

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF MARY GREEN AS RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY'S WOMAN OF VISION

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, the recent Retinitis Pigmentosa International Society's presentation of its Woman of Vision Leadership Award to San Francisco-based activist and fashion designer Mary Green is an excellent occasion for this body to take note of the unique and innovative manner in which Mary has employed her burgeoning business success to improve the lives and work conditions of women in developing countries around the world.

Mary Green is a visionary of ethical and sustainable entrepreneurship, a creative and compassionate strategy that other American business leaders might find rewarding, encompassing both good humanism and good business. The Vision Award saluted, along with her design skills, her commitment to creating better lives for people living in the shadow of poverty and deprivation throughout the third world. Mary Green's signature is adapting and uniting the unique artistic skills of workers in various countries with their innate entrepreneurship. By doing so she has created stable business communities that have emerged to produce her exceptional fashion designs. It is her creative humanism that truly makes her a woman of vision.

A committed activist in many areas of social improvement through activities in the business world, nonprofit entities and humane governmental activities, from solar power cooperatives to stem cell advancement, Mary Green's most notable achievements have been in the area of developing business solutions that address society's most pressing problems. It is the human dimension of sustainable business, including the empowerment of women, which operates as a key factor in all of her work. Mary Green personifies what is great about sustainable entrepreneurship: the blend of human and natural capital creating a community of trust and happiness with the creation of a valuable product that transcends the focus on immediate monetary reward. We are all the beneficiaries of the vision of Mary Green.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Westlake, Ohio, as they celebrate their one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, and in recognition of the Church's contributions to the community of Westlake, Ohio.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, was founded on June 13, 1858 by twenty families living in Westlake, Ohio and has a rich history of public service to the community. The congregation grew from ninety-three members to over 2,500 parishioners and 250 students. The original infrastructure of the Church was replaced on December 14, 1974 with a new brick building, which continues to stand to this day. Expansions to the Church included school facilities and a sanctuary expansion.

St. Paul Lutheran Church offers preschool through eighth grade education and offers art, vocal and instrumental music, technology, and sports activities. The Church also has a variety of ministries, including youth and educational ministries. The Church has never shied from its responsibility to educate, serve, and walk in concert with their congregation as well as the community as a whole.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Westlake, Ohio as they celebrate their one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, and in recognition of the Church's contributions to the community. May St. Paul's devotion to service and faith continue to touch their congregation.

DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, people ask me all the time, "Do you miss being a judge?" Usually my answer is, "No, I enjoy representing the good folks of southeast Texas in Congress," but sometimes a case comes along that makes me wish I was back on the bench. Sunday, June 8th was one of those days. As I turned on the news and learned that some outlaw set fire to the Texas Governor's Mansion, my first thought was I hope they send him to my court. My close friend Alton said "Get a Rope".

Of course we all know that everything is bigger and better in Texas, but as the news made headlines across the country so did a little Texas history. Our governor's mansion is registered as a National Historic Landmark and is the oldest governor's mansion west of the Mississippi and the fourth oldest in the country. Because Texas has the unique distinction of being an independent country and a state, the history of our governor's residence really started with the first home of the President of the Republic, however that home was short lived.

Nine years after annexation in 1845, the Texas Legislature appropriated \$14,500 to build a governor's mansion. The mansion was completed June 14, 1856 and Texas's fifth Governor, Elisha Marshall Pease and his family were the first residents. The historic Austin

home beneath the oaks at the corner of 11th and Colorado has housed 43 Texas Governors, and two future Presidents, in its 151 years.

One of the unique aspects of the Texas Governor's Mansion is that its structure has remained virtually unchanged. Under Governor Oscar Colquitt, an addition to the rear of the home was completed in 1914 and renovations over the years have left that floor plan intact for nearly a century. The Greek Revival architecture of the home, with its vast porches and floor-to-ceiling windows are all original to the home's initial construction, making it the oldest executive residence in the United States to function in its original configuration. I told you everything is better in Texas.

After getting over the fact that I wasn't going to get to try this case and charge this villain with everything from arson to treason, I started thinking about my first visit to the mansion when I was 10 years old. One of my heroes, as you all know, was General, President, and Governor Sam Houston—and I couldn't wait to walk through the halls that he walked and imagine that I was him. I remember standing at the foot of his bed thinking it was huge, thinking that General Sam really was larger than life.

I was relieved to learn that Sam Houston's custom mahogany bed and most of the historical furnishings were previously removed for the renovations and spared from the fire. I support the efforts of Governor Perry, the Friends of the Governor's Mansion and all Texans that want to see the Governor's Mansion rebuilt and restored to its former glory. And, I envy the judge that tries the outlaw that recklessly destroyed part of our great state's history.

The last scoundrel to desecrate a Texas landmark got nine years in the penitentiary. Back in 1989, a man by the name of Paul Cullen poisoned the great "Treaty Oak." Of course, I promptly volunteered to try that case as well. The Treaty Oak is the famed site in Austin where Stephen F. Austin signed a treaty with the Lipan Apaches and is thought to be more than 500 years old.

In a deliberate effort to destroy the tree in some kooky scheme, Cullen poisoned it with enough pesticides to kill a hundred trees. And as most criminals do, he bragged about his crime which resulted in his swift arrest and incarceration. The nation was stunned that we sent him to prison for trying to kill a tree, but the Tree was a symbol of Texas.

Fortunately the Treaty Oak survived the attack and while she may not stand as mighty as before, she continues to hang in there as a symbol of strength and perseverance. We rebuilt the Capitol after it was destroyed by fire in 1991 and the Mansion will live to see another day as well. As for the traitorous arsonists, well that is yet to be seen. There's a reason for the saying—"Don't mess with Texas!"

And that's just the way it is.

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