

A TRIBUTE TO THE CIVILIAN
CONSERVATION CORPS**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to join with you and recognize the 75th anniversary of one of the most successful New Deal programs initiated by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In the spring of 1933, while the United States was in the throes of the Great Depression, Congress and President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps. CCC provided assistance to unemployed Americans by enrolling them in public works projects to better our Nation's infrastructure.

The diverse mission of the CCC directed its participants to conduct public works projects throughout the entire United States. This was not a hand-out, but a hand-up, earned by Americans looking for help in dire economic circumstances. The CCC had a positive result in our region by not only upgrading the infrastructure, but by providing a means where young men and women could help themselves by earning a good living and improving their communities. Nationally, the ranks of the CCC would eventually swell to over 500,000 enrollees at one time.

In southern Missouri, the CCC completed many projects. From cabins and trails at Big Spring, to a football stadium in Jackson, to sidewalks all over southern Missouri, the proof of the hard work and determination of CCC enrollees is still evident today. These projects instilled a strong work ethic into the participants of the CCC, which undoubtedly prepared this generation for the impending struggle that our Nation would face in World War II. Along with the work ethic implicit in the CCC, the program put enrollees to work in the community on basic education tasks like teaching, reading and writing to illiterate peers.

While the CCC ceased to exist after the start of World War II, the concepts and principles established by the program would be reflected in future programs like Job Corps. It is important for our Nation to reflect on the origins of the CCC and the how it has made our Nation a better place to live by bettering the lives of both the participants and our entire Nation.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF
SADDLEBACK COLLEGE**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, on September 23, 2008, Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, CA will be celebrating 40 years of providing the communities across southern California with access to quality higher education. Since 1968, Saddleback College has provided access to learning opportunities that promote student success, intellectual growth, individual expression, and a dynamic and diverse environment of innovation and collegiality. I congratulate them on 40 years of success in giving students the skills they need to succeed in a dynamic economy.

The Saddleback College faculty and staff, renowned for its experience and expertise, work every day to help students succeed in beginning their bachelor's degrees and training for careers. They have given more than half million students an opportunity to explore the more than 300 academic programs and opportunities for lifelong learning through community education and emeritus classes for senior citizens.

In 1968, Governor Ronald Reagan, who spoke at the dedication of the new campus, stated, "We are here today to dedicate something more than just another college: We are here to dedicate an institution of opportunity and fulfillment. It is the function of education to help each individual grow to the maximum extent of his capabilities, to help him fulfill his great potential—and it is our job as responsible citizens to provide that opportunity. That this community has decided to move ahead in providing this opportunity is an action which I commend—and an action which will provide great rewards for the community."

I commend Saddleback's commitment to high educational standards, accountability, and results. I look forward to celebrating many more anniversaries with them in the years to come.

OUR NATION'S SECURITY IS IN
GOOD HANDS**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on September 16th, General Ray Odierno took command of Multi-National Force—Iraq. His predecessor, General David Petraeus will soon assume the role of Combatant Commander of the United States Central Command.

By any measure of success, General Petraeus' leadership of allied forces in Iraq has been extraordinary. Under his command and the surge of U.S. forces last year, the Iraqi military, its civilian leadership, and its economy have begun to turn around. Violence is down. Relative order has been restored to cities and towns across Iraq. And Al Qaeda has been dealt tremendous psychological and military setbacks.

The recent handover of Al Anbar Province to Iraqi control and the announcement from President George W. Bush that American troop levels in Iraq could be reduced in the beginning of next year are signs that our strategy is working. However, there is a difficult road ahead for the Iraqi people. I am grateful that General Odierno will be leading our forces and helping this young democracy overcome external and internal threats. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines under his command and American families all around this Nation can be confident of General Odierno's proven record of steady and sound leadership.

Iraq is a different country today than it was just a little over a year ago. This is due to an Iraqi people who are fed up with the hopeless terrorism of militant extremists and have stood up against it. And, just as importantly, it is due to the incredible sacrifice of our troops under the command of General Petraeus. I know his wisdom and strength will serve him well and

our Nation well as he assumes the command of CENTCOM.

