

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING BOY SCOUT TROOP 733

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Boy Scout Troop 733 of New Wilmington, Pennsylvania on its 75th anniversary. For the last 75 years, Troop 733 has provided invaluable direction for boys of all ages, turning them into fine young men and leaders within their communities.

To honor this special occasion, a dinner will be held at 6 p.m. on February 12, 2005, at the New Wilmington Presbyterian Church in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. Following the dinner will be a presentation on the history of Troop 733, presided over by former Scoutmaster Dr. Jack Reed, Troop Committee Chairman Steve Kulik and current Scoutmaster Michael Banko.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Boy Scout Troop 733 of New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, as they celebrate their 75th year. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute organizations such as Troop 733 who provides such valuable services to the community.

RECOGNIZING LOREN BEWICK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Loren Bewick of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 271, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Loren will attain the rank of Eagle Scout on Saturday, January 29, 2005 at Gashland United Methodist Church in Kansas City.

Loren has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Loren has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Loren Bewick for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce legislation which would amend the Constitution to prevent desecration of the American flag. This measure is identical to H.J. Res. 4, which I sponsored in the last session of Congress, and language adopted by the House five times. This amendment is necessary to restore protections for the symbol of our Nation that the Supreme Court wiped away in its 1989 ruling on *Texas v. Johnson*.

In that fateful 5–4 ruling, the Court cast aside longstanding national laws and 48 State laws recognizing the flag's special status and honoring its place in American society—ruling that its desecration is protected under the First Amendment. For those who see our flag as a revered symbol of freedom and the great sacrifices that were made to sustain it at home and abroad, that decision was a horrible affront—and the call to action was immediate.

Inspired to preserve our national trademark and unalloyed symbol of unity, Congress quickly moved to pass a law restoring flag protections. But in its 5–4 ruling on *United States v. Eichman* in 1990, the Supreme Court once again found that flag protections were inconsistent with free expression rights accorded under the First Amendment. That ruling made it clear that restoration of flag protections would require a Constitutional Amendment.

Since that ruling, the House has five times passed a Flag Protection Constitutional Amendment with well over the two-thirds majority required. The Senate has also acted, failing to achieve the two-thirds votes necessary to move the amendment forward to the States for ratification by a mere handful of votes. Since that time, our Nation has endured some of its most difficult challenges and we have been reminded once again how important the flag is in unifying our Nation, demonstrating our resolve and honoring those who have sacrificed to protect the lives and liberties of the American people.

Each color on the flag, each star and each stripe evokes emotion in me, and together they stand as a symbol of everything I believed in about this country when I fought to defend it. When I heard that some in my country were opposing my military's involvement in Vietnam, that flag reminded me of our tolerance for differences and our endurance through unity. It was a steady symbol of the liberties we enjoy—a way of life that should be protected for future generations and defended for others who aspire to it. From the soldier deployed or detained abroad to the policeman and firefighters protecting citizens in communities, it has stood as a symbol of the country we love, the reason we serve and most important, the sacrifices that have been made.

There have been several major incidents of flag burning since the Court ruling in 1990. These incidents tear at me, and represent a direct attack on all I hold dear about this country. The Constitution was not designed to protect actions which jeopardize others' rights, and the government has long acted to restrict speech and conduct that could cause harm to others. Those who want to express their anger against this country have options that don't involve destroying the sacred symbol that belongs to all citizens.

At a time when we are faced with increasing youth violence and cultural breakdown, restoring our most recognized sign of unity would be a positive step in the right direction—providing a steady reminder that living free comes with responsibility to respect others. Since 9–11, the flag has come to represent even more for all Americans and a reminder of those who were lost protecting us. Allowing its desecration is an insult to all those who perished.

Over 75 percent of Americans consistently agree: The time to restore protections for our flag is long overdue. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this Constitutional Amendment, and to move it back to the American people for speedy ratification.

