

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JACK SMITH FRIEND OF THE FIRST DISTRICT

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of Jack Smith, a friend of the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who passed away March 15, 2007.

Jack Smith lived a life of service, entrepreneurship, and was known by all for his compassion to all those around him.

He was married to Jewell "Judy" Garland for 56 years, who preceded him in death in 2003. They had one son, two daughters, and six grand children.

Jack graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1942, with a degree in electrical engineering. He served this great nation for seven years of active duty in the U.S. Navy.

In 1954, Jack Smith started his first "Piggly Wiggly" grocery store, which would grow into a modern-day grocery store empire of 95 "Food City" stores throughout Southwest Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky. He served as Chief Executive Officer until passing the torch to his son, Steven C. Smith, in 2001.

He received numerous community involvement awards through his prestigious career. Jack Smith received: 1996 Grocer of the Year, Junior Achievement Tri-Cities TN/VA Business Hall of Fame Laureate in 1999 and "The 2002 Clarence G. Adamy "Great America" Award.

The "Food City" Stores engage in community enhancing programs like "Apples for the Students", which provides much needed resources to schools throughout across the First District and beyond.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of Jack Smith. He was a dedicated family man, a true friend of the First District, and entrepreneur.

His service is greatly treasured, and he will be deeply missed.

HONORING GAIL RIDENHOUR

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Ms. Gail Ridenhour for her public service to the Germantown community.

Ms. Ridenhour has been very involved in community arts programs. Serving as president of the nonprofit Germantown Fine Arts Foundation for two years and holding other officer positions, she has been indispensable to the efforts of the Foundation to build financial support for arts programs in the local school system.

Ms. Ridenhour has been a leader in her church community as well. As a member of Kingsway Christian Church, she directed, organized, and launched a preschool program. Begun in 1987, the program continues to thrive and grow today.

In addition to her community efforts, Gail Ridenhour has been recognized by the Ger-

mantown Lions Club as their Citizen of the Year for 2006. Her experience and leadership make her an invaluable member of the Germantown community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Gail Ridenhour and congratulating her for this well-deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO BOY SCOUT TROOP 4

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Boy Scout Troop 4, which celebrated its 90th anniversary this past Saturday, March 17, 2007.

Troop 4 was formed on March 17, 1917 at the Methodist Episcopal Church, now known as First United Methodist Church, in Ann Arbor, MI. This first group of scouts consisted of nine scouts, three Assistant Scout Masters and was led briefly by the direction of Scoutmaster Don Perkins, who was called in to service with U.S. involvement in WWI shortly after Troop 4's founding, and leadership of the troop then passed to Edward F. Metz. Starting with this small group, Troop 4 would go on to include over 1,700 members in its history, including 111 scouts to date, who have gone on to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. This 6.5 percent rate of Eagle Scout rank achievement is three times the national average.

Troop 4 serves as a wonderful testimonial to the leadership of the Ann Arbor community. This troop has shown tremendous community involvement in the Ann Arbor area and throughout the state of Michigan. These efforts have not been overlooked, as Troop 4 has been awarded several "Take Pride in America" awards; multiple "Keep Michigan Beautiful" awards; and was named one of President George H.W. Bush's "1000 Points of Light," for its record of volunteer community service.

Community service has long played a critical role in Troop 4's activities. As part of its community service, Troop 4 makes a monthly visit to Glacier Hills Nursing Home during the school year and Chelsea United Methodist Nursing Home during the summer. During these visits troop members play bingo and visit with residents. Each year Troop 4 participates in the "Scouting for Food" program that collects food that is then donated to local food banks. Troop 4 is a community troop with its members coming from all over the Ann Arbor area and from all religious and ethnic backgrounds; a troop where new scouts are always welcome.

Troop 4, "The Lighthouse Troop," is known throughout Michigan for its volunteer activities in the restoration of the St. Helena Island Lighthouse. For over 19 years Troop 4 members have traveled each summer to St. Helena Island where they spend a week restoring the lighthouse while camping on the island. In 2006, Grand Rapids television channel 14 highlighted their St. Helena Island service in a documentary entitled "Great Lakes Treasures." In 1991 a documentary titled "Keepers of the Light" displayed the troop's efforts to restore the lighthouse and was shown on PBS stations in Michigan. The History Channel has also broadcast their story nationally. Addition-

ally, "Scouting" and "Boy's Life" magazines among others have also featured the troop's efforts at the lighthouse.

