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HONORING NELSON MANDELA ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1090 honoring Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela as he celebrates 90 years of life.

Mr. Mandela was born on July 18, 1918, in Transkei, South Africa, where he was given the name Rolihlahla, meaning "troublemaker," which would later seem so fitting. Throughout his early adulthood, he developed his own ideas about the oppression he had experienced which led him to join the African National Congress. His work with the ANC led him to be tried for treason. He was acquitted of the charges, but his strong opposition to South African apartheid continued.

His fight against racial segregation came to a sudden halt when he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for allegedly plotting to overthrow the South African government.

However, 27 years in prison could not diminish the spirit of a great leader. Once released from prison, Mr. Mandela wasted no time in becoming involved with the ANC once again. It was no surprise that this revolutionary man would become the next President of the ANC in 1990, continuing to devote himself to a multi-racial democracy for his country.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mandela embodies the dignity, strength, and leadership that all of us should strive for. Our country was founded on the values of freedom and liberty for all, personified undoubtedly by Mr. Mandela. He grasped these ideals and fought to make them a reality for South Africa through commitment unsurpassed by others. The dedication Mr. Mandela displayed, despite the many challenges he encountered, is deserving of our highest respect.

Mr. Mandela has undisputedly contributed to tremendous change with his efforts to peacefully resolve conflicts throughout the world. It is with great pleasure that I commend Mr. Mandela for his lifetime commitment to promoting the vision of freedom and equality for the people of South Africa.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE LIONEL VAN DEERLIN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor our former colleague, and my good friend, the Honorable Lionel Van Deerlin of California. He passed away on May 17th in his San Diego home at the age of 93.

Everybody referred to him as "Van." He served in this House from 1963 until 1981, and was a friend and colleague of mine on the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. Throughout his career he maintained a marvelous wit and a generous spirit. He was a warm and gentle man.

After his defeat, Van went back to the newspaper business he loved, writing columns for the San Diego Tribune and then the Union-Tribune. In one recent column he decried the bitter partisanship of today's Congress, saying "Twenty-five years ago in Congress you not only trusted the opposing party, you enjoyed their company. Today, they hardly even speak."

During his last 4 years of service, from 1976–80, he was the Chairman of the Communications Subcommittee. It was a tumultuous time to preside over that important panel. The Justice Department had filed an antitrust suit against the then-integrated AT&T, and sought to divest the company of its manufacturing subsidiary, known then as Western Electric. In response to the Justice Department's lawsuit, AT&T's supporters in the Congress introduced the "Consumer Communications Reform Act," which would have ratified AT&T's status as a monopoly.

All of this fell into Van's lap when he became Chairman of the Subcommittee. At the time, competition in communications was in its infancy. Competitive suppliers of telephone equipment were beginning to spring up. But competition in long distance was still a novelty. Van knew that if the Congress ratified AT&T's monopoly, consumers would have lost an opportunity to shop around and obtain equipment and service for less. So he came up with a plan to forestall the legislation (which was extremely popular) to educate his Subcommittee while giving the competitors an opportunity to gain a foothold in the marketplace.

Van announced his intention to draft a "basement to attic" re-write of the Communications Act of 1934. And he proceeded to do just that. In 1978 he introduced H.R. 13015, the "Communications Act of 1978." Although the bill was never approved by the Subcommittee, he compiled an impressive hearing record and began to build the consensus that competition in communications was good for consumers.

The following year he introduced H.R. 3333, another attempt to re-write the Communications Act. Again, the bill was not reported by the Subcommittee; however Van's untiring efforts expanded both the record and the emerging consensus. And in 1980, the year of his defeat, he introduced H.R. 6121, which was approved by both the Subcommittee and the full Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

In 1980, Van was defeated for re-election. In his concession speech he again dem-

onstrated his wry wit and sage perspective, saying "Having been elected by the people in this district for nine consecutive elections, it would hardly be appropriate to say that they've taken leave of their senses this time." And so ended the career of a remarkable public servant.

