

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF TESS MANALO-VENTRESCA

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to honor the extraordinary life and service of Tess Manalo-Ventresca. Ms. Manalo-Ventresca died on Tuesday, July 12th, 2005 of complications from heart surgery. I wish to offer my sincere condolences to her husband Joel Ventresca, her family and friends.

Tess Manalo-Ventresca's passing is a loss for the people of the 12th Congressional district. Tess was an extraordinary human being, one we all can look up to in hopes of serving our community as selflessly as she did. For the past 30 years Tess played a vital role in the Bay Area community, volunteering in the Haight Ashbury, the Tenderloin and the Sunset districts of San Francisco. She donated her time to numerous causes, from helping local youths to assisting underserved communities, to promoting small, local businesses and neighborhood safety. Most recently she was a volunteer with Experience Corps at the Sunset Beacon Center. For the past five years she participated in this program, which places older adult volunteers in public schools to provide tutoring for children in need.

Ms. Manalo-Ventresca never looked for accolades, no matter how richly deserved; nevertheless they were showered upon her. Earlier this year, she was named California Woman of the Year by the California State Assembly and was chosen to be an Asian Pacific American 2005 Local Hero by KQED. In April she was selected for a MetLife Foundation Older Volunteers Enrich America Award.

Just last April my wife Annette and I met with Tess. I could not then, and can not now, express adequately the appreciation I have for the incredible work she did throughout her lifetime. The Sunset, the Bay Area and the country need more people like Tess. To the very end Tess was working on projects to help children live up to their potential and to improve the neighborhoods in which we live.

Tess helped give children a brighter future, a gift that will live on with us forever. The joy she brought to life will never be forgotten.

TO HONOR THE RECEIPT OF THE ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JON BRUMBAUGH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service and achievement of Private First Class Jon Brumbaugh, a

former resident of the Chautauqua County City of Jamestown, upon receiving the Army Achievement Medal.

Brumbaugh, a graduate of Jamestown High School was awarded this honor for meritorious achievement while serving as a Heavy Armor Specialist during JRTC Rotation 05-05. His leadership and ability to accomplish missions made PFC Brumbaugh a vital part of his infantry division.

PFC Brumbaugh began his time in the Army in October of 2003. Due to several outstanding characteristics, he became known as a team leader and gained multiple comments from officers, thus allowing him to move up the chain of command. In February of 2004 Jon went to Airborne School, where he received his Wings upon graduation.

Currently, Jon is assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, known as the 4th ID, B Company 2-8 INS. Part of Jon's duties involve being assigned to a Bradley Fighting Vehicle where he is second in command of his section. Jon is stationed at Fort Hood where he resides with his wife and their two sons.

HONORING THE FLIGHT FOR LIFE TEAM OF COLORADO

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tremendously dedicated and talented group of professionals who make up the St. Anthony Hospitals Flight for Life team of Colorado.

Specifically, I want to thank and honor the flight crew that allowed me to join them on Saturday, June 18th: Flight Nurse Hollie Seeley, Medic Vance Silvia, and Pilot Jeff Warner. Having the opportunity to spend a mere four hours with these remarkable individuals was certainly enough to realize that, on any given day, there are angels in the skies over Colorado.

Responding to everything from car accidents to farm accidents, Flight for Life has not only saved countless lives of the people of Colorado and the surrounding states, they've enabled those citizens who live far from a metro area to enjoy the small town quality of Colorado and the West while not totally losing access to world class medical care.

Established in October 1972, Flight for Life was the first hospital-based civilian emergency air ambulance program in the Nation. During its 30-year history, Flight for Life has logged more than 75,000 missions and has become the model for the nearly 200 air ambulance programs worldwide, and is still considered a leader in its field.

Serving every community in the great state of Colorado and the surrounding seven states, Flight for Life is the biggest and busiest critical care air transport program in Colorado, transporting patients to any appropriate medical facility.

