

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES RECOGNIZES FORCE MASTER CHIEF KAREN H. O'CONNOR

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congresswomen BROWN-WAITE, SOLIS, CAPPAS and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 8th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the United States Navy, we will honor Force Master Chief Karen H. O'Connor, who currently serves at the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet representing 40,000 enlisted sailors.

Force Master Chief O'Connor has served the Navy in a variety of duty station and capacities such as Command Master Chief in the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6), completing an accelerated deployment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in 2002 and then deploying 14 months early in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM in January 2003. During this tour Bonhomme Richard received two Battle "E" awards and two consecutive Edward F. Ney awards for Food Service Excellence.

Force Master Chief O'Connor has repeatedly demonstrated outstanding performance, leadership, and devotion to the U.S. Navy as is evidenced by the numerous personal awards she has received such as the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and various campaign and service awards.

Force Master Chief O'Connor continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the Navy, and it is a honor for each Member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of Force Master Chief O'Connor and all women in the military.

WINNER OF LABOR'S "COMMUNITY SERVICES AWARD": BAKERS LOCAL 315

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Bakers Local 315—recognized with the "Outstanding Community Services Award" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Chartered on December 12, 1936, Bakers Local 315 is 500 members strong. Deborah Lacey Zuelsdorf has been Secretary-Treasurer for ten years. Under her leadership and that of the Executive Board, the Bakers have been honored for their work with union companies and have received countless outstanding community service awards. The Bakers work with Bimbo USA, Interstate Brands Corporation, Vons In Store Bakeries, and the San Diego Bread Company.

During the holidays, members work an extra shift and then the union bakeries donate what they have prepared directly to the Holiday Food Distribution. These breads and baked goods, made by the caring hands of the Bakers, help make the holidays a little better for union families experiencing lean financial times.

That is why we also honor and recognize Bakers Local 315, for their hard dedication to the community and for earning this year's "Community Services Award" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

RECOGNIZING SHELBY COUNTY VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY 2005

### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day all of us should take time to recognize the service of those who've fought and died for this country.

I want to take a moment to recognize the veterans of Shelby County, Tennessee who served our country so well over the past century.

More than 1,500 Shelby County residents gave their lives for this country from World War II to the Iraq War, and we should never forget their sacrifice.

I would like to specifically recognize Mr. Vernon McGarity of Bartlett, Tennessee. Mr. McGarity is a World War II veteran who earned our Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor.

Mr. McGarity exemplifies the dedication and sacrifice of all of our Shelby County veterans.

It is because they fought that we are free. God Bless America's veterans.

MEMORIAL DAY

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, soon we will all return to our Congressional districts for the Memorial Day weekend. So I'd like to take a moment today to recognize the heroes of wars past and the heroes of our current military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Just two days ago, Fort Carson's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment honored four more of its dead—Sgt. Stephen Saxton, Spec. Ricky Rockholt, Pfc. Joseph Knott, and Pfc. Robert Murray, Jr. Fort Carson has lost 120 soldiers since the war began.

And Colorado lost another son in Baghdad earlier this month. Former Marine and Louisville firefighter Todd James Venette was remembered at a memorial service last weekend. He died after his security company convoy was hit by two cars carrying explosives.

The loved ones of these brave soldiers and others who have died serving in Iraq and Afghanistan must live with their losses every minute of every day. We share their grief and remember this Memorial Day and every day the sacrifices of these young soldiers who have volunteered in service to their country.

These points were well made in today's editorial in the Denver Post, which I am attaching for the benefit of my colleagues.

[From the Denver Post, May 26, 2005]

RESPECT FOR HEROES IN IRAQ

In recent months, much attention has been drawn to accusations of misconduct in Iraq, and Fort Carson has seen its share of legal proceedings.

But on Tuesday a tearful ceremony reminded us of the sacrifices of so many soldiers who were doing things right.

More than 700 mourners attended a memorial service for four "brave rifles" killed in Iraq, while others stood outside in a thunderstorm to pay their respects. Sgt. Stephen Saxton, 24; Spec. Ricky Rockholt, 29; Pfc. Joseph Knott, 21; and Pfc. Robert Murray Jr., 21. All were members of Fort Carson's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Comrades and loved ones shared thoughts about the young soldiers. "I thought it was very fitting that it was raining during the service," said Pamela Knott of Yuma, Ariz., whose son was killed in April. "It sounds silly, but at times you think, 'Oh, those are the angels crying, not just for Joseph but for all the lost soldiers.'"

In all, 120 soldiers from Fort Carson units have died since the war began. Since troops returned to Iraq in the winter and spring, eight soldiers have been lost to the 3rd ACR and two from the 43rd Area Support Group.

All told, about a dozen current or former Fort Carson soldiers have been accused of wrongdoing in Iraq. One court-martial has been held, with a conviction for assault against three Iraqi detainees, and others may be coming up.

For now, as Memorial Day approaches, upcoming proceedings are being drowned out by solemn rifle volleys for those who died too young, doing their duty.

● 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.

COMMERCE CITY COMMUNITY  
HEALTH SERVICES RECEIVES  
HERO IN HEALTH AWARD

**HON. BOB BEAUPREZ**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of a health care organization in my district, Commerce City Community Health Services.

