

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF JOE PLASKAS ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY HALL OF FAME

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joe Plaskas on his upcoming induction into the Northern Illinois University Hall of Fame on October 14, 2005.

A native of Oswego, Illinois, Joe started his athletic career at Oswego High School as a 3-year letter winner in both football and baseball. Joe's love for sports continued after his playing years as a long-time football and baseball coach at Barrington High School in Barrington, Illinois. Through coaching, Joe was able to instill the same values of hard work, dedication and discipline he displayed to the many students he guided as a teacher and coach.

During his college career at Northern Illinois University (NIU), Joe earned eight letters as an outstanding two sport athlete in football and baseball, earning First-Team All-Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IAC) honors in both sports.

As a fullback at NIU, Joe powered his way through defenses, leading the Huskies in rushing in the 1958 and 1959 campaigns. In his final season, Joe helped lead the Huskies to a 7-2 record and second place finish in the IAC, earning National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics All-America Honorable Mention and First-Team All-IAC honors. He also earned a place on the Fourth-Team Peoria Journal Star All-State team in 1959.

Currently ranked No. 22 on the all-time NIU rushing list with 1,315 career yards, Joe not only rewrote school records set by Hall of Famers before him, but held that standard for five more seasons until 1964.

On the diamond, Joe performed with equal passion and excellence. At the plate, Joe led the league in batting with a .455 average as a sophomore and won First-Team All-IAC honors as a pitcher.

Once again, congratulations Joe on your many successes on and off the field.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING OF MEXICO'S
ISSUANCE OF OFFENSIVE
STAMPS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment in the Mexican Government for their decision to issue the Memin Pinguin

stamp. This stamp represents the negative stereotypes and oppression that millions of African Americans have spent so many years fighting against.

President Fox stated that this is an internal issue for Mexico and that Americans cannot understand the cultural representation of this character. However, if this is how President Fox chooses to depict the black population, this is a sad commentary for Mexico.

This is the first black representative to be on a Mexican stamp; and instead of selecting an actual black Mexican that has had historical impact in that country, Mexico chose a cartoon character that's an offensive stereotype.

This move is especially disappointing based on the commitment President Fox has given to anti-discrimination. This stamp is the type of depiction that sets back that movement and perpetuates racial biases that many Mexicans deal with daily. I cannot see how this positively benefits any black Mexican.

The U.S. and Mexico must work together to create mutually beneficial policies. I'm afraid that this stamp may set us back in creating an open dialogue between our two nations. While we are separate countries our paths are intertwined. This stamp is not only insulting to African Americans, but to all Americans who find this type of representation abhorrent. In the name of diplomatic relations, I respectfully ask President Fox to reconsider his decision to distribute these stamps.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENE SPARLING

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gene Sparling of Garland County, Arkansas, who recently rediscovered the ivory-billed woodpecker in the Big Woods area of Arkansas. North America's largest woodpecker, often called the "Lord God Bird," was last spotted in 1944 and thought to be extinct.

Mr. Sparling has sought out wild and natural wonders throughout his life, exploring Mexico's Baja Peninsula, the Rocky Mountains, and Arkansas's own Ozark and Ouachita Mountains. In 2003, Mr. Sparling began exploring Big Woods of Arkansas through the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge by way of kayak and observed the ivory-billed woodpecker.

Since the search began in March 2004, there have been over a dozen sightings of the ivory-billed woodpecker by experts in the Big Woods of Arkansas's Mississippi Delta. The ivory-billed woodpecker, valued for its plumage and sought after by American Indians as magical, has birdwatchers and environmentalists around the world rejoicing.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Sparling, and extend my sincere gratitude for his incredible discovery of the once thought extinct ivory-billed woodpecker. Mr. Sparling is an inspira-

tion to us all, and I consider it a privilege to serve as his United States Congressman in the House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to return to Washington, DC, in time for votes on Monday, July 11, due to official congressional business in Texas. I testified yesterday, before the Base Realignment and Closure, BRAC, Commission meeting in San Antonio in support of Dyess Air Force Base which is located in my congressional district. As a result, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 363 and 364. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on both votes:

Rollcall vote No. 363: H. Con. Res. 168—Condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights; and

Rollcall vote No. 364: H. Res. 333—Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Week of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed rollcall vote Nos. 363 and 364. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for both.

REAR ADMIRAL DENNIS DWYER

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding naval officer, Rear Admiral Dennis Dwyer, who hails from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Admiral Dwyer has served with considerable distinction and dedication for the past 32 years, and I would like to thank him for his service and many contributions to the defense of our great Nation.

On July 29th, RADM Dwyer will retire from the Navy after 32 years of active duty, and will leave command of the Navy's Program Executive Office for Aircraft Carriers here in Washington, DC.

During his tenure as Commander of the Navy's Aircraft Carrier Programs, Admiral

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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.

Dwyer was responsible for the delivery of the USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76), the complex nuclear refueling overhaul on USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) and the development of the "6 plus 2" aircraft carrier surge plan now considered the centerpiece and backbone of the U.S. Navy's Strike Warfare Operations Plan.

