

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST RO AGUILAR

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleague, Hon. GEORGE MILLER, in the House of Representatives, to recognize Ro Aguilar for her service to the residents of the East Bay as an analyst for the East Bay Regional Park District, EBRPD, for more than 20 years.

Before joining the EBRPD Ms. Aguilar had established a strong record of effective public service in our community. She started her career of service as an educator in Contra Costa County and also served as a community coordinator for a local chapter of the American Red Cross.

In 1986 Ms. Aguilar joined the EBRPD as an administrative analyst in public affairs. Due to her sharp analytical skills and commitment to the values and ideals of the EBRPD she was appointed to the general manager's office as the legislative administrative assistant in just 2 short years.

The EBRPD has relied heavily on Ms. Aguilar's expertise and leadership skill. Since 1991 she has attended almost every National Park Recreation Association Mid-Year Legislative Forum in Washington, DC. Her efficient analytical style has also been central to her successful work with agencies and legislative staffers at all levels of government.

Ms. Aguilar's tireless work to organize and advocate on behalf of special districts in our community has produced remarkable results in our region. In the early 1990s she was instrumental in organizing the Alameda and Contra Costa County chapters of the California Special Districts Association, CSDA. Through the years these associations have contributed significantly to the quality of life for Alameda and Contra Costa County residents.

Since the formation of local CSDA affiliates Ms. Aguilar has regularly presented written reports to the local chapters regarding critical special district issues. Ms. Aguilar has offered her expertise on the Constitutional Revision Commission, the State budget tax shifts, and AB 1335, the special district representation on Local Agency Formation Commission legislation. Due to her commitment and strong work on behalf of special districts in our community Ms. Aguilar was recognized and honored as the Legislative Advocate of the Year for 2007 by the CSDA.

Ms. Aguilar's many accomplishments have immeasurably improved the East Bay and enriched the lives of its residents. I would like to thank her for her years of public service and wish her success and happiness in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BEN ANDREW SCHAMEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ben Andrew Schamel of Blue Springs, Missouri. Ben is 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, Unit 1362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ben has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ben 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 Ben Andrew Schamel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

LETTER TO GEN PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD the text of a letter authored by Dean Harold Hongju Koh of Yale Law School and signed by numerous prominent law school deans, professors, and students to GEN Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan denouncing his recent assault on the rule of law in his country. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

We the undersigned lawyers, deans, professors, law students, and law school administration and staff denounce in the strongest terms General Pervez Musharraf's recent assault on the rule of law in Pakistan. By suspending the Constitution; dissolving the Supreme Court and the provincial High Courts and replacing them with judges of his own choosing; engaging in arbitrary and unprovoked arrests of thousands of opposition leaders, journalists, and other law-abiding citizens; and violently suppressing protests by hundreds of lawyers who were acting in the highest tradition of our profession, General Musharraf is trampling upon the very system of law that alone can justify a ruler's power over his people. We stand in solidarity with our fellow lawyers and the democratic values that they represent, and we urge an early restoration of legality and legitimate authority in Pakistan.

Sincerely,

HAROLD HONGJU KOH,
Dean and Gerard C.
and Bernice Latrobe
Smith Professor of
International Law,
Yale Law School.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BRIGADIER GENERAL JODI TYMESON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Iowa Army National Guard BG Jodi Tymeson after 33 years of faithful and honorable service.

After graduating from Ogden High School, GEN Jodi Tymeson enlisted in the Iowa National Guard in 1974 and was assigned to the headquarters and Headquarters Company, 248th Aviation Battalion, beginning her long and distinguished career in the military. She was selected to attend the Iowa Military Academy's officer candidate school and commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1982, assigned to Company B, 234th Signal Battalion as a telecommunications officer. During her service in the 234th Signal Battalion, GEN Tymeson also served as a platoon leader, company commander, systems control officer, battalion operations and training officer, executive officer and battalion commander.

In 1997 GEN Tymeson was assigned to the 67th Troop Command, where she served as an intelligence officer, operations and training officer, special projects officer and commander. On September 24, 2002, she became the first female to be promoted to the general officer rank in the Iowa National Guard. In addition to her many military positions, GEN Tymeson has an impressive military education background, a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Northern Iowa and a master's degree in public administration from Drake University. She also currently serves in the Iowa House of Representatives as a District 73 Representative.

I commend GEN Jodi Tymeson for her many years of loyalty and service to our great Nation. It is an immense honor to represent GEN Tymeson in Congress, and I wish her the best in health and happiness throughout the future.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTIAN RANDALL PETERSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christian Randall Peterson of Blue Springs, Missouri. Christian is 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, Unit 1546, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christian 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 Christian Randall Peterson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in

achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING RAY BROOKS HIGH SCHOOL 2007 CLASS 1A STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Ray Brooks High School for winning the Mississippi Class 1A State Football Championship. The Ray Brooks Tigers completed the 2007 season amassing 13 victories and only 1 loss. This State Championship is their second in 3 years.