But the efforts that he put in motion did not end there. Building on the hearing record that Van compiled, and the growing consensus that competition should govern the delivery of communications products and services, Congress continued its effort to update the Communications Act of 1934. In 1982 those efforts were interrupted by the Justice Department's announcement that it had settled the AT&T litigation. That settlement resulted in the 1984 divestiture of the Bell Operating Companies, and established the industry structure that persisted for the next 15 years.

In 1993 the House revived its efforts to update the 1934 Act, and in June of 1994, by a vote of 423–5, passed H.R. 3626. While the Senate did not complete action on its bill, efforts to update the law commenced anew in 1995. The result was the enactment of the landmark "Telecommunications Act of 1996" the following year.

Those of us who had been involved in these efforts from the beginning recognized that we were building upon the foundation that Van had laid back in 1977 and 1978. He was the visionary that realized that the days of AT&T's monopoly had to end, and he was the one who began the effort to build a consensus in favor of competition.

Early in 1996, the White House contacted my office to see who should be invited to attend the signing ceremony for the "Telecommunications Act of 1996." I suggested that they invite Lionel Van Deerlin, the man who got the ball rolling nearly 20 years before. And so in February, 1996, I entered the Library of Congress to witness the President signing this important new law. And there was Van, my old friend and colleague; smiling as always.

That was the last time that I saw Van. After his defeat I missed his cool-headed leadership and ready wit. It was great to see him that day, and I was glad that he lived to see his efforts come to fruition with the enactment of the new statute. This body has lost a good and decent colleague, who made valuable contributions that extended well beyond his years of service. And I have lost an old and dear friend, whom I will miss. We were better for his presence.

I am inserting for the RECORD the eulogy of former Representative Lynn Schenk.

The following is the text of the Eulogy for Rep. Lionel Van Deerlin, delivered by his friend of 30 years, the Hon. Lynn Schenk, on the occasion of his Memorial and Celebration of Life at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, San Diego, California, at noon, on Saturday, June 14, 2008:

I have been given the high honor of speaking to you today about a most extraordinary man—Lionel Van Deerlin—our dear Van. I thank the Van Deerlin family, his children and grandchildren for this special privilege.

Van's "life journey" was marked by so much accomplishment that it would take hours to recount—I will do my best to touch on the highlights.

This man, with a giant heart, who looked at life through the softening lens of humor, has brought us together today, but he would not want us to mourn him. Instead he would

want us to celebrate his life and enjoy one another's company.

As I share a few reflections, it is OK if you want to tune me out and remember your own "Van" stories—there are so many!

On May 17, the Nation lost a great American, a family lost a cherished patriarch and we lost a dear friend.

Van died peacefully—just as he lived every day of his long and celebrated life—surrounded by family and friends. And just like Van, he closed his eyes for the last time only after finishing his column for the SD union tribune.

Van was born in L.A., a true native son of California. He went to public school in Oceanside and graduated from USC, where he was editor of the daily Trojan, something for which this Bruin long ago forgave him.

He began his civilian career in journalism in Baltimore and Minneapolis, where he met the love of his long life, Mary Jo. They eloped to a marriage that lasted 67 years ending only with Mary Jo's passing last October.

During WWII, Van served in the Army where he was on the staff of "Stars and Stripes". After the war, the Van Deerlins returned to San Diego to raise their family, Jimmy, John, Victoria, Elizabeth, Susan and Jeff.

Van joined the SD Sun and became the city editor of the SD Journal, a paper founded by Clint McKinnon, the first Democrat to be elected to Congress from SD.

Van loved the job, but the siren call of TV was too much to resist.

He used to tell a hysterical story about those early TV days. The TV studio was in Tijuana. Then, as now, economics drove the medium. So on weekends the inside studio was used to tape commercials while the live news was broadcast from a parking lot outside. A picture backdrop of sunny SD was used to hide the cars and trucks in the lot.

One evening it began to rain, drops were rolling off Van's forehead and the backdrop swayed in the wind, while the lead cameraman was in a fistfight with the director! Undeterred Van carried on like the trooper he was, that is, until a wet cat threatened to jump into his lap!

The versatile newsman credited his exposure on TV for his first election victory, becoming the second Democrat from the then very Republican SD area to be elected to the U.S. Congress.

