

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE YVONNE TOUREILLES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, rise today to honor the contributions of State Representative Yvonne Toureilles of my Congressional District.

Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles was born and raised in Texas. Her father worked as a truck driver while studying to become a pharmacist. With a family on the way, he helped Yvonne's mother finish her degree and become a teacher. Yvonne's parents did more than just tell her that education brings opportunity, they showed her.

She aimed high and graduated with honors from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Later, she enrolled and received a Juris Doctor from the University of Texas School of Law.

After earning her law degree, Yvonne put her education to work for the State of Texas—first learning the process as a researcher at the Texas House of Representatives, then defending Department of Public Safety troopers for several years as an Assistant Attorney General. Yvonne also served as Legal Counsel for the Texas Workforce Commission.

Yvonne has served as Treasurer and Vice-President of the Coastal Bend Bar Association and is a member of the Coastal Bend Women Lawyers Association.

Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles then came home to South Texas to raise her family. After marrying her high school sweetheart, Marc Toureilles, at the Saint Theresa Catholic Church in Premont, they gave birth to their first child, Genevieve, in Alice, Texas. Yvonne now lives and works in Alice where her practice primarily consists of family law.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize State Representative Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT KERRIGAN SR. AND ROBERT KERRIGAN JR. ON RECEIVING THE MICHAEL F. KING JR. ARMED FORCES VETERAN'S AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to a father and son who have received the Michael F. King Jr. Armed Forces Veteran's Award from the Quiet Man Society on behalf of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Association of Lackawanna County.

This award is presented annually to local individuals who, after serving in our country's military, returned to Northeastern Pennsylvania and by their actions and involvement in community events exhibited continued service to God, Family and Country.

The award was endowed by The Quiet Man Society in honor of Mr. King, an original member of the Society. Mr. King, a twice-wounded veteran of World War II, is most fondly remembered for the countless hours he selflessly worked on behalf of St. Paul's Church, Holy Rosary Church, Holy Family Residence, the Penn Ridge Club and the Irish American Men's Association.

The previous winners of the Award had each served, as Mr. King, in WWII. The Award Committee, in selecting this year's honorees, has attempted to answer a question pondered not only by our region's WWII veterans but also by our country's Founding Fathers: Would there be individuals in future generations who would answer the "call to arms" to preserve and protect the freedoms and liberties that the prior generations had fought so hard to gain. The Committee believes that the sacrifices, dedication and service that the Kerrigans have given for our country and community provide the answer to that question.

Robert Kerrigan Sr. is a native of Scranton and a 1966 graduate of Holy Rosary High School. He was drafted in August 1968 and served in the U.S. Infantry during the Vietnam War from January 1969 to January 1970. He and his lovely wife, Ellen Bauer Kerrigan, reside in the East Mountain section of Scranton. They have four children: Michael, Robert Jr., Kevin and Colleen.

Mr. Kerrigan Sr. is most widely recognized as a member of Local 81 IBEW, where he has served on the Executive Board for 12 years. In addition, he has been a member of IBEW's Joint Apprentice Training Council for several years. This council has overseen the electrical installation of lighting for numerous charitable organizations, including St. Joseph's Center, Friendship House and the Italian Festival.

Without hesitation, it can be said that the various events held by these groups were successful in large part because of the selfless commitment of Mr. Kerrigan Sr. and all the members of Local 81 IBEW. Because of their efforts, thousands of members of the community have enjoyed themselves at many festivals, and have had the opportunity to contribute to other very worthy causes.

Mr. Kerrigan Sr. is also a member of VFW Post 5209, Veterans of Vietnam Inc., Post 1.

The younger Mr. Kerrigan is a 1997 graduate of Scranton High School. He has attended Penn State University. He joined the U.S. Army Reserves in 2001 and was attached to the 828th Quartermaster Company. He has served with the 233rd Quartermaster Company in Operation Iraqi Freedom from April 2003 through November 2003. Most recently, he was awarded The Army Commendation Medal for Outstanding Duty and Selfless Commitment.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Robert Kerrigan Sr. and Robert Kerrigan

Jr., a father and son who have demonstrated their love of country and who are most deserving of this award.

IN HONOR OF FATHER TARAS CHUBENKO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Father Taras Chubenko on his 25th anniversary as pastor of St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. Father Chubenko celebrated the event at the Dinner and Dance on March 12, 2005, in Carteret, New Jersey.

During his time with the Cathedral, Father Chubenko has worked diligently to help improve St. Demetrius and its services. Under his strong leadership, St. Demetrius has successfully completed various restructuring and renovation projects. Additionally, Father Chubenko is a member of the Diocese's Metropolitan Council and has served as Dean of the New Jersey Deanery. In the past, he held the positions of Consistory Business Administrator and Treasurer of the Diocese for more than seven years.

Father Chubenko is active in many organizations and plays an integral role in the community. For 25 years, he has been the Chaplain to various groups in Carteret, including the Office of Emergency Management, the volunteer fire department, and the police department. At one time the president of the Carteret School Board of Education, he spent a total of nine years as a member of the board. In the past, Father Taras served as the chairperson of the mayor's Children's Relief Fund and 9/11 World Trade Center Scholarship Fund Committee. He has also lent his wisdom and time as the mentor of two mayors of Carteret.

Born in Germany, Father Chubenko and his family immigrated to the United States when he was a child. He studied at St. Sophia's Seminary and became an ordained priest in 1980. That same year, he began his service at St. Demetrius, where he has remained ever since. For his outstanding service, Father Chubenko was promoted to the rank of Proto-Priest in 1982 and later achieved the highest rank of Protopresbyter in 1990.

He and his wife are the proud parents of four sons.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Father Taras Chubenko for his many years of dedicated service to St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and the people of Carteret. His strong leadership and active involvement in the community has helped revitalize the Cathedral and improve the lives of many.

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