

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the many police and peace officers across this country who have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep our families and our communities safe, and to lend my support to H. Con. Res. 135, which authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

During this year's service, on May 15, our nation will honor one more fallen hero from Minnesota's Capital City. Last week my community was stunned and saddened by the death of St. Paul Police Sgt. Gerald Vick, who was killed in an act of senseless violence in the line of duty. Sgt. Vick knew well the dangers of his job, yet he exemplified the great bravery and selfless commitment of our city's finest.

After graduating from St. Paul's police academy in 1989, Sgt. Vick's career had "upward mobility," written all over it, according to the city's former chief of police. His personnel file was filled with approving letters from the chief. Sgt. Vick went above and beyond to protect our community and keep it a safe and healthy place to raise a family. After being promoted to sergeant in 1999 where he could have taken a much safer desk job, he only wanted to get back on the streets to the part of the job he love the most—working with the community.

Twice Sgt. Vick was awarded the St. Paul Police Department's highest honor, the Medal of Valor. The first time was in 1990 when he saved an infant from a burning building, then again in 1997 when he shot and killed an armed robbery suspect who pulled a gun on him. Sgt. Vick served for 16 years on the Saint Paul police force and was a true public servant. Jerry died on May 6, 2005 protecting the community—the job he loved so much. He will be deeply missed by his family, his friends, and his fellow officers.

I wish to express my sincere condolences as well as my thoughts and prayers to all those who loved and worked with Sgt. Gerald Vick.

SUSAN EDGERTON PRAISED FOR SERVICE TO VETERANS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to publicly recognize and express the gratitude of many in Congress and the veterans' commu-

nity to Susan Edgerton, Democratic Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Veterans Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Susan is leaving the Committee staff after more than 8 years of service, and what she has accomplished in that relatively brief time has literally touched every corner of the body of law covering veterans' health care services. Her achievements have had profound impact on both the VA health care system and the lives of those who enter the doors of its facilities. Prominent among her accomplishments are a heightened focus on mental health, long-term care and specialized services for veterans, access to emergency care and chiropractic care for veterans, comprehensive services for homeless veterans, and improved pay for VA physicians, nurses and dentists. She has been a principal player in assisting Members of Congress in the struggle to acquire adequate VA health care funding.

Before joining the Committee staff, Susan was the Program Director of Health Policy for Paralyzed Veterans of America here in Washington. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and received a Masters of Science in Public Health in Health Policy and Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She has used that education well. Like the majority of successful public servants, Susan has quietly and diligently toiled behind the scenes to improve the lot of those she serves. With great compassion and impressive political and legislative acumen, Susan has made her mark in and on this body, garnering tremendous respect and trust on both sides of the aisle, and also from her colleagues in the Senate and throughout the veterans' affairs community. She has been an extraordinary asset to me, to my staff, and most important, to the noble mission of caring for veterans and their families. I will miss her, and so will a great number of others in this chamber and beyond.

I know my colleagues will join with me in wishing Susan Edgerton well in her next and all future endeavors, and in thanking her for a job exceptionally well done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIONS CLUB OF WEBSTER GROVES, MO

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Lions Club of Webster Groves, Missouri, in this, the year of its 80th anniversary. Since its establishment on March 12, 1925, the Lions Club has demonstrated a deep concern and commitment to the well-being of the community.

For the past 29 years, the Lions Club has held a summertime "Carnival & Barbecue." Since 1960, it has been an integral part of the

July 4th celebration in Webster Groves known as "Community Days." The Webster Lions provide amusement rides, midway booths, and delicious barbecued food over 4 days of family fun and wholesome festivities.

In recent years, the Lions Club has expanded its community involvement by donating their time and resources to support events such as "Make a Difference Day," the Fire Department's "Open House," the Police Department's "Public Safety Day," the "Opening Day" of the Youth Baseball and Softball Season, and an annual "Diabetes Screening & Information Day."

The generosity of the Lions Club can be seen throughout the community with the construction of new tennis courts, wading pools, scoreboards, and bathrooms in parks. Some of these items, including the 1939 Flagpole in Ruhe Park, have been symbols of the fine community of Webster Groves for generations.

