EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF JUDGE RONNIE WHITE

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Ronnie White, who recently retired from the Missouri Supreme Court.

Ronnie White was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1953, and received degrees from St. Louis Community College, St. Louis University, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law.

Judge White has a long and storied career in public service. This work included jobs as a Public Defender, at the St. Louis City Counselor's office, and as a State legislator in the Missouri House of Representatives.

Since 1994, Judge White has been serving the State of Missouri as a Judge. From 1994 to 1995, he served as a Judge for the Eastern District of the Missouri Court of Appeals.

He was appointed by my father, Governor Mel Carnahan, in 1995 and served on the Supreme Court of Missouri until his retirement last week.

During his tenure on the Supreme Court, from 2003 to 2005, he served as the State's first African-American Chief Justice.

Judge White's service to Missouri has extended well beyond being a lawyer and a Judge. He has also been dedicated to numerous other causes, having served on boards of the St. Louis Housing Authority, the Regional Justice Information Services Commission, and the Maria Droste Residence for Women.

I am privileged to call Judge Ronnie White a friend, and am honored to pay tribute to him today for his great service to our State.

HONORING DR. JAN ACHENBACH OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY ON RECEIVING THE 2005 NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional professor and scientist at Northwestern University, Dr. Jan D. Achenbach. His seminal contributions in the area of wave propagation in solids and his pioneering work in quantitative non-destructive evaluation have earned him the 2005 National Medal of Science, the Nation's highest award for lifetime achievement in fields of scientific research. As a graduate of Northwestern University with a degree from Dr. Achenbach's Department of Mechanical Engineering, I am especially proud to recognize his accomplishments and thank him for his years of dedication in the field.

Dr. Achenbach, who joined Northwestern in 1963, serves as the Walter P. Murphy Professor and Distinguished McCormick School Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Engineering Science, and Applied Mathematics. For more than 40 years, Dr. Achenbach has devoted his time and energy to the research of solid mechanics and quantitative nondestructive evaluation, making major contributions in the field of propagation of mechanical disturbances in solids. He has developed methods for flaw detection and characterization by ultrasonic scattering methods. He also has achieved valuable results on earthquake mechanisms, on the mechanical behavior of composite materials under dynamic loading conditions, and on the vibrations of solid propellant rockets.

In addition, Dr. Achenbach is founder of Northwestern's Center for Quality Engineering and Failure Prevention, a state-of-art laboratory for quality control in structural mechanics, with profound impact on the aircraft industry, particularly the monitoring of aging aircraft.

Dr. Achenbach was awarded the 2003 National Medal of Technology, the Nation's highest honor for technological innovation. He was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering in 1982, a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1992 and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1994. In 1999, he was elected a Corresponding Member of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences. He is also an honorary member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a fellow of ASME, ASA, SES, AMA, and AAAS. His awards include the Timoshenko Medal and the William Prager Medal.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Jan Achenbach for his tireless efforts in pioneering scientific research in engineering. He has done nothing less than an extraordinary job in his field and is truly deserving of the National Medal of Science. I congratulate Jan for this outstanding honor.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING JACK VALENTI

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand today to recognize and honor Jack Valenti: a man from humble beginnings who achieved widespread recognition and respect in a career of remarkable and memorable accomplishments. I would also like to introduce an article from the New York Times entitled, ''Walking with Presidents and (Hollywood's) Kings.'' His recent passing is a great loss to his family and many friends.

Jack Valenti, the son of a tax clerk and grandchild of Sicilian immigrants, was born September, 1921 in Houston, Texas. He admirably served the United States during World War II as a member of the Army Air Corps, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross; and later received his Master of Business Administration from Harvard University. After graduating from Harvard, Valenti returned home to Texas where he co-founded an advertising and political consulting agency, ''Weekley & Valenti,'' in 1952.

Fellow Texan and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson called on Valenti to organize President Kennedy's trip to Houston; and was subsequently invited to Fort Worth and Dallas the next day where Valenti found himself an eyewitness to President Kennedy's assassination. After President Kennedy's death in 1963, Valenti accompanied Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson aboard Air Force One as Johnson took the oath of the office of the President. Valenti had the honor of writing Johnson's first address to the American public as President and the privilege of serving as President Johnson's special assistant.

Following his work in the White House, Valenti worked for the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) where he served as President for 38 years. In 1968 he created the MPAA film rating system. Although some changes have occurred along the way, this voluntary movie rating system is still used to date. Even as Valenti worked in Hollywood, he continued to play a hand in government as a pro-copyright lobbyist.