Van was reelected 9 times. By the time I met Van, more than 30 years ago, he was a high ranking member of the majority party. I was in awe, but with his ready smile and corny jokes he immediately put me at ease. I am certain many of you here had similar first meeting with this "king of the one liners!"

I have many memories of Van and Mary Jo, but one of the earliest is also one of my fondest. In the mid 70's as a White House fellow, I had access to the presidential box at the Kennedy Center, but only on a last minute basis when no one really important wanted it. One late afternoon I got the word the box was mine for that evening. I don't know what possessed me to call Congressman Van Deerlin to invite him and his wife, because surely he would decline.

But he didn't! He accepted with glee.

As we stepped from the anteroom into the box he was more excited than I!!

As you would expect, all heads turned to see who was occupying the presidential box. Not wanting to disappoint, Van proceeded to the rail and in his best royal nod and wave acknowledged the crowd! With his patrician looks, they all must have thought he was a visiting king or at least a prince!

Van served on the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and

chaired its communications subcommittee. According to his friend and colleague, Cong. John Dingell, it was a tumultuous time, but Van maintained his marvelous wit and generous spirit.

Competition in communications, especially long distance, was in its birthing stages. The Justice Dept, ATT and potential competitors were in heated battle.

All this fell into Van's lap. He announced his intention to draft a "basement to attic" rewrite of the communications act of 1934. And that he did, compiling a comprehensive record to show that competition in Communications was good for consumers.

It was Van's work that provided the foundation for the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Again, according to Cong. Dingell, Van was the visionary who realized that ATT's monopoly had to end.

The committee was renamed Energy and Commerce and John Dingell is the long time chairman. John Dingell sends his deepest sympathies to Van's family.

He said into the Congressional Record "this body has lost a good and decent colleague who made valuable contributions that extended well beyond his years of service. And I have lost an old and dear friend, whom I will miss. We were better for his presence."

I had the privilege of sitting in the Van Deerlin seat for a brief period, and on his subcommittee.

His cool headed leadership and ready wit were much remembered. One day during a contentious hearing, the doors opened and in slipped two gentlemen. I recognized Van immediately and slipped a note to the subcommittee chairman, Ed Markey who along with Al Gore, was a protege of Van's. Ed halted the proceedings to introduce Van and the room literally erupted in a standing ovation.

He tried to stop this spontaneous outpouring so he could introduce the gentleman with him who he also wanted acknowledged in this manner, former Republican Congressman Bob Wilson!

How utterly Van!

While there was never a doubt that Van was a staunch democrat, he was a gentleman who treated friend and foe, ally and opponent with dignity and respect. His campaigns were dignified and there was decency in everything he did. As his son Jeff said, "Van was a sweet and decent man".

The contentious and vitriolic political scene today was a source of consternation for him. Not too long ago, Van famously said, "twenty five years ago in Congress you not only trusted the opposing party, you enjoyed their company. Today, they hardly speak!"

Van accomplished so much for San Diego during his years in Congress. He was simply one of the most productive Members ever to represent this area. He authored the appropriation to pay for a second border crossing at Otay Mesa, this, before there was wide spread appreciation of the importance of cross border cooperation.

He used his position in the majority to help his SD colleague in the minority, Republican Bob Wilson, in Bob's signal support for the Navy and Marines, including funding for the Naval Hospital in Balboa Park.

Van and Bob worked together to promote work for SD's shipbuilding and repair industry.

And Van fought long and hard for the appropriation for the Veteran's Hospital in La Jolla. His insight and involvement extended to where it should be located and by whom it should be designed.

In fact, if the right people are listening, I suggest that the VA Hospital be named for Lionel Van Deerlin!!

During his 18 years in the House, Van's accomplishments were so far reaching that we

still benefit from them today both here in SD and nationally.

He was a nature lover and a sportsman with only binoculars in his holster.

Because of his love of nature, he was an ardent environmentalist. Van, ahead of his time, successfully pushed for revisions to Federal law allowing California to set tougher emission standards than the rest of the Nation.

In 1975, Van politely, but firmly, shall we say "encouraged" the Navy to restore Imperial Beach's vanishing sand, which it did.

With an assist from the young Congressman Al Gore sitting next to him, Van helped create C-Span, which had been resisted for years by his colleagues.

