

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 550, passage of H.R. 2546, to designate the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center" in Asheville, NC, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would voted "yea."

## RECOGNIZING JORDAN JOSEPH GOSS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan Joseph Goss, 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 447, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jordan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Jordan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

## HONORING JENNY NEELEY

### HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take the opportunity to honor an environmental leader who has given southern Arizona many reasons to be proud. Arriving to Tucson after years split between Hawaii and Flagstaff, AZ, Jenny received her masters degree in public administration from the University of Arizona.

In Tucson, Jenny fell in love with the Sonoran Desert, and dedicated her professional career to protecting the native ecosystems of the Borderlands region.

Ten years ago, Jenny began working for a diverse coalition of neighborhoods, community groups, and environmental organizations called the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection. Focused on producing the best Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan ever assembled under the Endangered Species Act,

Jenny became a leader in advocating for sound public policy, the incorporation of science, and public oversight in Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

Her contributions to the southern Arizona community and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands go much further. In 2001, Jenny took a position with Defenders of Wildlife, a nationally respected wildlife and habitat protection organization, in their southwest regional office. Over the last 6 years, Jenny has become a national leader in speaking out for wildlife and public lands in the ongoing immigration debate. She has continually advocated for an open and fair process behind the construction of border infrastructure, while pointing out the impacts that fence and wall construction have on the natural ecosystems that sustain our quality of life and environment.

Jenny builds alliances, and through her border wildlife work at Defenders of Wildlife, she brought together a diverse coalition of human rights, indigenous rights, environmental, and labor representatives to call for comprehensive immigration reform and the reversal of decisions to build walls on our southern border. In 2007, Jenny was honored with Derechos Humanos' Corazon de Justicia award for her commitment to justice and social change.

Jenny Neeley leaves her post as a professional land and wildlife conservationist this month as she heads to University of Arizona law school. Whether she returns to environmental advocacy work or not, she will leave a legacy that cannot be adequately expressed in words, and gives all of us that have known and worked with her hope that we can truly achieve the goals that we set out to accomplish together. The Tucson community and the wildlife of the Sonoran Desert will sorely miss Ms. Neeley, but I have no doubt she will go on to accomplish great things in her future endeavors. I wish her the best of luck.

## RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Library Association for its annual conference being held this week in Washington, DC. I am also pleased to recognize Melinda Cervantes, County Librarian of Santa Clara County for representing our County librarians at this conference.

I have always supported America's public libraries and believe they are an essential part of building stronger and more educated communities. One of the basic tenets of democracy—equal access to opportunity—is played out every day in America's public libraries. Their doors are open and welcoming to anyone without having to show a diploma, a bank

balance, proof of residency or any other qualifier. You can read, learn, think, create, analyze, research, and contemplate any topic that might improve your mind, your skills, your daily life, or your future. The wealth of knowledge and opportunity available at the fingertips of all who possess a library card is powerful.

## IN RECOGNITION OF REBECCA LANIER

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Ms. Rebecca Lanier. Ms. Lanier was born on March 24, 1892, in Mississippi and just celebrated her 115th birthday.

Ms. Lanier lived in Eutaw, AL, where her family sharecropped for most of her life. She moved to Birmingham in 1994, where she resided until 2004 when she unfortunately lost both of her daughters within three weeks of each other. Although Ms. Lanier outlived her daughters, she still enjoys her 7 grandchildren and "about" 30 great-grandchildren.

Ms. Lanier now lives with her grandson and his wife in Warrensville Heights, OH, a municipality in my congressional district. She has led a very healthy life and had actually never been a patient in a hospital until she suffered a fall 4 years ago. Ms. Lanier is very active. She walks with a walker and participates in Tai Chi for Health Class at the local Warrensville Heights Civic and Senior Center.

Although one of the oldest people in the world, Ms. Lanier does not have a birth certificate. Her grandson attested that when she was born, the State did not issue them. Rather, the record of her birth is written in an old family Bible. Ms. Lanier's zest for life is an inspiration to us all. Therefore, it is thus my pleasure, on behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio to recognize Rebecca Lanier as she celebrates 115 years of a truly blessed life.

## RECOGNIZING TYLER DON GUESS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Don Guess, 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 447, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

• 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.

years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

#### COMMENDING THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

##### HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize and commend the outstanding contributions of the Leadership Training Institute of America toward the development of the young leaders of America.

The Leadership Institute of America is an educational organization providing training and opportunity in leadership development and cultural dynamics. This organization's mission is to identify, inspire, and instruct students for leadership in society by equipping them with skills to allow them to defend their beliefs, including and understanding of why traditional values are vital to a free and secure society. It is these values that have, and continue, to make America great.

