

IN TRIBUTE TO NICK TENAGLIA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Nick Tenaglia, a native son of Astoria in Queens who has dedicated his energies throughout his life to serving others. In recognition of his selfless dedication to his community, Nick Tenaglia was honored by the Tamiment Regular Democratic Club of the Borough of Queens in New York City at its 76th Annual Dinner Dance.

A lifelong Astoria resident, Nick Tenaglia has distinguished himself both for his service to the community and for his proficiency as an outdoorsman and nature lover. After graduating from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Elementary School and LaSalle Academy, he chose a career in the building trades. Nick Tenaglia joined the Carpenters Union, where he served an apprenticeship for four years. In 1985, he joined the staff of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and eight years later was promoted to Supervisor.

It was fitting that Mr. Tenaglia made his professional home at the municipal agency charged with protecting the beautiful and diverse natural environment of the New York City metropolitan area, because he is an avid and skilled angler and marksman. In 1997 and 1998, Nick Tenaglia was named the New York City Fresh Water Fishing Champion, and he has also earned awards from the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. He regularly participates in New York State Rifle and Pistol Club competitions. In his spare time, he can frequently be found at his property in the Pocono Mountains.

In being honored by the Tamiment Regular Democratic Club, Nick Tenaglia's achievements were recognized by one of the largest and most vibrant political and civic organizations in our nation's greatest city. The Tamiment Club represents voters in the neighborhoods of Astoria and Long Island City in the New York State Assembly's 36th District and is led by its able District Leaders, the Honorable Gloria DeMarco Aloise and the Honorable George Onorato, a distinguished New York State Senator. The Tamiment Club, which Mr. Tenaglia serves as a Member of the Board of Directors and as Sergeant-at-Arms, proudly carries the banner of the world's oldest political party in one of the most diverse counties in the United States of America. Borough of Queens.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions to the community made by Nick Tenaglia.

HONORING THE FAYETTEVILLE
MANLIUS HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S
CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Fayetteville

Manlius, F–M, High School Girl's Cross Country Team, 2007 Nike Team National Champions. The F–M Girl's Cross Country Team won at the State, regional, and national levels to earn their second consecutive national championship title, and become the first team ever to win back to back Nike National Championships.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young women on their outstanding athletic achievement and praise head coach William Aris, and assistant coaches John Aris and David Davis on their team's success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Hornets defend their title in 2008.

The team members are Kathryn Buchan, Katie Buchan, Mackenzie Carter, Courtney Chapman, Hannah Lubber, Molly Malone, and Jocelyn Richards.

SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL FOOD
DONATION ACT

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to support the Federal Food Donation Act, an important piece of legislation that will help address the scourge of hunger in America.

Each year, 35 million Americans, including 12 million children, go hungry, even though we live in the richest nation in the world. In many ways, the situation is getting worse, as increasing costs for food, energy and housing mean that increasing numbers of working families have difficulty affording sufficient food. According to a report by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 80 percent of cities studied reported increases in requests for emergency food assistance during the last year. Despite this increase in need for food assistance, too little has been done to ensure that food banks, pantries and other charitable organizations have sufficient resources to address the needs of their hungry clients.

The Federal Food Donation Act will help alleviate the shortage of food among organizations that work to serve the hungry. This important bill will amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to provide that contracts will contain provisions encouraging the donation of excess, apparently wholesome food to non-profit organizations working to combat hunger. The bill will ensure that excess food acquired for the use of the federal government does not go to waste and instead goes to help feed the hungry.

The Federal Food Donation Act represents an important step forward in the effort to combat poverty. I am hopeful that the bill will also spur more organizations in the private sector to follow suit and to ensure that they make good use of excess food. Additionally, I am hopeful that Congress will soon pass legislation strengthening the Food Stamp program by substantially increasing benefits and easing access to the program for eligible beneficiaries, to help ensure that the 25 million Americans who receive Food Stamp benefits each year receive sufficient assistance to prevent them from becoming hungry.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to express my support for the Federal Food Donation Act. Our country must no longer tolerate the presence of widespread hunger and I believe that this legislation will play a critical role in combating hunger. I am proud to express my full support for this legislation and I thank my friend and colleague, Mrs. EMERSON, for her sponsorship of the bill and for her leadership in fighting hunger.

