

HONORING SERLIN'S CAFÉ ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th anniversary of Serlin's Café, located in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Tucked along Payne Avenue on St. Paul's East Side, Serlin's Café is more than just a restaurant that serves incredible food. It is a neighborhood gathering place for many residents of St. Paul's East Side. Serlin's is a St. Paul landmark.

Serlin's Café first opened its doors for business on February 1, 1946—less than a year after the end of World War II. When Irv Serlin passed away in 1994, his legacy continued. His step sons, Al and Gary Halvorsen, along with their mother Doris Serlin-Johnson now own the restaurant. They continue the same great tradition of great food and outstanding service. The Halvorsens make meat loaf like how you remembered it whiling growing up, and the very best pies from scratch. The staff knows their customers by name. Serlin's unbeatable service and friendly atmosphere has made local residents—myself included—come back time and time again to Serlin's Café.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Serlin's Café for its 60 years of East Side hospitality. I commend the Halvorsens for continuing their great service and remaining committed to the residents of St. Paul.

HONORING JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, the legacy of Sandra Day O'Connor will last long after her distinguished service on the Supreme Court.

Not only does she have the distinction of being the first woman to serve on the court, but for more than twenty years she has helped to shape the legal landscape of this country with her thoughtful, carefully crafted decisions and her votes which have put her firmly in the center of American jurisprudence—exactly where the American people find themselves.

I have a special affection for Sandra Day O'Connor because we share so much in our background. We both grew up on a cattle ranch in southern Arizona. We both attended Stanford University. We both served in the Arizona Senate. When she served on the bench in Arizona and I served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the Senate, we both toiled through a two year process of reforming the criminal code in our state.

Wherever and however our paths have crossed, I always admired her achievements, her wit and her wisdom.

On a personal level, I have known Justice O'Connor and her husband for many years and have admired their wonderful relationship and their family. I know they look forward to

getting reconnected and I wish John and Sandra all the happiness possible in the remaining years they share together.

BELLEVUE COMPANY, PACCAR, RECEIVED NATION'S HIGHEST HONOR FOR INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of PACCAR, Inc., a Bellevue, Washington company that recently received the National Medal of Technology from the President of the United States. Today PACCAR celebrates the National Medal of Technology and last year PACCAR celebrated its 100th year. It's not often a company can top the kind of year that 2005 was for PACCAR, but somehow they've managed to, and in only two months.

I was proud to witness our President bestow the highest honor in technology and innovation upon PACCAR, "For [their] pioneering efforts and industry leadership in the development and commercialization of aerodynamic, lightweight trucks that have dramatically reduced fuel consumption and increased the productivity of U.S. freight transportation."

Washington's eighth Congressional District is home to many companies that are industry leaders, and I am so pleased to see one recognized at this level. PACCAR makes me proud, the State of Washington proud and the United States of America proud. As it has moved forward in its quest to increase productivity and reduce fuel consumption, PACCAR has embodied the spirit of innovation that has put America on the forefront of science and technology for most of the previous century.

Before the introduction of the Kenworth T600 model in 1985, the term "aerodynamic truck" would be considered an oxymoron. Today the legacy and influence of the T600 is apparent in the design of virtually every make of truck on the highway. The benefit to the truck buyer, the consumer, the economy, and the environment has been a dramatic reduction in fuel consumption, reduced CO₂ emissions, improved highway safety through reductions in splash and spray, and lower cost of delivery for the goods that help fuel our Nation's economy.

While much of the industry pondered the feasibility of ever breaking the 10-mile-per-gallon barrier with a heavy-duty truck, Kenworth and Peterbilt both achieved that goal with their most aerodynamic and fuel-efficient tractor-trailer combinations in real-world, cross-country tests. Achieving significant improvements in fuel economy was not without market risk and required changing what a heavy-duty "conventional" truck was supposed to look like. Initial misgivings about what some perceived as radical styling departures, were soon muted as customers realized the economic benefits of the new designs.

In the last 5 years alone, PACCAR has been widely praised. PACCAR was named one of the Top 50 Companies by Business Week magazine in 1999, 2000 and 2004 and Industry Week magazine named it one of the Top 50 Manufacturing Companies in the

U.S.A. in 2005. The Wall Street Journal listed it on its Shareholder Return Honor Roll in both 2003 and 2004. PACCAR was designated the #1 International Company by the Stevie Awards in 2003 and #1 in Enterprise Management by Computerworld in 2004.

