

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OHIO COM- MODORES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate the Association of Ohio Commodores. Celebrating their 40th anniversary this year, the association has traveled the globe as Ohio's preeminent ambassadors to international commerce.

Founded in 1966 by Governor James A. Rhodes in honor of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, the hero of the Battle of Lake Erie, the Ohio Commodores have served various missions around the world as official representatives of the State. From the Japanese Ambassador and the Governor of Ohio's sister province in Korea, to the Consul Generals of Canada, Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, they have acted as the official hosts to foreign dignitaries visiting Ohio.

Since its inception, the association has invited over 300 men and women to join the ranks of Commodores. Considered Ohio's "most distinguished honor," government officials, lawmakers, leaders in higher education, and business leaders have all been recognized for their contributions to the economic strength of the State.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and congratulation of the Association of Ohio Commodores, which has dedicated the past four decades to honor the finest Ohioans and ensure a bright future for the Buckeye State.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DANIEL SKINKIS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel Skinkis for more than two decades of volunteer work in Southern Nevada.

Daniel Skinkis has founded several outreach programs over the past 22 years and speaks publicly each week at homeless shelters to help addicted and disenfranchised members of society turn their lives around. From 1988 to 1993, Mr. Skinkis ran a private fellowship in Henderson, NV, for young people with addictions, called Witness Outreach. In addition, Mr. Skinkis started Desert Homeless Outreach over 20 years ago as a place where homeless people talk about issues they face and work toward resolving them. Most recently, these efforts to assist the homeless community have earned Mr. Skinkis the prestigious Jefferson Award bestowed by the American Institute for Public Service.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Daniel Skinkis for his admirable work with the com-

munity in an effort to enrich the lives of disenfranchised and impoverished people. I wish him the best in his future efforts.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MOCK

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Mock, who has been named Historian of the Year by the Bedford County Historical Society. Bill, a Vietnam veteran and retired biology teacher from Bedford County, will be honored with this distinguished award at the Bedford County Historical Society's annual banquet in April.

Bedford County is an area rich with historical value and meaning, dating back to the revolutionary era. Bill has worked to promote it by proposing the establishment of a Bedford County historical center to exhibit historical records and artifacts from the area. As he often says of himself, Bill lives in the past. His love of history has propelled him to take on many meaningful, honorable activities to commemorate our Nation's heroes and ensure they are never forgotten.

A member of the Bedford County Historical Society, the Gettysburg Blues and the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War Gettysburg Camp No. 112, Bill takes immense pride in working with these organizations to preserve our Nation's history. He planned and executed the rededication of the Pennsylvania Monument in Andersonville National Cemetery for its 100th anniversary. To mark the occasion, Bill spent months researching and fundraising to reproduce the 138th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regimental flag, which he carried in the March of Honor to the monument.

William Mock's dedication to the preservation of our local and national history is admirable, and we can hope that others will follow in his footsteps and view our history with the same pride and honor as those that came before us.

SWEARING-IN "DAISY" WITH THE LEWISVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daisy, the most recent member of the Lewisville Fire Department in North Texas. Daisy is a 1½ year old yellow lab that was previously under the training of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. She has achieved a reputation within the community as a very capable instrument in the detection of explosives.

Daisy and Division Chief Terry McGrath trained together for ten straight weeks in Virginia. This training consisted of various conditioning and learning skills that trained both Daisy and her handler. The two were educated in the many different scenarios that could very well be encountered in the line of duty. Daisy is trained to recognize 18,000 different scents that may be linked to explosive devices.

The Lewisville Fire Department was contacted by an ATF agent in the Dallas Regional Office to see if they would participate in the program and would welcome Daisy as a valuable member of the force. Needless to say, they were more than thrilled with the opportunity to be able to provide a highly trained dog like Daisy for the safety of the entire North Texas region.

I am pleased to join in with the rest of the Lewisville Fire Department in welcoming Daisy as their latest member. Her devotion to her handler, the department and the safety of the public makes her an invaluable asset to the community.

HONORING THE OAKTON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Oakton High School Cougars football team, who won the 2005 Virginia High School League Group AAA, Division 6 State Championship.

