

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JOSEPH DiMENNA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the community of Stratford, Connecticut as they pay tribute to an outstanding member of their community, Joseph DiMenna. After 51 years of dedicated service, Joe DiMenna will retire from his distinguished career in education.

I have often spoken of our Nation's need for talented, creative educators ready to help our children learn and grow. Joe DiMenna has been just that kind of teacher and administrator. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in education from Western Connecticut State University, Mr. DiMenna began his teaching career at the Eli Whitney School where he taught fourth grade. During his time as a teacher, he taught at a variety of levels as well as teaching Americanization and summer school in Bridgeport. Upon being awarded a National Science Fellowship in Geology and Astronomy, he spent a summer in class and field study at the Delaware Water Gap. Through his unique dedication to education, both for his students and himself, Joe DiMenna exemplified all that we look for in a teacher.

After further pursuing his studies at the University of Connecticut and Southern Connecticut State University, Mr. DiMenna received his masters and sixth year degrees from Fairfield University. He would first serve as principal of the old Honeyspot School in Stratford where he oversaw the construction of the new Honeyspot School. On moving day, he joined with his students as they carried their desks from the old building to the new. Upon leaving Honeyspot, he would go on to serve as principal at Eli Whitney School, Chapel Street School, and Second Hill Lane School. Over the course of his 51-year career, Joe DiMenna has served with both integrity and distinction, earning him the respect of faculty, administrators, and Board of Education members. His dedication, commitment, and energy has touched the lives of thousands of our young people, helping to shape not only the foundation of their education but their character as well. We, as a community, owe Joe DiMenna a great debt of gratitude for all of his good work.

I am proud to stand today to join his wife of 47 years, Frances, their two sons, three grandchildren, family, friends, colleagues and community members in extending my very best wishes to Joseph DiMenna as he celebrates his retirement. I understand that Joe and Frances plan to travel more extensively, opening new opportunities for learning and teaching. My very best wishes to them for many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING AWARD-WINNING SUSTAINABLE HOUSING AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

HON. SAM FARR
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jennifer Tobias and Stanford University's Green Dorm team for winning the Environmental Protection Agency's 2006 P3 award.

Tobias and her colleagues designed a sustainable facility for research, housing, and community space. The building forges together practical functionality while eliminating carbon emissions, closing the water cycle, and optimizing material resources.

This national competition, sponsored by EPA's Office of Research and Development, enables college students to research, develop and design scientific, technical, and policy solutions to sustainability challenges. Sustainable solutions are environmentally friendly, efficiently use natural resources and are economically competitive. The P3 award includes funding up to \$75,000 that gives the students an opportunity to further develop their designs and move them to the marketplace.

I commend Jennifer and her colleagues for their innovative project design, and I hope they continue their important research and development on sustainable solutions to human endeavors. Jennifer and her colleagues are role-models who demonstrate that environmental and economical interests can be brought together in tomorrow's designs.

CELEBRATING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANTA BARBARA SCHOOL DISTRICTS

HON. LOIS CAPPS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Santa Barbara School Districts as we celebrate the 140th anniversary of their founding on June 6, 1866.

Santa Barbara's educational tradition is one of the oldest in the state. This tradition is rooted in the 18th century Spanish era where historical records indicate that in 1795 Santa Barbara had the second school in Alta, California (San Jose had the first, which was opened one year earlier). Santa Barbara's first school was located at the Presidio where the teacher was paid \$125 per year, with each soldier of the Presidio paying a tribute of one dollar toward the teacher's salary.

When the Santa Barbara School District was formed in 1866, County Superintendent Alpheus B. Thompson reported that there were three school districts in Santa Barbara County: San Buenaventura, Montecito and

Santa Barbara. By 1866, the schools had moved from county control to control by the electorate of the city.

The three school districts had two schools each and together there were a total of six teachers. By 1867, the three districts served 340 students, with 243 of them in the Santa Barbara district. The average salary in the county was \$70 per month for male teachers and \$62 per month for female teachers and the length of the school year varied from 3 to 5 months.

In 1870 a new school house was built on Cota Street and the first playground was established in the city. The playground was turned over to the school by the city council after the school trustees agreed to plant at least 20 shade trees and care for their growth. Voters decided, in April of 1870, to impose a tax to construct Lincoln School. In 1884, Eugene Fawcett sold a tract of land to the school district for the construction of Franklin School. The school district paid \$1,000 for the property where Parma School is located.