I wish PACCAR well as they begin their next hundred years of innovation and invention. PACCAR is a company that knows what it takes to succeed, and also to make this world better. I am honored to stand here today commending their achievements, and I am eager to see what they do next. Congratulations to everyone on the PACCAR team. This medal is an acknowledgment of all that you have done and worked for and a belief that your best work is yet to come.

REMEMBERING CALVIN RICHIE OF FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia and me to remember Calvin L. "Boots" Ritchie, a farmer and activist deeply committed to agriculture and his fellow farmers in Fauquier County, Virginia, who passed away on February 26.

Selected by the Fauquier Times-Democrat as "Citizen of the Year" in 1994, Boots will be remembered for his countless accomplishments, including co-founding People Helping People of Fauquier County, Inc., a local charity offering immediate help to residents of Fauquier struggling against natural disaster, illness, or sudden financial hardship.

We insert for the RECORD a Fauquier Times-Democrat obituary from February 28. A Fauquier native, Boots will be deeply missed by the people of the county, and at home by his family.

[From the Fauquier Times-Democrat, Feb. 28, 2006]

"BOOTS" SUCCUMBS TO CANCER; SOUTHERN FAUQUIER FARMER WAS OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE FOR AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION

Calvin L. "Boots" Ritchie, of Bealeton, one of Fauquier County's leading citizens for the past two decades and an active force behind a home-grown charitable organization, died at home on Feb. 27 after a long and valiant fight against cancer. He was 78.

A native son of Fauquier, Mr. Ritchie was born June 17, 1927 at Inglewood Farm, where he died.

He earned his unique nickname as a child, when he did his chores around the farm "wearing an adult-sized pair of gumboots that reached to his hips," recalled his sister, Hazel Bell, in a 1994 interview. "He was about 5 or 6 years old, and the name stuck."

He spent his entire life working in agriculture, first on the family farm and later, while engaged in custom farming. In the mid-1970s, he founded the Fauquier Grain Company.

Mr. Ritchie came to the general public's attention in 1978, when he was involved in the American Agriculture Movement.

The AAM sought 100 percent parity for farm products, and made their point by staging a memorable "Tractorcade" demonstration that passed through Fauquier into Washington, D.C.

"Our main agricultural export is grain, which is priced lower now than it was five

years ago," wrote Mr. Ritchie in a 1979 column in the Democrat. "No other industry could stay in business under these circumstances, and farmers cannot be expected to, either."

In later years, Mr. Ritchie became a driving force behind Fauquier County's purchase of development rights program.

However, it was a different crisis, far from Fauquier, that put Mr. Ritchie on a new path that would make a lasting difference for hundreds of people.

In the wake of the disaster in South Carolina caused by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, Mr. Ritchie and several of his friends founded People Helping People of Fauquier County, Inc., a nonprofit corporation for the sole purpose of helping people struggling against natural disasters, illness or sudden financial hardship.

EDUCATION ADVOCATE

In the early 1990s—after a school bond referendum held to provide funding for a second high school failed—Mr. Ritchie became active in yet another arena.

Determined to see a second high school in southern Fauquier, Mr. Ritchie persistently lobbied the School Board and pushed for the needed school bond referendum. When Liberty High School at Bealeton opened in 1994—without the funding for a football stadium—he was at the forefront of the campaign, soliciting donations and selling raffle tickets to raise the money to get the stadium built.

After Mr. Ritchie and his friends on the Principal's Advisory Committee at Liberty raised \$100,000 for the stadium lights, the Board of Supervisors, then under the late Dave Mangum (Lee District), came up with the remaining \$250,000 to build it.

Due to Mr. Ritchie's efforts and his growing, positive influence in Fauquier County, he was recognized as the Fauquier Times-Democrat's Citizen of the Year for 1994.

His influence continued throughout his final years, and he often spoke out on issues that were important to him. A frequent contributor to the Democrat's opinion pages, Mr. Ritchie's last letter was published here on Jan. 25, 2006.

In it, he urged the Board of Supervisors to consider giving tax money to parents who wished to opt-out of the public schools and send their children to private or Christian schools.

"The movement would be so great that I doubt that we would have to build any more new public schools," he said. "The good news is that everyone wins."

Mr. Ritchie was a longtime, active member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church near Morrisville, where he served on the Building and Grounds Committee, as well as videographer for worship services.

According to his family, one of the highlights of Boots' life was being chosen to carry the Olympic Torch.

Mr. Ritchie is survived by his wife, Gail R. Ritchie; his sons, and Glenn C. Ritchie, all of Bealeton; and his daughters, Jennifer R. Krick of Bealeton and Helen R. Ritchie of Strasburg.

