

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING MONROE BANK & TRUST ON THEIR ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Monroe Bank & Trust as they celebrate their one hundred and fiftieth year serving the people in and around Monroe County, Michigan.

One hundred and fifty years ago, Monroe Bank & Trust derived its humble origins from the courage of two innovative entrepreneurs who recognized the need for a place where community residents could safely keep their savings while also entering into a financial partnership to help them prosper. Beginning in the rear of a dry goods store, the focus of founders Benjamin Dansard and Louis LaFountain never wavered. Through many economic periods of boom and bust, the American Civil War, two World Wars and the Great Depression, MB&T has not only endured, but flourished.

Mr. Dansard and Mr. LaFountain understood the needs of the largely farming area and from a small space in the Dansard General Store, took on a major role in the progress ahead. Sound financial management has led MB&T to become one of the largest community banks in the State of Michigan; however, the legacy of Dansard and LaFountain is more than just numbers. It is a story of courage and hard work and just as in the year 1858, today's team of professionals continues to provide service, convenience and the personal touch.

MB&T's contribution to the community goes far beyond the outstanding financial services they offer. Their charitable financial support of organizations such as the American Red Cross, United Way, Community Foundation of Monroe, the Guidance Center, the River Raisin Center for the Arts and many others exceeds \$200,000 annually. Additionally, with over 80 percent employee participation, MB&T's "Employees Now Linked in Service Together" (ENLIST) program boasts over 120,000 man-hours of volunteer support provided over its 20-plus-year history to nonprofit organizations.

With great respect and admiration for this tremendous corporate citizen, I ask that you join me in recognizing the many contributions of Monroe Bank & Trust over the past 150 years.

### PASSENGER RAIL INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 6003) to reauthorize Amtrak, and for other purposes:

Mr. POE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 6003 and commend the bipartisan leadership of our House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee for taking the first steps towards developing true high speed rail service in America. This bill takes a historic step in the right direction towards developing additional transportation options for Americans faced with congested roads and airspace. It will also bring us up to par with European and Asian high speed rail networks.

High speed rail will have ways of connecting people to their place of business, homes, and commercial centers in ways never thought imaginable. I especially support Section 503 of this bill which calls for a study that may consider expanding the existing South Central Corridor that goes through Texas to include the greater Houston region. One day, it could be a reality that 70 percent of Texans, those who live in the greater Houston, Dallas, or San Antonio regions could commute reasonably, perhaps as quick as an hour and a half each way, between those cities to work, visit family, attend entertainment venues, sporting events, fairs, universities, museums, hospitals, and connect to international airports in ways often more timely and efficient than airline travel.

And that's just the way it is.

### RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGERS IN RUSH COUNTY

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as well as elected officials and community leaders in my district devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor these outstanding individuals in Rush County: 1. Mike Ooley, Director, Emergency Management Agency; 2. Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff; 3. Brad Smith, CEO, Rush Memorial Hospital; 4. Merv Bostic, Mayor, Rushville.

These areas suffered greatly from tornadoes, heavy rains and flooding, creating a catastrophe that awaits a presidential response. But the catastrophe did not await the efforts of these individuals. And in response, they went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

I also commend Governor Mitch Daniels and the many State government authorities who have been so instrumental in leading the State through this crisis. I strongly support Indiana's three requests for Federal aid and renew my request to the President of the United States, the Federal Emergency Man-

agement Agency, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to act promptly, make assessments, and declare an expedited major disaster for all 44 counties in the State of Indiana affected by the severe weather.

We need to speed the necessary relief to the families who have fallen victim to Mother Nature's fury and extend full Federal assistance to Hoosier families, businesses and farms to include direct assistance to individuals, Small Business Administration Disaster Loans and emergency assistance loans from the Farm Service Agency.

Madam Speaker, Hoosier families and communities are hurting and need to know that help is on the way. I urge this Administration and my colleagues to focus their attention on this urgent Midwestern need for emergency relief.

### MAJOR CAESAR CITIVELLA HONORED WITH BULL SIMONS AWARD

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Retired Army MAJ Caesar J. Citivella, of St. Petersburg, Florida, for receiving the Bull Simons Award for a lifetime of Special Operations Forces achievements.

The Bull Simons Award is given to those who have made significant contributions and demonstrated steadfast support for Special Operations Forces. Recipients must hold the highest ethical standards and embody the spirit, values, and skills of a special operations warrior. Major Citivella has demonstrated all of these.

Starting in the Army, Major Citivella joined the Office of Strategic Services in 1943, where he parachuted behind enemy lines in France and Italy, earning him a Bronze Star as well as U.S. and foreign unit awards.

Next, Major Citivella served with the 82nd Airborne Division and was one of the first pioneers selected for the Special Forces Department at the Psychological Warfare Center and School, where he wrote doctrine, tactics, techniques, procedure, lesson plans, and taught the first Special Forces classes. He then joined the 77th Special Forces Group, before transferring to the 10th Special Forces Group, where he helped run escape and evasion, and unconventional warfare exercises in Bad Tölz, Germany.

In 1961 and '62 Major Citivella trained and organized irregular indigenous forces in South Vietnam. He retired from military service at Ft. Bragg on the 31st of August, 1964, joining the Central Intelligence Agency the next day.

Major Citivella completed two tours of duty in Vietnam with the CIA and received accolades for the valuable intelligence he provided on enemy intentions. In 1976 Major Citivella became the CIA liaison officer to the Pentagon

• 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.

for Special Operations. He provided key support for Operation Eagle Claw, America's military response to the Iran hostage crisis. Major Citivella retired from the CIA on August 31, 1983, and was awarded the CIA's Intelligence Medal of Merit.