A TRIBUTE TO DADY BELFORT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dady Belfort. Dady, one of four children, was born in Les Cayes on the Island of Haiti to Rose Nostalie and Joseph Santiford Belfort. In 1977, she migrated to the United States enrolling in Erasmus Hall High School. After her high school graduation in 1980, she attended Kings Borough Community College and is currently enrolled at John Jay College, pursuing a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Dady became a police officer for the City of New York in 1989. Since joining the force, she has received numerous citations during her 18 years of service. In 2002, she became the force's Community Affairs Officer and in 2005 she was promoted to Detective.

Dady is very active in her community. She is a regular participant in the New York Cares coat drive as well as numerous toy drives. Dady walks each year in the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish's walk-a-thon for the Knights of Columbus, and the walk for breast cancer at Jones Beach. She is a member of the Canarsie Lions Club, and the Haitian American Law Enforcement Fraternal Organization. Dady coordinates with various organizations' outreach programs to help the less fortunate by collecting food for the homeless, adopting a family for the holidays, and frequently assisting at the Gerald R. Ryan Outreach Center Soup Kitchen.

As a young girl, Dady has always wanted to make a difference in her community. She lives her life by one simple saying, "Happiness is not an individual matter. When you are able to bring relief or bring back the smile to one person, not only that person profits but you also profit. The deepest happiness you can have comes from the capacity to help relieve the suffering of others. So if we have the habit of being peaceful, there is a natural tendency for us to go into the direction of service."

Dady is married to Cecil Ramsay and they have three children; Rodnny, Samantha and Christopher.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this pillar of New York who has set the bar extremely high for individual service to her community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this Dady Belfort.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
DAVID H. HUNTOON, JR.

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements of Major General David H. Huntoon, Jr., currently serving as the 46th Commandant of the United States Army War College, located in my Congressional District at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Gen. Huntoon became the 46th Commandant of the Army War College in August 2003. His service in this post will come to a close in January, when he will be reassigned to Fort Myers.

The resume of Gen. Huntoon is long and distinguished, fitting for the Commandant of an institution with a long and distinguished history. Gen. Huntoon was commissioned in 1973 from the Military Academy at West Point. He served thirteen years as an infantry officer; he served in the Directorate of Plans at Fort Bragg during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Operation Just Cause; and he has served as a National Security Fellow at the Hoover Institute, as an Executive Officer to the Chief of Staff of the Army, and as the Director of Strategy at the Pentagon.

As the Commandant of the Army War College, Gen. Huntoon has been dedicated to training strategic leaders in the war against terrorism. He speaks of the need to restore the peace shattered on 9/11. He speaks with reverence of both family and the military family, and he has worked to bring the community of Carlisle into the folds of his daily command.

It has been a privilege and an honor to get to know Gen. Huntoon and his family over the past few years. I want to thank him for his dedicated service to the mission of the United States Army War College and to the defense of our great Nation. I wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GEORGE PARASKEVAIDES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to the honor the life and accomplishments of George Paraskevaides, a humanitarian of unmatched proportions. Mr. Paraskevaides was one of the most renowned Cypriot philanthropists of his day. His life story reads like a classic tale of rags to riches. Born in Athens, Greece in 1916, George Paraskevaides moved with his family back to Cyprus where he excelled in school and ultimately graduated from the Polytechnic Institute in Milan, Italy. After World War II, Mr. Paraskevaides, together with Stelios Ioannou, formed the most preeminent architectural engineering firm in Cyprus, Joannou & Paraskevaides.

George Paraskevaides' keen intellect and unmatched work ethic, allowed Joannou & Paraskevaides to become one of the most prolific firms in the Middle East, Africa, and

Asia. This lucrative company allowed Mr. Paraskevaides to engage in the work he enjoyed most: helping others. George quickly became recognized in Cyprus as a champion of Cypriot issues and sick children.

His death on December 5, 2007 at the age of 91 has left a gaping hole in the hearts of Cypriots the world over. He was the voice of all that is true and good about the island nation. President of the Republic of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos, said of the passing of George Paraskevaides. "He was a model of humanity, dignity and kindness. He offered a lot in a selfless way to those who needed help and was a benefactor for Cyprus, serving his country with patriotism. He leaves behind him charity work for which he will be dearly remembered as a man of high moral standards." I could not concur more with this sentiment.