Van was a "Carrie Nation" about congressional ethics! He voluntarily disclosed his and Mary Jo's personal finances—a first in Congress, and sought the expulsion of Adam Clayton Powell from Congress for ethical violations. That took courage and character, something Van had in abundance!!

The face of Public Broadcasting was sculpted by Van. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting might not—no, would not—exist today were it not for Lionel Van Deerlin!

But it wasn't all work and no play during those DC days—for example, Van moonlighted as the manager for his staff's softball team. He selectively challenged the only Capitol Hill team to have never won a game—Congressman Charlie Wilson's team. Suffice it to say that Mr. Wilson's team finished the season with one victory.

Undaunted, Van cannily next challenged the diplomats and staff of the Irish Embassy, knowing full well that softball is not played in Ireland. (Pause) the Embassy of Ireland finished the season undefeated one-zip!

Even in electoral defeat, Van maintained his humor and perspective. After losing his reelection bid in 1980, he said "having been elected by the people in this district for nine consecutive elections, it would hardly be appropriate to say that they've taken leave of their senses this time".

There are so many stories from the rich, full and well lived life of Lionel Van Deerlin. Each of you I'm certain could fill hours telling Van stories.

John Martin, the former ABC News correspondent, talks about how Van's role in getting him an overseas assignment was "a turning point in his life."

John says, "Van was gracious, smart, looking out for the little guy and funny, just the combination we need in public life".

The person Van considered his fourth son, Rudy Murillo, Van's dear friend Paul Peterson and my husband, Hugh Friedman would, for the past decade, meet regularly for lunch. Van filled the table with his joyful presence, as he surgically dissected the events and issues of the day with his wit and insight. For Paul, Rudy and Hugh, that fourth chair will be hugely empty now.

His colleagues in the media will miss him enormously.

As we know, after Congress, Van returned to his first professional love, journalism. For a couple of generations of SD news people, Van was both a matchless source and quite often a friend in need. He relished doing his column, he loved journalism and journalists.

The Washington Post editorialized after Van's death "a happy warrior as both a Congressman and columnist, his column reflected the man. A lively, engaging writer, he left no doubt about his liberal views, but he relied on his quick wit, a firm grasp of the issues and a lifetime's store of anecdotes to provoke and persuade."

So true.

Van was also an educator, teaching communications classes at SDSU (where there is

a chair named for him). His students felt blessed to have had the benefit of his wisdom.

He was a mentor to so many younger Democrats, cheering us up when we lost, and cheering us on when we won. We will always cherish his concern, his generosity and his support.

Personally, I will always remember his standing by my side, wearing his biggest grin, as I announced my own candidacy for Congress.

Although he lived life long and full in nearly 94 years, those of us who knew him are still greedy for more of this remarkable man and his life partner, Mary Jo.

But we must be content with the legacy he has bequeathed to us. By his work in Congress, through his leadership, his teaching and writing, and by the example of how he lived his life, he has taught us many lessons. He taught us the importance of giving of yourself to your fellow citizens, he taught us that working together we can accomplish much, he taught us to delight in shared achievement and not be concerned with who gets credit. He showed us how to be upbeat, positive, and happy. He taught us that politics can be fun, that losing is not failure, an opponent is not the enemy.

He taught us to treat everyone respectfully. He taught us about dignity and decency, and the sweetness of life as it should be lived, with enthusiasm, zest and verve—filling every moment to the fullest. He taught us to believe as he did, in the innate goodness of humanity.

He taught us to be loyal to our friends and to love our families as he so unconditionally loved his.

Lionel Van Deerlin—a man of character, integrity, and humility. Van—classy, enthusiastic, fun.

We should celebrate him the way he would want us to, with happiness and joy in having had this sweet and decent man in our lives.

Yes, we will miss the twinkle in his eyes, his witty tweaking of the high and mighty. Yes, we will miss his friendship and his presence, but we can best honor this consummate man of good will by embracing the lessons he taught us.

He left us with an ineffable sense of optimism and hope, so let there be no sadness, because surely he is with his beloved Mary Jo whistling an old tune and telling her a corny joke.