Also surviving are his step-sons, Edward C. Lynskey of Annandale and William E. Lynskey of Midland; and his stepdaughters, Linda L. Ashby and Karen L. Hughes, both of Bealeton; and his sisters, Hazel R. Bell of Drayton, Md., Jennalee R. McNally, Marie R. Lee and Peggy R. Dahany, all of Fredericksburg; 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilbur Early Ritchie and Ethel Barker Ritchie; a son, Jeff A. Ritchie; and his brothers, C. Hunter Ritchie, Claude Ritchie, and Charles Dwight Ritchie.

Funeral services and interment will be private. A public memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 4 at 2 p.m. at the Liberty High School auditorium.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, P.O. Box 1095, Warrenton VA 20188; People Helping People, PO Box 3108, Warrenton VA 20188; or to Mount Carmel Baptist Church, 12714 Elk Run Road, Midland VA 22728.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FOREST INSECT RESPONSE ENHANCEMENT AND SUPPORT ACT (ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIRES ACT)

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure after working with my friend and colleague, Representative MARK UDALL, that today we will introduce legislation to assist and help protect Rocky Mountain communities. Over the past couple of years, our state has experienced horrific wildfires caused by the ongoing insect epidemic in our forests. It is time to action in order to reduce the risks and protect both life and property.

The Rocky Mountain Forest Insects Response Enhancement and Support Act, or Rocky Mountain FIRES Act, will provide the Forest Service, Interior Department and local communities with a better ability to respond to this serious and growing problem of beetle infestation.

While the various species of bark beetle are native to our forests, these insects create poor forest health conditions and are destroying our forests. A healthy tree can normally defend itself through the production of sap that creates a retardant against the insect, but current drought conditions and density of forests have impacted the production of these natural defenses and the overall health of the forests.

In my district, I am concerned that deteriorating forest health places many mountain communities at greater risk of fire. Our legislation will allow these communities to treat increased fuel risks caused by unhealthy trees and dense forest stands. In fact, we took great care to address the concerns of local communities and have crafted a bill that incorporated the input of diverse constituencies across Colorado.

Finally, I would like to stress that our goal is to provide helpful tools in the treatment of forests areas while still having the proper sideboards in place to protect the environment. We understand the insects play a role in the forest ecosystem and the goal is not eliminate them, but to allow communities and the forest service to respond quicker to catastrophically impacted areas.

This is good legislation that is needed to help protect and preserve Colorado's mountain communities. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTOPHER HOUSE OF CHICAGO

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution congratulating Christopher House of Chicago on the occasion of its centennial celebration.

I believe Christopher House is a successful and absolutely essential organization for the livelihood and well being of the great city of Chicago. Let me explain why.

In 1906, the First Presbyterian Church of Evanston founded Christopher House as a settlement house on Chicago's North Side. Over the course of a century, it has grown in response to the needs of new immigrants and others in our community.

Today, Christopher House is a seven-site resource center that helps families overcome the consequences of poverty, enabling them to thrive. Through early childhood and youth development, parent enrichment, literacy, counseling, pregnant and parenting teen support, and the meeting of basic human needs, Christopher House is a catalyst in a family's journey towards stability, resiliency and self-sufficiency.

Christopher House is a premier human service organization that provides assistance to all in need without regard to race, creed, religion or national origin.

Shortly before his death, Cesar Chavez said, "You are never strong enough that you don't need help." I think he was speaking to all of us.

Obviously, we are all touched by the 100 years of work of Christopher House. We see the lives Christopher House changes—the children who receive Head Start, the people who benefit from English as a Second Language classes, the families who are enlightened by literacy classes—and we are pleased that we can help in some small way.

So we volunteer. Or we write a check. Or we attend a fundraiser or a rally or make a donation. Or support legislation and federal funding. All of which are critically important, and we extend our gratitude to all of those who have given time, money and resources to help Christopher House.

But here is an important part of what I believe Cesar Chavez meant when he said, "You are never strong enough that you don't need help."

Christopher House does more than serve 3,500 children and their families in need. It does more than help teen moms who have nowhere else to turn. It does more than help children who would have few options for summer camps and tutoring programs. It does more than help kids by providing comprehensive early childhood education to families across our neediest neighborhoods.

Christopher House helps us. Christopher House helps all of us—whether we are a CEO or a partner in a law firm or a member of Congress. Because of the work that the organization's staff does every day, the lives of all of us are enriched and improved—not just the families who receive direct service.

Because Cesar Chavez was right—none of us are ever strong enough that we don't need help.