

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN FEEHERY, PETE JEFFRIES AND PAIGE RALSTON

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 20, 2005

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish farewell to three members of my press office who are moving on to other careers after distinguished service on Capitol Hill. My press secretary John Feehery, communications director Pete Jeffries, and deputy press secretary Paige Ralston have been the core of my press team for my entire tenure as Speaker, and I would like to take this moment to recognize their contributions to my office.

As my chief spokesman, John helped me articulate the positive effects of important reforms we passed concerning Medicare, tax policy, and the organization of intelligence community, just to name a few. I depended on John for advice on how best to get my message across on a wide range of issues and the events of the day.

Pete crafted a strategy for communicating our goals and accomplishments to other Members and to the rest of America. He could take a step back and tie broader themes together to create an overall message with which Americans could identify. Pete worked with other press secretaries to coordinate our message to make it more powerful, and as a result the Republican majority has had great success in recent years.

A good message is only useful if people are listening, and that's where Paige came in. As my point person for arranging interviews with the press, she helped me reach out to different audiences in different ways to effectively explain our agenda. She has a keen sense for connecting the particular message I wanted to convey with the best venue for conveying it.

I have learned that in this legislative body, effective communication is crucial for turning good ideas into good policy. For the past 6 years, John, Pete and Paige formed a team of advisors who helped me convey our hopeful message to the rest of America. Though they will be missed greatly, I wish them all the best in the next stage of their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 20, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of March 15, I was delayed and missed rollcall vote 72.

I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall vote 72.

It was my intention to vote "yea" on rollcall 72.

I supported a similar amendment by Congressman OBEY in the full committee mark-up

of the bill that would have established a select committee to investigate the awarding of contracts to conduct activities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

STANDING WITH CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 20, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues to send a strong message to the Cuban government that the United States will not forget those people who are languishing in Cuban prisons for the so-called crime of speaking out against the injustices perpetrated by the Castro regime. We cannot ignore Castro and we cannot relieve the pressure on the regime. We owe it to the thousands of Cubans languishing in jails to further open the eyes of the world community to the true evils of the Castro regime.

I rise to bring to light the injustices against a 61-year old scholar, intellectual, and decent free-thinking man—Héctor Palacios Ruiz. Director of the unofficial Centro de Estudios Sociales, Center of Social Studies, and secretary of the reporting committee of the "Todos Unidos," "All United," coalition, Héctor Palacios was detained on March 20, 2003 and subsequently tried in Havana. He was convicted under Castro's barbaric Penal Code and sentenced to 25 years in prison.

And what were Héctor Palacios' crimes? He was accused, among other activities, of having in his home an independent library containing books the Cuban government claims are "subversive and counterrevolutionary."

Héctor Palacios's wife, Gisela, was refused permission to visit him in May and threatened with imprisonment if she participated in public demonstrations on his behalf.

Before the crackdown in 2003, Héctor Palacios was arrested in 1994, 1997 and 1999 for his activism and his courage to speak out against the crimes and injustices of the Castro regime. The persecution of this brave Cuban man is an outrage. Thrown behind bars, Héctor Palacios and other political activists are feared by the Castro regime which outlaws freedom and truth. The brutality must stop. Freedom for Cuba's political prisoners must be our goal.

WESTPORT HARBOR'S NEEDS TO GO UNMET

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 20, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I recently had to be the bearer of bad news to the Town of Westport, Massachusetts. West-

port is a wonderful place to live, in substantial part because of its natural environment, and the great care that the people of the town take to preserve the great gift which that environment is. Recently, I met with the selectmen of the town to discuss their very reasonable proposal for a dredging project, to cost between \$500,000 and \$600,000. I told them at the time that we would have trouble because of what has been, in my judgment, excessive tax-cutting leaving us unable to meet basic needs of our society in many ways. Not even the most ardent advocates of tax cuts have claimed that they are in any way capable of dredging a harbor.

Subsequently, after sharing with the selectmen the fact that this would be tough, I received a copy of a letter from the Army Corps of Engineers, making clear that it would be even tougher because of cutbacks in their already inadequate funds imposed upon them by the Bush Administration.