HONORING WILLIAM C. PORTMAN II AS A GREAT LIVING CIN- CINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William C. Portman II, my father, who will be formally honored on February 24, 2005 as a Great Living Cincinnatian by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. Recipients of this prestigious annual honor are chosen on the basis of professional achievement; leadership; vision; and community service. Past honorees include such Greater Cincinnati leaders as Neil Armstrong, Albert Sabin and Charles Scripps.

Although my father has always been an extraordinary role model for me, he has also been a role model for so many others in our community. Throughout his lifetime, he has led, trained and motivated people with integrity and by example.

Dad was born in the Pleasant Ridge neighborhood of Cincinnati, and graduated from Walnut Hills High School in 1941. He received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Dartmouth College in 1946, after interrupting his studies to serve as a lieutenant in World War II. After the war, he went on to earn an M.B.A. from Dartmouth's Amos Tuck School of Business Administration in 1947.

He began his career in Cincinnati with Procter & Gamble's chemical division, and then joined the Clark Equipment Company as sales manager. He enjoyed the material handling business, and in 1960, he decided to strike

• 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.

out on his own and start his own business. Along with my late mother, Joan, as bookkeeper, the Portman Equipment Company began modestly, with two salespeople and two mechanics. The company was started with borrowed funds, and it took a few years to turn a profit.

Today, the company employs over 400 people, handles multiple lines and services, and is one of the largest material handling distributors in the United States. Dad would tell you that's because he hired outstanding people, which is true, but it is also because he is a good leader and a hardworking entrepreneur.

He was the first equipment dealer in the country to recognize the importance of operator safety and mechanic education. In 1972, Dad initiated a training operation, now called the "Learning Center," which offers twenty industry courses, has instructed over 80,000 students worldwide, and is the largest regional training site for Caterpillar and Mitsubishi forklifts. Portman Equipment Company, now run by my brother, William C. "Wym" Portman III, is now one of the country's largest Cat Lift Truck distributors, and was listed as one of Cincinnati's top 100 privately held firms twelve times.

Dad always recognized the importance of giving back through community service. In 1975, he became the first small businessperson to chair the Greater Cincinnati United Way campaign. He was the first chair to visit all 105 agencies that received United Way funding, and fundraising set a new record. He has served on the boards of United Way; Community Chest & Council; the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce; and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. He has held leadership positions with the Cincinnati Business Committee; the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's Small Business Advisory Council; the Hamilton County Regional Airport Authority; and chaired the Chamber's first Leadership Cincinnati class, which is one of the country's most prestigious leadership development programs.

In all his business and community endeavors, he was strongly supported by my mother, Joan, who herself was an accomplished civic leader. Among her accomplishments, she was named a Cincinnati Enquirer Woman of the Year in 1979, and was the recipient of the Jacob E. Davis Volunteer of the Year Award of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

Our family, including my wife, Jane; brother, Wym; sister-in-law, Jan; sister, Ginna; brother-in-law Allan; and Dad's nine grandchildren; are proud of all of Dad's accomplishments, and congratulate him on being named a Great Living Cincinnati.

CONGRATULATING HISTORY DAY SCHOLARS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the nation was relieved that on January 7, Edgar Ray Killen was arraigned for the 1964 murder of three civil rights martyrs—Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and James Chaney. The brutal murders of these three men, who were registering African-American

voters in Mississippi during the 1964 Freedom Summer campaign, helped to galvanize the civil rights movement in the nation and centuries of legal and de facto mistreatment of our fellow citizens.

In 1967, Killen was one of several men charged with violating the advocates' civil rights, but an all-white jury failed to convict Killen and only lightly sentenced 7 of the men involved. Prosecution in connection with the 1964 killings lay dormant for 40 years and would have continued to do so had Sarah Siegel, Allison Nichols, and Brittany Saltiel, students at Chicago's Stevenson High School, not prompted a reopening of the case.

