

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TEMPLE SHOLOM

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Temple Sholom in Broomall, Pennsylvania.

Temple Sholom, founded in 1956, is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism dedicated to the promotion of fundamental Jewish principles. The Temple strives to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people by honoring traditions, beliefs and rituals of both the past and present. It allows members to develop their spiritual relationship with God and each other. Temple Sholom also serves to promote a firm sense of identity for its members and employs social activism to improve local, national and global communities.

Temple Sholom is a Reform Congregation, promoting a sense of warmth and openness. Through the practice of inclusion, the Temple aids its members throughout their lives and does not exclude individuals regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation. Such diversity and heterogeneity within the community adds to the ever-changing personality of the Temple.

Temple Sholom serves its members beyond religious practice. It also assists individuals with social, educational and community opportunities. Members adopt the Temple as a place to study, worship and simply interact with others. Opportunities for participation include Preschool through Adult Education programs as well as holiday festivals and community service.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of Temple Sholom. The openness and warmth of the Temple and its members is highly admirable. It is without doubt that Temple Sholom will, in the future, continue to serve our citizens on local, national and global levels.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICHOLAS J. PIRRO ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great pride to honor someone who is a good friend and for whom I hold great respect—Mr. Nicholas J. Pirro. For two decades Nick has served as Onondaga County Executive, and it has been a great honor to work with him for so many years.

Nick began his career in county government in 1965, when he was elected to the Onondaga County Board of Supervisors, the precursor to today's Onondaga County Legislature. He would eventually be elected as the Legislature's chairman. In 1987, Nick was

elected to the first of five terms as Onondaga County Executive, an office he would hold for 20 years.

When Nick took office in 1987, he was confronted with a number of challenging tasks. Onondaga County had a failing trash disposal system and jails that were so severely overcrowded that the U.S. Justice Department filed a remediation order. The county was also faced with the tremendous task of cleaning up Onondaga Lake after a Federal clean-up order was issued. Convention business was stagnant due to the lack of appropriate facilities and the future of Syracuse's Triple-A baseball franchise was in jeopardy because of an insufficient stadium. In addition, Onondaga County tax payers were feeling the heavy burden of high Medicaid costs.

Today, as Nick steps down as County Executive, Onondaga County has a state-of-the-art trash disposal system and a new county justice center, which opened in 1995. A local, State, and federally-shared \$535-million clean up of Onondaga Lake has been ongoing for the past 10 years. The OnCenter was opened in 1992 to increase the success of convention business and a convention center hotel will begin construction soon. The Syracuse Chiefs have a state-of-the-art baseball stadium that was built in 1997. Skyrocketing Medicaid costs have been curbed by instituting a State-wide price cap that Nick was instrumental in obtaining due to his lobbying of State lawmakers for change.

Onondaga County in 1987 is vastly different from Onondaga County in 2007, and a large reason for that is because of the efforts of Nick Pirro. For 20 years Nick has been the face of Onondaga County and has been committed to doing what was right for the people he so faithfully served.

I thank Nick for his 42 years of serving Onondaga County and recognize his wife Patti and his children Nicholas III and Jessica for sharing him with us for so many years. While Nick is retiring, I know he will continue to be a fixture in the community and an advocate for the people of Onondaga County. I congratulate Nick on a job well done and wish him the best in a well-deserved retirement. We will miss him.

IN HONOR OF THE TREMENDOUS PUBLIC SERVICE OF ROBERT GABRIEL SHORTAL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous public servant, Robert Gabriel Shortal of Harrington Park, NJ. From the time that he, his wife, Jackie, and his children moved to this small Bergen County suburb, the Shortal family has been an integral part of this community, raising money for the public li-

brary and founding the Harrington Park Swim Club and more.

Bob was born in Kearny, NJ, in 1928. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Bob convinced his father to allow him to enlist at the young age of 16. He served honorably with the Navy, stationed on a destroyer in the Atlantic theater. Upon his discharge, he completed his education, studying journalism at New York University. He worked for United Press International, UPI, first as a copy boy and later as a financial reporter. Dedicated to his profession, Bob joined the Financial Writers Association and became its president in 1958.

