

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PRIME MINISTER IVO SANADER WORKS TO BRING CROATIA INTO NATO AND EUROPEAN UNION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to the excellent work of the Croatian Prime Minister, His Excellency Dr. Ivo Sanader. Under his leadership Croatia has made important strides in the important task of integrating Croatia with NATO and in preparing Croatia for full membership in the European Union.

Dr. Sanader became the head of the Croatian government in December 2003 when his political party, the Croatian Democratic Union Party (HDZ), was victorious in the country's election on November 23, 2003.

Prime Minister Sanader has had a distinguished record of government service that has prepared him well to assume the position of Prime Minister. Following his election to parliament in 1992, shortly after Croatia became a fully independent country, he was appointed Minister of Science and Technology—a position he held until January 1993 when he was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister. In this capacity, he participated in the bilateral talks that led to the establishment of the Croat-Muslim Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH). At the end of November 1995, following the Dayton Peace Accords, Dr. Sanader left the cabinet to become chief of staff to then-President Franjo Tudjman. From 1996 to 2000, he again served as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. In 1998 he was elected president of the HDZ, which he worked to strengthen, modernize and reform into a pro-European, center-right political party.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Sanader's main foreign policy priority has been Croatia's accession to NATO and the European Union. I applaud his efforts to ensure that his country becomes an active participant in these critically important international institutions that have done much to provide a framework for intra-European and trans-Atlantic cooperation.

In October 2001, the Government of Croatia signed a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU making the country an official candidate for membership. Since becoming Prime Minister, Dr. Sanader has taken important steps to prepare for EU membership. Under his leadership Croatia has seen healthy economic growth of some 4 percent annually, and there have been important reforms in the country's judicial system and the system of land registry. He has been willing to take tough decisions to move Croatia forward.

The Prime Minister has also steered his country toward NATO accession following Croatia's admission to the Membership Action

Plan (MAP) in May 2002, which signified the institutionalization of relations with NATO and formally launched the accession process. It is expected that Croatia will receive a formal invitation to become a full member of the Alliance at the NATO Summit in Bucharest next summer.

Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister's efforts to foster trans-Atlantic dialogue were on display in early July at the important 2007 Croatian Summit on "Europe's New South", which he convened in the beautiful Adriatic city of Dubrovnik. An impressive group of political leaders from across Europe joined Dr. Sanader to discuss how South East Europe can fully integrate into the Euro-Atlantic community, focusing on pressing security interests as well as NATO and EU expansion.

Madam Speaker, in conclusion, I wish to commend Prime Minister Ivo Sanader for his role in moving Croatia from a past of divisive nationalism to a future of economic and political progress through active and responsible international cooperation.

A TRIBUTE TO GENE AUTRY AND THE AUTRY NATIONAL CENTER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial of Gene Autry's birth. Gene Autry was a great American patriot and hero, whose vision and spirit was characteristic of the American West that he came to represent.

Today also marks another momentous occasion, the Autry National Center's 20th Annual Gala. Twenty years ago, the Autry National Center held its first gala prior to the opening of the Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage.

Gene Autry was born 100 years ago in Tioga, TX. He arrived in California and became famous as the "singing cowboy." Gene, known for his innovation, revolutionized American cinema, pioneering the western musical. He is the only entertainer to date to have been awarded all five stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Gene Autry was also the first movie star to use television as a way of reaching his audience. It was through his music and his warm and winning smile that he connected with people. He conveyed a deep sense of patriotism, encouraging his audience, young and old, to be kind to one another and live by the high minded standards of conduct, "The Cowboy Code," to which he held himself.

Gene Autry and his beloved horse Champion were always at the ready and eager to serve their country. Gene joined up with the Army Air Corps in 1942, earning the title of sergeant, flying fuel, ammunition, and arms over the Himalayas. After the war, Mr. Autry

toured with a USO troupe in the South Pacific, bringing the familiar melody of home to the distantly stationed troops.

In 1988, Gene Autry, along with his wife Jackie Autry, founded the Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage. In his lifetime Gene Autry was able to fulfill his dream of building a "museum which would exhibit and interpret the heritage of the West and show how it influenced America and the world."

In 2003, the Autry National Center was established, commemorating the American West through its three institutions, the Southwest Museum of the American Indian, the Museum of the American West, and the Institute for the Study of the American West. In keeping with the spirit of Gene Autry, the Autry National Center provides insight into the diverse tapestry of cultures and peoples that make up the American West. The success of the Autry National Center is largely due to Jackie Autry's unsurpassed dedication and devotion to the vision of her late husband.

It is my pleasure to honor the centennial of Gene Autry's birth as well as the Autry National Center on its 20 years of service to the southern California community. I ask all members to join me in commending the Autry National Center.

