

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO ISHPEMING SKI CLUB 120TH ANNUAL SKI JUMPING TOURNAMENT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Michigan's Upper Peninsula's greatest most esteemed, and long-standing institutions: the Ishpeming Ski Club. Founded in 1887 as the Norden Ski Club, the Ishpeming Ski Club is the oldest continuously active ski club in our Nation.

Later this month, the Ishpeming Ski Club will sponsor its 120th annual Ski Jumping Tournament. For twelve decades now, skiers from across our Nation have convened in Ishpeming to participate in one of the oldest ski jumping tournaments anywhere. The Ishpeming Ski Club's first tournament was held 120 years ago on February 25 and, this year, the Ski Club will hold its tournament on that same date in order to honor the 120 years of continuous ski jumping tournaments.

The city of Ishpeming has a rich heritage that is closely intertwined with the history of skiing in the United States. Many ski jumping enthusiasts recognize this small town of 7,500 people, nestled just outside of Marquette, as the birthplace of American ski jumping. The National Ski Association was formed in Ishpeming in 1905. Today, the association is called the United States Ski and Snowboard Association.

While there have been ski jumping competitions at many different locations in Ishpeming, in 1926, the tournament began to use its current site, which has been the site for the tournament ever since.

The National Ski Hall of Fame was erected in Ishpeming in 1953 and follows the growth and development of the sport of skiing from its beginnings nearly 5,000 years ago to the present and beyond. There are over 100 displays including the Story of the 10th Mountain Division, Ski Fashions Throughout History, and the Development of the Chairlift. The placement of the National Ski Hall of Fame in Ishpeming is a testament to the formative role the city and its residents played in the development of skiing and ski jumping in America and the world.

The Ishpeming ski jumping site provides some of the best ski jumping in the Midwest and, as such, has been used for tryouts for the Olympics, as well as hosted numerous nationally acclaimed skiing events. In both 1960 and 1963, the Ishpeming ski jump site was used for Olympics tryouts. In 1983, the tournament hosted the USA Central Division Championships, the Junior Olympic tryouts and the Masters Championship all on the same weekend. In 1987, Ishpeming hosted the Nordic Combined National Championships.

Skiing is not only important to the way of life in Ishpeming, but it has also helped unite the community. Every year at the Ishpeming an-

nual tournament, local citizens and community groups have organized parades, dog sled races, princess pageants, dances and balls. This year, the Ishpeming Downtown Development Association will sponsor a parade, youth dog sled races, fireworks, and a bonfire. In previous years, neighboring communities such as Negaunee and nearby businesses such as Cleveland Cliffs Mining Company have provided support for the festive events that surround Ishpeming's annual ski jump tournament.

As Ishpeming celebrates its 120th ski jumping tournament, the future is bright. Next year, in 2008, Ishpeming's tournament will host the Junior Nordic championship and 50 young ski jumpers from around the Nation will compete in Ishpeming to be the top American ski jumper in their age group.

Madam Speaker, ski jumping is an ancient sport, but American ski jumping developed relatively recent. Its evolution is in many ways a uniquely Midwestern phenomenon. I am proud of the way the city of Ishpeming and the Ishpeming Ski Club have contributed to the popularity of this sport in the United States. I am confident Ishpeming has an exciting role to play as this sport continues to evolve in coming decades. In the meantime, I respectfully request that the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating the City of Ishpeming and its residents as well as the Ishpeming Ski Club and its officers and volunteers on the anniversary of its 120th ski jump tournament.

TRIBUTE TO HILARY LEWIS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hilary Lewis, who will be honored for her 30 years of service to Jewish education in the Greater Kansas City area on February 25. The Jewish Educators' Council of CAJE/The Jewish Federation, along with our community, will recognize Hilary's many contributions as a Jewish educator and for her work at CAJE, formally the Central Agency for Jewish Education.

Over the years, Hilary has worked with educators, parents and students to provide children at all congregations the best Jewish education possible. She has been instrumental as the principal of the Community High School of Jewish Studies, in providing continuing and relevant educational opportunities for hundreds of teens during their high school years. She has a talent for inspiring these young people to go beyond the acquisition of basic knowledge and she mentors them as they discover their own talents in reaching higher levels of understanding.

In addition to her work with children, Hilary has inspired many adults to share their love of Judaism and become religious school teach-

ers. Hilary is the ultimate problem solver and uses her incredible creativity to guide and inspire these teachers while helping them develop the skills needed to educate our youth.

