

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING JUDGE WILLIAM NEALON ON THE OCCASION OF RECEIVING THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD FROM THE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2008*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to U.S. District Court Judge William J. Nealon who was chosen to receive the President's Award from the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania.

On December 15, 2007, Judge Nealon celebrated his 45th year as a United States District Court Judge. Appointed to the Federal bench by President John F. Kennedy on December 15, 1962, he was the youngest Federal judge in the country.

Judge Nealon served the Middle District as Chief Judge from 1976 until 1989. He has served on this court longer than any other judge in the history of the Middle District. Today, he is the third most tenured federal judge in the nation out of 1,100 federal jurists.

The proud product of Scranton Public Schools, he later served in the United States Marine Corps from 1942 to 1945 where he held the rank of first lieutenant. He received a bachelor of science degree in economics from Villanova University in 1947 and was awarded his Juris Doctor degree from the Catholic University of America in 1950. Prior to being appointed to the Federal bench, Judge Nealon served on the Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County.

In 1983, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, a professional society of more than 50,000 trial lawyers, named Judge Nealon the "Outstanding Federal Trial Judge in the United States." He has been the recipient of numerous community awards and has served as chairman of several local boards, including the University of Scranton, Mercy Hospital, and the Catholic Youth Center.

Having served as president of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County some 44 years ago, his dinner in 1964 was regarded as one of the most memorable the society has ever held. Robert F. Kennedy, the United States Attorney General, made his first public appearance that evening just 4 months after the tragic assassination of his brother, President John F. Kennedy. Judge Nealon today is the most senior of distinguished past presidents of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Judge Nealon on this auspicious occasion. Judge Nealon's faithful service to his community and to his Nation is well known throughout northeastern and central Pennsylvania and has been an inspiration to all whose lives he has touched.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2008*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Ouachita Parish School District for its designation as one of the top five school districts in the State of Louisiana, according to rankings recently released by the Department of Education.

As test scores throughout the Fifth Congressional District steadily climb each year, I believe the continued success of the Ouachita Parish School District stands as an example of hope and encouragement to other schools in the state who are striving to improve their current rankings.

The Fifth Congressional District has long struggled to overcome its status as one of the poorest regions in the country with an educational system that is often ranked very low. The achievements of the Ouachita Parish School District give me great hope that our region can defy its history.

When children excel in school, the transformation that takes place within their lives spills out beyond the walls of the classroom and into the community in which they live, and I believe the Ouachita Parish School District is stimulating such progress in North Louisiana.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the efforts of the Ouachita Parish School District and its commitment to improving education and the quality of life in Ouachita Parish and throughout the State.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2008 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2008*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my Virginia colleagues FRANK WOLF and JAMES MORAN to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Fairfax County Police Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that can be awarded to a public safety officer: the Life Saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that we enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2008

Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Police Department. Receiving the Life Saving Award: Auxiliary Police Officer Jorge A. Canovas, Private First Class Jeremy T. Hoffman, Private First Class Jason J. Mardocco, Sergeant Andrew B. Wehrlein; Certificate of Valor: Private First Class Christopher L. Coleman, Private First Class Kirk A. McNickle, Private First Class Richard D. Shughart II, Private First Class Andrew L. Smuck, Private First Class Brooks R. Gillingham, Master Police Officer Mark P. Dale, Detective Gregory S. Bender; the Silver Medal: Private First Class Paul H. Bennett III, Officer Brian K. Bowman, Private First Class Kirk A. McNickle, Major Michael LoMonaco, Master Police Officer Gary S. Brown, Private First Class Daniel V. Johnson; the Bronze Medal: Rosemarie C. Silva.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2008*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 107 on motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on March 6, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall Nos. 103–107.

Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 103—"yes"—Providing for consideration of H.R. 2857, to reauthorize and reform the national service laws; rollcall No. 104—"yes"—Providing for consideration of H.R. 2857, to reauthorize and reform the national service laws; rollcall No. 105—"no"—Flake of Arizona Amendment; rollcall No. 106—"yes"—Inslee of Washington Amendment; rollcall No. 107—"yes"—Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education "GIVE" Act.

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