

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SARIE TOSTE OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sarie Toste, a distinguished educator in Humboldt County, California, and a recognized leader in educating young children on the importance of learning to save money. Sarie spearheads a program in elementary schools across Northern California that helps child learn the fundamentals of financial literacy.

Sarie initiated the first "Learn to Earn" program 11 years ago as the superintendent at Pacific Union Elementary School, when she realized that the children did not understand that they could save their money, watch it grow and help realize future dreams.

"Learn to Earn" is a collaborative effort with a regional financial institution, Umpqua Bank, which provides weekly on-campus banking. The children sign up, deposit \$1 and receive a passbook. Every week a bank representative visits the school and accepts student deposits. The children set savings goals, calculate interest earned and watch their account grow.

With over seventy schools throughout Northern California, the nearly 6,000 young savers have banked \$1.5 million making "Learn to Earn" the largest, most successful school savings program in California. The curriculum that has been developed helps teachers introduce the basic concepts of sound money management.

This is in sharp contrast to the savings habits of our nation's adults. Today, America's savings rate is negative, the lowest rate since the Great Depression. Even more alarming is the dramatic increase in personal debt, which has grown over the past decade by approximately 300 percent.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that today, on "National Teach Children to Save Day" we recognize the outstanding commitment of Sarie Toste for her foresight and dedication to the future of our children and teaching them how to "Learn to Earn."

TRIBUTE TO MS. ANNIE LUU

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Annie Luu, an accomplished Gonzaga University student from Colorado's 6th District. Ms. Luu and a team of fellow Gonzaga students were recently honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

becoming finalists in the third annual EPA student design competition.

Since 2004, the EPA has honored college students from across the country for their research efforts towards environmental sustainability through the "P3—People, Prosperity, and the Planet" contest. This year, only 41 proposed projects were chosen for development out of more than 100 submissions. The 41 student teams will exhibit their designs on the National Mall on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at the National Sustainable Design Expo. The National Academy of Engineering will judge the competition and recommend the winners to the EPA.

Ms. Luu and her teammates will present their project, entitled "Decentralized Waste Treatment and Energy Recovery in Rwanda," during this event.

Ms. Luu and her peers should be commended for their commitment and contributions to environmental sustainability. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE MESQUITE CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate the Mesquite Championship Rodeo and its 50th anniversary. This fine organization has entertained a wide variety of people over the years, from young children to our Nation's Presidents and foreign heads-of-state.

The Mesquite Rodeo opened its chutes in 1958 and has become an integral part of the community and the State of Texas; so much so that in 1993 the Texas legislature proclaimed the city of Mesquite the "Rodeo Capital of Texas."

Every Friday and Saturday night during the rodeo season, thousands of visitors experience the excitement of our Nation's original western sport: the rodeo. From cowboys to clowns, and fast horses to big bulls, the Mesquite Rodeo has come to exemplify championship rodeos. My family and I can attest to the entertainment value of the events and showmanship that the Mesquite Rodeo is known for throughout the United States.

As the congressional representative of Mesquite, Texas, home to the Mesquite Championship Rodeo, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

DON IMUS

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my opinion concerning the offensive remarks of radio personality Don Imus. His insensitive comments, directed at the Rutgers University women's basketball team after the team's loss to Tennessee in the NCAA tournament, exceeded the boundaries of humor, even by Mr. Imus's standards. While I recognize Mr. Imus's right to free speech under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, I vehemently condemn his remarks and support his dismissal from MSNBC and CBS broadcasting companies.

Imus's deplorable comments have overshadowed the Rutgers Scarlet Knights' record of success. Starting the season with 2 wins and 4 losses, the Scarlet Knights overcame great odds through their hard work, determination, and dedication. In the face of adversity, the team made a triumphant comeback by becoming the Eastern Division champions, which later set the stage for their first-ever appearance in a national championship competition. So what should have been the team's finest hour became its worse hour caused by the regrettable actions of Mr. Imus.

Yet amidst the Imus controversy, this remarkable group of student-athletes has responded to the situation with dignity and grace, which is emblematic of the caliber of these women. The Rutgers Scarlet Knights is comprised of five freshmen and five upperclassmen. Of the freshman class, each student has a combined grade point average of 3.0. These accomplished women are valedictorians of their class, future doctors, musical prodigies, and Girl Scouts. These women exemplify beauty, strength, and integrity—the very opposite of Imus's characterization of them.

The dismissal of Don Imus sends a powerful message to not only these young women but to the rest of Nation. The message: Enough is enough. Racism and sexism in any of its ugly forms will no longer be tolerated, not even for the sake of a good laugh or good ratings.

HONORING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN NAPA, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 95th anniversary of St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Napa, California. This school, and the associated Catholic Church, has been a

• 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.

prominent fixture in the community for many years, and many students have benefited from the excellent education and outstanding guidance it has offered.

In the fall of 1911 Father Joseph Byrne took the first steps to open a Catholic school in Napa when he invited the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael to staff a new school to be founded in Napa. When the school was opened the next spring, it served 120 students from the location on Franklin Street. Today that same building is used by the Napa Community Thrifts Project. That building remained in use for 15 years until the school moved to the current location on Main and Napa Streets in January, 1927. It has remained in its current location for more than 80 years.

