

Richie's next tour came in 2005, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was again asked to serve his country. Richie was activated in June of that year as a member of the 6th Civil Affairs Group (CAG), 2nd Marine Division of the United States Marine Corps. During this tour Richie was on a 137 "outside the wire mission," where he and his fellow members of the CAG Division worked on the streets of Fallujah, Amiriyah, and Zaidon protecting the citizens of Iraq from enemy insurgents.

Due to his exemplary service Richie was given Gunnery Sergeant responsibilities with E5 status, which any Marine knows is an amazing accomplishment and honor. Throughout his service in the United States Marine Corps, Richie Litto has been decorated with numerous awards. He has been awarded the Iraqi Campaign Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Good Conduct Ribbon, Combat Action Ribbon and the National Defense Ribbon on several occasions.

On a personal note, I have had the pleasure of counting Richie Litto among my dearest friends for most of my life. Recently, as part of a Congressional Delegation that visited Iraq and Afghanistan I had the opportunity to visit with Richie while he was stationed at Camp Mercury in Fallujah and tell him in person how proud we were of his service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House of Representatives today to join with Richie's wonderful family, friends, and brothers and sisters in the Marines and thank him for a job well done and welcome him home. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Richie Litto's many accomplishments and all his future endeavors.

HONORING JERRY DEFEO

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Jerry DeFeo and his work with the National Exchange Club. Mr. DeFeo joined the Noon Exchange Club of Garland, Texas as a charter member in 1982 and went on to serve in numerous offices at the club, district and national levels, culminating with his term as President of the National Exchange Club this past year.

Jerry DeFeo has devoted his time, talent and energy promoting the Exchange Club and its mission: to make our communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, community service, youth activities, and its national project, the prevention of child abuse.

Mr. DeFeo is an accomplished member of the Garland Noon Exchange Club and has served the National Exchange Club Foundation board of trustees from 1987–88 and is a volunteer field representative (VFR). He has received multiple recognitions throughout his involvement, including the first ever VFR of the Year Award in 1997. He was also awarded the National Master Recruiter Award and he has recruited more than 350 members and built 15 Exchange Clubs.

Mr. DeFeo received a bachelor's degree in engineering management from the University of Texas at Arlington, and is the founder and

president of DeFeo & Co. Enterprises, which specializes in a variety of architecture and construction. Jerry and his wife Mary DeFeo reside in Garland and have four grown children and five grandchildren.

Still active in his community, DeFeo is serving his 12th year on Garland's Board of Adjustments, a zoning appeals board. He has also been involved with the Stars for Children Child Abuse Prevention Center, the Garland Chamber of Commerce, YMCA Indian Guides, and Crimestoppers and Scouting.

Over the course of his career, Jerry DeFeo has demonstrated a unique commitment to the Exchange Club and his community. Today I would like to recognize his outstanding service to his dedication to the people of Texas and the mission of the Exchange Club.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, On April 5, 2006. I missed Rollcall vote No. 90 on H.R. 1127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act to impose sanctions against individuals responsible for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, to support measures for the protection of civilians and humanitarian operations, and to support peace efforts in the Darfur region of Sudan, and for other purposes. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted yes on the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD FULLY LIVE UP TO WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION COMMITMENTS AND END BOYCOTT ON ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Arab boycott against Israel is one of the worst vestiges of the Arab League's campaign to isolate and destroy Israel.

Originating shortly after Israel's founding in 1948, the embargo's objective was to squeeze the fledgling Jewish state out of existence AND punish its allies. Israel's astonishing economic growth despite these constraints ultimately dulled the impact. Enforcement also declined after Egypt and Jordan signed peace treaties with Israel. However, the boycott continues to be a shameless exercise in blackmail. Support for the policy is unfortunately still widely popular in most Arab nations.

Saudi Arabia, for its part, has been among the most vocal instigators rallying support for the boycott's continuation. Despite agreeing to provide Most Favored Nation status to all member states, including Israel, upon joining the WTO in November, Saudi Arabia continues to be a hub of boycott activity. In December, a Saudi official emphatically stated that the boycott would be maintained, and in

March, the Saudi government hosted a meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference aimed at continuing the embargo.

