

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A BILL TO PROVIDE THAT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN AMERICAN SAMOA SHALL BE PAID THE SAME NON-FOREIGN AREA COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE AS IF STATIONED IN GUAM OR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce legislation to provide that Federal employees stationed in American Samoa be paid the same non-foreign area cost-of-living allowance as stationed in Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

To date, American Samoa is the only non-foreign area in which Federal employees do not receive a cost-of-living allowance. Given that American Samoa faces many of the same issues driving higher prices for goods, services, and travel that face other territories in similar situations, it seems discriminatory that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has chosen not to provide COLA to Federal employees in American Samoa. Further exacerbating this problem is the fact that "post differential" compensation is paid to Federal employees who are working here who have come in from other areas of the country. As a result, the only non-foreign area Federal employees who do not receive any additional compensation are those Federal employees from American Samoa, working in American Samoa.

This legislation would remedy that inequity by providing COLA for our Federal employees at the same rate as has been determined by OPM to apply in Guam and CNMI. I urge my colleagues to join me in resolving this issue by supporting this legislation that would provide fair compensation to American Samoa's Federal employees.

RECOGNIZING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON ITS 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for helping millions of young women become role models and community leaders for the past 95 years.

It was in 1912 that Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girls Scouts of the USA. Based on her lifelong desire to serve and assist others, she brought girls of all backgrounds together and helped them develop important skills to serve their communities, help the

needy and make the world a better place to live. Going against the traditional norms of the time, she encouraged young women to not only prepare for a role as a homemaker, but also to learn skills to succeed as a professional woman.

Starting 95 years ago with a single troop of 18 girls, Juliette Gordon Low's mission has grown exponentially. More than 50 million girls have since experienced the benefits of Girl Scouting and research shows that Girl Scout alumnae now represent 70 percent of women serving in Congress, 64 percent of women listed in "Who's Who in America," and 53 percent of women business owners.

In my District, the Girl Scouts of Downingtown will celebrate this anniversary with a day of service at Chester County's Springton Manor Farm Park. The girls and their parents will spend the day volunteering their time on everything from planting trees and gardening to cleaning the trails and building a new orienteering course.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Girl Scouts of the USA as they celebrate this historic milestone and encouraging this exemplary organization to provide another 95 years of service and assistance to the young women of this country in developing important skills to better their communities and succeed in careers of their choosing.

HONORING THE AMERICAN STROKE FOUNDATION AND SHOWING SUPPORT FOR H.R. 477, THE STROKE TREATMENT AND ONGOING PREVENTION ACT

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 477, the Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act and to honor the American Stroke Foundation (ASF). Founded in 1997 in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area, the ASF supports stroke survivors, their families, caregivers and friends by providing resources, services, education and information that improves their quality of life.

Every forty-five seconds, someone suffers from a stroke. Blood supply to the brain is interrupted, causing a loss of brain function and possibly brain damage. Every three minutes, someone dies from a stroke.

Stroke is the number one cause of adult disability and the third leading cause of death in the United States. About 700,000 Americans suffer a stroke each year. Four out of five people in the U.S. either have had a stroke or know someone who has. My family, like the vast majority of American families, has been touched by stroke. I am proud to come before you today not only to express my commitment to doing all that is necessary to stop strokes, but to vote for an important step to ending this tragic disease.

House Resolution 477, the Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act, establishes a national grant program and public awareness program to help each state ensure that patients have access to quality stroke prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services. I was proud to cosponsor and vote for this legislation in previous Congresses, and I am proud to do so again this week.

I would like America to know about a hometown hero, who has devoted her time, energy and amazing spirit to helping those disabled by stroke. After her husband Stan's stroke, Shirley Rose realized, as I did when stroke struck my family, that resources for recovering stroke survivors and their caregivers were painfully inadequate. Shirley did not dwell on the need and simply retreat in dismay. No, instead, Shirley founded the American Stroke Foundation and from their two locations in Kansas and Missouri, ASF has worked to improve the lives of stroke survivors by providing extended rehabilitation efforts, creating community programs, and educating the public about strokes. Shirley turned her desire for the best care for her husband and her personal need for a support network into an organization that helps thousands of Americans each year cope and recover from this often-debilitating disease.

In 2002, thanks to efforts like those of the ASF, the United States had one of the lowest death rates for stroke. My home state of Missouri is fortunate to have one of the lowest fatality rates in the country. Regardless, I hope to see both of these numbers decrease as these essential programs are supported.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the American Stroke Foundation and vote for this life-saving legislation, and I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to this life-saving and life-improving organization.

AMBASSADOR MANSOUR VISITS SEWANEE FOR LECTURE SERIES

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, known for its unique and comprehensive educational experience, Sewanee: The University of the South, is holding a two part lecture series focusing on the Middle East. Ambassador Reda Mansour, Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States, has been invited and will lead the first lecture.

Ambassador Reda Mansour was appointed to his current post in August 2006. Previously he served as the Ambassador of Israel to Ecuador, Deputy Ambassador in the Israeli Embassy to Portugal, and Deputy Consul General of Israel to the U.S. Pacific Northwest based in San Francisco.

Prior to his diplomatic career, Ambassador Mansour served in the Israeli Defense Forces Corps of Engineers in the Northern Command

● 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.

Demolition Unit. Ambassador Mansour holds a masters degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and is a Ph.D. candidate in Haifa University's Middle Eastern History department.

In addition to his position as a diplomat, Ambassador Mansour is an accomplished author. He has published three books of poetry, as well as a number of short stories and poems published in literary articles and poetry reviews. Ambassador Mansour has received the Ha'aretz Annual Short Story Award, as well as the Haifa University Miller Award.

