

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ANN SAMPSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of Mrs. Ann Sampson, as the devoted Golden Stars Drill Team coach at Eagle Grove High School in Eagle Grove, Iowa.

Ann has served as the coach of the drill team she founded for the past 14 years. Her passion for this team has had, and will continue to have, a lasting impact on the many young ladies that were fortunate enough to be led by Ann.

During Ann's first year as coach, the team did not have the resources for uniforms during performances, so she found old flag squad outfits at the high school and managed to transform them into the new uniforms for the team. Her exceptional organizational skills and the team's rapid success led to the first Golden Stars Drill Team Night at the end of the team's inaugural school year, which raised enough money for brand new uniforms the next school year. In her third year coaching, and second year competing, Ann led the Golden Stars to their first state title.

Ann's impact on the young ladies wasn't limited to just the dance floor; important life lessons for achievement were instilled. Ann focused the team on forming a family bond, as a recipe for success. The Golden Stars motto is "you're only as strong as your weakest link." This motto speaks of Ann's natural abilities to lead this team through the years.

I consider it a great honor to represent Ann Sampson in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in thanking her for her service to the youth of Iowa and wish her and her family all the best that the future brings them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 961, H. Res. 738—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Government of Syria's continued interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF GREATER CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Retired Senior Volun-

teer Program of Greater Cleveland (RSVP) on the occasion of their 35th anniversary of service to community non-profits and countless people in the Cleveland area.

RSVP is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service, one of the largest volunteer efforts in the country. The Greater Cleveland chapter of RSVP opened its doors in 1972, back when I was a Cleveland city councilman, and it is one of the biggest—and perhaps the best—in the country today.

Based on principles of giving back to a society which has given, the over 3,200 volunteers contribute over 400,000 hours of service to the community each year to more than 200 non-profit agencies. Many of these organizations simply could not exist without the help of the RSVP volunteers, and none could provide the level of quality service the volunteers offer without them. The list of organizations utilizing generous commitment of RSVP volunteers is broad and ranges from hospitals, to museums, to hunger centers, and to schools.

Meals are prepared and delivered to home-bound residents that might otherwise not have access to this service. School children are helped with their literacy skills and provided with quality adult role models. New citizens are welcomed to the country. The bereaved and ill are counseled. Educational tours are provided to students and the general public at NASA, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Great Lakes Science Center, among many educational and entertaining outlets. And the list goes on.

One of the great successes of Cleveland's RSVP program is the management of a tutoring program for children in the Cleveland municipal schools called Experience Corps. During this school year alone, 220 tutors mentored 1,400 students in 14 elementary schools, and the hope is to someday be able to provide quality tutors to all children that need help. Cleveland's Experience Corps program, part of a national effort, has been so successful that it was selected as one of four throughout the country to serve as a model for expansion of the program nationally.

Community projects, such as festivals, fairs, walkathons and other civic functions, depend largely on volunteers for short-term or one-time assignments, and RSVP comes through with a group called Team RSVP. This year, Team RSVP volunteers have already participated in more than 100 community events, with many more scheduled through the end of 2007.

A group of volunteers called the RSVP Players creates and presents educational and entertaining performances for audiences of older adults throughout Northeast Ohio. The troupe has also assisted with informational programs about Medicare information, prescription misuse, predatory lending, re-entering the job market and other issues relevant to seniors.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring RSVP of Greater Cleveland, an organization with an extraordinary commitment to service in the Cleveland area, and its humble volunteers that fill numerous needs in

Ohio's 10th Congressional District and beyond. Their footprint is large and deep, and their accomplishments will be felt for generations to come.

COMMENDING NASA LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution celebrating 50 years of America reaching for the stars.

Fifty years ago when the Soviets launched Sputnik our Nation was thrown into a panic because we believed we had fallen behind our major adversary.

That was true and America responded.

Our Nation came together and made it a national priority to advance our technology and challenge the Soviets in the space race.

This effort had an impact on my family as my father answered the Nation's call to work at the Redstone Rocket Factory with Werner Von Braun.

Those efforts produced the rockets that launched the first satellites, put an American into space, and ultimately landed a man on the moon.

The impact of the American space program on our Nation—and the efforts of the hundreds of thousands of people who participated in it—cannot be understated.

Today people from across our Nation and the world can watch these proceedings live due to satellite broadcast. We can communicate via cell phones and e-mail. We can cook our food in microwave ovens. We can access information immediately over the Internet. All of these advancements can trace their roots to the American space program.

The fact is that our space program has dramatically changed our Nation and our world for the better.

It has always been the case that when America is united toward a difficult challenge we rise to the occasion and succeed.

There is no greater example of this fact than the success of the American space program.

With all of the incredible developments of the last 50 years one can only wonder what the next 50 will bring.

Perhaps a permanent settlement on the moon.

Perhaps a manned mission to Mars.

One can only imagine what incredible advances such efforts will bring to our society.

One thing is certain—that when America reaches for the stars—the sky is the limit to what we can achieve.

● 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.