

ACT COMMEMORATING THE LIFE:
OR LIFETIME INNOVATIONS OF
THOMAS EDISON

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1096, which commemorates the lifetime innovations of Thomas Edison.

This legislation will ensure the preservation of Thomas Edison's laboratory in New Jersey. Edison set a tremendous example for all Americans to follow, and, through this legislation, Americans of future generations will be able to learn from the lessons he taught us.

Before Thomas Edison opened his lab in New Jersey, he called Port Huron, Michigan, his hometown. That town has done a fine job in its own right to preserve the memory of Thomas Edison, and I am proud to represent it in the House.

In 2004, Port Huron rededicated the Edison Rock as part of the 125th Anniversary of the invention of the light bulb. The event featured the actor Mickey Rooney who starred in the 1940 movie "Young Tom Edison", which chronicled Tom's formative years.

I think the Edison Rock is a fitting tribute—not only because it is very big and very heavy—something like 62 tons—but because, like most rocks, it is very old.

That's significant.

In order to rank the importance of Thomas Edison's achievement of the first, practical light bulb you have to go back a long, long way—

In fact, you have to go back to the very beginning—to the Bible and the Book of Genesis, where it says: "And God said, let there be light—and there was light."

Of course, God meant there was sunlight—and don't get me wrong—that was a great start.

But the only problem with sunlight is that it lasts only when the sun is out.

It wasn't until thousands of years later when Thomas Edison said,—"Let there be light"—and finally we had light during the other half of the day.

The significance of this invention can never be exaggerated.

Electric light was the spark that ignited the Industrial Revolution and all the technological breakthroughs that followed.

America's work ethic is also part of Edison's extraordinary legacy. Although Edison was undoubtedly a genius, he never thought of himself as one. In fact, he always claimed that his inventions were the product of hard work. "Genius is one percent inspiration, 99 percent perspiration" was one of his most famous quotes.

Thomas Edison actually struggled for years and built more than 6,000 prototypes before he came up with the successful design for the light bulb.

He made us believe that through hard work, anything can be accomplished.

Edison gave us many gifts—the light bulb—the phonograph—the motion picture camera—as well as hundreds of other inventions that have shaped our modern world.

The phrase—"Good old American ingenuity" describes the "can-do" spirit of our nation—

our ability to take on any problem and come up with a solution.

Edison was the personification of American opportunity. He didn't grow up as a member of the privileged class.

He was just an average American, who through a lot of hard work and a little inspiration became one of the most famous and influential people in history.

And so he gave us many gifts—the light bulb, the phonograph, the motion picture camera as well as hundreds of other inventions that have shaped our modern world.

But possibly his greatest gift to us was his representation of the American spirit.

For when we think of Thomas Edison, we believe that anything is possible.

Edison's ability to take on the most difficult problems of mankind—and come up with an invention that could make everyone's life better is a source of American pride.

We believe that American know-how and American ingenuity are among the characteristics that make our nation great.

That's why I'm confident in our nation.

I'm confident in our ability to do whatever it takes to assure the safety of our nation and the success of liberty.

And it's our nation that continues to bring the light of liberty to the world.

And finally, we believe that you can grow up in Port Huron, Michigan—or thousands of other communities across America—and in everyone of them you have the opportunity to reach for greatness.

IN FAVOR OF THE SOLOMON
AMENDMENT SUPREME COURT
DECISION

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the March 6 Supreme Court Decision in favor of the Solomon Amendment. This decision brings resolution to a period of time in which students seeking military careers have been denied equal access to their career of choice due to the political climates and cultures of the institutions in which they receive their education.

My commendation goes to the United States Supreme Court's prudent action in siding with Congress to uphold this vital legislation. Even in this time of great sacrifice when our men and women in uniform are engaged in defeating the forces of tyranny and terror, some have neither masked nor disguised their loathing of the American military. A blatant disregard and violation of the basic principles of free speech and right to association has been demonstrated by these institutions. I feel it pertinent to add that Congress never asked for anything other than equal access for military recruiters. We simply ask the same access as that given to any other employer.

It has been argued that the less fortunate carry the burden of military service.

This decision of the Supreme Court in fact levels the playing field. It guarantees students at higher educational institutions have equal access to military service for our great nation. This decision could not have come at a more important time. Today's cultural tone places so much emphasis on receiving benefits rather

than on service to our country. A lack of military recruiters on campus would only continue to erode the consciousness of the people about the pride of military service and our obligation in defense of America. I would be remiss not to mention that such access to military recruiters is a cornerstone of our successful all-volunteer force.

