

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I regret that on January 29, 2008, due to the Florida primary I was unable to be in Washington for votes.

HONORING EARL WILLIAMS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the brilliant life of Mr. Earl Williams. Earl was a caring friend, family member, and leader in the community. He will be greatly missed, but the positive impact he has left will remain in the hearts of all who had the honor of knowing him.

It is with a deep sense of sadness that I rise today to deliver condolences to the family and friends of a great man, a brilliant human being and a true servant of God. However, it is also with a deep sense of gratitude to Earl's family and friends for sharing this loyal, patriotic, and compassionate man with us that I rise to celebrate his life and honor his legacy.

As a person committed to those who are most vulnerable and most in need in our world, Earl was committed to creating safe havens for individuals who needed the love and kindness of their neighbors to see them through difficult times. He worked tirelessly as an administrator and part owner of Garden Plaza Convalescent Home in Los Angeles, CA. Earl was also the founder of Liberty Child Care Center in Chicago.

His wide reach—involved in communities as different as Chicago and Los Angeles—and his limitless compassion drove his intentions to service humankind, and to do the Lord's work on this earth.

Earl was a true patriot, serving his country as an outstanding and dedicated member of the United States Army. He and his family were proud of his service, and our country owes him a debt of gratitude for his commitment to his country.

As a devoted family man, Earl always demonstrated his unwavering and unconditional love, loyalty, and devotion to each and every member of his family. He was a true role model to those whose lives he touched in so many ways.

Today, I join with Earl's family and friends in bidding him farewell. I salute Earl Williams for a life well lived. Let us keep his legacy alive by recommitting our lives to his work and to his values to make this a better world. May his beautiful spirit continue to live and guide our lives, helping us to be true to our family, our friends, our community, our country, and most importantly, to our God.

Today, California's Ninth Congressional District joins with the communities of Los Angeles, CA, Chicago, IL, and all the places where Earl William's love touched the lives of those who knew him, to salute and honor a great human being. We extend our deepest condolences to Earl's family. Thank you for sharing his great spirit with so many. May his soul rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING MELISSA BOOSMAN FOR ACHIEVING THE GOLD AWARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Melissa Boosman, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 1262, and by earning the most prestigious Gold Award.

Less than 1 percent of all Girl Scouts in the United States earn this prestigious award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. It symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Melissa Boosman for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE CENTER VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Clarence Center Volunteer Fire Company of Clarence, New York. For a century the members of the Clarence Hose Company have been volunteering to protect their neighbors.

The Clarence Center Volunteer Fire Company became the first fire company in the town of Clarence in 1908. The company began as a stock company and was able to purchase a hand drawn hose cart and chemical fire extinguishers. Land for a fire hall was donated to the fire company by a local businessman, and fundraising for the construction began in July 1908 with the first firemen's pic-

nic in Clarence. With the help of a local farmer, Wesley Williams, the company raised enough money to construct Williams Hall.

The year 1922 marked a milestone for the Clarence Center Volunteer Fire Company. In February of this year the company was able to purchase its first fire truck. The acquisition of this truck was important to the protection that the fire company offered the people in Clarence. Additionally, the first annual Labor Day picnic was held in 1922. This is a time-honored event in the town of Clarence; not only is it a way for the fire company to raise funds for improvements to the equipment used to serve the people of Clarence, but it is an event that families throughout the town look forward to every year.

Since its beginnings the Clarence Volunteer Fire Company has become an indispensable part of the town. The company remains committed to providing fire, rescue, and EMS services to the citizens that reside within the district boundaries. They've continued to meet the needs of the rapidly growing population of Clarence Center. As we reach the 100th anniversary of this fire company the volunteers continue to dedicate themselves to serve and assist the members of their community.

Thus Madam Speaker, in recognition of its 100th anniversary of tremendous service in the town of Clarence, I ask this Honorable Body join me in honoring the Clarence Center Volunteer Fire Company.

HONORING DR. RICHARD WITKOWSKI, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Dr. Richard Witkowski, Superintendent of the Garden City Public Schools, upon his retirement from a distinguished 41-year career in education.

For just over four decades, Superintendent Witkowski has served the citizens of Wayne County. Richard began his 39-year tenure with the Garden City Public Schools in 1969 after 2 years with the Gibraltar schools. Throughout his distinguished career with the Garden City Public Schools, Richard served as both an educator and administrator. Mr. Witkowski began as a mathematics and science teacher at Garden City East High School in 1969 before moving across town and becoming Assistant Principal at Garden City West High School in 1971. Mr. Witkowski discovered an innate talent for administration, being promoted to director in the central office in 1974, business manager for the district in 1985, associate superintendent, and superintendent in 2001.

Superintendent Witkowski will be best remembered for his dedication, both to his job and community. Shortly after his promotion to

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

superintendent, Richard was tested with several crises, including the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and a bacterial meningitis outbreak at the high school, which resulted in a first-ever schoolwide inoculation of the students. He also oversaw the rebuilding of the district's five elementary schools, assisting school staff in directing students to buses, which would take students to their temporary classrooms. Witkowski remains active in the community as a member of the Garden City Rotary and the Garden City Chamber of Commerce. Richard has served as president of both organizations and currently serves as treasurer of the Rotary. Superintendent Witkowski will also continue his commitment to education and connection with students through the class he teaches at Madonna University in Livonia.