The sacrifice of our troops on the ground in Iraq has been tremendous. The loss of life in the pursuit of a stable and secure Iraq has been difficult to bear for this Nation and, in particular, our military families. Americans should be eternally grateful for our brave troops and their families and for the freedoms and blessings they protect and defend. The best plan to protect American families and Iraqi families is to defeat terrorism overseas at the source.

HONORING CORIDEN BRYANT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Coriden Bryant of Blue Springs, Missouri. Coriden 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 1306, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Coriden has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Coriden 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 Coriden Bryant for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THANKS TO GIL BALDWIN FOR A
JOB WELL DONE**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Ernest Gilman Baldwin, Associate Director for Program Management in the Office of the Chief Information Officer at the Government Printing Office. Gil, as he is known to his friends and colleagues, is retiring next month following 35 years of dedicated Federal service at the GPO in support of the Congress, Federal agencies, and the American public.

Beginning in the Congressional Record Index Office in 1973, Mr. Baldwin joined GPO's Superintendent of Documents organization in 1974. There he spent most of his career working with the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), the oldest and most respected free Government information program in the world, which makes available for public use the official publications of this House and of the Senate, as well as those of the executive and judicial branches. Mr. Baldwin rose through the ranks to become Director of Library Programs in 1998, along the way winning the respect and affection of GPO's staff and librarians in more than 1,200 depository libraries located in every State and congressional district.

While Director, Mr. Baldwin began the FDLP's transition to electronic document distribution, building a staff with an extraordinary ability to work in partnership with depository librarians and the citizens they serve. The transition to a more electronic FDLP has resulted in significantly increased public access to publications produced by the Government, extending the reach of the Federal Depository Library Program farther than at any time in its history. Mr. Baldwin managed this transition with eagerness, care, and a sense of adventure that inspired his staff and his colleagues in the library profession. In recognition of his leadership, he was honored in 2005 with the James Bennett Childs Award for lifetime contributions to the profession of Government documents librarianship, by the Government Documents Round Table of the American Library Association.

For the last 4 years, Mr. Baldwin has brought his experience and leadership to the team developing GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys), which will bring to maturity GPO's long transition into the digital age.

Next month, Mr. Baldwin will retire from a long and distinguished career of public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in conveying our thanks and appreciation to Gil Baldwin, and our best wishes for a healthy and happy retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICA RESOLUTION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, yesterday was Constitution Day. On that day, 221 years ago in a cramped hall in Philadelphia, 39 men signed their names to a document that would forever change the course of human events.

The United States Constitution is one of the most remarkable covenants ever authored by man. Grounded firmly in the Age of Enlightenment, the Constitution gave physical form to the radical ideas of Montesquieu, Locke, and Paine, who believed that the rights of man come from God and that legitimate governments arise from the consent of the governed. Our Founding Fathers blended these philosophies with common sense and tough compromises to create a new form of government dedicated to the ideas of liberty, the rule of law, civic responsibility, and popular sovereignty.

For over 200 years, the ideas the Founders wove through our Constitution have been considered sacred. Each Constitution Day presents us with an opportunity to pause and reflect on the extraordinary document these men drafted to provide us with a unified and stable Nation. In their wisdom, they sought to protect the rights and liberties of individuals by dividing power and authority between the States and the national government. The result is a system of shared roles designed to prevent any one element from gaining too much power.

Yet today, the document at the very foundation of our Republic is often considered only as an afterthought during our debates. Even though every Member, staffer, and officer of the House of Representatives has taken an

oath to support and defend the Constitution and to bear true faith and allegiance to it, too often we ignore its many constraints on our authority in the name of political expediency.

It is essential that we never forget the guiding principles established in our Constitution and that is why yesterday I introduced the AMERICA Resolution, A Modest Effort to Read and Instill the Constitution Again.

The AMERICA resolution requires all staff and officers of the House to read the Constitution once a year and encourages all Members of Congress to do the same. Just as we require Members and staff to know how to act ethically, we should require Members and staff to know how to act constitutionally.

