

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Colby John Buehler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Colby in the United States House of Representatives.

IN TRIBUTE TO NICK TOPPING

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of Nick Topping, a highly respected, social justice activist, music impresario and business owner. Mr. Topping died on May 9, 2007, at the age of 89.

Mr. Topping earned a degree in history and communications from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. During World War II, he was drafted and served in Army intelligence. When he returned, he founded a store named Topping and Company International House that he ran for over 50 years. The store stocked Greek and Middle Eastern food, books, and records from all over the world.

Mr. Topping was one of nine children born to Greek immigrant parents who ran a grocery store at South 4th Street and West National Avenue. Mr. Topping was born Nick Topitzes and changed his name at the age of 18 because of the discrimination Greeks faced at that time.

Nick Topping spent much of his lifetime working for peace and social justice. He marched with Father James Groppi over the 16th Street Viaduct during Milwaukee's civil rights struggle and took his daughters along on the marches with him. He belonged to the NAACP and became an early local protestor against the Vietnam War. Mr. Topping was also active in the growing south side Latino community and in the Chicano rights movement.

Mr. Topping was a promoter of ethnic and folk music concerts in the 1950s and '60s including singers such as: Miriam Makeba, from South Africa; Pete Seeger; Josh White; Peter, Paul & Mary; Bob Dylan; and Greek composer, Mikis Theodorakis, music composer for the movie *Zorba the Greek*. Nick Topping secured his place in modern Milwaukee history by securing the Beatles for their one and only Milwaukee concert on September 4, 1964. The concert quickly sold out with the most expensive ticket selling for \$5.50.

Nick Topping is survived by his wife of 56 years, Harriet; two daughters, Adele Fatemi-Topping and Alexandra Topping; a brother, Agamemnon (Memo); and a sister, Sandra Topitzes Brown, all of Milwaukee.

Madam Speaker, Milwaukee has experienced a profound loss with the passing of Nick Topping. Today, I thank him and his family for their immeasurable achievements. I mourn his loss and I salute his legacy.

TRIBUTE TO FRAN LUS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fran Lus for his 12 years of service to Chautauqua County. Mr. Lus is a wonderful example of what public service should be.

I would like briefly to touch on the many areas of service that Fran has been involved with. Fran was first elected to the Chautauqua County Legislature in 1995 as a representative of district 23 in Portland. He served as the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Lus is also a member of the Public Facilities Committee and serves as a delegate to the Inter-County Association of Western New York and is a member of the Cornell Co-operative Extension Board of Directors.

I must also acknowledge Mr. Lus' other interests. He serves as a member of the Stop DWI Committee, the Southern Tier Extension Rail Authority Board, is a life long member of the Southwestern N.Y. Volunteer Firemen's Association and an exempt fireman of the Brocton Fire Department. He was also a member of the Portland Volunteer Fire Department for 3 years. Fran was recently elected to the Brocton Central School Hall of Fame.

I am proud to mention that Mr. Lus served his country during the Korean Conflict from 1950 to 1954 as a member of the United States Air Force and is a life member and former commander of the John W. Dill post 434.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Fran on his wonderful job well done in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Fran, you will be missed by all of the constituents whose lives you touched. Enjoy your retirement!

HONORING DR. SPENCER FOREMAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, for more than two decades Dr. Spencer Foreman's leadership has made Montefiore Medical Center (MMC) one of the most forward thinking and academic medical centers in the country. He is a national health leader, and a respected expert in hospital administration and medicine. Dr. Foreman is a member of the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine, a former chairman of the Association of American Medical Colleges and a past trustee of the American Hospital Association. Annually, MMC treats more than 60,000 new patients, has more than 400,000 home visits, and 1.8 million outpatient visits. That, plus an annual budget of more than \$1.9 billion, makes it one of the largest academic medical centers in the country.

For more than a century, MMC has had a long and distinguished history of meeting the healthcare needs of New Yorkers and patients from around the world.