LTIA students receive exposure to the major world views, issues, and philosophies of today. They are encouraged to pursue careers in influential sectors of our society by applying the leadership, critical thinking, scientific, and historic training they receive at LTIA, which is grounded in the Biblical traditions of America's forefathers.

LTIA students represent future leaders in government, education, media, and business. They will be the backbone of our Nation and vital in sustaining its position as a world leader.

With great pride, I salute the Leadership Training Institute of America for its unrelenting dedication and commitment in training and equipping young leaders for the challenges they will face tomorrow in our dynamic and ever changing world.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 25, 2007, I was detained in my district due to a canceled airline flight and was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor for H. Res. 189 (Roll no. 549) and H.R. 2546 (Roll no. 550). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both measures.

#### TRIBUTE TO VANESSA BROWN

##### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the great accomplish-

ment of one of my constituents, Vanessa Brown of Co-Op City, the Bronx. I wish to recognize Ms. Brown for her outstanding achievement in being selected the district winner in the 26th Annual Congressional Art Competition for her inspiring and uplifting piece entitled "A New Starry Night."

Ms. Brown is currently a high school junior attending Lehman High School in the Bronx. She has demonstrated a commitment to pursuing her gift and to further developing her abilities, making her a deserving recipient of this honor. I am proud that this year my district is well-represented in this competition by Ms. Brown's work and I look forward to viewing it in these halls for the months to come.

Each year, Congress affords our Nation's most talented and budding artists the opportunity to have their work displayed in the Cannon Tunnel leading to the U.S. Capitol. This beautiful display is experienced daily by Members of Congress, their staff, our country's residents, and welcomed visitors from all around the world who are awarded the privilege of witnessing our young people's artistic endeavors and talents.

Madam Speaker, I salute the authentic, creative voice of Ms. Brown and I wish her continued success and all the very best in the future.

#### SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

##### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. Grants funding from the NEA reaches people of all races, classes and geographic areas.

I have been personally involved with Childsplay in Arizona for many years and have seen first-hand the impact the arts can have on the community and good work the NEA performs. Through NEA grants, the arts are shared with those at all income levels and in all communities.

I remember specifically the impact one Childsplay production had on the children who attended. Eric and Elliott, a play that received \$23,000 in grant money from the NEA, dealt with teen depression and suicide. This play about hope shared the tools to recognize and cope with depression. It inspired young people to come forward to seek help.

Since its inception, Eric and Elliott has formed a unique partnership with the Mental Health Association of Arizona and a counselor now travels with the production to provide on-site counseling services to young people. The play earned the "Distinguished Play Award 2006" from the American Alliance for Theatre and Education.

This is just one example of many in which arts and arts education deeply impacts young people and adults.

Also, and importantly, where the Federal Government invests, the private sector and community follow. NEA funding from the Federal Government encourages the private sector and local communities to invest in arts organizations and signals that the arts are a worthy investment.

Millions of people have benefited greatly from NEA-funded programs over the last 40 years and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting increased funding for this important organization.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 25, 2007, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 549 and 550. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on these bills.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BILL GORDON

##### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Retired Army Col. Bill Gordon of Fort Collins, Colorado.

Later today Colonel Gordon will receive the National Order of the Legion of Honor from the Government of France in recognition of his distinguished record of military service in France during World War II. The Legion of Honor is the highest honor conferred upon French citizens and foreign nationals by the French Government.

After playing on UCLA's first football team to compete in the Rose Bowl, Bill Gordon was commissioned through UCLA's Army ROTC Program in 1943. Following the 1944 D-Day invasion, Lieutenant Gordon was assigned as a replacement platoon leader in B Company of the 82nd Airborne Division's 507th Regiment.

In December 1944, the 507th was assigned to an area along the Meuse River just east of Nouzonville, France, to meet the onslaught of a German surprise attack in the Ardennes. After the Battle of the Bulge, Lieutenant Gordon was seriously injured during a parachute jump near the important German industrial City of Essen.

After the war Lieutenant Gordon was placed on reserve status in 1946, but was reappointed to the regular Army in 1949. Over the course of his 30-year career in the Army, Colonel Gordon served in both Korea and Vietnam. Among his many decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with V, two Purple Hearts, 14 Air Medals with V, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Following his distinguished military career, Colonel Gordon and his family settled in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he served as Director of the Larimer County Emergency Management System and as Larimer County Administrator.

The sacrifices he made to ensure the liberty and freedom of future generations will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, like so many other young members of this Greatest Generation, Colonel Gordon set aside his ambitions and risked his life to ensure the continued freedom of our great nation. I am both humbled by his selflessness and incredibly proud of his heroic patriotism. As he receives recognition today from