Flight for Life's reputation is second only to its dedicated crew. Located across the state in Denver, Frisco, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, the crew consists of 31 flight registered nurses, 27 flight paramedics, 14 helicopter pilots, 6 fixed-wing pilots, 6 helicopter mechanics, 10 emergency medical technicians (EMT), and 10 communications specialists.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Flight for Life in Colorado are not only talented professionals, but they are indeed public servants who deserve our admiration. I join the large number of Coloradans and others across the country who have been positively affected by these people in saying a well-deserved "thank you" for all that they do to serve and protect our citizens.

TRIBUTE TO REV. J.J. ROBERSON

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, July 10, 2005, in the great city of Houston, TX, my friend and distinguished religious leader Dr. J.J. Roberson will commemorate more than four decades in the ministry with the observance of Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church's Annual Father, Son's and Grandson's Day.

Born in New Gulf, TX, in 1918, Dr. Roberson graduated from Wharton County Training School and attended Tyler Barber College where he was certified as a Master Barber. He also attended Southern Business College, Southwestern Seminary, Texas Southern University and Mount Hope Bible College where he earned his Doctor of Divinity degree. Dr. Roberson has been married to his darling wife Elouise Jackson Roberson for 63 years and is privileged to count among those who will be honoring him on this special occasion his sons in the ministry and his extended family.

Founded on January 8, 1958, Mt. Hebron, under Dr. Roberson's leadership, has been the mecca of community activism. His church is known throughout the city of Houston as a spiritual soldier who leads by example. Over the years, he has presided over the establishment of a number of sanctuaries, an apartment complex and a state-of-the-art Pipe Organ installed in 1998 with the expansion of the pulpit and the purchase of 75 acres of land in Brazoria County. To date, the membership has grown to more than 1,900 members and 1,058 families.

A decorated World War II Veteran of the U.S. Army, Dr. Roberson is presently Commander of VFW Eugene Warren Post No. 471. He is also the President of the Baptist Ministers Association of Houston and Vicinity, 1st Vice Moderator of the Independent Missionary Baptist General Association of Texas, Secretary-Treasurer of the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas BTU Board, and

• 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.

1st Vice President of the South Texas Regional Convention.

Mr. Speaker, in 2001, Dr. Roberson was inducted into the Religious Hall of Fame in Dallas, TX. That same year, he received the L.A. Simpson Pastor of the Year Award. Over the years, he has received an NAACP Membership Citation, War Against Drugs Commendation and honors from the Sam Houston Area Council and the Boy Scouts of America. In 1986, he received an "Official Memorandum from the State of Texas" in honor of Martin Luther King Day. In 1982, the Mayor of Houston issued a proclamation declaring the month of June, 1982 as Building Project Days for Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, Inc.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to such a strong and dedicated leader who has, over the years, been a great friend and mentor. Dr. Roberson has, through his ministry, touched the lives of so many people and we are all the better for having him in our lives.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GARY CLARK

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD and I rise today to celebrate the life of Gary Clark, who died on June 22, 2005 at age 47. Gary was a longtime resident of Signal Hill, CA in the 37th Congressional District.

Over the past two decades, Gary served with great distinction in the world of public transportation. He was the head of the Government Relations Department at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, one of the largest public transit agencies in the country.

He began his transit career with the Orange County Transportation Authority and in 1988 joined the Southern California Rapid Transit District, which eventually became LACMTA.

In his capacity as Deputy Executive Officer of Government and Board Relations, Gary played a leadership role in coordinating LACMTA's legislative advocacy in Washington and Sacramento. He spent a significant amount of time on Capitol Hill over the years and, as a result, we came to know him and his work well.

Gary possessed great integrity and intelligence. His friends, coworkers and family remember him as a person of dignity, strength and compassion despite the pressures of a demanding job. He was the quintessential public servant who dedicated himself to the needs of the community and firmly believed in the mission and purpose of public transportation.

In addition, Gary was a man of great faith. He served as Director of Music for 13 years at Grace United Methodist Church in Long Beach, CA. He also actively served Grace Methodist as a Trustee and member of its Worship Committee. Additionally, he was selected to be a lay delegate to the California Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Although we know him primarily through his role in transportation policy, Gary displayed a

real zest for life and was passionate about many things—the church, politics, democracy, equality and sports. He was an ardent Los Angeles Dodgers fan and also closely followed the football team at UCLA, his alma mater.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that we say farewell to a remarkable human being who personified the best in public service and served the public transportation community with honor and distinction. Gary will be truly missed. We extend our condolences to his partner, Peter Cobo, his mother, Berniece Clark, sisters Diane Kildun and Kathleen Larson, and nephews and nieces.