The newspaper Westport Shorelines initially editorialized in a very eloquent way about this very regrettable decision, and I ask that the Westport Shorelines' excellent analysis be printed here so that Members can get a fuller understanding of the implications of some of the budget cuts that are being imposed.

[From Westport Shorelines, March 10, 2005]
OUR LITTLE HARBOR DOESN'T FIT INTO FEDS' BIG PICTURE

Al Qaeda doesn't much care about Westport Harbor so neither do we.

That is the gist of the federal message to Westport this week. In a brief note out of the blue, the feds notified Westport that they won't help dredge the harbor channel after all.

Federal money, the note states, is "now being allocated to those ports and harbors of greatest national significance . . . Future funding for small harbors such as Westport is unlikely at this time."

In those few words, the Army Corps of Engineers cedes victory to the sand. Without dredging soon, the main channel will inevitably choke with sand—in places that has already happened. The fate of the fishermen, boatyard and ecosystems that rely on a free-flowing river rank low on the federal priority list.

Don't blame the Army Corps for this one—the decision comes from much higher places. The Army Corps recognized the need and was an enthusiastic participant in the \$600,000 project, assisting with expertise, studies and the lion's share of the funding. After years of effort by the Army Corps and Westport dredge committee, the long awaited job was about to happen. The feasibility study was complete (the project passed with flying colors), and final permitting was nearly set.

Stopping it now amounts to much more than inconvenience and delay. All those costly studies have short shelf lives. If allowed to expire, they must be done anew from scratch.

It really amounts to one more instance of a fiscal federal priority system overwhelmed by Iraq, tax cuts and all things anti-terrorism. Although the Iraq/terror link remains murky, the war continues to cost by some estimates \$177 million a day, \$7.4 million per hour (the Westport dredge project

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

equals about five minutes on the Iraq clock), leaving precious little for much else.

And while there is no denying the need to keep the homeland secure, throwing money at terrorists won't make them go away. Lawmakers trip over themselves to obtain "anti-terror" grants by the boatload for local police and fire departments, never mind that the "terror" link can be sketchy (last week it was \$90,000 to the Portsmouth Fire Department for sprinklers). If we allow our nation terror obsession to drive this nation to financial ruin, the terrorists win anyway.

We already pay dearly, and loss of this dredge project is but one small example. The Westport Harbor channel may not be of "great national significance" but it is no less than a lifeline for people here.

RECOGNIZING DELTA M. JACKSON DORSCH EDUCATOR, VIRGIN ISLANDS TRADITION BEARER ON ATTAINING HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 20, 2005

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Delta M. Dorsch on attaining her ninetieth birthday. Ms. Dorsch is one of the outstanding educators of the Virgin Islands educational system, and a "Tradition Bearer" of our oral cultural "Anansi" stories, which is a continuation of the African oral tradition.

Ms. Dorsch was born and raised on the island of St. Croix, where she received her elementary and secondary education in the local public school system. Ms. Dorsch traveled to the U.S. mainland to further her education and received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Education at Central Michigan University. Before returning home she received her graduate and post graduate degrees at New York University and Columbia Universities respectively, with an emphasis in Supervision and Administration of Schools, and also studied International Education at the University of London in England and at the University of Heidelberg in Germany.

Delta Dorsch served for more than thirty-eight (38) years as a teacher in the Virgin Islands school system and in a supervisory capacity as Deputy Commissioner for Curriculum and Instruction. She was also an Instructor of Elementary Education in both undergraduate and graduate programs at the University of the Virgin Islands; and was Chairman of the Board of Directors for the St. Dunstan's Episcopal School. In addition to addressing educational components in her various positions, she also used them to stress the importance of preserving our traditional values and cultural heritage to parents, teachers and students.

This dedication to duty and approach to life combined in having Ms. Dorsch as the recipient of numerous service awards from civic and community organizations. The most noteworthy to her was having the Elena Christian Junior High School's Honor Society named in her honor.

The Anansi stories, part of the African oral tradition, have been an integral part of Virgin Islands culture and tradition for centuries. These stories were told around campfires in slave quarters and later on, in yards and villages, by giving insects and animals human

qualities to weave an interesting story that always had a moral ending. The stories have always been enjoyed by our youngsters, the moral lessons staying with them throughout their lives, and unfolding as morals tend to do, when we experience the lessons of life. This was an aspect of our folktale culture and tradition that was on the verge of extinction. The fact that they are still a vibrant part of our culture today is due to the efforts of Delta Dorsch in keeping them alive.