I join Sewanee, The University of the South, in thanking Ambassador Mansour for taking part in this important lecture series intended to foster a greater understanding of the Middle East.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. RUTH
JOHNSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Dr. Ruth Johnson, president of the Clark County School District Board of School Trustees, and congratulate her on behalf of the Clark County School District for receiving the Distinguished Support of Music Education Award.

The VH1 Save the Music Foundation has selected the Clark County School District Board of School Trustees as this year's recipient of their Third Annual School Board Award for Distinguished Support of Music Education. Clark County is an exemplary school district to which others can look as model for music education. The Board of School Trustees, presided over by Ruth Johnson, is the only school board in the United States to receive this award by VH1 Save the Music Foundation. The Clark County School District Board of Trustees are dedicated to providing a certified, qualified music teacher for each school, as well as funding after school music programs, text books, and music supplies.

For the past 10 years, Ruth has served on the Clark County School District Board of Trustees, where her leadership has greatly contributed to the development of music education in the Clark County School District. Furthermore, Ruth Johnson has committed the efforts of the Board of School Trustees to go above and beyond to achieve excellence in music education.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Dr. Johnson and the Clark County School District Board of Trustees. Her dedication in enriching the educational experience of the Clark County students is commendable and I congratulate her for being honored by VH1 Save the Music. I wish Dr. Johnson continued success as she serves as president of the Clark County School Board of Trustees.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE
AIRMEN

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the Tuskegee Airmen, the group of African-American pilots who flew with distinction during World War II as the 332d Fighter Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps. Additionally, I am compelled to honor an excellent servant to our Nation, Mr. Matthew W. Plummer, an original Tuskegee Airman who served as an instructor for U.S. Army cadets training at Tuskegee. His tireless work, like that of so many other Tuskegee Airmen, helped to make our country a more perfect union.

Prior to the Tuskegee Airmen, not a single U.S. military pilot had been African-American. However, due to the work of the African-American civil rights community, the United States Congress in 1941 forced the Army Air Corps to form an all-black combat unit. In June 1941, the Tuskegee program officially began with formation of the 99th Fighter Squadron at the Tuskegee Institute, a highly regarded university founded by Booker T. Washington in Tuskegee, Alabama. The Airmen were placed under the command of Capt. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., one of the few African-American West Point graduates.

During World War II the Tuskegee Airmen fought with amazing gallantry and uncompromising determination. They flew escort for heavy bombers, established an impressive combat record, and often entered combat against greater numbers of superior German aircraft, while emerging victorious. These brave fighters fought for their country at a time when their country would not fight for them. They were forced to suffer from the daily disease of racism even while in uniform. However, the Tuskegee Airmen chose to fight for their country as hard as they fought against racism, and they would eventually prove that they were the greatest of the "Greatest Generation".

By the end of the war, the Tuskegee Airmen were credited with shooting down 109 Luftwaffe aircraft and destroying numerous fuel dumps, trucks and trains. The squadrons of the 332nd Fighter Group flew more than 15,000 sorties on 1,500 missions. The unit was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for a mission flown on March 24, 1945, escorting B-17s to bomb the Daimler-Benz tank factory at Berlin, Germany, an action in which its pilots destroyed three Me-262 jets in aerial combat.

The Tuskegee Airmen were awarded several Silver Stars, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 14 Bronze Stars, and 744 Air Medals. In all, 992 pilots were trained in Tuskegee from 1940 to 1946. Of the airmen 445 deployed overseas and 150 Airmen lost their lives in training or combat.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to honor the Tuskegee Airmen for their service to our country, their work to end segregation in the U.S. military, and their courage which has empowered millions of African-Americans and other minorities across our great country.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
CELEBRATING THE 500TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE FIRST USE OF
THE NAME "AMERICA"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Representatives ALCEE HASTINGS, JOE WILSON, and HOYER, to honor the upcoming 500th anniversary of the coining of the name "America." On April 25, 1507 cartographer Martin Waldseemüller of the research group Gymnasium Vosagense in Saint-Die', France changed the way Europeans perceived the world by first depicting the Western Hemisphere in his 1507 world map. Waldseemüller honored Amerigo Vespucci by labeling this land with the Italian navigator's Christian name. Although explorers like Christopher Columbus already discovered this land, Amerigo Vespucci was the first to realize that it was not India but an entirely new continent. I invite my fellow Americans to join me and the House of Representatives in celebrating the historic 500th anniversary of the coining of this great name. Lastly, I also want to welcome Representative HASTINGS as a new member of the Americans Abroad Caucus, which I along with Representative WILSON have co-founded.

2007 EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR
EMPLOYEES OF THE CHIEF AD-
MINISTRATIVE OFFICER

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to announce the recipients of the 2007 Achieving Excellence Awards (ACE) for the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

This year's award winners are Darrell Norman, Liz McBride-Chambers, Scott Hood, Wanda Jackson, Cari Knowles, Traci Beaubian, Patricia Nuzzo, Jim Caskey, Dave Woodburn and Christine Stewart. Their ACE Awards acknowledge the exceptional efforts made by these employees to provide quality service to the Members, Committees and offices of the House of Representatives.

The recipients of the 2007 CAO ACE Awards represent many areas of the CAO organization, perform a variety of jobs, and provide a wide range of services to the House community. Whether working directly with Members or staff, supporting CAO internal operations, or ensuring the technical infrastructure is operational, each serves as an exemplary role model for the entire CAO community. Collectively and individually they deliver solutions that fulfill our goal of providing a quality customer experience.

Employees nominated for an award must be in a full-time status and have a current excellent performance rating. Nominations for the awards are submitted by managers or supervisors within the organization. The nominations are then reviewed by a committee comprised of the CAO's leadership team with final award recommendations submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer for approval.