Hilary Lewis has and will continue to be one of the premier Jewish educators in the Greater Kansas City area, helping our community grow "from strength to strength." Madam Speaker, I know that all members of the U.S. House of Representatives join with me in paying tribute to this valued educator and leader of the Kansas City community.

THE PURPLE HEART FAMILY EQUITY ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 1119, the Purple Heart Family Equity Act.

I am pleased to introduce this legislation along with my distinguished colleagues Congressman ROY BLUNT and Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX. We seek to fully honor the women of the Armed Forces who have won the Purple Heart defending our great freedoms and their families.

The Purple Heart, Madam Speaker, is a military decoration awarded to service members who have been wounded or killed while serving with the U.S. military. Modeled after the Badge of Military Merit given by George Washington to members of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration currently in use and was the first to be made available to every service member.

It is time we built upon the great traditions of the Purple Heart and fully recognize the women who have received this high honor. Surely, their wounds and sacrifices are just as meaningful.

Male members of the Order are allowed to invite their wives to join with limited membership benefits, according to the current Federal Charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. But female members are not allowed to invite their husbands. Surely, we here in this Chamber are not in the business of extending rights to our brave men who receive this award but not our brave women.

I stand here today to urge my colleagues to support the Purple Heart Family Equity Act. This bill will update the Federal Charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart to allow husbands of female members of the Order to become Associate Members.

The first women to be awarded the Purple Heart was 1LT Annie G. Fox. She was awarded this distinction in 1941 after the attack on

• 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.

Pearl Harbor where she made the ultimate sacrifice for her country. It has been 66 years and it is time we acted to fully honor the courageous women who are bestowed with the Purple Heart. Let us honor the memory of First Lieutenant Fox and the countless other women who have made unimaginable sacrifices for all of us by voting yes on H.R. 1119.

HONORING 2007 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the three members of the Tuskegee Airmen from my home district: Morris Washington, Alvin LaRue, Julius Calloway. Sixty-five years ago, legally mandated bigotry permeated every aspect of civilian life. Opportunities for a Black man or woman were few, for the most superficial of reasons: the color of their skin. Still, when Congress demanded the formation of an all Black Army Air Corps unit in March of 1941, hundreds signed up for the 99th Pursuit Squadron to defend the country that oppressed them.

These brave men became the Tuskegee Airmen, and they did more than merely enlist. Ten months later, America found itself in the thralls of the Second World War. But despite showing remarkable aptitude—96 was the lowest score among all their flight tests—a deep sense of racism blinded their commanders to the proper and necessary action, and the Airmen were initially left out of combat. But as the conflict wore on, necessity sent these dedicated and capable men of valor into the skies where they deftly completed mission after mission, giving America a vital thrust in our efforts to defeat the Axis powers.

In their legendary P-51 Mustangs, the Tuskegee Airmen astonished their doubters by prevailing against the Nazis who frequently outnumbered them. Soon, the Airmen were known for the prowess rather than their race and inspired a legend that they had never lost a single man to enemy fire.

By the end of the war, they had flown more than 15,000 sorties on 1,500 missions and were awarded two Presidential Unit Citations, 744 Air Medals, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, several Bronze and Silver Stars, and most recently a Congressional Gold Medal.

Though officially recognized for their heroic accomplishments, the Airmen returned home to a nation still paralyzed by racial hatred and two more decades of legalized segregation.

Every citizen who enjoys the freedom that America offers owes a debt to these courageous men who, rather than seek revenge, chose to look past their own oppression and see the potential of their Nation's greatness. We are ashamed of the treatment they received and hope to follow their example, building a society where racial bigotry can be found only in the annals of our history books.

I am proud that three of these heroes, Morris Washington, Alvin LaRue, and Julius Calloway, still call my district of Louisville, KY, home. I am honored to represent them and hope that you will all join me in giving them the recognition they deserve.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARO

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize horse racing's most inspirational figure, Barbaro. In his short-lived life, Barbaro quickly became one of the sport's most respected and beloved champions. Foaled on April 29, 2003, this American thoroughbred racehorse warmed his way into the hearts of many Americans with his success on the track and his courage through injury.

