

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, due to travel restrictions I was unable to vote on H.R. 4843, the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006. If I were here I would have voted in favor of the legislation.

A cost of living adjustment is the least we can do for our veterans. They, and their families, sacrifice a lot to protect our freedoms and rights. Our nation has a responsibility to take care of our veterans.

Surviving spouses of veterans whose deaths were service-connected and their children will benefit from the increase. We must remember when a soldier dies it is our responsibility to take care of their family. It is our duty.

I am hopeful that this is the first of other increases for our veterans. We would all like to see more funding for healthcare and other programs but unfortunately the House leadership doesn't place the emphasis on funding as strongly as I do.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A.
MACPHERSON

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with pride today to honor my constituent Robert A. Macpherson, recipient of the 2006 Federal Highway Administration's Excellence in Right of Way Award in the Leadership category. This biennial national award is given to one individual who has demonstrated excellence in leadership and made outstanding innovations in the field of right of way.

The prestigious award was presented to Mr. Macpherson by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and FHWA Right of Way and Utilities. This honor recognizes Mr. Macpherson's significant contributions to his profession that have helped to streamline the process of real property acquisition, making it easier to acquire property while protecting the rights of owners and tenants.

Mr. Macpherson has been a dedicated employee of the California Department of Transportation for over 40 years. During his tenure with the department he has served the people of California in many capacities, most recently as the District 4 Deputy Director for Right of Way and Right of Way Engineering and Surveys.

In addition to his longtime service to the California Department of Transportation, Mr. Macpherson has volunteered for the Boy Scouts of America for over 25 years. He is the father of four and resides in San Rafael with his wife of 46 years.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Macpherson is a shining example of the benefits that hard working and creative individuals can contribute not only to the state of California but to the country. It is my pleasure to honor him for the receipt of the 2006 Federal Highway Administration's Excel-

lence in Right of Way Award. I have no doubt that he will continue to serve his community as an example of effective and dedicated leadership.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HIV
TESTING DAY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the occasion of National HIV Testing Day.

Mr. Speaker, more than one million Americans are currently living with HIV/AIDS. Of those, an estimated 320,000 people do not even realize that they carry the virus. Another 40,000 new transmissions are occurring every year in the United States, about half of which result from individuals who are unaware they are infecting others.

Today, June 27, 2006, is National HIV Testing Day, which gives us an opportunity as a Nation to pause to acknowledge the terrible toll that HIV is taking on America and to recommit ourselves to the eradication of this terrible disease. Most importantly, perhaps, National HIV Testing Day is an occasion on which we reiterate our commitment to testing vulnerable Americans for HIV as a first step towards providing counseling, offering treatment and bringing an end to the spread of AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to note that one of the nation's leading manufacturers of HIV rapid test kits, Chembio Diagnostics, is located in Medford, New York, which happens to be in my district. For years, Chembio has been a major provider of HIV test kits across the globe, and recently they secured FDA approval to sell their test kits in the United States. For those employees in my district who engage in the important business of promoting testing for HIV, this day is of particular significance.

In his 2006 State of the Union address, President Bush proposed to direct \$93 million to the purchase and distribution of rapid HIV test kits for use in areas of the country with the highest rates of newly discovered HIV cases and the highest suspected rates of undetected cases. In response, we recently appropriated \$63 million for this program. I strongly support the President's new testing initiative and the increased importance placed upon testing as part of the continuum of care and treatment we provide for HIV/AIDS patients in this country.

For too long, testing has been an afterthought rather than a priority. I sincerely hope this is an area where we can find bipartisan agreement and move swiftly to provide more resources to prevent the spread of AIDS in the coming year and beyond. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in observation of National HIV Testing Day and in recognition of Chembio's break-through achievement in this critically important, life-saving field.

ORDINARY MAN, EXTRAORDINARY
DAD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, "Just a truck driver and daddy from Florida" is how Mark Lunsford describes himself. Being a single father, he worked many long, hard miles on the road to provide a good life for his children. He is just an average Joe. He has always loved his kids with every fiber of his being and he always made sure they were safe.

Nine-year-old Jessica, or "Jessie" as her daddy calls her, lived with Mark and his parents, where she could be closely watched and protected, even when he was on the road. She was a bright, energetic child who loved her grandparents, adored her father, and had been spared of the darkness of society. That beautiful innocence, however, was violently shattered in the dark of night on February 23, 2005.

Unbeknownst to Mark and his parents, a serial-convicted sex offender lurked right across the street. This vile snake laid in wait, slithered into the Lunsford home, and abducted little Jessica from her own bed. He took her safety, he took her innocence, and in the end, he took her life. Sadly, one month later, the devastating discovery of Jessica Lunsford occurred.