Colleagues, our Constitutional obligation was clearly laid out. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution states, "that Congress shall have the power to . . . raise and support Armies, . . . to provide and maintain a Navy, . . . and to provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the Militia." I once again commend the Supreme Court in helping us uphold the Constitution of the United States of America.

REMEMBERING CALVIN RITCHIE
OF FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 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 Drayden, 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, P.O. Box 3108, Warrenton, VA 20188; or to Mount Carmel Baptist Church, 12714 Elk Run Road, Midland, VA 22728.

Online condolences may be made at <http://www.moserfuneralhome.com>.

HONORING JUSTICE CORNELIA CLARK

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to take a moment to recognize and honor Justice Cornelia Clark.

Justice Clark has been selected for a seat on the Tennessee Supreme Court where she will be only the 4th woman ever to serve. Her wealth of experience and insight will serve her well in this important role and we honor her for such a wonderful achievement.

Justice Clark's professional accomplishments are proof of her dedication to the judiciary. Since her graduation from Vanderbilt Law School in 1979, Justice Clark devoted herself to the law as a litigation attorney and later as an attorney for the city of Franklin. For 10 years, Justice Clark served as a Circuit Court Judge and most recently as the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Cornelia has shown a remarkable inquisitiveness and dedication to lifelong learning throughout her career. Prior to law school she earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from Harvard University and worked as an educator. She served 10 years as an adjunct professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Law. Countless women have been inspired by her example and we all thank her for her work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Justice Clark and welcoming her to the bench of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA OLYMPIANS

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, the nation watched with pride and admiration as the United States Men's and Women's Olympic Curling teams competed at the XX Olympic Winter Games in Turin, Italy. I am proud to point out that both teams hail from Bemidji, Minnesota in the 7th Congressional District.

The city of Bemidji sent more athletes per capita to the 2006 Winter Olympics than any other town in America. The athletes on both Olympic Curling teams call the Bemidji Curling Club their home. One of the premier curling clubs in the United States, the Bemidji Curling Club has captured more than 50 state and na-

tional titles in its outstanding 71-year history. The Club will also host the U.S. World Team Trials from March 4th through 12th. For curlers and curling fans Bemidji is the place to be.

The sport of curling dates to 16th century Scotland where games were played during winter on frozen ponds, lochs and marshes. Curling's popularity spread during the 19th century to many nations in Europe, as well as to the United States, New Zealand, and Canada. It is now played in over 35 countries throughout the world.

Both of the U.S. Olympic Curling teams from Bemidji faced tough competition from the very best teams the world has to offer. With the world watching they demonstrated their skills on one of sport's grandest stages and brought honor and praise to themselves and Members of the Women's team were Cassie Johnson, Jamie Johnson, Jessica Schultz, Maureen Brunt, Courtney George and Coach Neil Doese. The Men's team consisted of Pete Fenson, Shawn Rojeski, Joe Polo, John Shuster, Scott Baird and Coach Bob Fenson.

Both teams exhibited their skill, their mastery of strategic play and the ability to precisely execute when the pressure was on. This combination of skill and determination helped the Men's team to bring home the Bronze Medal for the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the great achievement of all these fine athletes. The commitment to excellence, sportsmanship and honor that they displayed while representing the United States will long be a source of pride for all Minnesotans, especially those who call Bemidji, Minnesota their home.

HONORING DIXON GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dixon Grove Baptist Church on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Dixon Grove Baptist Church has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to its surrounding community and the state of Georgia.

The late Reverend John Arthur Dixon founded Dixon Grove Baptist Church in 1956 and declared that the church would be built by faith. Reverend James E. Harris assumed leadership of the church in 1979. As a result of their combined leadership and vision the church rose from its humble beginnings in a schoolhouse with a congregation of fewer than 50 members to a multi-acre facility that accommodates the 600 members that attend the church today.

Reverend James E. Harris continues to uphold the vision and mission set by Reverend John Arthur Dixon of adhering to Biblical principles while improving the lives of people in the community. Reverend James E. Harris demonstrated his leadership through community, civic, and religious involvement by accepting my request to represent the 13th congressional district at the White House Conference on Aging in December of 2005.

Through faith in God and commitment to service, church ministries expanded under