St. John the Baptist School currently enrolls almost 300 students, and is well served by its current pastor Father Gordon Kalil, and Principal Nancy Jordan. The school now enrolls students from pre-kindergarten through 8th grade, and this has allowed the school to develop programs for children of many different ages. The school has also taken the important step of involving parents in children's education, and indeed has made this one of the core missions. By making parents into educators and encouraging children to reach out and participate in their greater community, St. John's and Father Kalil have reinforced that civic-mindedness is one of the key characteristics of a well-rounded young person.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in acknowledging the 95th anniversary of St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Napa, California. St. John's has been an important fixture in the education of young men and women in Napa, and has laid an important intellectual and spiritual foundation for generations of young people. In the years to come, this excellent tradition will continue to be of the greatest benefit to the Napa community and a credit to the parish of the St. John's Catholic Church.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise to join my colleagues in the sad commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Today we declare to people living in every corner of our globe that the Turkish and American governments must finally acknowledge what we have long understood: that the unimaginable horror committed on Turkish soil in the aftermath of World War I was, and is, an act of genocide. The tragic events that began on April 24, 1915, which are well known to all of us, should be part of the history curriculum in every Turkish and American school. On that dark April day, more than 200 of Armenia's religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and killed. Ultimately, more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered at the hands of the

Young Turks, and more than 500,000 more were exiled from their native land.

On this 92nd anniversary of the beginning of the genocide, I join with the chorus of voices that grows louder with each passing year. We simply will not allow ice planned elimination of an entire people to remain in the shadows of history. The Armenian Genocide must be acknowledged, studied, and never, ever allowed to happen again.

Last year I joined with my colleagues in the Caucus in urging PBS not to give a platform to the deniers of the genocide by canceling a planned broadcast of a panel which included two scholars who deny the Armenian Genocide. This panel was to follow the airing of a documentary about the Armenian Genocide. Representative Anthony Weiner and I led a successful effort to convince Channel Thirteen in New York City to pull the plug on these genocide deniers. The parliaments of Canada, France, and Switzerland have all passed resolutions affirming that the Armenian people were indeed subjected to genocide. The United States must do the same. I will not stop fighting until long overdue legislation acknowledging the Armenian Genocide finally passes. I am hopeful that this resolution will make it to the Floor for a vote before the full House of Representatives this Congress.

An acknowledgment of the genocide is not our only objective. I remain committed to ensuring that the U.S. government continues to provide direct financial assistance to Armenia. Over the years, this aid has played a critical role in the economic and political advancement of the Armenian people. I have joined with my colleagues in requesting military parity between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the FY08 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

We also have requested an adequate level of economic assistance for Armenia and assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh. Legislation passed in the 109th Congress and signed into law to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank included important language prohibiting the Bank from funding railroad projects in the South Caucasus region that deliberately exclude Armenia. American tax dollars should not be used to support efforts to isolate Armenia, and these provisions would prevent that by ensuring that U.S. funds are not used to support the construction of a new railway that bypasses Armenia. A railway already exists that connects the nations of Turkey, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, but because it crosses Armenia, an expensive and unnecessary new railway had been proposed. Allowing the exclusion of Armenia from important transportation routes would stymie the emergence of this region as an important East-West trade corridor. It is in our economic and security interests to ensure that the aggression against Armenia comes to an end.

On this solemn day, our message is clear: the world remembers the Armenian genocide, and the governments of Turkey and the United States must declare—once and for all—that they do, too.

TRIBUTE TO ROBLEY REX

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize Mr. Robley Rex of

Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Rex was born in Christian County, Kentucky, on May 2, 1901. He is the only surviving World War I veteran in Kentucky. Robley Rex has faithfully served his country since entering the United States Army in 1919. He has worked as a mail clerk with the railroad. He was ordained as a Methodist minister. He joined the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) service organization in 1924.

Rex Robley began volunteering through the VFW at the age of 86, logging over 13,000 hours of service. He has served his fellow veterans at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Louisville. By his count, he has served veterans for 75 years. He has been honored by the VFW as a National Volunteer of the Year.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Robley Rex embodies the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. I extend my thanks to him for his efforts, and I am proud to bring his accomplishments to the attention of this House.

TRIBUTE TO MS. KAREN BROWN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Karen Brown, an outstanding school teacher from Littleton, Colorado. Ms. Brown, who teaches at Coronado Elementary School, was recently named a recipient of the 2006 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. The award program is one of the most prominent in the United States.

Honoring teachers, principals and specialists from across the nation, recipients are chosen based on such criteria as effective instructional practices, student learning results and educational accomplishments as well as their potential for leadership within the field. Ms. Brown joins a network of more than 2,200 Milken Educators who have been honored by the program since 1985.

In addition to a \$25,000 individual award, Ms. Brown also attended the annual Milken National Education Conference in Los Angeles, California from the 21st to 24th of April.

Ms. Brown should be commended for her commitment to community and her contributions to education in Colorado. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

IN APPRECIATION OF BRUCE GOURLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the retirement of Bruce Gourley, who has been a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for 30 years. During this time, he has served the group in a number of capacities, and has brought the voice of Local 180 to a variety of forums throughout the State.

Mr. Gourley was born in St. Petersburg, Florida, but completed high school in Denver before joining the Navy. He served until 1970,