

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CAREER OF THE HERALD-CITIZEN'S BILL SHUSTER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 30, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bill Shuster, publisher of the Cookeville, Tennessee Herald-Citizen, upon the occasion of his retirement after 38 years with the newspaper.

Bill began his newspaper career as a journeyman printer in Nashville, and from there, became the pressman for the Putnam County Herald and the Cookeville Citizen. In 1970, he was named production manager of the two papers the same year they merged to become the Herald-Citizen. Bill became the newspaper's publisher in 1995.

I imagine that, in addition to witnessing the phenomenal growth of Cookeville during his tenure at the newspaper, Bill worked through many changes in technology to get the Herald-Citizen in the racks. Newspaper pages that were literally put together by staff hands are now put together on computer screens. Bill always made sure the Herald-Citizen was cutting edge—designing, building and moving into the plant on Neal Street; implementing computer software and hardware updates; and creating new sections of the newspaper.

While time has brought many changes, one thing that has remained constant is Bill's commitment to a fair story. I could not sum up Bill's work ethic any better than he did when he said, "Early on, I learned that hard work would bring rewards, how to treat people, how to set my moral compass, and that the best course is to put aside personal preferences and go straight to the side of public good."

I know Bill has always been concerned about his community and takes great pride in our Nation. I was always happy, when needed, to provide a flag for the Herald-Citizen facility, where I had the pleasure to celebrate its grand opening with Bill.

Bill, congratulations, again, on your retirement. I hope you enjoy many lazy days of fishing; many games of golf; traveling with your wife, Jan; and the opportunity to spend more time with your grandson, Eli.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW DONALD MARSH FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 30, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Donald Marsh, 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 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has earned 34 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Chaplains' Aide, Assistant Patrol Leader twice and Patrol Leader twice. Matthew has earned the 100 Night Camper Award and became a Runner in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

Matthew used his organizational and leadership skills to lead a group of boys and adults in restoring the trail erosion barriers at the Camp Fire Boys and Girls Camp Shawnee. He is currently a senior at the University of Missouri—Rolla where he is a student of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Donald Marsh for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMENDING EVAN APPLEMAN AND JAMES KENNEDY AND OTHER HONOREES IN THE 2007 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 30, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to congratulate two outstanding young Hoosiers, Evan Appleman and James Kennedy, for being named Indiana's top honorees in the 2007 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program; an honor conferred on only one high school student and one middle-level student in each State annual.

Evan Appleman, 18, of Indianapolis, is a senior at Lawrence North High School. Inspired by one of his teachers who once told him that "... the greatest problem people have is that they don't understand each other, not out of spite, but often out of ignorance," Evan took it upon himself to produce a series of bilingual television programs for a local cable TV channel as a way to promote greater understanding of the growing Hispanic community in Indianapolis; and to "bridge the gap" between the city's Hispanic and non-Hispanic cultures. The community's reaction has been overwhelmingly positive with many people even commenting that they previously "had no idea so much was going on in the community."

James Kennedy, 12, also of Indianapolis, is a sixth-grader at Creekside Middle School. Born with cerebral palsy, James became involved through his own doctor, Dr. Chuck Dietzen, with the Timmy Foundation; an organization which supports health and education initiatives in developing countries. James' work with the Foundation inspired him to do more than just raise money for a worthy cause. He began speaking at schools and other places about the importance of focusing on what peo-

ple can do, not what they can't do; about what it's like to have a disability; and about the important work being done by the Timmy Foundation. In addition, James agreed to serve as a "volunteer patient" to help students at the University of Indianapolis learn more about cerebral palsy. I think James myself summed up best why he does what he does. He said, "I feel what I do is important because it helps people understand that even though I wear braces on my legs and use a walker at school, I am just like any other kid with the same feelings and dreams."

I applaud Mr. Appleman and Mr. Kennedy for their willingness to get involved and make their communities better places to live, and for the positive impact I know they have had on the lives of others, both young and old. I also commend the other young people from Indiana who were named Distinguished Finalists for their outstanding volunteer service. They are Sarah Boesing, 17, of New Albany; Kacie Giles, 18, of Lebanon; Savannah Holderman, 17, of Mishawaka; Alison Mansfield, 12, of Fort Wayne; Brittany Oliver, 17, of Lafayette; and, Cory Sprunger, 18, of Berne.

Madam Speaker, the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, was originally created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions to their communities are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. I believe that young volunteers, like Evan and James, Sarah, Kacie, Savannah, Alison, Brittany and Cory truly embody what the Spirit of Community Award is all about. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future. I am proud to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future.

I ask my colleagues to join me now in recognizing and honoring all of these outstanding young women and men.

IN HONOR OF THE OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE OF DEBRA E. FERRONI AND ROBERT CRISS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 30, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend two outstanding public servants who have dedicated themselves to the people of the State of New Jersey through their work with the New Jersey State Law Enforcement Officers Association.

Debbie Ferroni has been working with the Association since 1989 as its Executive Administrator. Jerry Leavy, the Association's President, says that he's not embarrassed to

• 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.

say that though he is the President, it's Debbie that does all the work. In 1994, Debbie was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Several times during her battle with this debilitating disease, Debbie has had to be hospitalized or homebound. Each time, she has demanded her work be brought to her home and she always showed more concern for the men and women the Association serves than for her own health.