As a former school nurse in the Santa Barbara school district, I am absolutely delighted to celebrate the 140 years of strong public education that the district has provided. I am proud of the district for its vision and dedication to quality over the years and I look forward to the continued success of the district and its many programs. Congratulations on 140 years well done!

TALL AFAR MAYOR AND TROOP BRAVERY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to commend one of the bravest acts of personal courage that I have seen in many years.

In the face of deadly car bombings, suicide attacks and assassination attempts, there are some Iraqi leaders who are willing to tell the truth about the successes of our American troops in Iraq and to share the stories of their generosity and courage.

Earlier this month, one of my constituents named Roger Hattersley sent me a letter written by the mayor of Tall Afar, Iraq. Roger's son is an enlisted soldier serving in Iraq as part of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and had sent his father a copy of this letter.

Having personally visited Tall Afar just this winter on a CODEL with the Government Reform Committee, I was very interested to read what the mayor had to say.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to read the letter here on the House floor so that all Americans can hear the bravery and courage of Mayor Najim Abdullah Abid Al-Jibouri and also the good works of our young men and women in uniform.

To the courageous men and women of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, who have

● 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.

changed the city of Tall Afar from a ghost town, in which terrorists spread death and destruction, to a secure city flourishing with life.

To the lion-hearts who liberated our city from the grasp of terrorists who were beheading men, women and children in the streets for many months, to those who spread smiles on the faces of our children, and gave us restored hope, through their personal sacrifice and brave fighting, and gave new life to the city after hopelessness darkened our days, and stole our confidence in our ability to reestablish our city.

Our city was the main base of operations for Abu Mousab Al Zarqa wi. The city was completely held hostage in the hands of his henchmen. Our schools, governmental services, businesses and offices were closed. Our streets were silent, and no one dared to walk them. Our people were barricaded in their homes out of fear; death awaited them around every corner, terrorists occupied and controlled the only hospital in the city. Their savagery reached such a level that they stuffed the corpses of children with explosives and tossed them into the streets in order to kill grieving parents attempting to retrieve the bodies of their young. This was the situation of our city until God prepared and delivered unto them the courageous soldiers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, who liberated this city, ridding it of Zarqawi's followers after harsh fighting, killing many terrorists, and forcing the remaining butchers to flee the city like rats to the surrounding areas, where the bravery of other 3rd ACR soldiers in Sinjar, Rabiaft, Zumar and Avgani finally destroyed them.

I have met many soldiers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment; they are not only courageous men and women, but avenging angels sent by the God himself to fight the evil of terrorism.

The leaders of this regiment; COL McMaster, COL Armstrong, LTC Hickey, LTC Gibson, and LTC Reilly embody courage, strength, vision and wisdom. Officers and soldiers alike bristle with the confidence and character of knights in a bygone era. The mission they have accomplished, by means of a unique military operation, stands among the finest military feats to date in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and truly deserves to be studied in military science. This military operation was clean, with little collateral damage, despite the ferocity of the enemy. With the skill and precision of surgeons they dealt with the terrorist cancers in the city without causing unnecessary damage!

God bless this brave regiment; God bless the families who dedicated these brave men and women. From the bottom of our hearts we thank the families. They have given us something we will never forget. To the families of those who have given their holy blood for our land, we all bow to you in reverence and to the souls of your loved ones. Their sacrifice was not in vain. They are not dead, but alive, and their souls hovering around us every second of every minute. They will never be forgotten for giving their precious lives. They have sacrificed that which is most valuable. We see them in the smile of every child, and in every flower growing in this land. Let America, their families, and the world be proud of their sacrifice for humanity and life.

Finally, no matter how much I write or speak about this brave regiment, I haven't the words to describe the courage of its officers and soldiers. I pray to God to grant happiness and health to these legendary heroes and their brave families.

Mr. Speaker, as you have just heard, the mayor of Tall Afar exhibited personal courage

in daring to speak out in support of American troops.

I recently read in the papers of a horrific homicide bomber who attacked a police recruitment station in Tall Afar.