Furthermore, the Lions Club motto of "we serve" has reached beyond the tangible. More than 50 organizations and programs, including the Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, Webster Groves Historical Society, various college scholarships, and Meals on Wheels, all receive annual financial contributions, the sum of which has exceeded \$2 million.

Today, the Lions Club of Webster Groves remain an integral part of the community.

Whether fostering civic improvement or donating time, money and effort, they are to be commended. I am honored to stand here today in recognition of the past 80 years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERV- ICE OF MS. MARCELLE FORTIER CITRON

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great achievements and selfless service of Ms. Marcelle Fortier Citron of Lafayette, Louisiana. Ms. Citron has been helping the people of Acadiana for over fifty years. She began her service work in 1950, when she served as the co-chair for the Hospital Dental Clinic for Under-Privileged Children. During the 1950s she helped establish the Lafayette Day Nurseries, where underprivileged mothers could leave their children when they had to go to work. In 1962, Ms. Citron helped found the Pink Ladies and Candy Strippers for the Lafayette Sanitarium at the Lafayette General Hospital. She then served as the organization's president for three and a half years.

In 1982, Ms. Citron became a board member of the Faith House Battered Women's Shelter. She served on the board for nine years, including two as president. Frequently, Ms. Citron would provide shelter in her own home for the women and the families that

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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.

sought refuge at Faith House. During her time with the Faith House, it was recognized as one of the top five model shelters in the country by the Homeless in America Project. Even today Ms. Citron remains in touch with many of those she helped through the Faith House and often provides them with necessities.

In the late 1980s, Ms. Citron founded two non-profit organizations that have done immeasurable good for Acadiana. Foodnet was created in 1987. Foodnet provides food and necessities for lower income residents in Acadiana's eight parishes. During its eighteen years of existence, Foodnet has collected over 30,000 tons of food for the thirty food distribution agencies it supports. In 1989 Ms. Citron also founded Project RX, a program which provides free prescription drugs for those in financial distress. Today, this organization helps hundreds of needy obtain important and critical medications.

In recognition of her service, Ms. Citron has received numerous service awards. In 1990 she was named Outstanding Woman by the Business and Professional Women Association. She was then named Rotarian of the Year in 1991. Ms. Citron has also been awarded the Lafayette Civic Cup. Though she has received so much deserved notice of her great service, Ms. Citron nonetheless prefers to remain in the background of her organizations. She works not for public recognition but rather solely for the public good. I applaud Ms. Citron's work and commend the shining example of personal charity and kindness she sets for Acadiana.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION
TARGETING DEMOCRATIC TAIWAN

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, on March 14, China's unelected Parliament passed its Anti-Secession Law targeted at Taiwan. Later that month, Taiwanese citizens took to the streets protesting the law, while senior U.S. administration officials and U.S. Congress repeatedly and on many occasions expressed their grave concern regarding the passage of the Chinese legislation. The European Union has also decided not to lift its arms embargo against China at this time.

Clearly, the Chinese anti-secession legislation has impeded cross-strait dialogue, threatened peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and, more importantly, allowed the world to see the true nature of the Chinese Communist Party. It is a party that hasn't changed much from the days of the Tiananmen massacre in 1989.

Indeed, despite China's recent economic growth and prosperity, China remains authoritarian. The Chinese Communist Party is the supreme source of power. Human rights violations are widespread, stemming from the authorities' intolerance of dissent, fear of unrest, and the absence of laws protecting basic freedoms. Abuses include torture and mistreatment of prisoners, forced confessions, and arbitrary and lengthy incommunicado detention. Prison conditions are harsh. The government has placed severe restrictions on freedom of speech, the press, assembly, association, reli-

gion and privacy. In many cases, the judicial system denies criminal defendants basic legal safeguards and due process. Thousands of people are detained or serving sentences for "counterrevolutionary crimes" or "crimes against the state," including those arrested for issuing petitions or open letters calling for reforms and greater democracy.