As any father would be, Mark was inconsolable at the news of his daughter's death. Mark realized, however, that he had to prevent another father from feeling this immense grief and another child from experiencing such violence. Mark immediately began working with the Florida State Legislators in enacting legislation aptly named, "Jessica's Law." "Jessica's Law" requires a minimum sentence of 25 years incarceration for first time sexual offenders of children. The law also requires that these predators must be monitored for life, if they are released from prison.

A man who never imagined that he would be involved in politics, Mark became Jessica's voice throughout State governments. His fatherly instincts drove his passion to protect our Nation's children from these dangerous sexual predators lurking among us. During the last 15 months, due to his dedication, "Jessica's Law" has been enacted in 16 States, with 9 additional States enacting legislation similar to Jessica's Law." He is soft-spoken about his achievements and accomplishments, maintaining his victories are "Only Jessie's." He has stated to me on many occasions, he will not stop until every State enacts "Jessica's Law." Her memory is his strength.

On Tuesday, June 20, 2006, Mark was awarded the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in public and community service—The Jefferson Award. Specifically, he was awarded the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award for Outstanding Public Service Benefiting the Local Community. This award was named after Jefferson Award co-founder, and former First Lady, Jacqueline Kennedy, and is considered to be one of the most prestigious of all of the Jefferson Awards.

Mr. Speaker, as a father and grandfather to 6 girls, Mark's devastating loss hits very close to home. I have the privilege of knowing Mark and consider him one of my good friends. He

was a man who never imagined such a horrific tragedy could befall his daughter, and that his family could be victimized so cruelly; however, he refused to stand there and do nothing. He became an advocate; he became Jessica's voice. This ordinary man became an extraordinary dad and I am truly honored to pay him this tribute.

That's just the way it is.

HONORING JOSEPH H. HALLISSEY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to and celebrate the storied career of Joseph H. Hallissey. His 60 years of remarkable leadership, in positions at the YMCA, Hallissey Travel, the Dearborn Public Schools, and the Henry Ford Community College, more than distinguish Mr. Hallissey as a truly impassioned and accomplished citizen.

After serving his country as an officer in the United States Air Force from 1950 to 1953, Mr. Hallissey excelled in his time at the YMCA, as well as in his years as a travel agent during which time he served as President, Trustee, and General Congress Chairperson for the American Society of Travel Agents. Mr. Hallissey was honored as Travel Agent of the Year by the 30,000 member American Society of Travel agents, and "Travel Person of the Year" for his efforts in founding the Institute of Certified Travel Agents in Detroit.

While Mr. Hallissey was indeed an invaluable aid to those who wished to escape for a short time, his work in that area was, and continues to be, equaled only by his ceaseless effort to better the lives of those around him. Through the years he has served on numerous committees supporting public education, the Dearborn Public Schools, and Henry Ford Community College, and co-chaired seven campaigns generating hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for these institutions. He has also served on the Board of Directors and fundraising campaigns for countless community organizations, among them: Centurions of Dearborn, Dearborn Chamber of Commerce, Dearborn Goodfellows, Dearborn Rotary Club, Fairlane Club, Henry Ford Hospital, and Inter-service Club Council of Dearborn.

Mr. Hallissey and his lovely wife Veronica have been recognized for their longstanding support of public education by having the Dearborn Public Schools' Miller Element School Library Resource Center and the Henry Ford Community College North Hall dedicated in their honor. Mr. Hallissey's commitment to public education was also clearly expressed as he excelled during his career as Coordinator of Community Relations and Ventures in Partnership Coordinator for the Dearborn Public Schools, as well as in his career as Director of the Henry Ford Community College Office of Development. He also serves as chairperson for the Scholarship Committee of the University of Michigan Alumni Club of the Greater Detroit and reviews hundreds of scholarship applications annually.

Admittedly, I am not the first of those who have found it fit to admire Mr. Hallissey's compassionate contributions. He has been hon-

ored by many organizations for his community volunteer efforts, receiving the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" Award, the Dearborn Rotary Distinguished Community Service Award, the Dearborn Inter-Service Club Council "Member of the Year" Award, the Henry Ford Community College Distinguished Service Award on two occasions in 1976 and 1991, and the Henry Ford Community College President's award. Joseph Hallissey's commitment to bettering the lives of those around him, and endless efforts to create a vibrant, outreaching educational community, will not soon be forgotten. I would like to thank Joseph Hallissey for his ceaseless and industrious humanitarian accomplishments over the past 60 years, and would ask that all my colleagues rise to wish him the best for a long and rewarding retirement.

FOR JOB WELL DONE DURING CITIZENSHIP DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to thank our staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication in holding one of our most successful Citizenship Days.