Unfortunately, Saudi Arabia's inconsistent track record is somewhat common among our Arab trading partners. In October 2005, just one month after Bahrain signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States, the Bahraini parliament voted to reject its government's decision to lift the anti-Israel embargo.

Likewise, the United Arab Emirates, which is currently negotiating an FTA with the United States, has kept the policy in place. The issue recently got attention when it was revealed that a Dubai company seeking to take over operations in six U.S. ports complied with the boycott. It was revealed that the Department of Commerce's Office of Antiboycott Compliance had fined several U.S. companies in the last year for abiding by UAE's boycott rules.

Oman, which has an FTA now pending before Congress, opened a trade mission with Israel in 1996, but closed the office several years later in response to anti-Israel demonstrations.

The international trading system is designed not only to promote prosperity but to foster peaceful relations between nations. The United States has invested a great deal of time and effort in negotiating new trade pacts in the Middle East to build stronger ties between our countries and among our regional partners. But it is not acceptable to continue along this path if Israel is to be left out.

Israel is a valuable economic partner of the United States and a strategic ally. It would be a tactical error, a moral blunder, and a departure from our own anti-boycott laws, to continue expanding our trade ties with countries like Saudi Arabia that refuse to abide by their commitments on this issue.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure and take a firm stand to put an end to Saudi Arabia's duplicitous actions.

HONORING THE MARTINS MILL GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Martins Mill Lady Mustangs basketball team who recently won the Texas University Interscholastic League 1A Division State Championship. On Friday March 3, 2006 the Lady Mustangs competed at the University of Texas in Austin's Frank Erwin Center (UTAFEC) for the Girls Basketball State Championship.

I would like to recognize teammates Cara Chaney, Courtney Gregory, Rebecca Hensley, Jordan Barncastle, Hayley Butler, Taylor Daniel, Brittney Perkins, Alexis Popelar, Ashley Tarrant, Jennifer Tindle, Christa Williams, Lynzi Williams, and Kim Wilson as well as team managers Carlee Alsobrook, Kati Clark, Joanna Daniel, Ashlee Milner, and Emily Williams.

The outstanding team performance of the Martins Mill Lady Mustangs earned them the number one ranking in the state from start to finish this season. At the State Championship game in Austin the Lady Mustangs defeated

Elkhart Slocum 61–30 to claim the Class 1–A Division 1 Title in front of a crowd of 3,500 people.

Jordan Barncastle was named Most Valuable Player, and Offensive Most Valuable Player was awarded to Lynzi Williams and Christa Williams. Additionally, state team selections went to Taylor Daniels, Jennifer Tindle and Kim Wilson, and Ashley Tarrant. Cara Chaney, Brittney Perkins, and Hayley Butler also received honorable mention recognition. I would also like to honor Martins Mill Head Coach Doug Barncastle and Assistant Coach Don Tarrant, who were named Coaching Staff of the year.

As the congressional representative of the families, coaches, and supporters of the Martins Mill Lady Mustangs, it is my pleasure to recognize their tremendous victory and outstanding season.

RECOGNIZING BAY OF PIGS VETERANS ASSOCIATION 2506 ASSAULT BRIGADE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Bay of Pigs Veterans Association 2506 Assault Brigade. On April 15 of this year, this brave group of men will observe two monumental events. They will be commemorating the 45th anniversary of the invasion of the Bay of Pigs and the 43rd anniversary of the liberation of the captured members of the 2506 Brigade. The members of the 2506 Brigade came from all walks of life, ages, and backgrounds. The men range from doctors and farmers to students and priests. The oldest was a highly decorated 52-year-old World War II paratrooper and the youngest a 15-year old who lied about his age in order to be a part of the Bay of Pigs Assault Brigade. The 2506 Brigade trained for months with little supplies in preparing for this assault that they hoped would dethrone a cruel and heartless tyrant. These great patriots risked their lives in hopes of freeing their homeland from the tyrannical grip of a brutal dictator. My parents and I were fortunate enough to escape the oppression and persecution of Castro's regime when I was a young girl. Unfortunately, many have not been as lucky and still live in a country that does not recognize the human rights and personal freedoms that we cherish here in the United States. I applaud the efforts of all those who seek to eliminate the cruel dictatorship in Cuba and in its place instill a foundation for democracy and freedom. I along with the men in this distinguished group look forward to the day when Cuba is a free and sovereign nation. I pray that this day will soon come and that the Cuban people still living