As his family grew, Bob switched to work in public relations, first at City Service and later at RCA, where he remained until his retirement in 1985. Upon his retirement, Bob threw his talents and energies into community service. He became a certified EMT and became a leader with the Harrington Park Ambulance Corps. He has applied his journalist's skills as editor of the Harrington Park Newsletter. And, he has served his fellow veterans as Commander of American Legion Post 30. Bob is an active member of the Our Lady of Victories Church community and the Knights of Columbus. And, he can often be found working as a school crossing guard.

In 1992, Bob was elected to the Borough Council. He has chaired or served on each of its standing committees until his retirement last year. All the while, Bob and Jackie raised a lovely family of four children—John Frances, Mary Judith, Roberta Ann, and Judith Ann. Jackie passed away in 1999, but Bob remains blessed with seven beautiful grandchildren and a lifetime of memories.

Bob Shortal epitomizes public service. He has answered the call of his country and his community and given of his talents and time for his neighbors. I join the people of the Borough of Harrington Park in honoring Bob for his dedication and commitment.

PASSING OF FORMER DELEGATE MARGARETTE LEACH

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, West Virginia recently lost an outstanding daughter, Margarette Leach. Margarette passed away on December 23, 2007, but today I rise to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable woman who, over her many years, was a torchbearer in the arenas of healthcare and politics in West Virginia.

The unfortunate news of her passing has brought sadness to so many throughout West Virginia, including those who did not have the opportunity to meet Mrs. Leach but who have

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

come to benefit from her passionate support for the field of healthcare.

Margarette, a West Virginia native, was born in Goodwill, WV on December 4, 1926. She graduated from Beaver High School in 1944 and from St. Mary's School of Nursing in 1948. She would go on to dedicate her life to helping other by serving as a nurse and elected official for the next 60 years, 14 of which she spent as a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates representing District 15.

In April of last year, Delegate Leach was honored with The Center for Rural Health Development's 2007 Rural Health Leadership Award. The year 2007 would see another honor bestowed on Margarette, when the Prester Center for Youth and Families was named after her. She pushed hard for the Merritt Creek connector from Interstate 64 to State Route 2 and helped to obtain funding for the Jenkins Plantation Museum and the Madie Carroll House. She also helped to bring the bronze statue of Carter G. Woodson to its current location in Huntington.

In 2004, Margarette was named a West Virginia History Hero, but to those she diligently served over the years, she was already a hero many times over.

She will be greatly missed by her family, in particular her husband of 58 years and their family, as well as, the community she served so faithfully over these many years. My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Margarette Leach. I join with West Virginians in honoring her remarkable life and the legacy she left behind.

IN MEMORY OF SGT. SHAWN
FITZGERALD HILL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on January 2nd of this year, Sergeant Shawn Hill of the South Carolina National Guard's 218th Brigade Combat Team lost his life when his Humvee was struck by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. The community of Wellford, SC, where Sergeant Hill had been an all-region football player at Byrnes High School and worked as an electrician while serving with the National Guard lost a fine citizen and friend.

Sergeant Hill's funeral was attended by almost 700 people who came to honor the life and sacrifice of this brave American. His commander in the field, BG Bob Livingston described Sergeant Hill as someone who "didn't have to go to Afghanistan, but he went because he thought it was the right thing to do." He further noted that it was through the courageous and selfless acts of Sergeant Hill and his fellow soldiers that parts of Afghanistan that were once considered lawless had become peaceful and safe for the citizens of Afghanistan. This success is a tribute to his life, a life that General Livingston said had "made more of a difference than 99 percent of the people will make in their entire lifetime."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sergeant Hill's wife, Julie Ann, his children, and all his family, friends, and fellow soldiers of the 218th Combat Brigade during this difficult time. Sergeant Hill's death is a reminder of the tremen-

dous sacrifice so many of our citizen-soldiers make to protect American families. His life was a testament to the strength and selfless dedication so many Americans have for the defense of liberty. We should always remain grateful for their service.

