

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE DAILY 45: 118 YOUNG MALES
LOST TO GUN VIOLENCE IN D.C.

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. In August, D.C. police were investigating the circumstances surrounding the murder of victims number 117 and 118, just two of the latest to die this year due to gun-related violence.

These murders occurred just north of Union Station in the vacant, dilapidated Temple Courts high-rise and townhouses. This is an area to be razed in the coming months, and although a new structure will rise—erasing the tragic events that lead to their deaths; these two young men, and dozens of others like them, had names and families and hopes and dreams of their own.

Victim no. 117, JohnQuan Wright, was only 18 years old. And 1 month later—victim 118's name has yet to be released. While their deaths were acknowledged in passing via the press, there remains little to no outcry that more than a hundred victims, most of them young men in the prime of their lives, have been lost to violence—most of it with a gun—this year in Washington, DC.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LES WHITT

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of the late Robert Leslie "Les" Whitt. He will be remembered as a man with a deep love for people, music, and the Alexandria Zoo.

Mr. Whitt, of Alexandria, LA, died recently from heart complications after living 14 years with a transplanted heart. Whitt was a strong advocate for organ donation and loved speaking for the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency whenever possible.

Moreover, Mr. Whitt was passionate about his service to the citizens and administration of the city of Alexandria. He served as the director of the Alexandria Zoo for 34 years, and received the Dunbar Award for Civil Service in 1993. Mr. Whitt was also recognized for his progressive and inventive zoo exhibit designs. At the age of 16, he joined the American Zoo and Aquarium Association as a professional fellow member and has subsequently served the organization in many capacities including

Accreditation Inspection Team Leader. Mr. Whitt served selflessly on numerous committees representing the Alexandria Zoo in worldwide conservation efforts for endangered species.

In addition, Mr. Whitt's talent as a musician, particularly a Hammond B-3 player, was celebrated. He played with many local and regional musicians, as well as with greats like B.B. King and B.B. Major. He was altruistically involved with the youth and was a mentor to young zoo professionals, teen volunteers, Boy Scouts, and musicians.

Thousands of families will never overcome this loss of a true son of Alexandria. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Les Whitt for his exceptional contributions to central Louisiana and unparalleled influence on those of us who were blessed to know him.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MICHAEL
SHUPP, UNITED STATES MARINE
CORPS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, today, I pay tribute to Col. Michael Shupp, United States Marine Corps. His service to our country and the Corps has demonstrated true patriotism and exceptional military leadership. On September 17, I will have the personal honor of presiding over Colonel Shupp's retirement ceremony, and I want to take this moment to recognize his 28 years of dedicated service.

Colonel Shupp was born and raised in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and Marine Corps Officer Candidate School. Since the beginning of his career, he has been a true professional in every sense of the word. His assignments have ranged from serving as a young platoon commander in Japan, to instructing our future leaders at the Naval Academy, where his performance was recognized by President George W. Bush. He served combat tours in Iraq and a peacekeeping tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Wherever he was, he always set the highest standards of professionalism and leadership for all those around him. His superb leadership has been evident in numerous command and staff assignments throughout the Department of Defense, including a tour as the Marine Corps' Liaison to the House of Representatives and his current duty as the Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington DC.

Colonel Shupp served this Nation twice in combat. In 1990, Captain Shupp deployed Company "A" of the 1st Light Armored Infantry Battalion to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Once the ground war commenced, his company led the advance of the First Marine Division. His unit cut through Iraqi resistance

and led the first Coalition Forces into Kuwait City. Company "A," under Captain Shupp's leadership, then participated in the capture of the Kuwait International Airport. In 2004, Colonel Shupp returned to the Persian Gulf and assumed command of Regimental Combat Team-1 (RCT-1) at Camp Fallujah, Iraq. He commanded the Regiment during counter-insurgency operations, the second Battle of Fallujah, humanitarian assistance and reconstruction efforts, and the first free Iraqi National election. After leaving Iraq, the Marine Corps and Department of Defense chose to capitalize on his experience. He was selected to serve as the Chief of Staff for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization in Washington, DC.

For 28 years, Colonel Shupp has served this great country from locations all over the world. Whether he was training new recruits, commanding marines in combat or working with Congress, he served with both honor and distinction. He will indeed be remembered as an exceptional marine, a true patriot, a courageous warrior and a dedicated leader with the highest integrity and compassion for all who had the distinct honor of serving with him.

His loving wife, Sherrye, and daughter, Jessica, have demonstrated unwavering support throughout his time in service, and this Nation owes a debt of gratitude to their sacrifice.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTER
MARGARET ANN COUGHLIN ON
HER GOLDEN JUBILEE AS A SIS-
TER OF MERCY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sister Margaret Ann Coughlin, RSM, on the joyous occasion of her 50th anniversary of religious life. I am especially pleased and proud to acknowledge her Golden Jubilee as a Sister of Mercy because Sister Margaret Ann remains such an integral part of my family, celebrating with us in good times and offering herself as a steadfast tower of strength and comfort in our most challenging times. There are many families that claim Sister Margaret Ann as their own as her selfless outreach to those in need is well known and deeply appreciated.

It was also my good fortune to accompany Sister Margaret Ann to the White House ceremony honoring Pope Benedict's XVI first visit to the United States. While Sister refers to the Papal Visit as the highlight of her religious life, it was I who was honored to have shared this experience with this woman dedicated to the very principles Pope Benedict spoke of on that historic April day. Calling for a more compassionate, free and just society, Sister Margaret

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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.

Ann's work personifies those principles as she lives a faith-filled life.