under Castro's oppressive regime will be able to have the freedom and democracy that was so patriotically fought for by the members of the 2506 Brigade.

HONORING SISTER CATHERINE DUNN

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sister Catherine Dunn, President of Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa who will retire on June 30th 2006, after serving in this position for 22 years.

Sister Catherine came to Clarke in 1973 and started her service to Clarke and the Dubuque Community as a member of the education department faculty. In 1979 she became vice president of institutional advancement. On January 27th, 1984, she became Clarke's 14th president.

The first few months for the leader of any organization can be challenging, hectic, and perhaps chaotic at times. Sr. Catherine would face all of that and more, as her strength and fortitude were tested 111 days later, when on May 17th, 1984, fire destroyed one-third of the historic buildings on campus. In the spirit of Sister Mary Frances Clarke who founded the school in 1843, and propelled by students who hung banners proclaiming 'Clarke Lives,' Sr. Catherine oversaw an aggressive rebuilding project. Rising from the ashes were a new library, a chapel, music performance hall, administrative offices and a glassed atrium, which were dedicated in October of 1986. Most importantly, it showed the resilience of a woman who would not let devastation chart a negative destiny for the school or her presidency. Since then the school has had several other additions and expansions including a new sports and recreation complex, an activity center and increased student housing.

For most new presidents that would have been challenge enough, but Sr. Catherine's spirit reached far beyond 1550 Clarke Drive. She has served on the boards of numerous local, regional, and national education and civic organizations. She has served on the executive committee of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) and chaired the organization's tax policy committee. In 1989, she was appointed to the Iowa Transportation Commission, making history in 1994 when she was named chair of the commission. She was the first woman to hold the position in the 81-year history of the commission.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Clarke College President Sr. Catherine Dunn. The many lives she has touched will never be known, but that work, through others, will live

on. We celebrate, we honor and we will remember Clarke College's 14th president.

HONORING THE VIENNA COMMUNITY CENTER'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th Anniversary of the Vienna Community Center located in Fairfax County, Virginia.

For 40 years, the Vienna Community Center has served as the main location for the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation Department. Like all aspects of the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation Department, the Vienna Community Center enjoys a rich history of providing quality programs and facilities to the town's citizenry.

Even before the Community Center's construction, it was bringing the Town of Vienna together as a neighborhood. In 1946, the Vienna Lions Club provided the initial donation for the Community Center. In 1964, the opening night performance of the Vienna Theater served as a benefit event kicking off the final leg of the fund raising drive to build the Town's new Community Center. Tickets for the event were available from sponsoring organizations, which included the First National Bank and the Vienna Trust Co. The fund raising goal required to build the Community Center was completed through these community-backed ticket sales as well as direct donations from businesses, organizations, and community residents. Construction of the center began shortly thereafter.

The Community Center opened its doors on Sunday, April 17, 1966. The dedication ceremonies, organized by the Vienna Woman's Club, brought together a variety of area clubs and organizations.

Since those opening ceremonies, The Vienna Community Center has provided facilities for many events serving people of all ages such as fashion shows, bazaars, health fairs, plays, and antique exhibits.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Vienna Community Center for 40 years of dedicated service to its community. The activities, classes, programs, camps and trips, which the Vienna Community Center facilitates, enhance the town's sense of community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the Vienna Community Center's past accomplishments and in wishing the Center continued success in the many years to come.