

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WILLIAM LOBBINS III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Lobbins III of Parkville, Missouri. Brett is 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 1395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

CLEARWATER FIREFIGHTER PAT CONREY HONORS FALLEN COMRADES

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Clearwater firefighter Pat Conrey, who I am proud to represent, for the remarkable tribute he has paid to a fellow firefighter who fell in the line of duty.

In his effort to raise money for the family of Oscar Armstrong III, a Cincinnati firefighter who died fighting a fire in March 2003, leaving behind a pregnant fiancée and two young children, Mr. Conrey did an extraordinary thing. He donned 45 pounds of firefighting gear and ran the entire 26.2 miles of the Flying Pig Marathon held in Cincinnati last May 4th.

Pat's caring and compassion for others were on full display that day. After stopping along the route to pay respect to the Armstrong family, Pat and a fellow firefighter resumed running and soon came upon another runner who collapsed on the pavement from an apparent heart attack. Pat and his partner in the race, Joe Arnold, performed emergency CPR on the fallen runner until an ambulance could arrive.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that Pat once again resumed running and completed the marathon in 5 hours and 26 minutes. During that time, he demonstrated to the people of Cincinnati the compassion, courage and heroism that our Nation's firefighters exhibit every day in our communities. Following my remarks, I will include for my colleagues the full story of Pat Conrey's run as reported by Terry Tomalin in The St. Petersburg Times.

In closing, please join me in saying thank you to Pat for his moving tribute to a fallen firefighter and for his inspiring story of selfless service to the people of Clearwater, Florida.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, May 29, 2008]

FIREFIGHTER GEARS UP TO HONOR THE FALLEN

(By Terry Tomalin)

Clearwater firefighter Pat Conrey started out wanting to honor a fallen comrade. By the time it was over, his quest encompassed 26.2 miles, flying pigs, and ultimately, life and death.

Conrey had heard the story of Cincinnati firefighter Oscar Armstrong III, who died battling a blaze in March 2003, leaving behind a pregnant fiancée and two children.

He decided to run Cincinnati's Flying Pig Marathon on May 4 in full firefighting gear to raise money for Armstrong's family.

"Firefighters have this special bond," Conrey said. "When one of us dies, we all feel it."

Conrey, who has completed 10 marathons, ran the Times Turkey Trot in Clearwater in 45 pounds of gear last year to raise money for families of fallen firefighters.

"When you run in firefighter equipment, you get people's attention," he said.

But running in full gear isn't that glamorous.

"It was hot—real hot," Conrey said. "You have to drink a lot of water."

The 40-year-old Conrey, Clearwater's firefighter of the year in 2007, trained for months, logging several 13-mile runs in his bunker coat, bunker pants, air pack and helmet.

"That is pretty out there," said local running coach Joe Burgasser. "You don't want to carry any extra weight. I would not recommend that for any sane person."

Conrey, who earlier this year finished a 50-mile run through Withlacoochee State Forest in 10 hours and 23 minutes, is used to people thinking he's crazy.

"I love it," he said.

A month before the marathon, Conrey learned two other Cincinnati-area firefighters also had died in the line of duty.

"That made me want to make sure that I finished even more," Conrey said. "I would run for all of them."

Word spread through the Cincinnati firefighting community that a crazy man from Clearwater was running for the families of the fallen.

"It really touched everyone," said Joe Arnold, a Cincinnati firefighter who ran part of the race, minus the gear, with Conrey. "To think this guy would come all this way and run a marathon in his turnout gear for people he had never met . . . that is what it is all about."

About eight miles into the marathon, Conrey and a dozen other firefighters stopped at a fire station to pay their respects to Armstrong's family.

"We didn't know they would be there," Conrey said. "There were lots of hugs, some tears. It was very emotional."

The unexpected stop put the firefighters behind schedule. While they were talking, a man named Bobby Edwards, a 10-year Flying Pig veteran, ran by.

Once they resumed running, the firefighters hadn't gotten a mile down the road

when they came across Edwards collapsed on the pavement, a victim of an apparent heart attack.

"When I got there I said, 'It is time to go to work boys,'" Conrey said.

