

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE MILITARY FAMILIES OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION DURING "THE WEEK OF THE EAGLES"

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2007*

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army, based at Fort Campbell, a portion of which I am honored to represent in this chamber. This week marks the biennial celebration known as "The Week of the Eagles," when we acknowledge the immeasurable contributions to our country from the current, veteran and fallen members of the 101st Airborne Division and their families, all of whom have made great personal sacrifices in service to our Nation.

The inspiration for the book and television mini-series "The Band of Brothers," the Screaming Eagles have historically played prominent roles in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. They were instrumental in successes in Operation Anaconda, a tough early front in the War on Terrorism in Afghanistan. They have also answered the call of duty repeatedly to serve in Iraq, and many of these courageous men and women will deploy to Iraq again later this year.

The tradition of "The Week of the Eagles" began in 1973 when the Screaming Eagles returned home from the Vietnam War and held a community festival to showcase the division's combat readiness. The celebration was resurrected in 1996 by 101st Airborne Division Commander Major General William Kernan to remember those service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States Army. We now celebrate "The Week of the Eagles" biennially to both honor the fallen troops and their families and showcase the readiness of the 101st Airborne's mighty combat units.

I trust that, even if there is healthy difference of opinion among some of our colleagues and the international community about the civilian leadership of the United States Armed Forces, every member of this body supports those families who are bravely serving our country and is proud of the families of the 101st Airborne Division, whose efforts throughout the division's long and storied history have served our country well.

Madam Speaker, I join you and our colleagues in the House of Representatives in honoring the 101st Airborne Division, thanking the Screaming Eagles and their families for their dedication and patriotism, remembering those 101st Airborne members who have given their lives in service to our country, and recognizing "The Week of the Eagles."

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT GRADUATES OF ORADELL'S D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 14th, I participated in the D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony in Oradell, New Jersey. More than 100 elementary school students participated in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program in Oradell, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship: Rachel Bahng, Shamus Barnes, Edward Caiazzo, Christie Candrilli, Nicole Carney, Estee Chaimson, Christopher Colon, Colleen Dakay, Phillip Giuffre, Kandai Iso, Dana Johnson, Tyler Kane, Kevin Loh, Hayley Murphy, Gerard Quinn, Laura Rivera, Julia Shats, Griffin Suess, Gabriela Valenzuela, Mark Wittkamp, Anna Yasouka, Haylee Alonso, Ashley Anzalone, Esther Bae, Ryan Bauman, Troy Bendian, Thomas Browning, Liam Cameron, Raymond Cannarozzi.

Daniel Christmann, Marissa Conti, Melanie Culha, Conor Davidson, Hunter DeGregorio, Ciara Enright, Jacqueline Galbraith, Daniel Gladston, Kevin Hanrahan, Emily Hyman, Tyler Kallensee, Maria Karim, Emily McGovern, Dillon Ross, Cathy Antonelli, Michael Bruno, Lauren Chagachbanian, Michelle Chakansky, Katie Dantoni, Gianni DaSilva, Sumie Kakehi.

Adam Kunkel, Emily Lewis, David Lo, Robbie Lombardi, Brett Lubben, Kayleen Melvin, Emily O'Boyle, Emily Reynolds, Andrew Rivera, Hannah Schultz, Alissa Settembrino, Sara Starr, Meghana Yarde, Ryan Zaccaria, Chris Bastable, Taylor Bavitschko, Jack Bertini, Tyler Bisig, Scott Callison, Emily Croonquist, Cami Didio, Sharon Galperin, Gregory Gerbino, Michelle Hao, Colleen Kelly, Natalie Ortega, Michael Santucci, Samantha Sender, Madeline Toohey.

Jessica Toufayan, Melonie Ward, Rebecca Weimer, Austin Williams, Zack Wynne, Kaitlyn Brady, Alexandra Braun, Daniel DaSilva, Kalette deMarras, Jared Finkel, Ryan Gallow, Rebecca Goldstein, Martin Gross, Sonya Koh, Simon Kramer, Meagan McCorry, Emanuel Nobile, David Pagan, Daniel Ross, Ana Song, Maryssa Spiniella, David Tirelli, Karen Triunfo, Rebecca Wasserman, and Brenna Wiegand.