MMC is one of the most innovative medical centers in the country with a staff of brilliant doctors, nurses and associates on all levels

dedicated to giving every patient the highest quality care and service.

This did not happen by accident. The leadership of Dr. Foreman for over two decades led MMC to the top of its class.

I have always been proud to tell people that Montefiore Medical Center is in my Congressional district. It is a mainstay of health care in the Bronx which is famous throughout the world.

But more than that, I have always been delighted to say that Dr. Foreman has been my friend. Dr. Foreman took charge at Montefiore about the same time I came to Congress. For over 18 years we have worked together to better the healthcare system. I count him among my trusted advisors on the state of healthcare in our Nation.

What he has accomplished will continue for generations. He has created a model of health care efficiency to which it can truly be said that thousands owe their lives and well-being. I am proud of the work of Montefiore Medical Center. I am proud of the accomplishments of Dr. Foreman but even more so I am proud of my friend Spike.

IN HONOR OF THE SAINT FRANCIS SOUP KITCHEN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the Saint Francis Soup Kitchen, which recently celebrated its 25th year of service in the Santa Cruz community. St. Francis is an organization founded and run by volunteers who love to help others. In the 25 years that it has been around, St. Francis has fed and clothed countless people who are in need. The city of Santa Cruz has approximately 400 people who are homeless, yet St. Francis is one way in which the community is trying to help the problem.

Father Peter Carota deserves special recognition as the founder of the St. Francis Soup Kitchen. In 1981, when still a layman, Peter sold his home and used the money to start St. Francis. Feeding the poor out of the back of a van, Peter Carota began his dream of running a soup kitchen to feed the homeless. A few years later, in 1983, Peter and some volunteers purchased the property of the current soup kitchen and St. Francis was born. Peter has since become a priest, but his work at St. Francis is carried on by devoted volunteers.

The soup kitchen was founded to help people in need and that is exactly what it does. The kitchen never turns a hungry person away and feeds up to 180 people at lunch every weekday. St. Francis not only provides free lunch every day to the homeless, it also operates a clothing room that provides donated clothes free of charge to guests. However, St. Francis could not function without the support of the dedicated volunteers and the help drawn from churches, high schools, UC Santa Cruz, and the broader community.

Madam Speaker, the St. Francis Soup Kitchen has contributed so much to the city of Santa Cruz and the surrounding community; I have only scratched the surface of its beneficial and compassionate dedication. I commend the St. Francis Soup Kitchen for all that

it has done in its 25 years, and I hope that it will continue for another 25 with the same service, attitude, and contribution to the community.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE JOSEPH RATTIGAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Mr. BACA, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. SUSAN DAVIS, Ms. ANNA G. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. BARBARA LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA SANCHEZ, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. STARK, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. MIKE THOMPSON, Ms. MAXINE WATERS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. HENRY WAXMAN, we rise with sadness today to honor our good friend and respected mentor, Justice Joseph Rattigan, who passed away after a long illness on May 12, 2007, in Santa Rosa, California. He was 87 years old.

Joe Rattigan is a legend in Sonoma County and in California. During a long career as an activist, a civic leader, a state legislator, and a jurist, he earned respect from all whose lives he touched, whether political ally or rival. Known for his eloquence, wit, intelligence, and passion, this remarkable man always had time for people and their concerns. He mentored other lawyers and judges as well as generations of Democratic politicians.

Born in 1920, Joe grew up in politics in Washington, DC, where his father was a law partner with Senator O'Mahoney from Wyoming. He attended Catholic University and, after graduating in 1940, worked briefly for the Department of Agriculture before joining the Navy to fight in WW II. He served as an intelligence officer and then commanded a PT boat in the Pacific, earning a decoration for heroism in combat.

After the war, Joe enrolled in Stanford Law School, graduating in 1948. He was part of a post-war generation of young lawyers who settled in California at that time and made their mark on a booming state. He soon joined a Santa Rosa law firm and plunged into local affairs and Democratic politics. He served as president of the Sonoma County Bar Association, county chairman for Adlai Stevenson's 1956 Presidential bid, and a member of the Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities.

