

HONORING KENNETH TUCKER
GORMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kenneth Tucker Gorman, 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 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

HONORING GULA STOUGH ADAMS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a business woman from Las Animas, Colorado. Mrs. Gula Stough Adams has poured her heart and soul into a business that has been owned and operated by Mrs. Adams and her family for 70 years.

Gula owns and operates Stough's Flower Shop, and has weathered the economic storms of rural Colorado going back to the days of the Great Depression and WWII.

"It's wonderful work. I wish I were 20 years younger," said Gula, who is 85 and still going strong. Her mother Inez Stough, established the business in 1938. Of course, Gula's personal history goes back a little farther than that. Before her family moved to Las Animas they ranched at Ninaview, Colorado, 35 miles south of Las Animas. "We still have the ranch we homesteaded in 1915," she noted. In those long ago days she attended Pine Hill School, which her family and relatives helped build by bringing in rock and then assembling the one-room school. She reports the structure is still standing, and a memento from it hangs on a wall in her flower shop, the Regulator clock. When the school was reorganized she asked her parents to obtain the clock. She walked over and pointed to four letters in the clock manufacturer's name . . . Gula.

The Depression years were not the happiest of times, but the hard times brought the family into town from the ranch. Gula's mother knew the family had to do something. So Inez thought she would open a flower shop. The original flower shop was downtown, but the rent was too high. So her mother had a small stucco shop built.

"You just think back about the Depression years and you wonder how we ever did it, but we did. During the Depression people were able to survive," Gula noted, adding that people may have managed their money better then than they do now.

Over the last 70 years that she has been in business, Gula remembers when Las Animas was thriving. Though it saddens her to see the current economic state of this rural community, she still carries on in her business despite what some would think to be insurmountable odds. Gula never took an opportunity to pull back from the challenges of running a small business in rural America. She believes in working hard and sound financial management, and it is my firm belief that these two things have contributed to her long and productive life. When other businesses failed around her she worked hard and spent wisely.

During World War II Gula married Pete Jerman, Jr., a B-24 pilot who went down over the Mediterranean, leaving her a widow. Those were sad days for Gula and her family. In 1947, her mother insisted she go to Denver and study at the first floral school to be established in Colorado. Her mother told her she would be more confident in herself if she took the classes.

Back in Las Animas she married again to Mr. Lloyd Adams. They built their current flower shop in 1968 at 702 Grove Avenue in Las Animas, Colorado. This will be her 40th year at this location. Gula loves her business and the community in which she has run her business for 70 years.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful to Mrs. Gula Adams for her dedication and courage. She is an example to all of the small businesses within my district. It is an honor to represent her in Congress, and it is an honor to recognize this small business owner who has been a part of this family business for 70 years. She is a tribute to her trade and a treasure to her community.

"MR. AMIGO 2007" ANGÉLICA VALE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I wish today to commend the 2007 "Mr. Amigo," Angélica Vale, chosen recently by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico. Ms. Vale has achieved popularity on both sides of the border for her television, film, and theater work.

The Mr. Amigo Award began in 1964 as an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen who has made a lasting contribution during the previous year to international solidarity and goodwill. "Mr. Amigo" acts as an ambassador between our two countries and presides over the annual Charro Days festival.

The Charro Days festival, held in Brownsville and Matamoros, is an opportunity to enjoy the unique border culture of the Rio Grande Valley area. A Lenten event, much like Mardi Gras in New Orleans, the festival was organized in 1937 by the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce to recognize Mexican culture and was named in honor of the charros, "dashing Mexican gentlemen cowboys." The festival includes parades complete with floats, as well as street dances, a rodeo, mariachi and marimba concerts, and ballet folklorico performances by school students.

This year's Charro Days festivities will be held February 28 through March 2 and will include appearances by Ms. Vale. An actress

since a child, Ms. Vale has received acclaim for her roles in films and television shows. She recently starred in the Mexican show *La Fea Mas Bella*, which inspired the popular American show, *Ugly Betty*. She has also been named one of *People En Español's* "50 Most Beautiful Women."