Arnold performed chest compressions on the 55-year-old runner as the rest of the group assisted.

"If we hadn't stopped to talk, we would have been in front of him," Arnold said. "It is little things like that make being a firefighter so special."

Conrey, who despite the gear and stops covered the course in 5 hours, 26 minutes, said he is still amazed at the difference a few minutes can make.

"When you do what we do for a living, you realize how precious time really is," he said.

"I am glad I was there to help make a difference."

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL LEAH WALLER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Leah Waller, recently awarded the title of 2007–2008 Baltimore City Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Waller has been a teacher with the Baltimore City Public School System for eight years, teaching Kindergarten and first grade at Maree G. Farring Elementary School.

When she's not teaching at Farring Elementary, Mrs. Waller has taught Summer School and tutored at the Jemicy School for Dyslexic Children. She has served as a mentor teacher for student teachers and new teachers. In addition, she has worked closely with the Children's Literacy Initiative and was selected to be a Model Classroom for Baltimore City.

Always well prepared for daily instruction, Mrs. Waller utilizes the curriculum and Baltimore City Public School System mandated programs in an effective and engaging way. In Mrs. Waller's classroom, lessons are thoroughly developed with the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learner in mind. Skills and concepts are successfully mastered through a variety of strategies and techniques to ensure full comprehension from the students.

The individual needs of all students are met in Mrs. Waller's classroom. Assessment data is consistently analyzed to diagnose student strengths and areas for concern. This data is analyzed to help drive instruction in the most beneficial way. Because of the active participation in the learning process, the environment in Mrs. Waller's classroom is very conducive to learning. She holds her students to the highest expectations and creates an atmosphere of mutual respect between the teacher and students.

Mrs. Waller's professional responsibilities are fulfilled with great care. She maintains an organized recordkeeping system that monitors

• 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.

individual student achievement and progress. Constantly interacting with students, parents, colleagues, and administrators, Mrs. Waller works collaboratively to ensure the academic success and social development of her students.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Leah Waller in her acceptance of the 2007–2008 Baltimore City Teacher of the Year Award. Her legacy as a dedicated, enthusiastic educator will be forever remembered by the grateful students who walk through her classroom doors. It is with great pride that I congratulate Leah Waller on her exemplary career in education and her outstanding performance at Maree G. Farring Elementary School in Baltimore City.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 361 through 369. I was absent on part of the day Thursday, May 22, and Tuesday, June 3, due to personal reasons.

If I were present I would have voted “nay” on rollcall vote 361, “nay” on rollcall vote 362, “nay” on rollcall vote 363, “yea” on rollcall vote 364, “yea” on rollcall vote 365, “yea” on rollcall vote 366, “yea” on rollcall vote 367, “yea” on rollcall vote 368, and “yea” on rollcall vote 369.

GUYANA’S 42ND BIRTHDAY: MUCH TO CELEBRATE, QUITE A LOT TO HOPE FOR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Guyana’s 42nd anniversary of independence.

Guyana achieved independence on May 26, 1966, and became the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on February 23, 1970, with a new constitution. Guyana is a located on the northern coast of South America between Venezuela, Brazil, and Suriname. It is the lone English-speaking nation on the South American mainland, a country of 83,000 square miles, dense tropical forests, and 800,000 people.

This former British colony is rich in human resources, bauxite, gold and arable land. The young country had promising expectations but success was not immediately attained. In fact, Guyana, at times, is described as one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere and qualifies for debt concessions through the global initiative to reduce burden on the world’s highly indebted poor countries.

After years of economic decline, failure to maintain its infrastructure, political conflict between Afro and Indo Guyanese, Guyana’s largest ethnic groups, and factors that fueled an exodus of its brightest, the country needed reform. Today, it is rebuilding both its econ-

omy and infrastructure and with prospects of finding large deposits of oil, Guyana now has the potential for growth and prosperity expected of it since the 1960s.

Guyana still faces many obstacles today. Earlier this year, two massacres took the lives of more than 20 men, women and children but a period of relative calm has followed. Yes, crime and violence remain a serious problem as they do elsewhere in the Caribbean.