Joe jumped into electoral politics on his own behalf in 1958. He became the youngest state senator in the county's history at age 38, as the Democrats took back the legislature and Edmund G. "Pat" Brown became governor, ushering in a new golden era for California. He served two terms, authoring or co-authoring several key bills, including measures establishing medical care services for the elderly (a model for the Federal Medicare program), the Department of Rehabilitation, and the state university system. In 1960, his last-minute maneuvering created Sonoma State College (later University), which is now an integral part of the county as well as of the state's education system.

During his time in the legislature and his subsequent 18 years as a justice on the Court of Appeals for Northern California, Joe fought for the oppressed. Having grown up in a segregated city, he was fiercely opposed to discrimination. He supported the controversial Rumsford Fair Housing Act which ended the use of restrictive covenants in housing. He also carried the one-man, one-vote reapportionment measure that altered the way state senators were elected even at a personal cost. This measure split Sonoma County into two districts, causing Joe to lose his seat.

Principle always came before politics with Joe Rattigan. He fought against the death penalty, attempting to save convicted felon Caryl Chessman when he was a freshman Senator. It is widely believed that his principled opposition cost him a seat on the state Supreme Court. During his time as an appellate justice, however, he continued to make a mark on California; for example, he supported separation of church and state (despite his Catholic upbringing), championed a first in the nation requirement for cities and counties to adopt general plans, and wrote a decision overturning Black Panther Party leader Huey Newton's murder conviction, which was later upheld.

Joe is survived by Elizabeth (Betty), his wife of 65 years, whom he met in the second grade, by his six children—daughters Catharine Kalin and Anne Paine and sons Michael, Thomas, Patrick, and Timothy Rattigan—as well as 12 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, this week Sonoma County residents and people throughout California mourn the passing of Joseph Rattigan. Whether people agreed with him or not—and many in the far more conservative Sonoma County of the 50s and 60s did not—he was respected for his integrity, his political acumen, his sharp legal mind, and a heart as big as the Golden State. In 1997, the State Building in downtown Santa Rosa was named the Joseph Rattigan State Building. We would hope that those who pass through its doors into the bright sunlit foyer will stop for a moment and consider the greatest legacy of Joseph Rattigan: a life that demonstrated that good government isn't only desirable, it is possible.

SUPPORT FOR JWOD

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, people with disabilities are the largest minority group in the nation. They comprise 20 percent of the American population and represent every ethnicity, gender, and age. Given the breadth and depth of this group of citizens, it is startling that they suffer from a 65-percent unemployment rate. People with disabilities have the ability and desire to work, yet face many barriers to employment. I think it is incredibly important that we give people with disabilities equal opportunity and support for employment.

To that end, I am proud to support employment opportunities for people with disabilities, particularly through the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD)/AbilityOne Program. The JWOD/AbilityOne Program uses the purchasing

power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. Through this program, people with disabilities enjoy full participation in their community and are able to become self-sufficient wage earners and tax payers.

In the United States, the program serves approximately 43,000 people with disabilities and generated approximately \$360 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.8 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, some 938 people with disabilities earned nearly \$9 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD/AbilityOne. I am particularly proud that the 4th Congressional District is home to a JWOD contract for switchboard services. This dedicated workforce of people with disabilities provides excellent 24/7 service to the Atlanta VA Medical Center for nearly 15 years.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the great contributions of American workers with disabilities. I commend the JWOD Program, its supporters, and its participants for making a difference where it is needed most. America truly works best when all Americans work.

PARKER EVAN LONG FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Parker Long, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Parker has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Parker has been involved in scouting, he has earned 30 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Parker is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and will become a Warrior this summer.

For his Eagle Scout project, Parker constructed a new fire pit at the Parkhill Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Parker Long for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO SALLIE PULLANO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sallie Pullano for her years of service to Chautauqua County. Mrs. Pullano is a wonderful example of what public service should be.

I would like to briefly touch on the many areas of service that Sallie has been involved with. Since January 2000 she has served as