

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING NAPA VALLEY GRAPEGROWERS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers organization as it celebrates its 30th anniversary.

The Napa grapegrowers, or NVG as they are commonly referred to, started in 1975 as a group of 7 local farmers and now boasts over 400 members. Since that time the NVG has worked passionately with one goal in mind: to serve and protect the grapegrowers of the Napa Valley. The members of the NVG are dedicated, hard working individuals who care very deeply about the Napa Valley and the communities in which they live and work. They truly understand what it is that makes the Napa Valley so unique and special.

Mr. Speaker, the NVG has contributed to numerous efforts across the Napa valley and beyond, providing a powerful voice for grapegrowers in Sacramento and Washington, DC. In 1976, just one year after its foundation, the NVG played a crucial role in writing the rules that brought about the recognition of truly unique grapegrowing regions through the creation of the American Viticultural Area designation. As a result, these standards have enhanced the quality and reputation of Napa Valley Wines.

When not fighting for grapegrowers' rights, the NVG is busy on the home front conducting monthly forums, seminars, and outreach programs in order to educate the public on wine related issues. The NVG has always believed that educating its membership and the public is the best way to grow and protect their wonderful industry.

Most recently, the NVG has been an integral part of the Federal, State and local partnership that is fighting to stop the spread of the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter and Pierce's Disease. If it is not contained, Pierce's Disease, which is spread by the Sharpshooter, could threaten the life-blood of the Napa Valley's economy and California's \$45 billion a year wine industry.

Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of many outstanding individuals, the NVG has become a vital part of our local community. As a life long resident of the Napa Valley, I understand the many challenges of being a successful grapegrower and a responsible steward of our land. I speak for grapegrowers and citizens throughout the Napa Valley when I say that we are truly grateful to have the NVG looking out for our best interest. It is certainly appropriate that we take this time to recognize and honor the success of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers as they celebrate 30 years of service to the community.

REGARDING THE RECENT RUNNING OF THE HONOLULU MARATHON AND GREAT ALOHA RUN BY OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide some good news out of Afghanistan.

On December 11, 2004, members of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army organized and completed an Afghanistan adjunct to the Honolulu Marathon in the Tarin Kowt area of the country. Subsequently, on January 30, 2005, the 25th Infantry Division (Light) Headquarters Company personnel organized the running of Honolulu's Great Aloha Run in-country.

Both races were resounding successes. On February 15, 2005, I wrote to the President to ensure that he was aware that these events had occurred. I am including a copy of my letter to follow these remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and our colleagues are as impressed as me that members of our Armed Forces were able to organize and conduct such multi-faceted events, given the perilous security situation throughout most of the country and these soldiers' many other duties. I urge all other members to join me in lauding these troops for their accomplishments and spirit.

WASHINGTON, DC, *February 15, 2005.*

The Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States of America, The White House, Washington, DC

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: This is to ensure your awareness of two recent events in Hawaii and Afghanistan that I am sure you will agree represent the best of our country.

As you know, my Hawaii is ideally suited and dedicated to physical fitness. It is also home to a larger component of our country's armed forces, over 10,000 of whom are now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Two major events on Hawaii's outdoor calendar are the Honolulu Marathon, reportedly the third largest marathon event worldwide, and the Great Aloha Run, an event attracting thousands of residents and visitors. This year, the organizers of both events teamed with our military to recognize our troops serving overseas, many of whom participate in these and other events when they are home in Hawaii, in organizing and conducting these events in Afghanistan as well. Specifically, on December 11, 2004, Honolulu Marathon day, members of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, USA organized and completed the Honolulu Marathon—Afghanistan in the Tarin Kowt area of the country. And on January 30, 2005, Great Aloha Run day, the 25th Infantry Division (Light) Headquarters Company personnel organized the running of the Great Aloha Run—Afghanistan.

All 153 participants in the Honolulu Marathon—Afghanistan were treated like every finisher of the Marathon: each received the same medals, certificates and tee-shirts. An

official timing system was flown in and the finishing times were placed on the Marathon's website along with all other finishers from the race in Honolulu. I would like to highlight the reaction of the winner of the Marathon, First Lieutenant Mike Baskin; he burst into tears as he remembered his four fellow soldiers who had recently been killed.

While only military personnel ran in each race, those who ran in the Great Aloha Run—Afghanistan endured sub-freezing temperatures and, more importantly, raised money for local Afghan charities, including an orphanage in downtown Khowst. Because of its shorter distance, the race was conducted in four separate locations throughout the country, including Bagram Airfield and Forward Operating Base Salerno.