The latter is the dichotomous image that Guyana presents to the world as it celebrates its 42nd anniversary of independence.

As a member of the international community, Guyana has made important contributions to the resolutions of major conflicts around the world through its participation in the United Nations Security Council, in the Organization of American States, on the World Court and in other global bodies.

This anniversary offers us an occasion to thank the people of Guyana for their strength, their courage, and their contributions to our global community. So, on this anniversary of independence, I stand in camaraderie with the Guyanese people to celebrate and appreciate the growth and change of Guyana.

CONGRATULATING TEXAS’ EXEMPLARY CHILDREN’S HOSPITALS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding accomplishments of our leading Texas hospitals. Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston, Children’s Medical Center in Dallas, Children’s Cancer Hospital at M.D. Anderson in Houston, and Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth were recently recognized as among our nation’s top hospitals by U.S. News and World Report.

Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston was ranked sixth in the country in general pediatrics, third in heart surgery, and in the top five of several other specialties. Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth was ranked 29th nationwide for its respiratory disorders specialty. Children’s Medical Center in Dallas was ranked 15th among cancer specialties, and ranked in the Top 30 on four other categories as well, including General Pediatrics and Digestive Disorders. Children’s Cancer Hospital at M.D. Anderson in Houston was ranked 21st among cancer specialties.

The U.S. News rankings were based on surveys of pediatricians, outcome of patient care including surgeries, and care-related measures including nurse staffing, availability of important technologies, and patient volume.

As a physician, it is inspiring to see that the medical profession, and specifically the hospitals and doctors serving Texas, are so adamantly dedicated to their service and are able to provide such exceptional care to our nation’s children. Health care affects every facet of our lives, and America’s devotion to innovation and advancements in medicine is vital in maintaining our position as having the best health care system in the world.

Madam Speaker, it is with honor today that I rise and extend my sincerest congratulations to these outstanding children’s hospitals in

Texas. It is my hope that they will continue to lead the way in pediatric care, maintaining the discipline, focus, and compassion that has earned them their reputations for excellence.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CORNELIUS ALLEN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute Mr. Cornelius Allen who passed away on May 28, 2008; and an individual whom I learned was my cousin a few years ago.

Madam Speaker, Cornelius Allen was one of the friendliest and most delightful persons I have known. Cornelius was born on October 13, 1928, in Gary, Indiana to the parentage of Mr. Diston and Mrs. Addie P. Allen. Mr. Allen attended high school at Oakwood Academy in Huntsville, Alabama; graduating with the class of 1947. He was then drafted into the United States Army and served as a private first class until honorable discharged in 1952, and remained in the reserve until 1957.

In 1955, Cornelius joined the Chicago Transit Authority and quickly became an Ambassador of Goodwill as he often spoke with passengers and exhibited friendship to school children. After thirty years of loyal service to the Chicago Transit Authority, Mr. Allen retired and spent the rest of his life doing good deeds.

Cornelius Allen was a real proponent of education and encouraged young people to take advantage of every educational opportunity available to them. He was family centered and exhibited great pride in family history, tradition and unity.

To Cornelius’s closest relatives, Dell Allen and wife Debbie, his daughters Addie Allen, grandchildren, Marcus Allen, Dell ‘Rome’ Allen, Justus Cornelius Allen Pugh, great grandchildren Cameron Allen, Lyndon Allen and Lucas Allen; his brother Ray Shepherd and Rosenwald (Eunice) Allen Sr. and his sister, Mary Ann Guyton, I say you have been blessed to have such a great soul to be an intimate part of your life.

Cornelius was a good man whose footsteps were ordered by the Lord and just as he brought joy to your lives, he brought joy to countless others.

May he rest in peace.

IN HONOR OF DR. DAVID HALE, A 2008 HEALTH CARE HERO OF MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. David Hale, Chief of Staff and ER Medical Director at Woodwinds Health Campus, for being named a 2008 Health Care Hero by the Twin Cities Business Magazine. A modern day hero not only in his community, but as far away as Iraq, Dr. Hale’s selfless service and dedication to his work