On Saturday, December 10, 2005 at Darling Stadium in Hampton, the Cougars all but shut down the Landstown Eagle's infamous passing game, accumulating 401 total rushing yards against the Eagles' defense.

Led by head coach, Joe Thompson, and his assistant coaching staff, David Foley, John Gluffling, Tom Goggin, Bryan Gordon, J.J. Hetman, Brent Newell, Kolapo Olarinde, Pat Purcell, Jason Rowley, Donny Samson, Rick Wells, Joe Drewer and Packy Purcell, the Cougars trained intensively throughout a dramatic and triumphant season. The Cougars dedication and teamwork culminated in their 28-7 state title victory, the first in Oakton High School's history.

I congratulate all the talented members of the Virginia High School League Group AAA, Division 6 State Champion Cougars: Keith Payne, Thomas Rupp, Michael Lee, Handel Stephen-Dowd, Ervin Gamer, Adrien Laffitte-Smith, Donald Murphy, Brian Sweeny, Aaron Dishner, Stephen Poumaras, Mark Davis, Curtis Eward, Bradley Rhodes, Kumail Baig, Kevin Houghton, Derek Zimmerman, Tyler Morris, Ilyas Karimov, Sean Purcell, Erich Kottke, Alex Wargo, Connor Madden, David Kidwell, Trey Watts, Peyton Mahaffey, David Shumway, Dylan Grimm, Justin White, John

• 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.

Henry, Chris Rainwater, Ryan Harris, Mike Bautista, Chris Coyer, Jack Tyler, Jackson Kibler, Kevin Swanson, Taylor Naleppa, Jonathan Kedrock, Justin Otley, Josh Nelson, Mark Bleiweis, David Crain, Jim Roberts, Zachary Capozzoli, Patrick Tyler, Jeremy Rudolph, Carl Myrville, Bo Farrar, Flory Niyonkuru, Alex Hanson, Joshua Lewin, Kevin Miller, Jared Ruppert, Evan Fiore, Tim Seeger, Asif Kazmi, Gavin Wait, Jared Green, Rob Koster, Mark Larsen, Clark Scheible, Marques Wilson, Kevin Schweiker, Ryan Keely, Mike Shvenderman, Joe Sullivan, Drew Whalen, Joey McCallum, Thomas Vitale, Kevin Culkin, James Wheatley, Chad Faulkner, Michael Pournaras, Wade Reynolds, Kenny Hanson, and Morad Motamedi (Manager)

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor their championship, and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

H.R. 609 FAILS AMERICA'S STUDENTS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in opposition to H.R. 609, the so-called "College Access and Opportunity Act," because it creates greater problems in providing financial assistance for college students, and will lead to graduates inheriting greater debt. The Republicans have chosen to neglect young Americans who need assistance with the costs of higher education. A number of academic organizations oppose this legislation including The National Education Association, the United States Student Association, and The American Federation of Teachers. The Democratic alternative to this bill helps those students and their families who cannot afford the skyrocketing costs of college tuition in America today.

This legislation is problematic because it produces a number of obstacles which could interfere with students' ability to pursue higher education. It fails to make college more affordable for Americans falling in the low- and middle-income brackets by prohibiting them from consolidating their loans while in school or during the six month grace period directly following graduation. The "College Access and Opportunity Act" also revokes a student's ability to secure a low fixed-interest rate. In addition, it bars married couples from consolidating their student loans with their spouses.

The Republicans claim they are for strengthening Pell grants when the truth is that over the last four years, their legislation has done the exact opposite. In 2000, the maximum Pell grant covered about 41% of tuition expenses. Now, in 2006, the maximum Pell grant barely covers a third of tuition expenses. Students are unable to cover this gap. This bill creates problems in the long run which will prevent millions of students from attending college simply because they cannot afford it and because the Republicans in Congress have refused to make higher education a priority.

Students and their families deserve more than what this resolution offers. That is why I will be supporting the more comprehensive approach found in the Democratic alternative, the Miller-Kildee-Scott-Davis-Grijalva amendment.

The Democratic alternative offers many benefits to college students and their families. It cuts the college loan fixed interest rate in half from 6.8% to 3.4%. This will provide protection to students who use loans to finance their education. The Democratic alternative also provides funding for programs that support low-income black and Hispanic students.