Citizenship Day is an event that our office has held for the past 12 years. It is an event that assists legal residents in becoming Citizens. Since 1994 this event has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've had since becoming a Member of Congress. To be able to assist someone in their dream of becoming a citizen of this great Nation is truly amazing. This year we were able to assist over 320 people process their applications for citizenship.

In order to become a citizen, one must go through a series of stages to fully complete their application forms. Our office assists these very people by setting up a one-stop application processing opportunity. We set up various stages where applicants were able to get assistance in filling out the application form, take the necessary pictures, purchase a cashiers check for the application fee, speak with and receive quality control of their application from an immigration attorney, and the postal service provided the opportunity to send their citizenship application by certified mail.

None of this would have been possible without the help of our wonderful volunteers that took time from their families to be with us on this great day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), J.P. Morgan Chase, NALCO, LULAC, the U.S. Postal Service and Mamacita's Restaurant for their dedication to the community and for the intricate role they played in assisting many of our residents fulfill their dreams of becoming U.S. Citizens.

I would also like to give a special thanks to the following volunteers that made this day such a success: Constable Victor Trevino and his officers, Ms. Theresa Turnini, Mr. Charles R. Flores, Ms. Herlinda Garcia, Mr. Francisco B. Rodriguez III, Mrs. Margaret Rodriguez, Ms. Josephine Mendoza, Mr. John Martinez, Mr. Rafael Palafox, Ms. Juana Wilson, Ms. Anna

Nunez, Ms. Mary Closner, Ms. Amanda Stewart, Ms. Rose B. Garcia, Mr. Anselmo Davila, Mr. Guadalupe Flores Jr., Ms. Frances Munoz, Ms. Veronica Sanchez, Ms. Xiaochun Zhou, Mr. Jaime Elizondo, Ms. Sylvia Ramirez-Martinez, Ms. Sylvia Espadin, Ms. Natasha Jabbar, Ms. Thelma Valle, Miss Perla Gonzalez, Ms. Sophie Hu, Mr. Joe Vail, Ms. Teresa Murguia, Miss Krystal Hernandez, Ms. Frances Hernandez, Mr. Francisco Valle, Ms. Veronica Avalos, Ms. Ursula Featherston, Ms. Rosalinda Salazar, Ms. Carmen Galle, Ms. Martina Garza, Ms. Patrese Ruffin-Bush, Ms. Patricia Perez, Mr. Adrian Espadin, Mr. Edward Gonzalez, Dr. Melissa Najera, Ph.D., Mr. Cassandra Juarez, Ms. Clarissa Juarez, Mr. John Gavidia, Ms. Esther Arrendell, Mr. Jimmy Jackson, Mr. Jose Henriquez, Ms. Santa Herrera, Ms. Martha Bulbai, Mrs. Kristen Quan, Ms. Ada Smoot, Mr. Eduardo Garcia, Ms. Cristina Valdez, Ms. Claudia Rodas, Mr. Eric Rodas, Ms. Ivonne Moreira, Ms. Jenny Marquez, Ms. Terasina Niles, Ms. Erika Faz, Mr. Kirk Savarese, Ms. Jeanette Niles, Ms. Tania Buitron, Ms. Veronica Sainz, Ms. Belinda Castro, Ms. Sylvia Halfhill and Ms. Sandy Heathman.

For too long we have been hearing that immigrants are a detriment to our society. Well I'm here to tell you that most immigrants are just like our forefathers who established this great Nation of ours. They are just like the millions of immigrants who have come before them longing for a better life, longing to become American citizens, longing for the American Dream.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUE LOWES

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Gwendolyn Sue Lowes, as she prepares to move from Henderson, Nevada to Tyler, Texas. Sue has worked in my District Office since I was elected to the House of Representatives in 2002, and has been an invaluable asset and outstanding example of what a person ought to be.

Sue was born on October 12, 1946 in Breckenridge, Texas. She graduated from McCollum High School in San Antonio, Texas. After high school, Sue attended San Antonio Junior College and began working for Traveler's Insurance. She spent more than thirty years in the insurance business. She worked for the prominent San Antonio insurance firm of Cato & Cato for nineteen years and was known among her colleagues and clients as a bright, cheerful, talented person who always went the extra mile to get the job done. After leaving San Antonio, Sue and her husband Ted lived in Florida and Northern California. They moved to Las Vegas in 1992 and began working at my insurance office in 1993. Sue came to my staff with an outstanding reputation in the insurance field. During the ten years she spent at my Farmer's office, she always maintained an extraordinary work ethic, a positive attitude and a friendly demeanor.

In 2003, Sue joined my Congressional staff and has been an incredible asset to my staff and my constituents. Sue balances a variety of duties with grace and skill. She greets