

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGE
DIANA BAUTISTA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the many contributions of Judge Diana Bautista.

Judge Bautista works day after day for the betterment of the 40,000 members of Atascosa County in Texas. It is because of people like her that the legislation we do on this very floor is able to run the country so efficiently. Through her post as Judge of Atascosa County, Diana Bautista works for the betterment of the people in the community that she so vigorously serves.

Judge Bautista's service did not begin with her current position as a county judge; she has held other public service positions in law enforcement. She has been an official of the Pleasanton Police Department and the Atascosa County Sheriff's Office where she ensured the safety of the general public. It was during her tenure with public service offices such as these that she gained the necessary experience to understand what the people of Atascosa County need.

In 2002, she was elected to her post as the Atascosa County Judge, and has served there ever since. Judge Bautista always puts the people of Atascosa County first in whatever she does. She serves on numerous committees throughout the area to make sure her constituents are getting all the necessary tools from the local government they need.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Atascosa County Judge Diana Bautista.

IN HONOR OF ALBERT O'NEILL JR.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Albert O'Neill Jr. upon his nomination as a Jefferson Award finalist. Mr. O'Neill Jr. is a patient care volunteer with Delaware Hospice and a member of the Delaware Lions Foundation. Mr. O'Neill Jr. is instrumental in collecting donated items and distributing them throughout the world to persons in need.

Since 1998, Mr. O'Neill has donated over 15,000 pairs of shoes and over 1.2 million pounds of donated items. Mr. O'Neill's efforts have meant that thousands of needy people have not gone without.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Mr. O'Neill Jr. upon his nomination as a finalist for the Jefferson Award. Mr. O'Neill's selflessness serves as an example to us all.

A TRIBUTE TO JANICE Y. JONES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Janice Y. Jones in recognition of her strong commitment to her family and dedication to educating our children.

Janice Y. Jones was born in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York to James and Clara Jones. At the age of five the family moved to East New York, where Janice attended local public schools, P.S. 159, I.S. 218 and Franklin Lane High School. Janice won a scholarship to Connecticut College. After a year at Connecticut, she returned home to help her mother care for her three younger brothers due to the death of her father.

Janice went back to Lane where she was hired as an Educational Assistant. She went through the Career Training Program and obtained her degree from York College and her Teaching License.

During her tenure at Lane, she worked closely with the activities director, the guidance department and was one of the coaches for the cheerleading squad. She accompanied her mother to numerous community and school meetings as well.

Although Lane did not have a teaching position for Janice, Transit Tech High School hired her as a Special Education Teacher. After one year of teaching, Janice became the Coordinator of Student Activities at Transit Tech. The title included many duties such as the leadership program for students, senior activities, the Transit Tech Volunteer Program, SkillsUSA (VICA), and a parent and community liaison.

She worked closely with and underwent training by the Anti-Defamation League, the National Conference of Community, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Education Conflict Resolution and Negotiation Team where she now is a trainer herself. Janice has served on the Board of Trustees for New York City VICA and as the Vice Chairperson of the New York State VICA Board of Trustees.

Janice is very devoted to her students and tries to encourage them to reach for greatness and realize their potential. When time allows, she is also an active volunteer in the community.

Mr. Speaker, Janice Y. Jones has dedicated herself to her community and to educating our children. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

CONGRATULATING THE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 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 group of men from the past and present who are part of a proud tradition in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County will celebrate its 100th anniversary on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2005.

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick is a group of men who gets together each year on St. Patrick's Day to partake in dinner and camaraderie in a celebration of the Irish-American experience. The Friendly Sons dinners are a tradition in Lackawanna County that have grown considerably since the first one in 1906—from about 80 men in 1906 to 1,200 this year. This year's dinner was sold out months in advance.

The Friendly Sons had its beginning as the Irish-American Society of Lackawanna County, formed by Judge Edward F. Blewitt, former Scranton Diocese Bishop M.J. Hoban, Col. F.J. Fitzsimmons and Scranton Times publisher E.J. Lynett. The organization wanted a more formal way to mark St. Patrick's Day than with the parades in downtown Scranton.

The Lackawanna County group called itself the Irish-American Society until 1940. Members felt that a hyphenated name was no longer appropriate. World War II was just beginning and the organization wanted to have people united as Americans, not identified because of their descent.

For the first few years, the dinner took place at the old Hotel Jermyn. It moved to the former Hotel Casey in 1911, where it remained for 60 years. As time went on, the Friendly Sons had to find another venue because the Hotel Casey could not accommodate the expanding guest list. Some attendees were even forced to sit in the hotel coffee shop or in the nearby Preno's Restaurant and watch the evening's festivities on tiny television monitors.

Eventually, the dinner moved again—this time to St. Mary's Center and then in 1984 to Genetti Manor in Dickson City, where it has been held since.

The dinner has earned quite a reputation for hosting one notable speaker after another. Typically, the organization tries to have two main speakers—a lay person and a member of the clergy. The list of prominent names dates back to the dinner's 1909 speaker, John Mitchell, revered labor leader and international president of United Mineworkers of America.

President Harry S Truman spoke at the dinner twice—in 1943 and 1956. In 1943, he was a little-known senator from Missouri who spoke about foreign policy during the Cold

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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.

War. When he came back to the Friendly Sons dinner in 1956, he had served two terms as president.

Perhaps the most notable speaker came in 1964. The Friendly Sons dinner was the first public appearance made by then-U.S. attorney general Robert F. Kennedy following the assassination of his brother, President John F. Kennedy. In September of that year, Robert Kennedy resigned to run for the U.S. Senate in New York. A column written 10 years later by one of his aides stated that Mr. Kennedy made his decision to remain in public service because of the amazing support and outpouring of affection shown to him in Scranton as 2,000 people lined the streets to greet him.