HONORING DADE CITY POLICE CHIEF PHILLIP THOMPSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dade City, Florida Police Chief Phillip Thompson on the occasion of his upcoming retirement. With more than 20 years of experience on the Dade City police force, his contributions to the community will be sorely missed.

As the top law enforcement officer for one of the largest cities in my district, I have seen firsthand the positive effect his leadership has had in combating crime in Dade City. In the period from 2005 to 2006, the Dade City community saw a reduction in reported crimes of 6½ percent. Police Chief Thompson's leadership and the dedication of his staff of 24 played a vital role in that reduction, as well as stepped-up enforcement patrols in troubled residential areas.

Chief Thompson, who at 55 years old has enough service years to begin his retirement, has worked for the Dade City Police Department for 20 years. Prior to his career with the Dade City force, Chief Thompson first joined the Brooksville Police Department when he was only 19. He then spent 11 years with the Pasco Sheriff's office and 1 year as a Hillsborough County deputy. On April 23, 1987, he became the Dade City police chief.

● 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.

In recognition of his 20 years of service, the Florida Police Chiefs Association will present Chief Thompson with an award at an upcoming commission meeting.

While Chief Thompson's Parkinson's disease played a role in his retirement, he currently feels fine and has plans to pursue an active lifestyle in his retirement years. As a part-time teacher of criminal justice at Saint Leo University and Pasco-Hernando Community College, I am sure that Chief Thompson will have plenty of work to keep him active and involved in the law enforcement community.

Madam Speaker, Chief Thompson has spent his entire career working towards the safety of Pasco and Hernando County residents. While he is retiring from service, his contributions to Dade City as Police Chief for the past 20 years will never be forgotten. I would hope that all area residents recognize his decades of public service and thank him for all that he has done for Dade City.

A TRIBUTE TO DEION SANDERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute today to Deion Sanders, former Dallas Cowboys football player. His many years of community service and dedication in making a difference in the lives of people are truly deserving of our appreciation and praise.

Deion Sanders, a former cornerback for the Dallas Cowboys and one of the best cornerbacks in the NFL, decided to graciously open up his home and heart to nine disadvantaged children in order to teach them responsibility and life skills.

Mr. Sanders is truly devoted to enhancing the lives of young people and he has decided to have 14 children, including his own 5 kids, live at his home for the summer. There are five adolescent boys and four girls. Most of the children come from families with no father in the home. Mr. Sanders is giving these children a fulfilling and productive summer. The children eat, pray, do chores and go on field trips together.

He believes that the true key to helping children is by teaching them responsibility. Along with opening up his home this summer, Deion Sanders is creating a biblically based mentoring program called Primetime Army. This program will give parents and their sons access to Sanders and his team of professionals on a 24-7 basis for a monthly fee.

Mr. Sanders wants to encourage children to dream big because anything can be possible. All children deserve a chance at success and Deion Sanders is helping to give them that chance.

I know that Deion will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and that America will continue to benefit from his dedication, service and hard work.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Deion Sanders and in applauding this remarkable citizen for all he has done in north Texas, to those of us whose lives he has touched.

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HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CAROLYN LAVERNE DAVENPORT

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the finest educators ever to serve students in my congressional district. Please join me in congratulating Carolyn LaVerne Davenport for thirty-four years of outstanding service to my constituents in the 13th Congressional District of Georgia.

Ms. Davenport was born in Atlanta and raised in Jonesboro, Georgia, the heart of my district. As a youth, she attended the same school system in which she taught for many years, graduating as valedictorian from the W.A. Fountain School in 1965. She went on to earn a Bachelor's degree from Spelman College in 1969 and received her Master's of Elementary Education degree in 1972. Carolyn taught first and third grades at George M. Kilpatrick Elementary School. Throughout her career, Ms. Davenport received many accolades including an honorary life membership to the Georgia Parent Teacher Association, as well as a Certificate of Special Achievement from the American Red Cross Youth Services.

Not only was she a leader in the classroom, she was a leader in her community as well. Twenty-five years ago, Carolyn founded the Clayton County Campaign for the United Negro College Fund. Thanks to the UNCF and Carolyn's activism, thousands of students, including several of my colleagues in this great body, have been able to receive a higher education and pursue their dreams. In 1991, in recognition of her great efforts, Ms. Davenport received the UNCF Star Volunteer Award and the 2000 South Metro Salute to Higher Education Award. She has also volunteered for many civil rights, community and international organizations including the Concerned Black Citizens Coalition of Clayton County, the NAACP, the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and CARE International.

Madam Speaker, Carolyn Davenport is a true public servant. The impact she has made continues to be felt by her colleagues, friends and other members of the community. As she enters retirement, she will still be regarded as an exceptional leader and a model citizen. Once again, I congratulate Carolyn for reaching this milestone.