Robert Criss has been a part of the Association since 1991. He retired as a Captain from the Highland Park Police Department in 1999. His first-hand knowledge of the needs of the law enforcement officers the Association serves has made him an invaluable volunteer. And, by all accounts, Bob Criss volunteers "excessive amounts of time" to this work, perhaps most importantly as the Chair of the Youth and Child Identification program.

The New Jersey State Law Enforcement Officers Association will be seventy years old next year. Its members serve the people of New Jersey as Federal, State, county, and municipal law enforcement officers, special police, and auxiliaries. It is the outstanding commitment of people like Debbie Ferroni and Bob Criss that allows the Association to serve these brave officers so well.

As it does each year, this past weekend, the Association honored several of its members for their valor and bravery in the line of duty. I join the Association in the pride they show for these officers and I am proud to honor Debbie and Bob for their sense of duty as well.

RECOGNIZING LOGAN JAMES REED FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 30, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Logan James Reed, 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 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Logan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Logan has been involved with scouting, he has earned 31 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader. Logan has earned the Master Camper Award and became a warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

Logan used his leadership skills to lead a group of boys and adults in constructing two pre-fabricated water fountains and benches with a concrete pad that is handicap accessible on the walking trail in Kearney. He is a member of the Northern Hills Baptist Church and attends the Excelsior Springs Area Career Center for the HVAC program.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Logan James Reed for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLEN- DER-MCDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. She was my colleague and, more importantly, she was my friend.

JUANITA and I served together in the California State Assembly and later in Congress. Each week we shared a flight back and forth from Southern California and we grew to be very good friends.

In Congress, we partnered on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to address the unique and pressing transportation needs of Southern California. We joined together to bring a national focus to the importance of Southern California's goods movement, highway financing, and transit needs. As conferees for the SAFETEA-LU Act, together we worked hard to bring historic levels of Federal transportation funding back to the Southern California region.

I am saddened by the loss of a great public servant and colleague that fought for the needs of her constituents and the Southern California region with grace, dedication, and honor.

I am also saddened by the loss of a dear personal friend.

JUANITA was a kind and gentle soul who was called home far too soon. Her wisdom and leadership in Congress will be sorely missed. I join my colleagues in praying that she is in a better place and that her family is able to find peace in knowing the tremendous contributions she made to her State and Nation during her years of public service.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT BILL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 30, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer legislation to extend the New Markets Tax Credit program for an additional five years. I am pleased to be joined by Rep. RON LEWIS in offering this bill, along with several other cosponsors.

The New Markets Tax Credit program has proved to be a remarkably successful way to revitalize communities. Current authority for the program, however, is due to expire at the end of next year. It is important that we extend this credit soon and that we provide for a long-term extension.

The credit was first enacted in 2000 as part of the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act. From enactment through fiscal year 2005, the New Markets Tax Credit has generated financing for the construction or rehabilitation of over 43 million square feet of real estate, and has helped to create or retain 72,000 construction

jobs and 20,000 full time equivalent jobs in low-income community businesses.

The credit stimulates investment and economic growth in low-income urban neighborhoods and rural communities. Investors receive over seven years a 39 percent Federal tax credit for Qualified Equity Investments, with a 5 percent credit during the first three years and 6 percent during the next four years. These investments are made through vehicles known as Community Development Entities (CDEs), which raises capital from the tax credits and then makes loans to or investments in worthy businesses and projects in low-income areas. These CDEs must be domestic corporations or partnerships with a primary mission of providing investment capital to low-income persons or communities, must provide accountability to the communities or residents, and must be certified by the Treasury Secretary as an eligible entity.

Eligible communities, which include both metropolitan and rural areas, are low-income communities with a high poverty rate or low median family income. In the 2006 extension of this credit, the Treasury Secretary was directed to prescribe regulations ensuring that there was a balance in allocations between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties. Further, the Treasury Secretary may also designate targeted populations as low-income communities if certain individuals or an identifiable group of individuals, including an Indian tribe, are low-income persons or lack adequate access to loans or equity investments. Some have recently argued that service-connected disabled veterans are such a group and I encourage the Treasury Secretary to look into this reasonable suggestion.

Finally, the law requires that businesses, in order to be eligible for such investments, show that at least half of the total gross income of the business is derived from active operations in a low-income community, and that a substantial portion of the business property and the services performed by the employees are located in a low-income community.

I believe that all of these rules ensure that the credit is appropriately targeted. A recent GAO report found that the program is very effective at increasing investment in low-income communities. To date, New Markets Tax Credit investments in low-income communities total over \$7.7 billion. The tax credit has been used to support a wide variety of community and economic development initiatives including, among others, the financing of charter schools, health care facilities, manufacturing businesses, grocery-anchored retail centers, and numerous other commercial and mixed-use real estate projects.

Now, despite this explanation, some of my colleagues may be wondering how these credits really work. Let me detail one local success story from my Congressional district, and encourage my colleagues to look into projects in their districts as well. Hot Mama's Foods is a Massachusetts-based food company, specializing in salsas, pestos, and other spreads. Recently, the company was able to secure a loan from the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency, a CDE, along with other financing in order to relocate to a USDA-certified food production facility in Springfield, which is in my district. That relocation and expansion meant the company could add an additional 10 jobs to its 50-person workforce and revitalize a neighborhood.