The terrorist killed more than 20 Iraqis, and there is no doubt in my mind that this attack was motivated in part by the outspoken support for the American 3rd Armored Cavalry regiment by the mayor.

My constituent Roger Hattersley and I spoke about his son and his service in Iraq. He told me that like so many of the young men and women serving there, his son is totally committed to the cause of freedom and liberty in this far away land.

It is heartwarming for me to read the words of mayor Al-Jibouri. It is clear that he is willing to put his life on the line to recognize the commitment and bravery of our men and women in uniform.

While you will probably never hear about the courage of mayor Al-Jibouri on the evening news or in your local newspaper, I wanted to take this opportunity tonight to make sure that the mayor received recognition for his outspokenness and honesty.

Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to say how much I support the mission and work of our troops, especially the 3rd Armored Cavalry regiment.

CONGRATULATING JAMES A. MAGEE WHO WAS CHOSEN TO BE GUEST OF HONOR AT A TESTIMONIAL DINNER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my distinguished colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to James A. Magee, of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, who was honored recently by the Bloomsburg Chapter of the American Red Cross at a testimonial dinner.

Born in Bloomsburg on August 20, 1928, to Harry L. and Alice Hartman Magee, he attended Bloomsburg public schools and went on to higher education at Gettysburg College and the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science.

Mr. Magee served our Nation on active duty in the United States Army from 1952 to 1954 and in the Army Reserves from 1954 to 1956.

He married Audrey Rehm and had three children, Drue A. Magee and James R. Magee, both of Bloomsburg and Elizabeth Hausske, of Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Magee also has a sister, Joanne Katerman, of Bloomsburg.

Mr. Magee started working in the family carpet business in 1950. He was elected president of the Magee Carpet Company in 1969. In 1967, Magee Industrial Enterprises, Inc. was created and, in 1976, was merged with and became the parent company of Magee Carpet Company. Mr. Magee continued as president of the parent corporation until his retirement in 1993.

Mr. Magee was involved in numerous service and community organizations. He was a director of the First Columbia Bank and Trust Company; Bloomsburg Area Industrial Devel-

opment Association; Bloomsburg Water Company; Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, Ben Franklin Partnership and the Carpet and Rug Institute.

He served as a member of the executive committee of the Columbia-Montour Council of the Boy Scouts of America; was a trustee of Wesley United Methodist Church and was vice president of the Bloomsburg Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Magee also served as president of the Magee Christian Education Foundation, Bloomsburg Rotary Club and the Bloomsburg Hospital.

One of Bloomsburg's first "Men of the Year," Mr. Magee was awarded the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award in 1987 and the Bloomsburg University Medallion Award in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating James A. Magee on this auspicious occasion. His business acumen and devotion to community service has provided the greater Bloomsburg region with exceptional leadership for more than 40 years. Without a doubt, Mr. Magee has greatly improved the quality of life for thousands of people during his very fruitful career.

HONORING JUANA SEQUEIRA SOLIS ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise tonight to honor my mother, Juana Sequeira Solis, who celebrated her 80th birthday yesterday.

My mom was born in Jinotega, Nicaragua, on June 5, 1928, to Ramon Sequeira Arauz and Lucia Diaz Möller. As a young child, she faced many obstacles due to the death of her father Ramon. At the age of 17, she immigrated to the United States and resided for a time in New Orleans, LA. After a few years, she moved to Los Angeles, CA, where she met her husband Raul Sanchez Solis. They married in 1953, and had 7 children, which led to 10 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren. While raising her children in La Puente, CA, she took classes to improve her English and culinary skills. In addition, she was active in the PTA at the schools attended by her children.

When the youngest of her children turned 5, my mom began work at Mattel Inc. After 22 years of service, Juana retired from her job as an assembler. Although she had a double shift, working full-time and raising a large family along with her husband, she never regretted the sacrifices she made to maintain family cohesion, which has been a major driving force in her life.

Throughout her life, my mom made every effort to instill strong values in her children, including a strong work ethic and the ability to overcome adversity. Her life demonstrates that people can rise above unfortunate circumstances and humble beginnings. She has proven this by her charity work with the elderly residents of her neighborhood and others in need. The abundance of compassion and love that she has to offer to others has been unrestricted throughout her life and she has modeled qualities that have been inculcated in everyone she comes in contact with.