I grew up a Boy Scout, became a Scoutmaster, and watched proudly as both my sons became Scouts. The Boy Scouts are an American institution and one of America's most patriotic organizations; they are a shining example to the world of what is good about America. I am proud to pay tribute to Troop 4 for their service, dedication and commitment to the Ann Arbor community and the state of Michigan.

THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF IRAQ

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on November 7, 2006, the American people sent a clear message to Congress and the President: we must end the war in Iraq. In response, the administration announced it would escalate the conflict. Today we mark the fourth anniversary of President Bush's war of choice, and later this week, the House of Representatives will have to make a choice of its own: either endorse the President's open-ended commitment to the Iraq war or demand accountability and set a timeline for the phased redeployment of our troops. I am hopeful that Congress will pass a supplemental appropriations bill that will chart a new direction toward de-escalation, with a definitive date for disengagement.

The occasion of this anniversary is an appropriate time to examine the impact of these last four years of war. As we begin the fifth year of the war, the price we have paid is high—with more than 3,000 U.S. troops dead, more than 20,000 U.S. troops wounded, and more than \$400 billion of taxpayer dollars appropriated. The Iraq war is already longer than U.S. participation in World War II, World War I, the Korean War, or the Civil War.

What do we have to show for these sacrifices? Contrary to the rosy scenario depicted by the administration, this war has not made us safer; on the contrary, it has made us more vulnerable than ever. A sizeable majority of foreign policy and military experts agree that the world is a more dangerous place for Americans now than it was before we invaded Iraq. The war has become the number one recruiting tool of terrorists, and our continuing occupation of Iraq has provided them with the best training camp they could ever hope to have—a place where they can practice and refine their methods while taking American lives. The war increasingly strains our military—now creating a genuine crisis in U.S. troop readiness and our ability to respond to new threats. Should disaster strike here at home or elsewhere in the world, we will be left virtually defenseless while our troops and equipment are bogged down in a bloody quagmire that threatens to drag on for many more years.

House Democrats are bringing forward a plan that provides for a change in course on Iraq. Our plan will protect our troops on the battlefield and at home, require accountability from the Bush Administration and the Iraqi government, and set a responsible timeline for

a phased redeployment of U.S. troops—with a date certain, by August 2008 at the latest, for U.S. combat troops to be redeployed from Iraq. While I would have preferred a plan that brought the troops home even sooner, I believe that this compromise proposal is the best approach Congress can take at this time.

Adoption of the Democrats' plan would begin to answer the pleas of the American people—to turn away from the President's open-ended commitment to U.S. participation in this Iraqi civil war and instead provide a responsible, phased plan for requiring the Iraqis to take responsibility for their own future. Redeploying our armed forces does not mean "cutting and running." On the contrary, we suggest continued and extensive involvement in the region through renewed diplomacy and reconstruction that is free from fraud and abuse. This sensible path is the only one that can truly lead us to victory.

TRIBUTE TO WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY THEATRE ARTS

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, the Weber State University theatre arts program in the Department of Performing Arts is known regionally and nationally for providing exceptionally high quality theatre productions. Faculty and students are serious, committed to theatre, and devoted to making theatre accessible to a diverse audience. Weber State Theatre Arts area produces a full season of plays in the remodeled and state-of-the-art Val A. Browning Center for the Performing Arts.

In recognition of Weber State University's consistently outstanding theatre program, it was invited to participate in "Shakespeare in Washington," a festival featuring a vast array of events including: theatre, music and dance, as well as films and art exhibits hosted by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts from January to June 2007.

Weber State's production of "Macbeth" was performed on March 14 and 15 in the Family Theatre at the Kennedy Center. "Macbeth" is one of the world's most well known tragedies and has been interpreted in many styles and cultures. Macbeth and his wife conspire to murder their way to the throne of Scotland, but their success is spoiled by guilt, paranoia and madness.