I wanted you not only to know of these heartwarming efforts, but also have the opportunity to provide whatever recognition you may wish to the organizers of both events in both Hawaii and Afghanistan and, more important, to our great troops, who demonstrated the finest spirit of our armed services under difficult circumstances. Mahalo nui loa!

With Aloha,

ED CASE,
*U.S. Congressman,
Hawaii's, Second District.*

IN RECOGNITION OF STAFF SERGEANT EUGENE WELSH

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2005

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Eugene Welsh. During World War II, Eugene Welsh served for 19 months in the Asia-Pacific Theater with the U.S. Army's 19th Infantry Regiment. In one single battle, he rose from the rank of private to staff sergeant and went on to fight in four more major combat actions. As a squad leader, he directed 12 men in combat. During his service, he received numerous wounds and each time was patched up and returned to duty.

Staff Sergeant Welsh's commitment to the United States Army and his fellow soldiers is truly commendable. Among the awards he received are the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry Badge. His actions during the Second World War exemplify the spirit of the infantry soldier go well beyond the call of duty and deserve nothing less than the highest recognition and honors.

Helping ease the burden of combat was a friend back home, Bettye Cavazos. The two wrote to each other as often as possible. Following the war, on June 14, 1946 the two were married and settled in Ceres, California where they raised two sons, Michael and Ronald. Ronald is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Welsh have eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

After the war, Mr. Welsh committed his life to his family and community. He was the owner of Ceres Body Shop and Towing for many years. During the 1950s he served as

• 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.

the commander of the American Legion's Ceres Post and was the Boys State chairman numerous times.

Among his recognitions and honors are Ceres Citizen of the Year, Rotarian of the Year and Stanislaus County Senior of the Year for the 5th District.

Mr. Speaker, it is among the finest traditions and honors to rise today and recognize Mr. Welsh. His commitment to our nation, our community and his family sets an example we all should seek to follow. I wish he and his family all the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY
MARANGOS AND THE
PANCYPRIAN ASSOCIATION'S
WOMEN'S ISSUES NETWORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of the Pancyprian Association's Women's Issues Network (WIN) on the occasion of its annual Woman of the Year Award dinner dance. WIN's 2005 honoree, Dr. Mary Marangos, is a longtime community leader and dedicated public servant.

WIN was founded in 1996 to serve the Cyprian-American community, promote the Hellenic Cypriot culture and provide opportunities for future generations of Cyprian women. The organization sponsors health lectures, health fairs, cultural events and breast and cervical cancer screening for women with no health insurance. Additionally, WIN has worked against the Turkish occupation of Cyprus since 1974.

This year, WIN is honoring the noted community leader and civic activist, Mary Marangos. Dr. Marangos has served the people of the New York's 14th Congressional District with distinction, providing a critical link between the residents of western Queens and their representation in the United States Congress. She has worked to gain access for New Yorkers to constituent services and educational and cultural programs in those communities. Active in numerous causes and community organizations, Dr. Marangos has devoted herself to the Women's Issues Network and other organizations that promote and protect the Hellenic culture.

Dr. Marangos is a recent retiree of the N.Y.C. Public School System where she has served as an educator, administrator and coordinator in vocational and alternative high schools; additionally, Dr. Marangos served as a coordinator of the G.E.D. program of the Vocational Training Center at LaGuardia Airport. Dr. Marangos also coordinated an AIDS Prevention Program on the high school level, training teachers on AIDS prevention instruction, organizing conferences and workshops on the epidemic and promoting staff development on the elementary level.

A graduate of the City's public school system, Dr. Marangos earned an Associate Degree in dental hygiene from Brooklyn Community College and a Bachelor of Science degree in dental hygiene/education from the New York State Education Department. Dr. Marangos went on to earn a Masters Degree in high school administration and supervision

from Fordham University and a Ph.D. from Florida State University in International-Intercultural Developmental Education under a U.S. Department of Education full fellowship.

The loving and devoted daughter of Pantelis Marangos from Kalavassos, Cyprus and Despina Kyriacou, descendant from Lesvos, Greece and Cyprus, Dr. Marangos was steadfast in her devotion to her parents.

Dr. Marangos truly exemplifies the tradition of community involvement that makes America the greatest nation in the world. On behalf of the residents of the Fourteenth Congressional District of New York, I would like to extend to Dr. Marangos, the Pancyprian Association and the Women's Issues Network my continuing respect, admiration and support.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this wonderful organization and its 2005 Woman of the Year, Dr. Mary Marangos.