IN HONOR OF MS. BARBARA KING

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2007*

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I wish to acknowledge an outstanding community leader from Ohio's Third Congressional District.

Ms. Barbara King was recently honored as a recipient of the 2006 Community Ambassador Awards, presented by the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau. This prestigious award was given in honor of Ms. King's dedication to her community, and for her efforts in coordinating the Sesqui-centennial Conference of the Wilberforce University Alumni Association.

Wilberforce University is the Nation's oldest, private African-American university, and last year this unique institution commemorated its 150th anniversary. Ms. King was recently elected national president of the Wilberforce University Alumni Association, and she chose the city of Dayton as the site for the school's 2006 Alumni Conference.

She was selected for her work in bringing over 400 Wilberforcean alumni and friends to downtown Dayton. Ms. King was selected as a 2006 Community Ambassador by the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau at its 15th Annual Community Ambassador Awards Breakfast.

Ms. King is an active member of the General Daniel "Chappie" James American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 776, in Riverside Ohio. She also serves as one of five faculty advisors in the Department of Early Childhood Education, ECE, at Sinclair Community College.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize a remarkable citizen, Ms. Barbara King, for her leadership and dedication to our community, and I congratulate her on receiving this prestigious award.

COPS IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2007*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1700, the Community Oriented Policing Services, or C.O.P.S., Program Reauthorization Act. The bill authorizes appropriations of more than \$1.1 billion for community policing, community prosecutors and crime-fighting technology grants. The original mission of this program was simple: put 100,000 more police officers on the beat for policing programs. The brainchild of the Clinton administration, the C.O.P.S. program brought members from both parties together with the goal of reducing crime.

The C.O.P.S. program provides grants to local municipalities for crime fighting technologies and for additional community policing

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and has been proven to reduce crime, especially violent crime. A 2005 study by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) concluded that the C.O.P.S. program contributed to a 1.3 percent decline in the overall crime rate and a 2.5 percent reduction in the violent crime rate in 8 years.

But like a patient that stops taking the medication once it starts working, the Bush administration has been taking a step back in law enforcement and homeland security in its effort to gut the program. We must not rest on our laurels and declare, "Mission Accomplished." The President has declared we live in an age of terrorism, and expanding the police force and providing our local and state governments with resources to combat crime and terrorism should remain a priority. But for years, with the backing of the Republican-led Congress, the President has sought to cut or eliminate funding for the program.

In Fiscal Year 2008, the Bush administration is proposing to cut the C.O.P.S. program by over 94 percent compared to 2007. Congress appropriated \$542 million for the program in FY07, and the President is proposing only \$32 million for FY08. The yearly program funding once peaked at \$1.4 billion dollars per year under the Clinton administration. It has resulted in the hiring of nearly 120,000 police officers and has prevented over 200,000 crimes since its inception. In contrast, the Bush administration's proposal offers zero funding for community based prosecutors, zero funding for crime fighting technologies, and only \$4 million for policing and public safety grants.

Instead of providing funding for more cops on the beat, the President is handing the C.O.P.S. program a bill for funds unspent in previous years. The \$32 million budget request, minus the \$87 million the Administration is hoping to get back from the C.O.P.S. program, results in negative funding for community policing. Proponents of weakening the program will attempt to explain that the C.O.P.S. program is duplicative, but a review of the Bush administration's FY08 budget request reveals that the administration also is reducing funding for those other programs as well. It makes no sense to eviscerate the successful C.O.P.S. program or roll it into a block grant, particularly when Department of Justice estimates are showing a rise in crime.

As it seeks to eliminate the C.O.P.S. program, the Bush administration is pursuing a misguided goal. I commend Congressman WEINER (D-NY) for bringing this bill forward today, I strongly support the C.O.P.S. program, and I urge adoption of the legislation.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM THOMAS BENNETT

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2007*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend, Bill Bennett, who died last week at 84 years young.

I met Bill and his wife, Marty, when I decided to run for Congress more than 20 years ago. We shared a love of politics, a dedication to our communities and country, and a love and dedication to our families.

Born in West Virginia, Bill Bennett came to California while serving in the U.S. Navy. Like

many who venture to the Golden State, he fell in love and stayed. After being discharged from the Navy, Bill joined the Los Angeles City Fire Department. It would prove to be one of his long-term commitments. He retired from the Department 31 years later as Assistant Chief, in 1980.