Born to William S. and Margaret McDonough Coughlin on March 13, 1940, Frances Lillian Coughlin was the youngest child of this loving and legendary South Buffalo family. She joined her only brother, William ("Yappo") and her sisters, Mary Joan, Patricia, Marjorie and Rita at the family home on Stevenson Street. She was just a teenager when her parents died within 12 months of each other and she went to live with Mary Joan, her brother-in-law, Jerry Flanagan, and their young family on Downing Street. Such would be the life story of the Coughlin's and so many other members of the "Greatest Generation"—the family would always be there in some way to take care of and take in those who needed help and a home.

These lessons clearly left an imprint on young Frances' heart as her vocation led her to join the Sisters of Mercy on September 15, 1958, the same year she graduated from Mt. Mercy Academy. Continuing education remains a cornerstone of Sister's hard work and growth as a member of this religious community. She earned degrees from Trocaire and Medaille Colleges in the 1960s and received her master's in pastoral studies from Loyola University in 1990. She earned continuing education credits from Notre Dame University and became a board certified chaplain in 2001 from the NACC (National Association of Catholic Chaplains).

In her earlier years, Sister taught at several Catholic schools in Buffalo and served as the music minister at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School in Orchard Park. She was the pastoral care minister at Mercy Hospital prior to her current work as a pastoral caregiver to the children and families of Our Lady of Victory Basilica Baker Home for Children. Sister Margaret Ann has also been recognized by her high school alma mater with the justly deserved "Spirit of Mercy Award."

Not an easy life, Sister has suffered great loss and battled life threatening illnesses which may have weakened her physical health yet has certainly strengthened her sense of empathy and her ability to listen, counsel, comfort and console. A teacher and a preacher, Sister lives her life as an example of God's mercy and love in word and action. The love, laughter and gifts of Sister's life have certainly influenced the lives of so many others who belong to her extended network of family and friends, especially her beloved nieces and nephews and their children, who lovingly call her "Aunt Sister."

Sister Margaret Ann's Golden Jubilee will be celebrated with family and friends on Sunday, September 14, 2008, at the Monsignor Nash Council Knights of Columbus in South Buffalo. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that the House of Representatives join with me and those whose lives have been lifted in hope and faith because of the life work of Sister Margaret Ann Coughlin in congratulating her on this significant anniversary. We extend our best wishes for her continued health and happiness and our deepest thanks to this woman of faith for her outstanding service to others.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE DANBURY NEWS-TIMES

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the News-Times of Danbury, Connecticut, on the 125th anniversary of the founding of their paper. With circulation extending to some 30,000 residents in western Connecticut, the News-Times helps us stay in touch with the people and places that make up our community.

The paper connects the citizens of greater Danbury and serves as a forum for public conversation, providing readers with an opportunity to discuss local, state, and national issues of concern. As they say, a well-informed citizenry is essential to any democracy, and the News-Times provides an invaluable link between residents and the leaders, decisions, and issues that shape their lives every day.

A hallmark of a quality local newspaper is the attention it pays to local issues that affect the lives of its readers. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank the News-Times for its excellent coverage of Candlewood Lake. I have been intimately involved in the recent negotiations with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the owner of the lake, First Light, to ensure that the environmental and property protection concerns of local residents are heard when it comes to decisions about how the lake is managed. The News-Times has covered every step of this process, and it's clear the paper takes this issue as seriously as I do.

With September 7, 2008, marking the 125th anniversary of the Danbury News-Times, I would like to extend my congratulations on the continuing success of your publication. It's my hope that today marks the beginning of another 125 years of peerless local reporting.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. VINCENT A. LAINO, JR.

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Mr. Vincent A. Laino, Jr. of Exton, Pennsylvania, for earning accolades as Chief Financial Officer of the Year from the Philadelphia Business Journal and Drexel University's LeBow College of Business. Mr. Laino is the current senior vice president, CFO, and CIO of Weston Solutions.

Weston Solutions is an employee-owned environmental services firm based in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Joining the company in September 1988, Mr. Laino began as a manager of financial systems after receiving both a bachelor of science in business administration, accounting, and computer systems management and a master of business administration and financial management from Drexel University. By 1994, Mr. Laino was in-

roducing innovative ideas and business models to Weston Solutions, which earned him the title of vice president and simultaneously the company's chief information officer.

Through his years at Weston Solutions, Mr. Laino has brought change to Weston's business strategy with his mastery of business development and administration. The culmination of his efforts proved a success when, in 2001, he assumed the title of CFO for his continuous strategic leadership and vision. Before working at Weston Solutions, Mr. Laino was a project manager, auditor and systems analyst at E.I. DuPont de Nemours in Wilmington, Delaware, for 7 years.

On July 17, 2008, an elegant awards ceremony was held in his honor at the Sheraton City Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for earning this award in the category of Extra Large Business of 2008. In addition to his dedication to Weston Solutions, Mr. Laino is active in the community serving on the board of directors at Delaware County Community College Education Foundation and treasurer of the Society for American Military Engineers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Vincent A. Laino, Jr., for this well-deserved honor. As a leader and role model in both the community and business world, may he continue to serve both Weston and the community with honor and distinction.

HEDRICK MEDICAL CENTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hedrick Medical Center for 120 years of caring for the citizens of Chillicothe and of the Greater Livingston County community.

Hedrick Medical Center has faithfully served this community since opening in 1888 and continues this service through an affiliation with Saint Luke's Health System. They will celebrate this constant service with a celebration on Friday, September 12, 2008.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Hedrick Medical Center and its 120 years of service. It is truly an honor to serve this fine organization in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING ADAM SHERMAN RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY KEN COSKEY NAVAL HISTORY SPECIAL PRIZE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Adam Sherman of Scottsdale, Arizona, for his honored participation in this year's National History Day program. Adam, a student at Desert Mountain High School in Scottsdale, received the Ken Coskey Naval History Special Prize for the best naval history project in the Nation. In addition, Adam was chosen as one of only 12