George Paraskevaides is recognized the world over for his good works and philanthropy. He has received innumerable awards including the Medal of Exceptional Contribution, the highest honor of the Republic of Cyprus, Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) by Queen Elizabeth II, the Order of Oman III, Class Civil by Sultan Qaboos of Oman, the Rotary Foundation Medal, and the Medal of Merit of the Lions International Club of Nicosia, the St. Paul's Medal by the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of North and South America, and the St. Marcus Medal by the Pontifex. He is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and was also honored with the Holy Cross of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In addition, the works of the George and Thelma Paraskevaides Foundation has been recognized for having formed links with Shriners' Hospital in Springfield, MA, and Children's Heart Fund Hospital in Minneapolis and has provided numerous scholarships for less fortunate Cypriots. Paraskevaides founded the Cyprus Kidney Association, the Surgical and Transplant Foundation and the Cyprus Heart Association.

Madam Speaker, while the list of awards is impressive. I am sure the biggest award that George Paraskevaides won in his life was the love and affection of his wife, Thelma, and his family. He will be missed but never forgotten. May his memory be eternal!

HONORING NGHIA VAN DONG

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nghia Van Dong for his service during the Vietnam War.

Nghia Van Dong was born in Hai Phong, Viet Nam, during the end of the Indochina War. Following the Geneva Conventions which brought the conflict to a resolution, Mr. Dong joined fellow refugees in repatriating to the Republic of South Viet Nam. This trip would prove fruitful, as Mr. Dong met his future wife Hanh on the ship which carried him to Saigon.

At the start of the Viet Nam War, Nghia Van Dong knew that his country needed him. He quickly signed up to help with the war effort, and was assigned to the U.S. Army Special Forces for a period of ten years. When Consul General McNamara asked the Commander of the Special Forces to recommend one of his

best senior Vietnamese employees for the important post of chauffeur and body guard, Mr. Dong was his immediate recommendation.

Mr. Dong served as person chauffeur and body guard to the principal officer of American Consulate, while at the same time supervising all the guard personnel. He filled these roles from October 2, 1970, until the final evacuation on April 29, 1975. He was cited for gallantry on a number of occasions, and also for safe-guarding the life of Consul General Francis T. McNamara.

He has a citation for personally attacking three Viet Cong machine gun positions and destroying each of them with small arms and hand grenades. In a moment of sheer bravery, Nghia Van Dong placed himself between Consul General McNamara and a group of Vietnamese Marines, taking several bullets and saving the life of the Consul General. In total, Mr. Dong was wounded ten times over the course of the war.

At the close of the Viet Nam War, Nghia Van Dong came to the United States. Settling in Fairfax, Virginia, Mr. Dong found employment in Hospital Services, working at both Dewitt and Mount Vernon Hospitals. In 2005, Mr. Dong retired from Mount Vernon Hospital Food Service after 26 years of employment.

Mr. Dong and his spouse Hanh are active in the local Vietnamese Church and have been active for years as they enjoy the fruits of their long marriage—their 15 grandchildren. Although recent illness has kept him from many activities, Mr. Dong has always enjoyed fishing, drinking coffee, and playing the lottery. He has also been active in local veterans' groups.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Nghia Van Dong for his service during the Viet Nam War, and his outstanding legacy of public service here in Northern Virginia. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Dong.

HONORING BONNIE PALECEK

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a colleague and dear friend of mine as she retires as Executive Director of the Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault in my State of North Dakota. I have had the privilege of knowing Bonnie Palecek for over 25 years and have seen firsthand the leadership and devoted service she has provided in protecting victims of violence.

Bonnie Palecek has been with the North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault for nearly 30 years. Bonnie established the Council on Abused Women's Services in 1980, and has led this network to now connect over 20 domestic violence prevention and intervention programs across the State. Under her leadership, this coalition is the voice for thousands of women and children affected by violence. Bonnie has tirelessly advocated for domestic violence victims and their families and has been the driving force behind passing countless pieces of legislation in North Dakota to protect victims of domestic abuse. After 30 great years, she will be difficult to replace.