It is my hope that this small yearly effort will renew and deepen our appreciation for the genius of the Constitution and the divisions and constraints on power contained within it. The AMERICA Resolution is meant to remind lawmakers, and our staff that advises us, to stay within our country's founding framework as we conduct legislative business.

Today I call on all Members of Congress to join me and rededicate ourselves to our founding principles of limited, constrained government as enshrined in our Constitution. By studying our founding document, we will continue the legacy of these great men and their groundbreaking ideas, as well as develop the habits of citizenship that keep the Constitution alive and relevant for a new generation of Americans.

I urge you all to join me and support the AMERICA Resolution.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND E. DAY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service and sacrifice of an honorable and proud American, Mr. Raymond E. Day. Mr. Day is an 84-year-old World War II veteran living in Kansas City, Missouri. In February 1945 Mr. Day was assigned to the 155th Machine Gunner's Battalion, 5th Marine Division during the assault on the island of Iwo Jima, as part of Operation Detachment.

The mission of Operation Detachment was to secure two strategic airfields, located on the well-defended and heavily fortified island. On February 23, just 4 days after arriving on Iwo Jima, Mr. Day's machine gun position took nearly a direct hit, knocking his gunner's mate, Irra Arrington, unconscious, and rendering the gun inoperable.

After successfully reviving Irra, the pair continued the fight, destroying several nearby enemy positions. The pair often dodged obstacles such as barbed wire and land mines and repeatedly came under relentless attack from Japanese small arms fire, mortar fire, and artillery barrages. Again, just a few short hours later, both men were injured when an enemy artillery round destroyed their position. Mr. Day was wounded by shrapnel in the hip and left leg.

Both men were evacuated to a nearby merchant marine vessel, treated for their wounds and returned to duty on the island. Mr. Day continued to fight, despite his wounds, risking death or permanent injury because that was

his job, to keep the battlefield moving forward as American forces moved to secure the island.

Earlier this year, I was contacted by my constituent, Norman Polsky, with a request for assistance to obtain the Purple Heart medal for his friend, Raymond Day. After researching medical records, reviewing morning reports, I have learned that Raymond Day's files were destroyed during the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center. There exists no record of Mr. Day's injuries or treatment for the wounds he sustained in action either in his medical records file or in existing morning reports.

It is a shame that Mr. Day is still without the Purple Heart Medal, despite the fact that he bears the scars from the residuals of shrapnel embedded in his leg and hip, not to mention the painful memories that America's warriors guard so closely for a lifetime.

It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Raymond E. Day. Without the service and sacrifice of Mr. Day, and the men and women of the "greatest generation," our Nation would not be as resilient and flourishing as it is today. By continuing his mission, despite being wounded, Mr. Day lends great credit to himself, the 5th Marine Division, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERBY WALKER

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Atlanta's greatest icons. A humble man who loved his job and worked hard to be the best he could be, Erby Walker became one of downtown Atlanta's most beloved figures. Presidents, celebrities, athletes and Atlantans alike came to know Erby Walker as the heart and soul of the Varsity, Atlanta's most famous drive-in diner and a downtown landmark.

Erby Walker started his career at the Varsity in 1952 sweeping up after customers at the tender age of 15.

Back then the diner was segregated—whites worked the counter, blacks worked in the back—but in 1964 the diner was integrated and Erby Walker was promoted to the counter, the first black man to work there. And work he did. He worked so hard that the owners of the Varsity sent Erby and his family to Disney World, all expenses paid—twice. He received awards, honors and recognitions—he was even inducted into the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau Hospitality Hall of Fame.

It was Erby who first asked, "What'll ya have?"—a question still asked today when customers approach the counter and just one of the many phrases Erby coined as he shaped the Varsity into a place as famous for its unique vernacular as for its food.

Over the years, I have brought many friends to the Varsity. When I brought former President Clinton, Erby greeted him warmly, saying, "What'll ya have, Mr. President?"

Erby Walker loved his job; he loved the Varsity and, most of all, he loved Atlanta and the thousands of customers she brought to his