EXPRESSING CONCERN WITH THE
CUTS IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET
OF THE SMALL BUSINESS AD-
MINISTRATION

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my continued disappointment with the proposed budget for the Small Business Administration. The budget request for fiscal year 2006 is \$593 million, nearly \$100 million below what was requested last year, representing a ten percent decline in program funding. These funding cuts are coming from some of the most important programs within the SBA, including the 7(a) loan program, Disaster Loan Program, and the Program for Investment in Microentrepreneurs (PRIME).

Mr. Speaker, I hope that as this House considers the budget resolution, we can remember the important service that the SBA provides to all of our constituents. To remind my colleagues of the importance of the SBA, I have included an article that appeared in the March 16, 2005 edition of the Honolulu Advertiser. Entitled "SBA Faces Budget Cuts," this article highlights several individuals in my home state whose businesses would not have survived without the timely assistance of the SBA.

[From the Honolulu Advertiser, Mar. 1, 2005]

SBA FACES BUDGET CUTS

(By Catherine E. Toth)

If Pablo Gonzalez didn't get \$30,000 worth of government-backed loans over the past five years, he would have had to shut down his juice bar.

Fortunately, the U.S. Small Business Administration provided guarantees for two loans—one in 2000, another in 2002—that allowed Gonzalez to expand his business.

Since then sales at Lanikai Juice Co. have increased nearly 15 percent every year, Gonzalez said. He hopes to open a second location sometime soon.

"As a small business, your chances to survive are more difficult," said Gonzalez, who moved to Hawai'i eight years ago from Barcelona, Spain. "You have to live with higher prices and less profit. . . . If it weren't for SBA, honestly, I don't think I'd still be here."

Nearly 20 million small businesses nationwide have benefited from technical assist-

ance, loans and grant programs offered by the SBA. Its current business loan portfolio of about 219,000 loans worth more than \$45 billion makes it the largest single financial backer of U.S. businesses in the nation.

But the agency may find it harder to carry out its mission next year if Congress approves proposed cuts to its fiscal 2006 budget.

The proposed budget for SBA is \$593 million, a 13 percent decline from the agency's 2005 request and a 36 percent drop over the past five years.

More than 50 small-business programs, including those in Hawai'i, are slated for cuts or elimination in the proposed budget, up from 35 last year.

Among those slated for elimination are the agency's Microloan program, its startup loan program for low-income entrepreneurs, and the SBIC Participating Securities program, its flagship venture capital program.

(As in fiscal 2005, the 7(a) loan guarantee program—the agency's primary business lending program—will not be subsidized. Instead of taxpayer funds, it will be sustained entirely on an increase in fees by lenders and borrowers.)

This doesn't bode well for entrepreneurs who can't get conventional loans, especially with the Hawai'i Community Loan Fund, a lender of last resort, filing for bankruptcy last month.

"(The Microloan program) is very worthwhile because you're helping people who couldn't get a start," said Dr. Tin Myaing Thein, executive director of the Pacific Gateway Center, which administers SBA's microloans. "This is for people who don't have a chance with the bank, who would have no chance at all to start their own business. We have so many success stories here."

Abracadabra Cabinets at Campbell Industrial Park fell into a slump after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. Owner Joanne Gibeault needed some extra cash to keep her business going.

But she couldn't get a loan or a line of credit from her bank. So she turned to SBA.

Through the agency's Community Express loan program, which offers microloans to small-business owners, Gibeault got \$15,000 last year to pay bills and grow her business.

Since then the business has grown nearly 50 percent, she said. Her biggest problem now is finding experienced cabinet-makers to hire.

"We had a hard time recovering after 9/11, like everybody did, but it took a little longer for us to catch up," said Gibeault, who lives in Makakilo. "We struggled for a while. . . . The loan was just enough to get us over and keep the business going."

Gibeault started her custom cabinet company 10 years ago in Kailua. A journeyman cabinet maker, Gibeault had no experience operating a business. She took classes and attended seminars offered by the Hawai'i Women's Business Center.

Funding for these centers also is slated for cuts in the proposed budget.

"I can build stuff," Gibeault said. "But I didn't know how to run a business when I started. These programs are definitely needed."

As with the Women's Business Centers, funding for the agency's Small Business Development Centers may be cut or, at the least, remain flat, despite a request to increase its funding to \$109 million from \$88 million the year prior, said SBDC state director Darryl Mleynek.

The Hawai'i SBDC receives \$500,000 from the federal government and \$638,000 from the state annually. That amount hasn't changed for more than five years.

This year the Hawai'i SBDC requested another \$584,000 in funding from the state to help with growing operating costs. Expenses