Madam Speaker, for 41 years Superintendent Richard Witkowski has faithfully served Michigan citizens of all ages. As he enters the next phase of his life, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, and excellence. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Superintendent Richard Witkowski upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community's and country's future.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM T.
LICHTER

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William Lichter for his 29 years of devoted service to the Village of Lombard, Illinois.

In early life, Bill served as Assistant City Manager for Mentor, Ohio and Administrative Assistant in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont. He then earned a Master's degree in Political Administration from American University and is also currently a Ph.D. candidate at Northern Illinois University.

Bill Lichter began his service to the Village of Lombard on January 7, 1985, when he became its ninth Village Manager. Since that day, he has served with vision and fortitude for over 22 years.

Through the years, Bill has been an insightful observer, keen in his understanding of the long-term challenges facing the Village. Throughout his career, he has tackled these challenges with deft skill, deep understanding, and strong personal integrity.

While Lombard has gone through change after change over the years, one thing has remained the same. Bill Lichter has kept a steady hand to the wheel, advising the Village Board and working tirelessly for the benefit of his community.

Bill has had many accomplishments over the years, though they are too numerous to list exhaustively. Chief among them, however, are his success in improving the Village's long-term financial forecasting and management and his rewarding efforts to promote local economic development.

Bill Lichter has been an advocate for the people of Lombard since his very first days in office more than two decades ago. In his time

with the Village, he has affected countless lives and left an indelible impression on Lombard and its residents.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Bill Lichter is a remarkable man who has dedicated his life to serving the people of Lombard. Please join me in honoring this unsung hero for his extraordinary career and wishing him every happiness in the well deserved respite of his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, I missed one vote on Tuesday, January 29, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way: Final passage of New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act, H.R. 1528 (Rollcall No. 28): I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to National Children's Dental Health Month. Each February, the American Dental Association sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. As a part of their awareness efforts, dentists and dental hygienists from across the country and in my home State of Idaho join together and volunteer their time to provide free care to children.

As a dentist, I understand the need for children to receive proper dental care. This includes going to the dentist regularly for check-ups and treatment when problems arise. Oral health is critical to a person's overall health and means more than healthy teeth. Research continues to show that many diseases and conditions show themselves in the mouth. For people who don't have access to dental care, oral disease is almost 100 percent inevitable—and almost 100 percent preventable.

This is particularly heartbreaking when it affects our children. Children with poor oral health can have problems eating, sleeping properly, paying attention in school and even smiling, because they suffer constant pain. Unfortunately, many of us don't realize the extent and severity of untreated dental disease in children.

In my State of Idaho, over 35 percent of children lack dental insurance. More than 25 percent of elementary school-aged children in Idaho suffer from untreated tooth decay. If the problems go untreated, a child will often end up in a hospital emergency or operating room, which costs far more than a trip to the dentist.

Hundreds of dentists and oral healthcare providers in Idaho and across the country donate their time and energy to help this cause, and I graciously thank them. While National Children's Dental Health Month will not solve

the issues of access to oral healthcare by itself, it is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of oral health and provide care to our most important and vulnerable resource—our children.

NICHOLAS ROYCE, FIFTY YEARS
AND STILL FIGHTING THE GOOD
FIGHT

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. BERMAN, Madam Speaker, the name Nicholas Royce deserves to be added to the list of dedicated Americans who exemplify the spirit of achievement. He has earned this recognition for his long and outstanding career as a performer, and his devotion to many entertainment industry humanitarian causes, typifying the altruism that is so much a part of the American character.

Of special significance is the fact that through his life, he has been in the forefront with the independent efforts and advocacy for civil, constitutional, human and spiritual rights.

He was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to Theodore and Anastasia Vlangas, both natives of Sparta, Greece. At the age of 6 years old his family moved to Baltimore, Maryland where he became aware that this faith and origin were different from most Americans. Challenged by ethnic and religious obstacles, he became motivated to learn every truth he could about his faith and his origin.

With the encouragement of his sister Stella, he made his show business debut at the Lord Baltimore Hotel and followed that with a successful tour of the east coast during school vacation, and all at the age of 14, and with his parents' blessing.

After high school he entered the Armed Forces and entertained WWII vets in the Army base hospitals in the United States and Japan. Because of his ethnic look he became known as the Greek Fred Astaire in G.I. clothing.

The Armed Forces had limited religious choices; Protestant, Catholic and Jewish. Where's a poor Greek Orthodox kid to go for religious salvation? Thanks to Nicholas and his late friend Senator Leverett Saltonstall, representing 500,000 Orthodox Catholics who fought and died for the constitution, a bill reached Congress in 1955 to create such a place in the military. Today servicemen wear tags designating Eastern Orthodoxy and have Orthodox chaplains. Thirty-three States quickly recognized Eastern Orthodoxy as a major faith.

After he left the service, the American Legion's Pennsylvanian district honored Royce for his continued efforts as an entertainer to bring joy to veterans in hospitals.

After his visit to Turkey in 1965, Royce waged a tireless campaign to return St. Sophia Cathedral in Istanbul to an open house of worship instead of a museum. It was converted to a mosque in 1453 and Royce changed history with that campaign. Thanks to Royce, "the Orthodox Christian cry for help" has been taken to the United Nations human rights office in Geneva, European parliament, European Union, and to every religious and world leader and to every President since the Carter administration.