Because of the unique presentation, the production was edited to run close to an hour in length, requiring the director, Tracy Callahan, to spend a great deal of time editing the script without losing any of its high-voltage substance. Many know the story, but thanks to the skills of the playwright, director, cast, designers and crew, nothing is lost in the abbreviated retelling.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Theatre Arts at Weber State University, those who had a part in this stellar production, those who have traveled far to support Weber State University as well as the Weber State University Alumni in the Washington, D.C. area.

THE AUSTIN FAMILY—AMERICANS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, each year, people enter the United States to pursue the American dream. The members of the Austin family were determined to live here and become citizens of our great Nation. On March 21, 2007, the community of Kingwood, Texas, will celebrate the fact that the Austin family—Tony, Cheryl, Ryan, and Laura—are now officially citizens of the United States of America.

Cheryl was born in Luanshya, a copper mining town in Zambia in 1951. Tony moved to Luanshya with his parents in 1953. The two met in 1968 at a Lions Club Gala Dance and were married in March 1970.

In 1973, they had two children, Ryan and Lauren. Tony had the opportunity to move his family to the United States because of the company he worked for in South Africa.

Tony was interested in coming to the United States because he often traveled to Houston for business and had the opportunity to spend time in the suburbs. Tony was awestruck by the freedom that American families enjoy as opposed to the situation his family encountered in South Africa with the deteriorating security system. Although they had a great house in a good area, they were imprisoned by the fear of robbery either at home or out on the streets.

The family arrived in Houston in January 1998. They all settled in and again it became clearer how much Ryan and Lauren had been affected by the security situation of South Africa. They were amazed at the freedom they had here.

The family obtained legal permanent resident status in May 2001, by which time they had decided that this was to be their permanent home. They then applied for citizenship in August 2006.

The Austin family is active in the community and each member is a valuable asset to our country. Cheryl has been with Continental Airlines since October 2000 and is now a Senior Recruiter. Tony is a Regional Sales Director with a national training software company. Ryan has his own business, GameForce, in Kingwood Town Center, and Lauren is a junior at the University of Houston Business School.

Although the family has had to make some adjustments, they know it is worth it because of everything they have gained by becoming U.S. citizens. Not only are they model citizens, they are incredibly patriotic and cherish the United States.

I commend the Austin family on their great achievement, congratulate them on being citizens of the great United States, and wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, on March 14, 2007, I would have voted "yea" on

Rollcall No. 153, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2007 (H.R. 985).

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT
JUSTIN M. ESTES

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Justin M. Estes of Sims, Arkansas; who died on March 5, 2007, fighting for our country in Iraq while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Staff Sergeant Justin Estes was 25 years old when he selflessly gave his life for his country during combat operations.

After graduating from Oden High School where he played basketball and baseball, Staff Sergeant Estes joined the Army where he would serve in South Korea, Germany, Iraq and Macedonia. Staff Sergeant Estes was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., where he was assigned to C Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Justin Estes gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero, a son and a friend. My deepest condolences go out to his mother and stepfather, Diane and John Salyers of Sims; his father and stepmother, Don and Cathy Estes of Harrodsburg, Kentucky; his two sisters, Norma and Kelli Estes; his grandparents, John and Clazina Visser and Joe Barry; and to his aunts, uncles and cousins. He will be missed by his family, his community and all those who knew him and called him a friend. I will continue to keep Staff Sergeant Justin Estes and his family in my deepest thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK NEELY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick Neely. Mr. Neely, of Neely's Bar-B-Que, located in both Memphis and in Nashville, was recently named Restaurateur of the Year by the Memphis Restaurant Association. Mr. Neely and his brothers Gaelin, Tony, and Mark have turned what was once a fledgling downtown Memphis operation into one of the most successful restaurants in the entire American South. After first opening its doors in 1988, Neely's Bar-B-Que has opened doors in two new locations and been featured nationwide in magazines and on nationally televised news and cable programs.

The Neelys have continually worked hard to ensure quality in both their food and their people, and have not forgotten about their community. Giving time, money and support to a host of charitable and not-for-profit organizations, Neely's Bar-B-Que has turned itself into a profitable, charitable, and local source of pride. It is for the hard-work, determination, and ultimate successes of Mr. Neely and his entire family that I rise, Madam Speaker, to