Benoit is a small town in the Mississippi Delta, as of the 2000 census there were 611 residents. As a matter of fact, Ray Brooks is one of the smallest high schools in the State of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, although Benoit may be small in population; it has no shortcomings in regards to its high school football team.

What makes this feat more impressive is the fact that Ray Brooks didn't have a football program for 15 years until 2002. The Tigers have been in the playoffs each of the last 6 years they have been back on the football field. During this 6-year period, the tigers have been phenomenal going 62–13 since restarting their football program.

Madam Speaker, not only have the Tigers enjoyed success this year but, they have done so dominantly averaging 35.4 points per game during the regular season while only allowing 9.9 points per game this season. Three wins came by the way of a shutout.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the student-athletes, student-body, faculty, staff, administration, and the community of West Bolivar for winning the 2007 Mississippi Class 1A State Championship. I am extremely proud to represent these young men and I look forward to the 2008 season.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS "TOMMY" MAKEM

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the passing of a friend and a man for whom I held a tremendous amount of respect, Tommy Makem.

Tommy was an internationally celebrated folk musician, actor, artist, poet, songwriter, and storyteller from Ireland who took pride in sharing the Irish culture with those around the globe. He emigrated to the United States in 1955, with nothing more than a makeshift suitcase, a pair of bagpipes, and proof of his health, to pursue a career in acting. He settled in Dover, New Hampshire. After a brief period as an actor, Tommy Makem went on to join a band of Irish descent, The Clancy Brothers, where he rose to international fame.

Tommy broke out on his own following his time with The Clancy Brothers and educated

generations on the history, traditions, and customs of Ireland through his music, art, and poetry. He wrote hundreds of songs, including, "Four Green Fields," "Gentle Annie," and "The Rambles of Spring," which have been played in Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden, Royal Albert Hall and across the United States, Canada, and Australia.

Tommy Makem's illustrious career awarded him honorary doctorates from the University of New Hampshire in 1998, the University of Limerick in 2001, and the University of Ulster in 2007. He was regarded as an exceptional musician and achieved both gold and platinum albums, and a host of other awards, such as the Gold Medal of the Eire Society in Boston, the Genesis Award from Stonehill College in Massachusetts, an Emmy nomination for a New Hampshire public television series, as well as the first Lifetime Achievement Award in the Irish Voice/Aer Lingus Community Awards. Tommy, one of the greatest Irish-Americans of the 20th Century, was also listed as one of the top 100 Irish Americans in the Irish American Magazine 5 years in a row. The World Folk Music Association awarded him its Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999.

Tommy Makem passed away on Wednesday, August 1, 2007, in Dover, New Hampshire. He will be remembered not only for his incredible achievements, but as a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. His enduring memory and music will live on, as will the power and energy of his unyielding spirit. He remains a true inspiration to me and millions of others around the world.

TRIBUTE TO HUNTER EDISON STOLL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hunter Edison Stoll of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Hunter is 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, Unit 1255 and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hunter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hunter 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 Hunter Edison Stoll 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 COUNCILMAN WERNER SCHON

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Councilman Werner Schon and his service to the residents of Mountainside, New Jersey.

Councilman Schon is the longest serving councilman in Mountainside history, having served for 25 years, including 3 years as council president. He has also served as the town's fire commissioner, during which time he helped to acquisition fire vehicles for his town. When the New Jersey Department of Transportation attempted to close a U-Turn on a local highway, Councilman Schon worked diligently to alert the Department about safety concerns connected with such a move, and he successfully prevented the closure.

Werner Schon is retiring from public service in Mountainside and will be honored at the town's reorganization meeting on January 2, 2008. I join the residents of Mountainside in wishing Councilman Schon many happy years of rest and relaxation with his family, and I am pleased to honor his service to Mountainside.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH K JOHNSEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph K Johnsen of Kearney, Missouri. Joseph is 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, Unit 1135, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph 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 Joseph K Johnsen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF NON-EXCESS PROPERTY OF MILITARY DEPARTMENTS ACT"

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to take reasonable steps to prevent avoidable disasters related to seismic activity in connection with the lease and development of non-excess property of military departments, H.R. 4719.

In San Diego, California, the Department of the Navy is planning a mixed-use development along the downtown waterfront that will incorporate not only a new Navy headquarters, but also business, commercial, and housing elements. It has come to my attention that the land in question is within the Uniform Building Code, UBC, Seismic Zone 4.

My bill requires the lease for this development to be revoked unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that seismic activity would not have any significant impact on any