Barbaro knew nothing but success in his racing career, winning his first six races and earning winnings of over \$2 million. Yet despite his undefeated record through his first five starts, his achievements went largely unnoticed until May 6, 2006. On that day, his victory at the Kentucky Derby earned him the respect of horse racing fans nationwide. Barbaro entered the race with odds of 6 to 1. After stumbling at the start, Barbaro moved easily to the front when the leading horses tired at the five-sixteenths pole and he glided through the stretch to win in a fast time of 2 minutes, 1.36 seconds. Barbaro's final quarter-mile run of 24 and one fifth seconds was the fastest since Secretariat's in 1973, and his victory margin of 6½ lengths was the longest since Triple Crown winner Assault won the Derby by eight in 1946. As the crowd celebrated and looked on the horse with amazement, jockey Edgar Prado rode Barbaro into the winner's circle, pumping his fists at 108,065 cheering fans, the second largest crowd in Derby history.

A new hero had been born as Barbaro became just the sixth undefeated winner in the Derby's 132 year history. His impressive performance under the Twin Spires at Churchill Downs inspired diehard racing fans and casual observers alike. Heading into The Preakness as the heavy favorite, Barbaro was thought by many to have the best chance of becoming the first Triple Crown winner since 1978.

As fate would have it, Barbaro was unable to finish the race due to what would become a fatal injury. Barbaro shocked spectators by breaking through the starting gate just before the race began. After being reloaded, he tore away from the gate, determined not to let his previous jumpstart stand in the way of victory. But just seconds into the race, Barbaro broke down in his right hind leg and was prudently pulled up by Prado. Barbaro fans would soon learn that he had fractured three bones in and around the ankle of his right hind leg, making it impossible for him to race ever again.

Nevertheless, Barbaro's terrifying breakdown on national television would not be his legacy. Instead, the story of this great horse became a tale of unyielding love and determination that captured the attention of millions across the country. The unprecedented level of care and advanced medical treatment offered by Barbaro's owners, Roy and Gretchen Jackson, and his medical team were displayed on network news shows and national magazines. Get-well cards and letters from around the world were sent to him throughout his struggle to recover.

Despite receiving the best possible care and an outpouring of public affection, Barbaro's eight month battle for life was characterized by

significant progress followed by substantial setbacks. On January 29, 2007, Roy and Gretchen Jackson came to the conclusion with Barbaro's veterinarian, Dr. Dean W. Richardson, that Barbaro was in too much pain and that it was no longer possible for Barbaro to make the miracle recovery everyone was hoping for.

Barbaro's fight for life demonstrated unique courage and remarkable spirit that captured the hearts of America. Millions of people embraced this amazing racehorse, followed his struggle, and waited for his miracle recovery. We all hoped and prayed for a happy ending to this fairy tale story but there would be no such ending.

Barbaro's story is one of great perseverance and great integrity that was shown day in and day out by him, his owners, and his caregivers. Barbaro proved that greatness is not only achieved on the racetrack but through a willingness and determination to overcome all obstacles life may present. This son of Dynaformer out of Carson City mare La Ville Rouge gave us a lifetime of memories to be proud of, and he will be remembered in the annals of horse racing for all of history.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF WAYNE PEACOCK

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the retirement of Wayne Peacock. Over the last three decades, Mr. Peacock dedicated his work to local government in my district in northwest Florida.

After growing up in Pensacola and graduating from Pensacola High School, Wayne joined the United States Marine Corps. This devotion to country and desire to serve and help others would be a resonating theme throughout the rest of his life. After 4 years in the corps, he went back to college and received a bachelor of science degree at the University of West Florida.

Mr. Peacock's first job out of college was a teacher, which helped fine tune his ability to guide and inspire other people. Over the next 3 years, he worked as a counselor with several different programs under the Community Action Program. These programs were set up to help people of different ages who were unemployed or disadvantaged to join the workforce and set employment goals.

Over the next several years, Wayne continued his dedicated service to the community. He moved up within the Community Action Program becoming responsible for its overall curriculum, as well as serving as liaison to local educational institutions, ensuring compliance with Federal regulations, and maintaining the program's success.

By 1977, Wayne Peacock had already made a tremendous impact on thousands of lives as he helped people get back on their feet and join the American workforce. With his energy still full as ever and as others recognized his knowledge of community-based programs, he became an interagency coordinator for all of Escambia County—a position which coordinated all social service programs involving local, State, and Federal agencies. Wayne