This is the second time in the history of the Mr. Amigo Award that a parent and child have received such recognition. Ms. Vale's mother, singer Angélica María, received the award in 1996.

The United States-Mexican border has a unique, blended history of cowboys, bandits, lawmen, farmers, fishermen, oil riggers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and teachers. The Charro Days festival reflects that deep sense of shared history and experiences, which is needed now more than ever. It is a time for all of us to not only remember our past, but to celebrate our future.

The Charro Days festival and the Mr. Amigo Award unite sister cities on both sides of the border and send a message that we are neighbors, and friends that trust, understand, and respect each other. We share a language, customs, and experiences unique to our communities, and during Charro Days we take time to celebrate our distinctive culture.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Angélica Vale, the 2007 Mr. Amigo, as well as the cities of Brownsville and Matamoros, for their dedication to international goodwill between the United States and Mexico.

HONORING THE ERIE CHAPTER OF
THE PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTE
OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNT-
ANTS

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the accomplishments of the Erie Chapter of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. This year, the members of this organization celebrate their 50th anniversary.

After splitting from the Northwest Chapter of the PICPA, 21 founding members held the first meeting of the Erie Chapter on January 31, 1958. From those first 21 CPAs, the chapter has grown to a membership of more than 320, including members working in public accounting, industry, financial services, healthcare, non-profit, government and education.

While the Erie Chapter has the second smallest membership in the State, its members are clearly among the best and the brightest within their industry. In fact, two of the Chapter's members have served as president of the PICPA, while seven others have served as vice president and four have served as State representatives on the national council.

The chapter's contributions to the Erie community go far beyond the professional realm. Chapter members donate thousands of hours to local charitable organizations serving on boards of directors, finance committees, and as volunteer staff, among others. The chapter has promoted participation in community events, including local blood drives, Hooked

on Books, and CelebrateErie. Chapter members regularly speak at local schools on financial literacy and career. The chapter sponsors scholarships open to students in accounting at the local colleges and universities and has made significant contributions to the statewide scholarship program administered by the PICPA.

The Erie Chapter is a diverse group of individuals united by their dedication to serving their clients, employers, and community with integrity, promoting financial literacy and advancing the profession by the maintenance of high ethical standards. I hope my colleagues will join me at this time in recognizing the efforts of the Erie Chapter of the PICPA and in congratulating its 50 years of service.

**TRIBUTE TO THE USCG TRAINING
CENTER AT TWO ROCK IN
PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA**

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, every day our Nation's first responders work tirelessly to protect and aid victims of disasters across our country. We have an absolute responsibility to make sure our police forces, firefighters, emergency medical service personnel, and public health personnel have the resources they need to effectively confront and overcome threats at the local, State, and national levels.

California's Sixth District is blessed with thousands of dedicated men and women who bravely serve their communities with distinction and honor. I rise today to commend the exemplary leadership of the Fire Department at the United States Coast Guard, USCG, Training Center at Two Rock in Petaluma, California, for their unwavering dedication to improving firefighter health and safety. Fire Chief Alfredo Ramos and the firefighters at the USCG Training Center have reduced fires and firefighter risks throughout the Bay area by providing world-class training to local first responders. We cannot expect local communities to be the first to respond to an emergency unless they are given the resources and training to do so, and the USCG Training Center has been instrumental in this effort.

Madam Speaker, fire departments throughout the country have helped provide our Nation's firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics, and other first responders with the tools they need to do their jobs safely and efficiently. Today, I am proud to recognize the courageous and committed firefighters at the USCG Training Center in Petaluma who have made immeasurable contributions to public safety, and they deserve our deepest thanks.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on February 25 and 26, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from the House due to a family illness.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #69, a motion by Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut to suspend the rules and agree to the passage of H. Res. 978, expressing support for the designation of the week of March 3–7, 2008, as "School Social Work Week" to promote awareness of the vital role of school social workers in schools, and in the community as a whole, in helping students prepare for their future as productive citizens.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #70, a motion by Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut to suspend the rules and agree to the passage of H. Res. 930, supporting the goals and ideals of "Career and Technical Education Month."