As Life Cycle Manager for the entire Carrier Fleet, Rear Admiral Dwyer significantly increased the material readiness of the Force. In 2003, as a result of this increased posture, the United States was able to surge eight aircraft carriers, on short notice, to conduct combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2004, the Fleet was again able to simultaneously surge seven aircraft carriers world-wide for Exercise Summer Pulse, once again demonstrating the Navy's ability to execute the new Fleet Response Plan engagement strategy. This high state of combat readiness would not have been possible without Rear Admiral Dwyer's improvisation of a brilliant Class Action Maintenance Plan.

However, his most enduring legacy will certainly be the strategic vision and hands-on leadership he provided throughout the concept and detailed design process of the CVN-21 Class of Future Aircraft Carriers. This new class of ships was developed utilizing revolutionary aircraft carrier designs and advanced computer modeling techniques. He relentlessly drove future technologies forward, established and led the largest government and industry ship design team ever assembled, and created a world class modeling environment that significantly reduced design costs throughout the life cycle of this next generation of Aircraft Carriers.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to offer my personal gratitude to Admiral Dwyer and his wife Eva for their honorable and faithful service to our Nation, and I urge my fellow Colleagues to wish them continued success and the traditional Naval blessing of "Fair Winds and Following Seas" as he closes out a very distinguished military career.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF JOHN W.
PARKERSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of John W. Parkerson, who passed away at the age of 59 in Hot Springs, Arkansas on April 21, 2005. John was born on October 18, 1945 in Paragould, Arkansas, in the hills of Greene County. John distinguished himself as a husband, father, grandfather, lawyer, and legislator.

A graduate of Hot Springs High School, John considered Hot Springs home and was driven by the ideal of improving the lives of the citizens of Garland County. After graduating from Hendrix College, John attended the University of Arkansas Law School and graduated in 1971. John was extremely active in the Hot Springs community, including the Arkansas Bar Association, the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation Board, Abilities Unlimited, and the Hot Springs Rotary Club. Additionally, he became the first Garland

County Small Claims Court Judge and was a member of the Garland County Community College Board of Trustees.

John spent 12 years in the Arkansas Legislature and once ran for the United States House of Representatives, commenting the best part of politics was the people it gave you the opportunity to meet. John led a life of public service and dedication in every endeavor he undertook and will always be remembered for his tremendous devotion to Arkansas.

John truly led an exemplary life. My deepest sympathies go out to his wife Sanda, his son Christopher Parkerson and daughter-in-law Kim, and son Ben Parkerson, and his grandchildren.

ON THE PASSING OF CLIFFORD W.
BARNHART

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of Clifford W. Barnhart. Mr. Barnhart had a tremendous impact in my district over his tenure as editor of the Pensacola News Journal and as an appointed Escambia County Commissioner.

A native of New Alexandria, PA who began his career in Pittsburgh, he was already a seasoned newspaper man when he arrived in Pensacola. Not only was he respected for his business acumen, but he was also admired for his service to community, whether in the form of supporting local sporting events for youngsters or making sure that readers were always well informed. When Hurricane Frederic, a dangerous Category 3 storm hit the Gulf Coast in 1979, Mr. Barnhart managed to get the paper on the street the very next morning.

When Governor Jeb Bush needed to replace four elected county commissioners who had been removed from office because of scandal, Mr. Barnhart was one of the people that he knew could be trusted to restore integrity to the position. Even though he had been retired from the Pensacola News Journal for 18 years, Mr. Barnhart gladly stepped forward to serve his community.

My prayers go out to Clifford's wife Zee, his son Scott Barnhart, his daughters Bonnie Mae Barnhart and Sue Glenn, and all others who mourn the loss of this great man. He loved his family as they loved him, and his loss will have a vast impact on so many.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with no small amount of sorrow that I tell of the passing of Clifford Barnhart from this world, and his family is in my thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of June 16, 2005 the House voted on an amendment to H.R. 2862, the Fiscal 2006 Commerce-Justice-Science Appro-

priations Act. On House rollcall vote #261, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 11, 2005 I was unable to vote on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 168, Condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights (rollcall 363); and H. Res. 333, Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan (rollcall 364). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF DANIEL
R. KINLEY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Daniel R. Kinley who passed away at the age of 46 on June 12, 2005, in Chicot County, Arkansas. Danny was born on March 14, 1959, in Wichita, Kansas. Danny distinguished himself as a terrific father, loving husband, and community hero.

Danny, a member of Parkview Baptist Church, was a firefighter for the El Dorado Fire Department for 11 years, eventually earning the distinguished rank of Captain. Day after day, Danny risked his life in the pursuit of saving others. There is no greater civil service, no job more commendable than that of a firefighter.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Danny's family. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Leslie; their son Braxton; their daughters Heather and Devan; mother and stepfather Maureen and Fred Buchanan; his brother Bryan Taylor of Little Rock; and his two sisters Karen and Tanya.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTHY
SCHOOL BUS ACT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to be joined by several of my colleagues in introducing the Healthy School Bus Act, which calls attention to a serious but overlooked health threat that our children face every day that they ride to school in a bus.

Congress passed the Clean Air Act and subsequent amendments because we recognized the tremendous health risks of breathing polluted air. Children are particularly at risk because their lungs are still developing and