

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO MARY K. PODESTA

#### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2007*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary K. Podesta, and those who loved her especially her sons John and Tony.

Known affectionately as "Mama Podesta" to friends, neighbors, and many of us here in Congress, Mary was a fixture in the Washington political scene for more than two decades.

Mary was born in Chicago to Greek immigrant parents. Upon marrying John Podesta Sr., she devoted herself to raising her two sons, John and Tony, and instilling in them a love of country and a commitment to public service which they both demonstrate today.

With the death of her husband nearly 30 years ago, she moved to Washington to be close to John and Tony. Her sons had a history of hosting prominent fundraisers and socials, but it was Mary who turned them into truly family affairs.

Raised Greek, and married to an Italian, Mary was a tremendous cook. Her meatball recipe was as delicious as it was secret. When I visited, she always made sure she had an order for me "to go."

Her astute political advice and encouragement provided even more nourishment than the food she prepared. And though she counted a President, and numerous congressional leaders among her close friends, it was her close relationships with her own family of which she was most proud.

As we pay tribute to Mary, we take comfort in our fond memories of her. I extend my deepest condolences to the many who loved Mary, especially her sons John and Tony, her sister Evelyn, and her three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. I hope it is a comfort to them that so many people are praying for them and mourning their loss at this sad time.

### IN RECOGNITION OF MARK R. BOHN

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mark R. Bohn for his dedication to his colleges and for his 32 years of federal service to his country.

Mark began his federal career back in 1974, where he served in the U.S. Air Force for 3 years. In 1978, he joined the Federal Aviation Administration as an Air Traffic Control Specialist. He worked in various facilities, including Cleveland Hopkins Air Traffic Control Tower, where he ably served for 15 years.

Mark has, throughout the years, shown a strong commitment to and care for his col-

leagues. He was a founding and charter member of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, and has been elected the union facility representative at three different facilities. Additionally, Mark has offered his service on national, regional, and local committees for both the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

Throughout his career, Mark has received numerous performance awards, letters of commendation, and incentive awards for his great work and effort.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mark R. Bohn, whose 32 years of federal service for this country, as well as tremendous commitment to and care for his colleagues, is a shining example for all of us.

### RECOGNIZING TRAVIS WEAVER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Travis Weaver, 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 Troop 249 and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Travis has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Travis has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Travis's dedication to his school work at West Platte High School has been excellent. Travis has also contributed significantly to the community, through his planning and organization of a project for the Platte City Parks and Recreation department, which included the addition of a brand new picnic and playground area.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Travis Weaver 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 LIEUTENANT COLONEL KEVIN P. MASTIN

#### HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2007*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, with great pride and delight I rise today to honor a highly talented and dedicated airman who has entertained thousands with his skill and continues to serve his country with expertise, commitment, and leadership.

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin P. Mastin is a supremely skilled and decorated command pilot who has spent thousands of hours in the air, many of them twisting, turning and barrel rolling as a United States Air Force Thunderbird. Displaying absolute command over his aircraft, Colonel Mastin has flown several Thunderbird air shows as the Lead Solo, delighting countless onlookers with his precise maneuvers and daring routines. His peerless ability and perfect unison with his fellow Thunderbirds combine for one powerful, awe-inspiring show in the sky.

But Colonel Mastin is much more than a showman. Born in my district in Dansville, NY, Colonel Mastin has led a life of service and deep commitment to his country. After graduating from Dansville Central School in 1981, Colonel Mastin enlisted in the Air Force. He would eventually head off to the West Coast after being assigned to the 92nd Munitions Maintenance Squadron at Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington State. From there, Colonel Mastin attended Washington State University, entering the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps and graduating in 1988 as a commissioned officer. He received his wings a year later and, after more pilot training, left to fly over the skies of Texas at Laughlin Air Force Base as an Instructor Pilot and Flight Examiner.

After honing and developing his aircraft skills further, Colonel Mastin became an F-15C Flight Commander at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho, flying 46 combat missions in Operations Provide Comfort and Southern Watch. Then following an assignment at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, Colonel Mastin began his run as a Thunderbird, flying in the 2000 and 2001 air show seasons. As a Thunderbird stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, he flew as the Opposing Solo and then the Lead Solo, showcasing his supreme and expanding aircraft talents.

Moving on from his Thunderbird tour, Colonel Mastin became Director of Operations of the 557th Flying Squadron at the United States Air Force Academy in 2002. In July 2004, Colonel Mastin then assumed duties as Commander of the 479th Operations Support Squadron at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. Two years later, Colonel Mastin would become Deputy Chief of Air Combat Command's Flight Operations Division at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, the position he holds today.

Devoted to his country, Colonel Mastin is also a devoted family man. Together with his wife Joni, Colonel Mastin has two beautiful children, daughter Ashley and son Travis.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of his tremendous military career, his more than 4,200 flying hours, his esteemed military decorations, his sense of family and his service to the United States of America, I ask that this Honorable Body join me in honoring Thunderbird Pilot and Dansville, New York native, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin P. Mastin.

• 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 REMEMBRANCE OF GEORGE  
BECKER

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of George Becker, a man who was an activist, a respected union organizer and a tireless champion that protected worker's rights.