Another of his long-term commitments was to Marty. They married in 1951 and partnered in life for the next 56 years.

In 1965, Bill and Marty moved with their children to Thousand Oaks, which I have represented for the better part of my congressional career. They became involved in their church, Emmanuel Presbyterian, and many other aspects of their community. Bill served on the board of the former Timber School District, Community Leaders Club, Republican Central Committee, Ventura County Grand Jury, Ventura County Planning Committee, Neighborhood Watch, and many other community organizations, for which he was duly recognized. He also became a supporter and friend to me.

At the same time Bill was making his community a better place, he dedicated himself to being a loving father and husband. In addition to Marty, Bill leaves behind daughter, Sue and her husband, Kim Force; daughter, Nancy and her husband, Jim Berg; daughter, Bonnie; and son Tom and his wife, Jane. Bill and Marty also have seven grandchildren, Michael, Christopher, Joshua, Brian, Janelle, Jilee and Justine; and two great-grandchildren, Hannah and Emily.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering William Thomas Bennett as a good friend, a loving family man, and a lover of life, whose talents helped to make our community stronger. In addition, I know they join me in extending our condolences to Marty and their family and to all who called Bill a friend.

Godspeed, Bill.

#### COPS IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2007*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the COPS Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1700). This critical piece of legislation is needed to revitalize the highly successful COPS program and will allow communities in Rhode Island and across the country to hire additional police officers and improve security.

This important initiative was created in 1994 under the Clinton Administration to help local law enforcement agencies hire thousands of additional police officers nationwide. COPS funding has helped police agencies in Rhode Island to hire 385 police officers, and today's measure will allow us to hire an additional 185 officers.

The COPS program takes an innovative approach to aiding local law enforcement agencies through its commitment to community-oriented policing and has proven successful in reducing crime. Unfortunately, in the past few years the Bush Administration and Republican-led Congress have continued to slash funding for this vital program, and the President's FY 2008 budget proposal would elimi-

nate it altogether. I am proud to support a measure that halts this trend and reinstates funding for this vital program.

The COPS Reauthorization Act will establish the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services as a distinct entity within the U.S. Department of Justice and reauthorize hiring programs for officers to engage in community policing, serve as School Resource Officers, and engage in counterterrorism duties. This bill will also provide additional funding for police agencies to purchase lap top computers for patrol cars, crime mapping software, and interoperable communications equipment. Finally, reauthorizing the COPS program will increase funding for critical community prosecuting programs.

Enhancing and fully funding COPS programs will give our local law enforcement agencies the tools they need to fight crime and keep our communities safe. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

JAMES A. LEACH FEDERAL BUILDING

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1505 to designate the Federal building located at 131 East 4th Street in Davenport, Iowa, as the "James A. Leach Federal Building."

James Leach was born in Davenport, Iowa in 1942. Representing Iowa, he served in the House of Representatives for 30 years. Mr. Leach is a man of great honor, serving his state and country nobly, admirably and tirelessly. Mr. Leach was a career public servant, chairing several Committees during his time in Congress.

During his time in Congress, Mr. Leach respected individual rights, choices and freedoms and voted to protect them. In the 109th Congress, I had the good fortune of working with him on the International Relations Committee where he spoke often for dignity of mankind and human rights. Jim was a caring and compassionate hands on person who led a congressional delegation to western Indonesia after the December 26th, 2004 tsunami where he witnessed one of the most traumatic natural disasters in the past several centuries. His work was instrumental in securing disaster relief funds for this devastated area.

Mr. Leach holds eight honorary degrees, has received decorations from two foreign governments, and is the recipient of the Wayne Morse Integrity in Politics Award, the Woodrow Wilson Award from Johns Hopkins University, the Adlai Stevenson Award from the United Nations Association, and the Edger Wayburn Award from the Sierra Club. In 2000, the Independent Bankers Association honored James Leach by creating "The James A. Leach Leadership Award", named for the Iowa Congressman. Mr. Leach served as chairman of the House Banking Committee from 1995 to 2001. The James A. Leach Leadership Award honors bankers for outstanding service to the banking industry. These examples exemplify his respect as a person and public servant.