INCLUDE FIREFIGHTERS IN THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would correct a longstanding disparity between professional firefighters who are employed by States, counties, or municipalities and Federal firefighters.

In 1985, Congress amended the Fair Labor Standards Act so that firefighters around the country could engage in a practice called "trade time." Trade time allows two firefighters, solely at their option and with the approval of their supervisor, to switch shifts without affecting the pay rate of either firefighter.

The Congress made this change because firefighters work uncommon schedules involving 24 hour shifts and 72 hour work weeks, followed by a period of time away from the firehouse. Trade time enables firefighters to meet personal obligations such as attending a child's birthday or assisting a sick family member without exhausting their annual leave. It also ensures that firehouses across the county can maintain staffing requirements and keep our communities safe.

Federal firefighters are not covered under the Fair Labor Standards Act and therefore have been ineligible for trade time. The legislation I am introducing today amends Federal employee labor law to fix this problem.

Federal firefighters work side-by-side with their non-federal colleagues, so this is fundamentally an issue of equity. It will also help Federal agencies recruit and retain firefighters. Just like other firefighters, Federal firefighters risk their lives on a daily basis. They also accept the irregular hours that their jobs require. This legislation merely gives them some modest flexibility to balance that irregularity and meet their family obligations.

I hope my colleagues will support this simple but overdue legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the Special Olympics.

When the Special Olympics was founded in 1968, individuals with developmental disabilities were all too often separated from their families and segregated from their communities.

My aunt, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, was able to see the potential of individuals with intellectual disabilities through her sister, and my aunt, Rosemary.

She was confident in her, and other disabled individuals', ability to participate in a meaningful way in their communities.

By using sport as a vehicle and stage for demonstrating the dignity and capability of people with intellectual disabilities, Mrs. Shriver recognized the impact not only on the athletes themselves, but on the Nation.

Today, the Special Olympics serves more than 2.5 million athletes in 180 countries around the world.

Yet, the benefit of the Special Olympics to athletes, families, volunteers, and coaches cannot be adequately measured by statistics and numbers.

It can be best represented by the recognition of the potential of individuals with intellectual disabilities by our society.

Congratulations to the Special Olympics on almost 40 years of extraordinary service.

EXPAND THE ROLE OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS IN CHESAPEAKE BAY CLEANUP

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would expand the Army Corps of Engineers' role in Chesapeake Bay cleanup—a mission they first took on in 1996. The legislation would provide the Corps with continuing authority to engage in this work; expand the Corps' work to all six States in the Bay watershed and the District of Columbia; and provide flexibility for the Corps to work with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and other not-for-profit groups engaged in Bay cleanup.

Next year, the Congress will move to enact a full reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act for the first time since 2000. This represents an opportunity to turn the tide in Bay cleanup efforts so future generations can continue to enjoy the cultural, historic, and recreational benefits of the Bay and so it can continue to be an economic driver for the Mid-Atlantic region. This year, we have laid the groundwork for great progress in achieving this goal by securing substantial resources in the Farm Bill for agricultural-based Bay restoration. This measure serves to provide the water-resources complement to that effort.

The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program, which was established in section 510 of WRDA 1996, authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to provide design and construction assistance to State and local authorities in the environmental restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. These projects range from shoreline buffers to oyster reef construction. As it is currently structured however, the program has been limited in its scope for several reasons. First, the Corps' restoration efforts have been limited to Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, which has precluded a comprehensive, watershed-wide plan that adequately prioritizes projects. Second, unlike all other major Federal agencies engaged in Bay restoration, the Corps has no small watershed grants program that engages State and local governments in small scale restoration projects. This is compounded by the Corps' intricate procurement processes. Finally, the matching fund requirements of the section 510 program do not allow for the use of in-kind services or contributions, which stifles collaboration. The Chesapeake Bay Commission, a multi-State legislative assembly dedicated to the restoration of the Bay, recognizing these deficiencies has recommended several improvements to the program that are the basis for this legislation. The bill would address the issues I have previously mentioned and strengthen the section 510 program so that the Army Corps of Engineers can continue to be a strong partner in Chesapeake Bay cleanup.

I hope my colleagues will support this legislation through the WRDA process.