Mr. Speaker, these young women chose the 1964 Goodman-Schwerner-Chaney case as the subject of their project for the National History Day competition last year. As many of our colleagues know, NHD programs target over half a million students throughout this country, promoting the teaching and study of American history. Entries to its yearly contest are chosen at the school, city and state level and consist of presentations of topics in American history based on themes developed by NHD. Students may prepare research papers, storyboards, video documentaries or performances on their subject.

The reopening of this long-dormant civil rights case demonstrates the NHD's dramatic impact on American historical literacy, and illustrates better than any other development the impact of the study of history on student understanding of and ability to affect world events. Through the creation and promotion of dynamic, participation-driven programs, NHD has changed the way that teachers present American history. Students who engage in NHD programs enjoy a boost in historical literacy and interest in matters of key historical interest.

Mr. Speaker, I am also very pleased that the Congress recently authorized federal support for the National History Day program. Under P.L. 108-474, the Secretary of Education may award grants to the NHD program, and we are very hopeful that he will do so. I know that we are joined in that wish by thousands of administrators, teachers, students and historians around the country who share our pride in NHD and in the work of these, and many other talented young students. With the added support of federal funding, NHD will be able to expand its commendable work of promoting historical literacy in our nation's schools.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sarah, Allison and Brittany for their work in publicizing the Goodman-Schwerner-Chaney case. Their research has not only improved our understanding of history; it has helped make history.

THE LIBERATION OF NAVASSA AND DESECHEO ISLANDS BEGINS ANew

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, regardless of the fact that the Federal Government holds land in trust for the American people, sadly it appears that what the people own, the people may not necessarily ever get to use.

Last year, I informed this House of the case of two tiny islands in the western Caribbean. It is a story worth repeating.

Navassa and Desecheo islands have interesting histories, but I doubt most Americans even know they exist, let alone that the islands are, in fact, part of our very own country.

The story of Navassa Island is a classic tale of American capitalism. It came to be part of America in the late 1800's through the mining and sale of petrified bird guano, yes, guano, as fertilizer. It is also the site of one of our Nation's early, ugly labor disputes. Over time, guano went out of fashion, but the outpost served a new purpose for 80 years, as a light source to guide ships through the islands of the Caribbean. In 1996, with the advent of new technologies, the lighthouse went dark. The property, however, remained part of the U.S.

Eventually that island and Desecheo Island, a former military training range, were incorporated into the National Wildlife Refuge system. The designation rightfully recognizes the unique qualities of the two islands, which are rich in uncommon plant and animal life. But, in turn, it has also led to their being essentially fenced off from the people who own them, the American public. For in fact, today, the Fish and Wildlife Service bars legal access to these two islands apparently under any circumstance.

That might be the end of the story, were it not for a group of Ham radio operators, who, after having been granted special use access to these public lands for 20 years, were suddenly denied permission to visit the islands to broadcast.

Indeed, for no sensible reason, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the same agency that had been granting access to these radio operators, arbitrarily reversed course and denied permits for a non-controversial recreational activity that had been approved for two decades of responsible and uneventful public use.

Not only did the agency cut off these broadcasters, it did so even after they agreed to assume all liability, to submit to any regulation or permit condition, and even to pay all administrative, management and travel costs for the Federal agency to remove all financial and logistical hurdles.

It has also come to my attention recently that Ham radio operators have also been denied access to the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge located off the California coast 28 miles from San Francisco, even though this refuge allows access by special use permits. Moreover, there are eight broadcast antennae already on one of the islands that provide radio communications and the transmission of weather and seismic information to the mainland.

This is an instance of outrageous administrative arrogance to deny permits for a recreational use that has been shown to be harmless to fish and wildlife. Public recreation at our National Wildlife Refuges is as much a part of the history of Refuge System as the critters themselves.

The Secretary of the Interior has been given congressional authority to grant special use permits for just such circumstances, when a public use is not incompatible with the purpose of the refuge. Yet, for some reason that escapes me, this Secretary will not budge. In the case of these two islands, the Secretary's discretionary powers amount to guano.