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #71, a motion by Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut to suspend the rules and agree to the passage of H. Res. 944, honoring the service and accomplishments of Lieutenant General Russel L. Honoré, United States Army, for his 37 years of service on behalf of the United States.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #72, on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #73, a motion by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida to order the previous question on adoption of H. Res. 974, a resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3521 to improve the Operating Fund for public housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #74, on agreeing to H. Res. 974, a resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3521 to improve the Operating Fund for public housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #75, an amendment offered by Mr. SIREs of New Jersey to H.R. 3521. The amendment clarified the intent of an amendment offered by Rep. VELÁZQUEZ and adopted by the Financial Services Committee by ensuring that public housing authorities that apply to HUD for "stop-loss" do not have their applications rejected on the basis that the management and related fees they establish pursuant to this bill are not reasonable as defined by HUD. Additionally, the amendment was a restatement of current law with respect to the ineligibility of illegal immigrants for assistance.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #76, an amendment offered by Mr. MEEK of Florida to H.R. 3521. The amendment holds HUD responsible, in the case of receivership, for performing the same responsibilities that the local housing agencies have in respect to working with tenant associations before building public housing. Additionally, in the case of receivership, before building new public housing HUD must honor any formal agreements entered into before the commencement of such receivership between the local housing authority and the tenant association.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #77, a motion by Mr. SIREs of New Jersey to table the motion of Mr. SMITH of Texas to appeal the ruling of the chair that the provisions of the amendment contained in the instructions accompanying the motion to recommit offered by Mr. SMITH were not germane.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement be inserted in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

HONORING IOSCO COUNTY CLERK
MICHAEL WELSCH ON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a northern Michigan resident who has been an exemplary leader in his community. Michael Welsch is celebrating his retirement after more than 35 years of service to Iosco County, Michigan. Mr. Welsch served as the Iosco County Clerk from 1988 until his retirement on December 31, 2007. But long before that he was serving his community, State and country.

Enlisting in the U.S. Air Force on August 15, 1966, Mr. Welsch was assigned to parachute rigging for technical schooling, where he graduated with honors. On February 14, 1967 he arrived at Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, Michigan and remained there until he was honorably discharged in May 1970. While serving in the Air Force, Mr. Welsch also began working part-time for the Iosco County Sheriff's Department as a dispatcher/turnkey, working four consecutive days on the job, followed by four consecutive days off.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Air Force he began working full-time for the Iosco County Sheriff's Department as the marine officer. He became the first certified SCUBA diver employed by Iosco County. In this capacity, he was responsible for the recovery of 25 bodies. In 1970, Mr. Welsch attended basic police training at Delta College, where he finished first in his class. In late 1971, he left the Iosco County Sheriff's Department to work in the private sector. But his days of public service were far from over.

Just over a year later, in March 1973, he returned to the Sheriff's Department as a road officer. He was later promoted to detective then detective sergeant. It was during this time that he worked as an undercover narcotics officer throughout the state of Michigan. For his undercover work, Mr. Welsch sported long hair, a beard and a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. He also trained his cocker spaniel, Brandy, for drug searches.

In April 1977, Mr. Welsch married Debra Roach. Nearly 5 years later, in January 1982, their first son, Andrew, was born. Two years later, in April 1984, their son Peter was born. Peter's tragic death in 2004 brought shock and grief to the Welsch family, yet he remained active as ever with his work in the community.

In 1979, Mr. Welsch was promoted to undersheriff in Iosco County, a position in which he served until December 1984. In January 1985, he accepted a position with the 81st District Court as the probation officer and was later given the additional duties of court administrator. In addition to working in the court, he also worked nights and weekends at Freel's Market in Tawas City, Michigan.

This experience in law enforcement, the private sector and with the court, prepared Mr. Welsch for his next challenge. He successfully ran in 1988 for the position of Iosco County Clerk, a position in which he served until his retirement at the end of last year. He faced opposition in every election, but always prevailed. The community clearly recognized his selfless dedication to public service.