Major Citivella continues to be involved in the Special Operations community as an active member of the OSS Society and the Special Forces Association.

Madam Speaker, Major Citivella represents the best our Nation has to offer. He continues to serve our Nation in and out of uniform to protect our freedom and liberty as he has for the past 65 years. Please join me in saying thank you to him for his actions and his lifetime of services.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on June 9 or 10. For the information of my constituents and my colleagues, I want the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following votes I missed.

On rollcall 388, on H. Res. 1255 expressing support for designation of June 2008 as National Safety Month, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 389, on H. Res. 1243 expressing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 390, on H. Res. 127 recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49th State, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 391, ordering the previous question on H. Res. 1253, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 392, on agreeing to H. Res. 1253 the rule providing for consideration of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act for 2008, H.R. 6003, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 393, on H.R. 6028 the Merida Initiative to Combat Illicit Narcotics and Reduce Organized Crime Authorization Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 394, on H. Res. 1063 marking the 225th anniversary of the treaty of Paris of 1783, which ended the Revolutionary War, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 395, on H. Con. Res. 318 supporting the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 396, on H. Con. Res. 336 honoring the sacrifices and contributions made by disabled American veterans, I would have voted "yes."

### HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES CORPORATION

### HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Edwards Lifesciences Corporation on their 50th anniversary. Edwards Lifesciences is a leader in cardiovascular disease treatments and I am proud to recognize them on this occasion.

Edwards Lifesciences Corporation traces its roots back to 1958, when Miles "Lowell" Edwards set out to build the first artificial heart. Throughout its 50-year history, the company has continued its legacy of heart valve innovation. Today, the company's line of tissue heart valves, provided under the Carpentier-Edwards brand name, have become the choice of surgeons worldwide due to their durability, performance and positive quality-of-life benefits for patients, making Edwards Lifesciences the world's number-one heart valve company.

From its success in replacement valve therapies, Edwards Lifesciences applied this experience to developing products for heart valve repair. Today, the company is one of the world's leading manufacturers of products for the surgical repair procedure—called annuloplasty—and its Carpentier-Edwards and Cosgrove-Edwards annuloplasty products are among the most sought-after by surgeons around the globe.

In addition to its heart valve therapies, the Edwards organization is credited with pioneering many other medical innovations, including the Swan-Ganz catheter, the first technology ever used for hemodynamic monitoring of critically ill patients, and the Fogarty line of embolectomy catheters, the first catheter-based technologies used to remove blood clots from the arms and legs.

In 2004, the Edwards Lifesciences Fund was established out of the company's commitment to strengthen its communities and to support advancements in cardiovascular disease awareness and knowledge. The fund has already awarded approximately \$5 million in grants to 115 charitable organizations.

I am pleased the original vision of Lowell Edwards continues today. Edwards Lifesciences is a global company with revenues exceeding \$1 billion and 5,600 employees strong, all dedicated to furthering Lowell Edwards' original vision to help clinicians, patients and their families work together as a united community fighting cardiovascular disease.

Madam Speaker I would like to congratulate Edwards Lifesciences on their 50 years.

#### TRIBUTE TO PETER B. RAMOS

### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor a dedicated civic leader, loyal friend, loving father and husband, adoring grandfather and doting great-grandfather—Peter B. Ramos.

Born in El Paso, Texas, Pete moved to San Bernardino, California where he grew up to become a longstanding member of the community, including his participation at San Salvador Church in Colton and Sacred Heart Church in Palm Desert.

After graduating from San Bernardino High School in 1955, Pete proudly served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany until 1958. Returning to San Bernardino, Pete was hired by the San Bernardino Unified School District, remaining a devoted employee for thirty years.

In 1973, Pete was an instrumental founding member of the GENTS Organization, a community-based association whose purpose is directed at helping today's youth become tomorrow's leaders. The leadership of Pete within the GENTS Organization has contributed to its successful fundraising events, generating thousands of dollars in scholarships, donations to charitable organizations and the sponsorship of sports activities for the youth.

In addition to his service to the San Bernardino Unified School District, Pete was also a part-time employee of the San Bernardino Golf Club. An avid golf player, his fervent passion for both the sport and the community was demonstrated by all of the golf clubs he helped establish. These include the Gents Golf Association, San Bernardino County Twilight Golf League, Golf Buddies, Colton Golf Club, and San Bernardino Golf Club.

Pete was an empowering leader within the San Bernardino community, an excellent role model who set his sights on helping others have a better life. He lived by example, saying to me, "Joe, you can change life and attitudes by believing and giving others a chance."

Having always enjoyed his company on the green, he was also a strong supporter of my political endeavors. More than anything, Pete was a true friend to my family and I, especially in his great support of my sons, City Councilman Joe Baca Jr. and Jeremy Baca.

Pete is survived by his wife of 49 years, Helen Ramos, former City Councilwoman, whom he deeply loved. Pete is also survived by his daughter, Roseanne Reyes; his son, Armando; grandchildren, Raylene Soto, Leandra Soto, Bree Reyes, Michael Reyes; great-grandchild, Noelle Tavie; his sisters, Connie Hernandez, Lucy Zamora; brothers, Louis, Daniel, Joe; and many nieces, nephews and godchildren.

Let us take a moment to remember this great man and his admirable dedication to instilling positive change and leading an exemplary life, one in whose footsteps we all hope to follow. The thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara, my family and I are with his family at this time.

God Bless Pete Ramos for love of country and mankind.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SAN MATEO CITY MANAGER ARNE CROCE

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my deep appreciation and gratitude for the exemplary service to the City of San Mateo by Arne Croce, who is retiring as City Manager after 18 exemplary years.