In recognition for preserving this part of our culture and tradition, Delta Dorsch was among the Tradition Bearers from the Virgin Islands that participated in the Smithsonian Institution's Senegal Folk Life Festival that was held here on the Mall in Washington, D.C. in 1990. This event enabled her to proudly communicate our tradition and culture to many visitors from around the world that attended the Festival. Ms. Dorsch's recent contribution to Virgin Islands History was authoring the book "The Role of the Storyteller in the Preservation of Virgin Islands Culture" and its accompanying video.

There is an old adage that behind every great man there stands a woman. This was proven true in the marriage between Delta and Frederick D. Dorsch. Mr. Dorsch served and enriched our Virgin Islands community in many capacities: Humanist, Educator, Dramatist, Civic Enthusiast, School Superintendent of the Virgin Islands, and as Chairman and Member of the Virgin Islands Municipal Council.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I salute Delta M. Jackson Dorsch on attaining her ninetieth birthday, for her dedicated service to the United States Virgin Islands as an Educator and Preservationist of our Tradition and Culture.

HONORING WATHAGENE BAILEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 20, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Wathagene Bailey of Groveland, CA. She will be honored for her years of service to her community at the Tuolumne County Republican Women Federated Meeting on Monday, March 28th.

As a child, Wathagene moved from Galena, Kansas to Fullerton, CA. While in southern California, she met Elmer Bailey on a blind date and the two married on November 23rd, 1963. Shortly after their marriage, Wathagene opened up a foster/day care in Mountain View, CA. Later, she worked for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co., eventually attaining the position of Supervisor. Lastly, Wathagene worked in the Insurance Billing Department for the Los Gatos Community Hospital, where she retired at age 60 to move with her husband Elmer to Pine Mountain Lake in California's Tuolumne County.

Wathagene Bailey has been known to be extremely involved in her community. She was a Girl Scout Leader and helped many girls earn their merit badges. She is a member of the Tuolumne County Central Committee. She served as President of Tuolumne County Republican Women Federated and Director, First President, Second Vice President, and Parliamentarian of the California Federation of Republican Woman-Central Division.

Wathagene has two daughters, Devora and Cheryl, and three grandchildren, Aaron, Heather and Naomi.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Wathagene Bailey for her years of service to her community. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Wathagene many more years of continued success.

HONORING SPALDING G. WATHEN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 20, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor posthumously Mr. Spalding Wathen of Fresno, CA. Mr. Wathen was one of the most respected people throughout California's entire Central Valley for his success in the building industry and for his sincere humanity.

Spalding Wathen was born in Fresno, CA on March 1, 1925. Mr. Wathen dutifully served his country as a U.S. Navy pilot in World War II. He graduated from Roosevelt High School and then University of California, Berkeley in 1949, with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He was a member of the Chi Epsilon and Tau Beta Pi Engineering Scholastic Fraternities and graduated in the top of his class. For almost 60 years, he built over 10,000 homes and apartments, and has developed more than 60 subdivisions throughout the Central Valley.

Mr. Wathen he obtained his general contractor's license in 1950 and his real estate broker's license in 1953. He was Chief Executive Officer of Wathen Brothers, Headliner Homes and Mansionette Homes. In addition, Spalding Wathen was a four-time President of the Building Industry Association, was inducted in the West Coast Builders Association Hall of Fame in 1996, and was one of a select few builders who received the Oscar Spano Award for Lifetime Achievement.

His numerous donations include the Fresno State University Tennis Center, land on which St. Agnes Medical Center was built, the ten-acre site for Holy Spirit Catholic Church, and site for St. Patrick's Church in Merced. He was a founding member of the Board of Directors for the Bank of Fresno and was a lifetime member of the Central California Bowling Hall of Fame.

Mr. Wathen is survived by his wife, Della Ann Wathen, five daughters, six grandchildren, two brothers and two sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize posthumously Mr. Spalding G. Wathen for his extraordinary impact on his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Spalding Wathen.