Earlier this month, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield awarded the 2005 Hero in Health Award to Commerce City Community Health Services (CHS). CHS has provided free and/or reduced cost services to uninsured and underinsured youth in Adams County, Colorado for over 20 years.

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield conceived the Hero in Health Award in 2001 as a way to recognize and reward those organizations that exemplify an authentic commitment to serving underinsured and uninsured individuals. Additionally, the Hero in Health Award heightens awareness for issues of healthcare access and affordability. In 2003, the field of eligible organizations was narrowed to clinics that provide services to the underinsured and uninsured.

CHS is a non-profit, 501(c) 3 organization that provides low-cost, high-quality primary and preventive health care services. CHS was initially funded in 1979 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as a demonstration site for the National School Health Project and was one of the first school-based health centers in the country. Colorado Association of School-Based Health Care recognized CHS recently as the oldest, operational school-based center in the state.

CHS has a community-based center and school-based centers. The community-based center is part of the Adams County High School campus. Health care services are provided for children and adolescents, birth to 21 years old. The health care services include physical exams, medical screenings, immunizations, acute care for the diagnosis and treatment for minor illnesses, infections and injuries, management of chronic health conditions, routine lab work, well/sick infant care, nutrition and weight control counseling, and health education.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the fine men and women of Commerce City Community Health Services. It is the best kind of community organization, fulfilling needs in the community others have not and continuously evolving to address changing demands. They serve a tremendous purpose in Adams County and I am very proud to be able to congratulate them for receiving the Hero in Health Award.

IN HONOR OF DR. PETER SMITH

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and former member of this House, Dr. Peter Smith. Peter represented the State of Vermont in the House between 1989 and 1993. He built a reputation during his time

here as an insightful, effective, and respected member. Peter exemplifies the spirit of respect and comity that is so often missing in current House business.

In 1994, Peter moved to my Central California District to become the founding President of the newly created California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB). CSUMB is a remarkable institution that has been carved out in the heart of the former Fort Ord, the largest military base closure in the US to date. While many of us on the Central Coast have played a part in the genesis and growth of CSUMB, nobody has put a more decisive stamp than Peter Smith on the thriving institution that CSUMB has become. What started in 1994 with 650 students gathered in a cluster of run down Army barracks had blossomed into a top flight University with a growing campus of newly constructed and restored buildings and 3,500 students. That's a record of which to be proud.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1945, Peter received a B.A. from Princeton and, two years later, he earned a M.A. in Teaching from Harvard University. In 1984 he received a Doctorate in Education, also from Harvard University. In 1970, Peter founded the Community College of Vermont, and served as its first president until 1978. In 1980, he served as a Vermont State Senator, and from 1982 until 1986 he served as Vermont's Lieutenant Governor.

Peter has devoted his life to improving the educational process, for the citizens of both Vermont and of the United States, and has received a number of awards for his achievements. One of his greatest awards is the National Council of Community Service and Continuing Education's Man of the Year award, which he received in 1976. In 1978, the University of Vermont College of Education and Social Services gave him their highest award for his contributions to elementary, secondary, and post secondary education in the State of Vermont. The Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education and the Carnegie Corporation of New York awarded him a Mina Shaughnessy Fellowship grant in 1980. The grant allowed him to interview sixty adults across the country for his book about adult learning beyond school, *Your Hidden Credentials*. Last year he published groundbreaking book titled *The Quiet Crisis: How Higher Education is Failing America* where he argues that higher education as a whole is not organized to truly educate its students.

Peter is now leaving CSUMB to take on the reins at UNESCO where he will become the first American to hold the post of Assistant Director General for Education. The UN leadership chose him after a worldwide search of candidates. Peter takes up his post in Paris, France, next month. We are sorry to see Peter and his wonderful wife, Sally, leave the Central Coast. But the Central Coast's loss will be the global community's gain. From his new perch, Peter will use the skill and wisdom that so enriched the CSUMB community and improve the future for millions of world's citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House when I offer our former colleague our sincerest thanks for his service to date and best wishes for his tasks ahead.

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR  
WOMEN'S ISSUES RECOGNIZES  
MASTER SERGEANT SUSAN M.  
PIASECKI

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congresswomen BROWN-WAITE, SOLIS, CAPPs and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 8th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the United States Air Force, we will honor Master Sergeant Susan M. Piasecki, who currently is assigned to the 305th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES), McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, as First Sergeant.

Master Sergeant Piasecki has repeatedly demonstrated outstanding performance, leadership, and devotion to the U.S. Air Force as is evidenced by the honors and decorations she has received. In April 2005, she was honored as a nominee for Air Mobility Command's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year in the First Sergeant Category. Her decorations include the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Force Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Master Sergeant Piasecki continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the Air Force, and it is an honor for each Member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of Master Sergeant Piasecki and all women in the military.

WINNER OF LABOR'S "COMMUNITY  
SERVICES AWARD"—TEAMSTERS  
LOCAL 36

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Teamsters Local 36—recognized with the "Community Services Award" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Teamsters Local 36 was chartered in 1946 and was originally founded as a building material and construction local. The charter was changed in 1980 to read Building Materials, Construction, Industrial, Professional and Technical Employees.

In 1981, Teamsters built their own building and moved to their current location on Mercury Street in the heart of Kearny Mesa. This