HONORING GARLAND, TX, TEACHER, SHERRY MULLINS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Sherry Mullins, an outstanding teacher and community leader from Garland, TX. Ms. Mullins has been named one of eight national finalists for the Richard T. Farrell Teacher of Merit Award in the field of history. This annual award is presented to a teacher who develops and uses creative teaching methods to enhance students' interest in history. In her tenure as a teacher at North Garland High School, Ms. Mullins has consistently helped her students achieve at the highest levels in the National History Day Program.

National History Day is a yearlong program in which students explore historical topics related to an annual theme. In preparing her students for the program, Ms. Mullins rose above the call of duty and equipped her students for success.

Mr. Speaker, I find it encouraging that there are extraordinary educators in this country like Ms. Mullins who work faithfully shaping the minds of our students. I hope you and our colleagues will join me in recognizing Ms. Mullins for her commitment to educating the potential leaders of tomorrow.

GAMBLING EXPLOSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, gambling is exploding throughout our country. Tribal casinos have been propagating at an alarming rate.

I am deeply concerned about the impact this is having on our society. Gambling destroys families and preys on the poor. The number of tribes now actively "reservation shopping" is extremely troubling. The cover story of the May 9, 2005, issue of CQ Weekly reports on the explosive growth of tribal casinos and cites eight states—Oregon, Kansas, Minnesota, Florida, California, Illinois, New York and Ohio—where off-reservation gambling is being proposed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD a copy of the letter I recently sent to President Bush urging his action on this matter, a May 9 memorandum prepared by the

Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of Congress at my request detailing options the Bush Administration could take to address this issue, and the CQ Weekly sidebar article detailing the explosive growth of tribal casinos. If the administration believes it does not have authority to issue a moratorium to halt new tribal gambling operations, it should send Congress legislation so that we can take action.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

May 19, 2005.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
*The President, The White House,
Washington DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Many in America, myself included, are deeply concerned by the explosive growth of tribal casinos. There are now more than 400 tribal casinos in 30 states. Tribes also are now aggressively seeking off-reservation land—commonly referred to as "reservation shopping"—to build even more facilities. This rapid expansion of casino gambling is spiraling out of control, with devastating consequences for our country.

This is not a Republican or a Democrat issue; nor is it a conservative or a liberal issue. It is a matter that calls for action in the best interest of every American. Casino gambling, once limited to places like Las Vegas and Atlantic City, is now coming to cities—and even small towns—across America and bringing with it all its social ills, like higher crime and suicide rates, increased personal bankruptcies and the break-up of families.

I write today asking that you issue an executive order placing an immediate two-year moratorium on the opening of any more tribal casinos until Congress can thoroughly review the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) of 1988. Congress, with the help of your administration, must examine the unintended consequences of this legislation and address the gaping loopholes in the law.

The moratorium also should apply to the federal recognition process of tribes, which is completely broken. As you know, I have long been calling for reforms of the tribal recognition process. I repeatedly asked former President Clinton and his administration to take action and have written your administration on several occasions asking for a top-to-bottom review of the process. To date, no steps have been taken to address the issue.

Something also needs to be done to address the issue of senior level staff leaving the Bureau of Indian Affairs and then immediately going out and representing tribes seeking federal recognition. Tougher restrictions must be put in place.

Native Americans have become mere pawns in what is now a billion dollar battleground as outside interests—and investors, some from outside the country—have worked behind the scenes to spur the growth of tribal casinos. In September 2001, the then General Accounting Office issued a scathing report saying the process was fraught with problems and needed improvement. The report concluded by saying because of weaknesses in the process, "the end result could be that the resolution of tribal recognition cases will have less to do with the attributes and qualities of a group as an independent political entity deserving of a government-to-government relationship with the United States and more to do with the resources that petitioners and third parties can marshal to develop a successful and political strategy."

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