For the sake of peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region, especially in the Taiwan Strait, I therefore urge President Hu Jin-tao to rescind the Anti-Secession Law and improve China's dismal human rights record. As a start, China should censure its bloody Tiananmen crackdown, reverse its verdict on June 4th and release the more than 250 political prisoners jailed for their involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy movement.

China's Anti-Secession Law and human rights abuses need to be recognized by the world for what they are: antiquated measures to impose China's rule on its neighbor and its own people. If China wants to be recognized as a world power, it must act responsibly in a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue and correcting human rights at home.

RECOGNIZING THE SPRINGVILLE-
GRIFFITH INSTITUTE AND
SPRINGFIELD-GRIFFITH INSTI-
TUTE CENTRAL SCHOOL DIS-
TRICT ON 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Springville-Griffith Institute and Springville-Griffith Institute Central School District on the occasion of its 175th Anniversary. As a proud graduate of Springville-Griffith Institute, I know firsthand the dedication that the teachers, administrators and staff bring to providing a top-notch education for their students.

Springville Academy was organized in 1825. After Dewitt Clinton penned the school's incorporation in 1827, it opened its doors in 1830, making it the first high school in Erie County. The original school building was a modest one, with most of the funds used to build the school coming from community donations.

From the time of its inception, Springville Academy became an educational cornerstone of both Springville and Western New York, drawing students from all across the region. By 1849, there were 110 boys and 100 girls attending the school. In 1867, the school became known as the Griffith Institute in recognition of a scholarship gift from Archibald Griffith. As the years passed, the school and its student population grew, as did its reputation for providing a quality education. Today, the district boasts an enrollment of over 2,300 students.

Over the past 175 years, the Springville-Griffith Institute has touched the lives of thousands of students, their families, our community and our nation. Notable graduates of the school include: author and statesmen Clark E. Carr, who suggested that his close friend, President Abraham Lincoln, be invited to speak at Gettysburg; Ralph B. Waite, who brought the world "painless dentistry" through the introduction of Novocain; and Glen S.

"Pop" Warner, the man who introduced protective padding, numbered plays and jerseys, and who pioneered the forward pass, spiral, forever changing the game of football.

Schools are cornerstones of our communities, and nowhere is that more true than in Springville, New York. Throughout its history, the Griffith Institute's staff—past and present—have helped shape and positively influence thousands of local students, and continue to do so today. We in Western New York appreciate all that the Springville-Griffith Institute has done to educate generations of children, and we hope for many more successful years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Springville Academy, Griffith Institute, and Springville-Griffith Institute Central School District.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1268,
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DE-
FENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON
TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF
ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, every member of this House supports providing our troops, their families and the veterans who have returned from service in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other active military and intelligence operations in other countries require planning, budgeting and congressional oversight to ensure the best and most effective use of taxpayer dollars in order to keep our troops and all Americans safe and protected.

Unfortunately, the Conference Agreement on the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriation, H.R. 1268, is a testament to poor planning, the complete absence of competent budgeting and, worst of all, the exploitation by this Congress of the needs of our troops to pass a grab bag of political pork and exploitive public policy. To add insult to injury, every dollar in this \$82 billion bill is borrowed and will be added to our nation's debt—eventually paid for by future generations.

My vote against this bill is a reflection of the inept, incompetent and deliberately misleading policies of the Bush Administration and the Republican controlled Congress. At every point in this war in Iraq, from pre-emptive war to the on-going occupation, there has been a shameless disregard for honesty and a complete failure of meaningful, constructive congressional oversight. With, almost 1,700 lives lost, thousands wounded, some \$212 billion spent in Iraq and at least \$65 billion spent in Afghanistan to date, Americans should expect Congress to be engaged and conducting vigorous oversight, not playing political games.

Where is the courage, or at least the outrage, among members of this House to stand up and say enough is enough. Let us pass an appropriations bill to provide the courageous U.S. servicemen and women risking their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan with the tools to protect themselves, achieve their mission and