HONORING OFFICER KEITH G.
LOCKHART

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Keith G. Lockhart on his retirement on March 31, 2007 from the police force after 28 years of dedicated service to Ridley Township and Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Officer Lockhart joined the Ridley Township Police Department in January of 1979 along with eight other officers. He worked the then newly created "24" district of Holmes, Morton, and Secane, where he remained for the majority of his career.

During his career, Officer Lockhart received many letters and commendations for his exemplary police work. He served briefly as a corporal and temporary sergeant during his time as a police officer.

A lifelong resident of the Leedom Estates Section of Ridley Township, Officer Lockhart has been married to his wife Mary for 19 years. One of Keith's hobbies is Delaware County history. In 30 years of collecting, Keith has amassed one of the largest collections of Delaware County historical memorabilia, from which he has created history websites for both Ridley Township and Delaware County. He now serves the community as historian for these websites, and has received hundreds of comments of praise for his efforts from the over 12,000 grateful viewers of the sites' guestbooks. Keith has also written several booklets on the history of the area.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Officer Keith G. Lockhart for the decades of hard work and selfless dedication given to the Police Department and citizens of Ridley Township and Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th anniversary of Rochester, New York's Democrat and Chronicle.

In 1833 the first publication of a new daily newspaper, the Evening Advertiser, was issued. Thirty seven years later, after a series of mergers and name changes, the name plate of the Democrat and Chronicle was established.

From Susan B. Anthony and Fredrick Douglass to Kodak and Xerox, as history unfolded in Western New York the Democrat and Chron-

icle was there to cover it. As the publication continued to grow it began reaching historic milestones of its own. In 1884 the Democrat and Chronicle published its first Sunday edition. That same year the paper printed a portrait of a woman for the first time. In 1906, the first color comic strip was run and in 1978 the paper printed its first articles using a word processor that included a video monitor.

Not only has the Democrat and Chronicle been essential to reporting news and covering history, but it has also been an innovator in how the news is delivered. Throughout its history, the paper has used a wide range of delivery methods, including the pony express and a pigeon carrier service, and now it serves the community technologically, using the internet, videos, photos, forums, podcasts, text messages and online newsletters.

Over the past 175 years, many things about the Democrat and Chronicle have changed—the name, the cost, the delivery method—but the commitment to deliver the news and serve the community has never wavered. I congratulate the staff at the Democrat and Chronicle, both past and present, on achieving this milestone, and thank them for their hard work and dedicated service. This anniversary should not only serve to look back at the Democrat and Chronicle's history, but it should also be used to look forward to the papers future, as it will continue to serve an essential role in serving the Greater Rochester community.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF FRANK
GURNARI, 2008 PRESIDENT OF
THE BERGEN COUNTY POLICE
CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fine public servant, Frank Gurnari, police chief in Bogota, New Jersey. Chief Gurnari has served the people of Bogota for 30 years, exemplifying the honor and pride of the uniform. This weekend, he will be installed as President of the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association, extending his service to other Bergen County residents and to his fellow chiefs.

Upon his graduation from the Bergen County Police Academy in June 1978, Chief Gurnari was assigned to the Bogota patrol division. Except for a brief assignment to the Detective Bureau, Chief Gurnari served with the patrol division for nearly twenty years. He attained the rank of sergeant in 1988, and was promoted to lieutenant two years later. As lieutenant, he remained in patrol as a Tour Commander. In June 2000, Chief Gurnari was appointed Acting Chief of Police, and just six months later, he was sworn in as Chief of Police. He and the officers that work under his leadership respond to about 16,000 calls each year.

For almost eighty years, the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association has served as a fellowship of officers throughout this busy corner of New Jersey. The camaraderie it fosters helps local police chiefs protect and serve the people of Bergen County and enhances the safety of the county. Chief Gurnari has earned the respect of his peers and by virtue of his