Today nearly two-thirds of all American college students graduate with debt—up from one-third in 1993—and a typical student borrower graduates from college with \$17,500 in debt. The Republicans in Congress have taken \$12.5 billion dollars out of student aid accounts to pay for their tax cuts and now, with this bill, students will suffer the burden of higher interest rates, new fees, and more debt while in school and after graduation. Congress should create more opportunity for America's student, not less. H.R. 609 hurts students and their families who cannot afford the cost of higher education.

TRIBUTE FOR JOSE "LEFTY" MARTINEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jose "Lefty" Martinez, a lifelong resident of Laredo, for his bravery and service to the nation during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Jose Martinez passed away recently on March 23rd, 2006, in San Antonio, Texas.

There were many that lost their lives during World War II, however, Lefty Martinez's valiant return reminded us of the sacrifices made in defending our freedom and liberty. It was the call to service that drew Lefty at the age of seventeen. It was March 1946, when Lefty had enlisted in the Marine Corps, which took him to the Barbers Point Naval Air Station in Hawaii, working on C-46 and C-54 aircraft transports.

When his two-year tour was cut to fifteen months, however, he remained with aviation for years after he left the Marine Corps as a civilian contractor. Veterans' training benefits gave him the opportunity to receive federal licensing as an aircraft mechanic, enabling him to serve all over the United States and in places such as the Philippines, Thailand, France, and Vietnam. In Vietnam, he lost half of his civilian contract crew during the 1968 Tet Offensive, and shortly afterwards, he returned back to Laredo, Texas.

In Laredo, Lefty joined veteran organizations and was the commander of the Catholic War Veterans Post 1908. He also was a former member of the American Legion, VFW, Marine Corps League and Vietnam Veterans of America. He was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree Assembly No. 2565, and a former member of the Laredo Evening Lions Club and the Webb County Heritage Foundation.

What I remember about Lefty was his dedication to his country. In the spare time he had, he always stopped by the middle and high schools to talk about his war experiences, and he showed the importance in serving one's country with honor and dignity. It is a great loss to this country to have lost such a great veteran, and I hope we will continue to treat

our veterans today with the respect they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Jose "Lefty" Martinez.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KATHY A. BATTERMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy L. Batterman who became one of the first crew members for "Flight for Life" and was the first certified flight nurse in the United States. Mrs. Batterman's life was tragically cut short in the line of duty when, on April 4, 1999, the "Flight for Life" helicopter crashed in Indian Springs Nevada during a bizarre snowstorm after transporting a patient to a Las Vegas hospital.

During her career Kathy flew over 3,000 rescue flights and is credited with saving thousands of lives. Kathy epitomized excellence in all aspects of nursing. Not only was she one of America's premiere flight nurses, she was a certified flight registered nurse, an advanced trauma specialist, and Nevada's first pre-hospital nurse practitioner. Kathy was a respected educator and a pioneer of EMS education in Nevada. Her contagious energetic spirit, encouraging smile, and enthusiasm inspired many others to do their best. Kathy was also instrumental in placing a second "Flight for Life" base in Pahrump, Nevada recognizing how crucial the response time is for those needing emergency care in the outlying rural communities around Las Vegas. Not only was she a magnificent flight nurse, she was also a caring and devoted wife and mother.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Kathy A. Batterman for her dedication to providing emergency medical service to the Las Vegas and outlying community. Her death is a profound loss to the community and the medical profession.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF JAMES ANTHONY ZACK, A CHAMPION OF LABOR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of James Anthony Zack, who was truly a champion for the rights of working people in northeast Ohio and a proud and dedicated Teamster.

Jim served for 18 years as a Union Trustee, Vice President, and in June of 1997, was elected President of Teamsters Local #1164. He was constantly working to further his knowledge of the issues and areas of concern to Ohio's working families. In 2002, he received a certificate in labor relations from Cleveland State University.

A 1958 graduate of Elyria High School, Jim had over 25 years in sales at Pepsi Cola of Elyria, close to 23 of which were as a driver salesman. Additionally, Jim owned and operated his own businesses as a distributor for 7-Up and Pepsi.