Many politicians have spoken at the Friendly Sons dinner. Beginning with John K. Tener in 1911 and including our current governor, Ed Rendell, in 2003, almost all Pennsylvania governors have attended the dinner, including Lackawanna County residents William W. Scranton and the late Robert P. Casey, who himself was a member of the Friendly Sons.

My good friend former U.S. Rep. Joseph McDade, also a Friendly Sons member, spoke in 1986. U.S. senators, including Eugene McCarthy, Henry "Scoop" Jackson, John Glenn, and Delaware's JOSEPH BIDEN—a native of Scranton—have spoken at the dinner.

Guests from abroad have also graced the stage, including former Irish Prime Ministers Garret FitzGerald and Albert Reynolds, Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and British Parliament member Martin McGuinness.

The Friendly Sons organization has about 900 members and elects officers each year. The president has the intimidating job of organizing the dinner and arranging for the speaker.

This year's president is Dr. Joseph T. Kelly Sr. and the speaker is Alex Maskey, the first Catholic mayor of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives in congratulating the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County, an organization steeped in rich traditions, as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE WE THE PEOPLE CIVICS TEAM FROM FREMONT, CALIFORNIA'S IRVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the 2005 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" class of Fremont, California's Irvington High School in my district for winning the state championship in January.

The We the People competition is an educational program administered by the Center for Civic Education of Los Angeles and funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The main focus of the program is to commemorate the framing and adoption of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and to revitalize educational programs on the Constitution in our Nation's schools. It provides a course of instruction on the basic principles of our Nation's constitutional democracy and the history of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Participants then enter into competitive simulated congressional hearings following the course of study.

Students who wish to participate in the program must go through an interview process the year prior to the start of the class. The applicants must answer questions similar to the ones they will be asked during competition.

Accepted applicants learn and familiarize themselves with current event topics along with curriculum taught in the class. There are six different areas that are taught in the course and each participant must become an expert in each and every area.

The participants prepare for several months before testifying to a panel made up of judges representing the community. The judges ask detailed follow-up questions regarding the presentation, which require the students to think quickly and provide spontaneous answers. They compete first at two competitions at the local level before going to the state championships. Those who win at the state level go on to compete nationally.

In January, students from ten schools representing various areas of California came to Sacramento to compete in the state We the People championship. I am proud to say that the Irvington High School team, coached by their teacher Mrs. Cook-Kallio, won the competition and will be representing California during the national finals, which will be held from April 30th through May 3rd here, in Washington, DC.

The victory reflects the hard work and dedication these students put together after about nine months of preparation. The Irvington team spent countless hours in and out of class getting ready for the competition. Most groups stayed past 10 p.m. on some nights to take part in practice sessions where their teacher, Mrs. Cook-Kallio, along with other teachers and alumni of Irvington High School, drilled them on their subjects to try and simulate the environment of the competition.

I applaud the We the People class, Mrs. Cook-Kallio, and Irvington High School in reaching the national finals and am honored to have them represent the state of California at the national level. I join with other admirers and members in the community of Fremont in wishing the team luck. I hope to be giving another congratulatory speech once they become National champions.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BEXAR COUNTY CONSTABLE ROBERT "MIKE" BLOUNT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Constable Robert Blount in my congressional district, for his exceptional career in law enforcement.

Robert Blount was elected as Constable of Precinct Four in January 2005, but has been actively serving his community for the last sixteen years. He believes in establishing a solid law enforcement agency that is committed to the needs of the community, and has devoted his department to serve the public through honesty and integrity.

Constable Blount is an excellent example of an elected official who understands the needs of his community. The mission for his department is to promote safety in the community by enforcing court orders, supporting early intervention activities, and to work together with neighboring law enforcement agencies.

Constable Blount is a man who believes in the value of community involvement and intervention. Currently he is focusing his department on lowering truancy levels and high school dropout rates, reducing neighborhood crime, and maintaining clear communication within the people in his community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Bexar County Constable Robert "Mike" Blount for his dedication and service to the community.

IN HONOR OF AUDREY HOPE-MILTON

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Audrey Hope-Milton upon her nomination as a Jefferson Award finalist. Ms. Hope-Milton is a volunteer to the Stop the Violence Coalition, as the program administrator for the Playstation Too Mentoring Program. Ms. Hope-Milton is predominately concerned with the health, welfare and safety of young people and takes great care to make sure that they are not overlooked or forgotten.

Ms. Hope-Milton's passion for volunteer work comes from a religious family legacy of working with today's youth. Ms. Hope-Milton's success is a result of her giving back what was given to her. Ms. Hope-Milton's tireless efforts to help young people have touched the lives of many in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Ms. Hope-Milton upon her nomination as a finalist for the Jefferson Award. Ms. Hope-Milton's selflessness serves as an example to us all.

DEATH OF AGENT DAVID WILHELM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agent David Wilhelm who was killed by a gunman in Atlanta, Georgia this past weekend. I join Agent Wilhelm's family, including the law enforcement community in America, in mourning the tragic loss of Agent Wilhelm.

Mr. Wilhelm dedicated his 18-year career in law enforcement to protecting America. He was one of the many men and women who put their lives on the line every single day, no matter what the danger. He was one of the good guys who helped to make America safer by putting away the bad guys. His specialty was investigating financial crimes, narcotics smuggling, and human smuggling.