George Becker was the sixth international president of the United Steelworkers. For 7 years George provided a booming voice that expressed the frustrations and concerns of the steelworkers, while demanding that they be treated with dignity and decency. He sought to unite the workers by educating them, and launched a program aimed at involving the workers in addressing their interests to politicians.

When his brothers and sisters faced job insecurity, George courageously fought for their rights. The campaign by George and the union workers was victorious, and showed Americans that a union still had the ability to protect the rights of members. He believed that only a union could protect the working class, a sentiment he expressed after visiting the workers of many non-unionized corporations.

George's concern for the mental and physical well-being of union workers led to the proposal of Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) safety standards for those exposed to lead and arsenic. Because of his endless work on implementing OSHA safety standards, workers whose health was affected by their job would not suffer loss of pay when taking time off.

George died February 3rd, 2007 after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his loving wife, Jane; his wonderful sons, George, Greg and Matthew; his ten grandchildren; his great grandchildren and his sister Jacqueline Straus.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of George Becker, a major proponent for worker's rights in the industrial workforce.

RECOGNIZING TYLER R. RUOFF  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Ruoff, 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, Troop 60, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tyler 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 Tyler R. Ruoff 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 WILLIAM L. ROSS

**HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2007*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, with great appreciation and delight I rise today to honor a respected and dedicated legislator, educator and community member who for more than 50 years continues to serve his hometown of Wheatfield, New York.

Niagara County Legislator William L. Ross has led a life deeply connected and committed to Niagara; the place where he was born and raised, where he became an educator and a mentor, and where he is now a respected and effective leader.

Through his distinguished professional career, his athletic talent and his spirit to make his community a better place, Bill Ross has left a lasting mark since graduating from the Niagara Falls School System. After graduation, Mr. Ross took a football scholarship to Michigan State University where he went on to win a National Championship in 1952 and play in the esteemed Rose Bowl game in 1954.

After serving as an R.O.T.C. Officer after college, Bill would take his football prowess, military discipline and love of education back to Niagara County. In 1956, Bill began a career in education that would span 47 years and shape a countless number of young lives in Wheatfield. Bill became the first football coach at Niagara Wheatfield in 1958, and in 1977 became the Director of Physical Education, athletics and recreation of the Niagara Wheatfield School District. Both in the classroom and on the field, Bill was devoted to teaching and improving the youth of Niagara County, believing in the importance of a well-rounded education and the duty of schools to not only help produce good students, but good citizens.

That sense of dedication and service culminated when Bill Ross was elected to represent his Town of Wheatfield in the Niagara County Legislature. Twice elected Chairman, first in 1989 and again in 2004, Bill, through it all, has been an insightful and vital leader for Niagara County. In times of tremendous challenges for his town and his region, Bill has been strong and steady, making his home a better place. To this day, Bill serves his constituents and his neighbors with skill and tremendous care, earning respect as he has moved his community forward.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of his more than 50 years of serving the Niagara region, as an educator, an administrator, a legislator, a leader and a neighbor, I ask that this Honorable Body join me in honoring Mr. William L. Ross.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OHIO  
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S 112TH  
ENGINEER BATTALION

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Ohio Army National Guard's 112th Engineer Battalion, and to cele-

brate the commitment of this patriotic group of individuals that has defended our country valiantly.

The Ohio Army National Guard's 112th Engineer Battalion is one of the oldest regiments in the Nation. It is also the most decorated military organization in the State of Ohio. During the American Civil War, the Ohio National Guard played a crucial role in the watershed defeat of Morgan and his Confederate cavalry. During World War I and World War II the 112th Engineer Battalion was deployed overseas and was later regarded as being one of the "most well disciplined and highly competent" engineer units.

Ever humble about their job, the 112th, when deployed to support an Air Force unit, sent tokens of appreciation to those that offered assistance during the Battalion's deployment. The 112th Engineer Battalion unit exemplifies the honor that comes to mind when looking toward the past, present, and future of the Ohio Army National Guard.

The courage of the Ohio Army National Guard's 112th Engineer Battalion does not merely extend to matters abroad. When disaster shook the South, the 112th Engineer's Battalion swiftly acted to help the victims of Hurricane Rita. This unit was and is always ready to help when needed. When called to help their brothers and sisters fight the war on terrorism, the 112th Engineer Battalion exemplified the National Guard mantra to "Respond when called and be ready." The never waning support and readiness to help has made the 112th Engineer Unit the pride of their community.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Ohio National Guard's 112th Engineer Battalion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2007*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, March 15, 2007, I was unable to attend votes due to illness.

Were I present, I would have voted in the following manner: (1) H. Res. 242—providing for the consideration of H.R. 1362, Accountability in Contracting Act—"yea"; (2) On motion to recommit H.R. 1362 with instructions—"nay"; (3) H.R. 1362—The Accountability in Contracting Act—"aye."

HONORING JUDGE ROBERT M.  
STEPTOE

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2007*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to respectfully request that my colleagues here in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Robert M. Steptoe for being named the 2007 Distinguished Citizen by the Shenandoah Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Born on May 15, 1920 in Clarksburg, WV, Robert M. Steptoe has spent his entire life in