commit to activism, working early in the morning and late at night to improve labor conditions for all workers.

In his own words, "The work of a good trade unionist can never be a 9 to 5 job—never an 8 hour day."

I salute Mr. Roccia, the oldest officer in his Union, for his lifelong commitment to serving others. I am proud to have him in my district, and I am honored to call him my neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to Michael Roccia, and I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing him health and happiness throughout his well-deserved retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FRIENDS OF DAG HAMMARSKJOLD PLAZA, THE TURTLE BAY ASSOCIATION AND THE KATHARINE HEPBURN GARDEN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Ms. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of the Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza and the Turtle Bay Association, who on May 22, 2004 will unveil in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza Park a bench once owned by the late actress Katherine Hepburn. The ceremony will not only honor Ms. Hepburn's incomparable career, but will also recognize her role as a conservationist and community leader in the Turtle Bay neighborhood.

The bench will be placed in an area of Dag Hammarskjold Park that in 1997 was dedicated to the late actress and renamed the Katherine Hepburn Garden. The garden, built during an extensive renovation of the park, has since become a gathering place for Turtle Bay residents, many of whom were longtime neighbors of Ms. Hepburn and knew her personally. The garden includes a collection of stepping stones engraved with quotes from some of Ms. Hepburn's most memorable movie roles; additionally, Ms. Hepburn's biography is posted at the garden's entrance. I am quite certain that Ms. Hepburn, who was an avid gardener, would be very pleased with how the garden's abundant shade plants have provided her neighborhood of over 60 years with a lovely, tranquil green space—a rarity indeed amid the bustle of midtown Manhattan.

Following the garden's dedication, George Vellonakis, the park's architect, and Millie Margiotta, a board member of the Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza and a longtime member of my District Office staff, toured Ms.

Hepburn's Fenwick, Connecticut estate and chatted with Ms. Hepburn on the very bench that will be dedicated on May 22. I am so grateful that this wonderful piece of history, which at one time was scheduled to be sold at auction, will now be available for the public to enjoy.

During the upcoming ceremony, Bill Curtis, the President of the Turtle Bay Association, will share fond memories of Ms. Hepburn's efforts to save the Turtle Bay neighborhood's trees when city planners sought to widen 49th Street, along which Ms. Hepburn's townhouse sits. Though she was protective of her privacy, Ms. Hepburn actively supported the Turtle Bay Association's appeals to preserve the character of her neighborhood for future generations to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in honoring the Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Park and the Turtle Bay Association, whose ongoing efforts to preserve the Turtle Bay neighborhood are a fitting tribute to the legacy of a true American icon, the late Katherine Hepburn. To the dedicated volunteers and friends of these fine organizations, I offer my continuing admiration, respect and support.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLETON WILHOIT SYKES

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a true public servant, the Honorable Charleton Wilhoit Sykes.

Ms. Sykes served on the Southampton County Board of Supervisors and in other positions in Virginia government for 24 years. She contacted my office often seeking assistance for others, but not once for herself. Ms. Sykes was also a businesswoman and was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. She knew no strangers and cared for everyone.

I join the Honorable Dallas Jones, Chairman of the Southampton Board of Supervisors, when he said that he was "shocked and saddened" by Ms. Sykes death. "She was a strong voice for Newsons district on this board," Jones said. "She will be sorely missed by everyone." Southampton County Administrator Mike Johnson noted that Ms. Sykes was "a woman of sound judgment, outspoken candor and unquestionable commitment. Her leadership and friendship will be sorely missed."

Ms. Sykes was also a loving mother and friend who will be missed most by those closest to her. Still, her legacy lives on in her family and in the fruits of her faithful service to a caring community and a grateful nation.

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