As a husband, father of three, lobbyist and MPAA President, Valenti will be greatly missed. He served his nation through both the private and public sector. While we are all saddened by his passing, we are grateful for his contributions and achievements concerning our federal government and motion picture industry. He will never be forgotten.

WALKING WITH PRESIDENTS AND (HOLLYWOOD'S) KINGS

(By Jeanine Basinger)

The first time I heard Jack Valenti speak, I noted that he was dapper, unexpectedly handsome and short. He had arrived at a meeting of the trustees of the American Film Institute to nominate his friend Kirk Douglas for the annual Life Achievement Award. When he had finished and whirled out, he was still dapper and unexpectedly handsome, but he had grown very big in stature.

I had witnessed Mr. Valenti in action, an in-the-flesh version of his autobiography, ''This Time, This Place: My Life in War, the White House, and Hollywood.'' He had exuded charm, established himself as everyone's pal with a few harmless anecdotes, taken the room by surprise with a passionate (and well-prepared) speech and rapidly moved on to his next battle, confident he'd get what he came for. (He did; Mr. Douglas got the award.)

Mr. Valenti, who died on April 26, was a warrior, and he knew how to win. He just looked harmless.

Mr. Valenti was born in Houston, the grandchild of Sicilian immigrants, and his parents taught him loyalty, love of the United States and the importance of education, values he never surrendered or compromised.

Still, ''a fierce ambition burned in me,'' he wrote. ''I wanted to see more, know more and feel more than what seemed to be my lot.'' He found three major combat zones in which to achieve his dreams—war, politics and movie-making—and he writes about each in a different manner.

Mr. Valenti's earliest chance to make something of himself came in World War II. He entered the Army Air Corps and flew a B–25 on 51 combat missions over Europe, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross for his valor. His descriptions of that time, that place, are among the most vivid in his book. His prose throbs with memories of an experience that was simultaneously exhilarating, terrifying and ''brutal, callous and cruel.''

After the war Mr. Valenti completed his education at Harvard Business School and returned to Texas, joining with a friend to form a highly successful advertising agency. When Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, a fellow Texan, asked Mr. Valenti to organize President John F. Kennedy's visit to Houston, scheduled for Nov. 21, 1963, Mr. Valenti managed on short notice to mastermind a flawless event. Pleased and impressed, Johnson impulsively invited him to go along on the next leg of Kennedy's journey: a brief hop to Fort Worth and Dallas, set for the next day.

Mr. Valenti went, and found himself eyewitness to the assassination of one American president and the emergency swearing in of another aboard Air Force One. Mr. Valenti would never again return to his life as an adman in Houston. That fateful Nov. 22 and its aftermath became the defining event of his life, a frame to hold his story, a shadow over it but also a foundation under it.

Mr. Valenti served three years in the Johnson White House as a top presidential aide. In this section of the book he is circumspect. He's a shrewd observer but careful with what he shares. Since he supervised Johnson's speeches, decided whom the president would see (or not see) and where he would go (or not go) to speak (or not speak), a reader wishes for more. If Jack Valenti were a great writer (he's not), a tattletale or even a Judas (he's not), his book could have been one of the most important historical pictures of the tormented decade of the 1960s in the United States.

Mr. Valenti left Washington in 1966 when Lew Wasserman, the chief executive of MCA Universal Studios, offered him the opportunity to become the head of the Motion Picture Association of America. To accept, Mr. Valenti had to face Johnson's wrath, and it says a lot about him that he did face it, carried the day and ended up still friends with that mercurial politician.

Writing about Hollywood, Mr. Valenti is looser, more willing to tell tales. His good-old-boy Texas storytelling skills are brought into irreverent play. He wryly describes his first meeting with the combined studio moguls (''the most skeptical audience in the Western world''). Full of Oval Office confidence, Mr. Valenti gave a rousing speech defining his job problems, only to hear Jack Warner, the tough-guy head of Warner Brothers, calmly tell him, ''Your biggest problem will be the people sitting around this table.''

Ultimately, Mr. Valenti learned how to operate in Hollywood: ''In any meeting, I had to know who could carry the room at a particularly sensitive moment.'' He does not state the obvious: it was usually he.

His most enduring legacy from those years was his establishment in 1968 of the motion picture rating system, for which he fought ferociously and which he defended without apology. In the preface to his book Mr. Valenti warns the reader that he is writing for his grandchildren. In other words, he's going to censor himself. Just as he kept a lid on fear under combat stress, a lid on President Johnson (no doubt a lid the size of Kansas) and a lid on the leaders of Hollywood, Mr. Valenti keeps his memoir firmly under control. He tells only what he wants to tell, disappearing behind platitudes or quotations from Emerson, Faulkner and others when camouflage is needed.

To compensate, he never apologizes for being a Democrat and gives opinions on literature (''I never fathomed James Joyce''), Cary Grant (''getting Cary to pick up the restaurant check was a miracle few had ever witnessed''), Oscar night (''a ghastly piece of business'') and more.

Mr. Valenti is only indirectly the hero of his own story, but he's still a clever adman who knows how to sell his product. What emerges is a portrait of a man who was not, as some might think, merely a political toady. In his own way he was strong and relentless, with a tough definition for leadership: ''I have my own formula, which is quite simple. It is rooted in the ability to engage in courtship, to cosset talent, to understand the human condition and to make decisions fast.''

When Mr. Valenti died at 85 of complications from a stroke, he had already unknowingly written his own most honest epitaph: ''The professional does his job right every time, without regard for anything else.'' He had lived his life as a gentleman and a patriot, always the smooth operator (with scruples), but a man of steel whenever that became necessary. He might have been the last of the breed.

REMEMBERING THE INNOCENT LOST DURING SREBRENICA GENOCIDE

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathy for the thousands who lost their lives on this, the 12th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide.

We should remember all of the innocent people who were brutally killed by honoring their lives and remembering their struggle for freedom during the 3-year conflict in Srebrenica, a city in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This conflict was the largest massacre and genocide of civilians in Europe since World War II.

In my district, I have the largest Bosnian population outside of Bosnia today. Approximately 40,000 Bosnians reside in the St. Louis, MO, area.

Of these, upwards of 5,000 are survivors of the Srebrenica massacre.

As a Representative of my Bosnian-American friends in St. Louis, I understand that this tragedy continues to affect many of my constituents.

We must commemorate those who died, hold those who are responsible accountable, and honor the brave survivors.

It is important for us to remember this dark chapter in history to learn from it for the benefit of our future generations.

HONORING DR. TOBIN MARKS OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY ON RECEIVING THE 2005 NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional professor and scientist at Northwestern University, Dr. Tobin J. Marks. His pioneering research in the areas of homogenous and heterogeneous catalysis, organo-f-element chemistry, new electronic and photonic materials, and diverse areas of coordination and solid state chemistry, has earned him the 2005 National Medal of Science, the Nation's highest award for lifetime achievement in fields of scientific research. As a graduate of Northwestern University, I am especially proud to recognize his accomplishments and thank him for his years of dedication.

Dr. Marks, who joined Northwestern in 1970, serves as the Vladimir N. Ipatieff Research Professor of Chemistry in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, and Professor of Materials Science and Engineering. He is recognized as a leader in the development and understanding of single-site polymerization catalysis, which is now a multi-billion dollar industry. He designed a co-catalyst that led to what is now a standard process for producing better polyolefins. Found in everything from sandwich wrap to long underwear, these versatile and inexpensive plastics are lighter in weight and more recyclable than previous plastics.

He also is conducting cutting-edge research of new materials that have remarkable electrical, mechanical, interfacial, and photonic properties. In his molecular optoelectronics work, Marks designs arrays of ''smart'' molecules that will self-assemble into, or spontaneously form, structures that can conduct electricity, switch light on and off, detect light, and turn sunlight into electricity. These structures could lead to the world's most, versatile and stable light-emitting diodes, LEDs, and to flexible ''plastic'' transistors.

During his career, Marks has received numerous honors, including the American Institute of Chemists Gold Medal, the John C. Bailar Medal from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Sir Edward Frankland Prize Lectureship of the British Royal Society of Chemistry, and the Karl Ziegler Prize of the German Chemical Society. He also is a recipient of three American Chemical Society, ACS, national awards and the ACS Chicago Section's 2001 Josiah Willard Gibbs Medal, regarded by many as the highest award given to chemists next to the Nobel Prize. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1993.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Tobin Marks for his tireless efforts in pioneering scientific research in chemistry. He has done nothing less than an extraordinary job in his field and is truly deserving of the National Medal of Science. I congratulate Tobin for this outstanding honor.