

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MISS
JOHNNIE WHITELAW

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-time community servant, a dedicated teacher and historian, and my friend, Miss Johnnie Whitelaw.

In more than 20 years of knowing Johnnie, I have grown to see how important she is to our community in Dyersburg and how much she is loved by her friends, former students and neighbors throughout West Tennessee. An active leader of the Dyer County Democratic Party, Johnnie was also a teacher and librarian from 1972 to 1991.

Even after retiring, however, she did not give up on one of her greatest loves—collecting oral, photographic and written first-hand accounts of history so that we and future generations will forever understand the history of West Tennessee and the stories of its people. Her contributions will truly be appreciated for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I hope you and all our colleagues will join me in congratulating Miss Johnnie Whitelaw on her upcoming honor from the Dyer County branch of the NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Community Resource Development and Order of the Eastern Star, organizations which understand how valuable Miss Johnnie's contributions have been to our community.

HONORING THE TINICUM
TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tinicum Township and the Tinicum Township Fire Department on the opening of their new firehouse.

The Tinicum Township Firehouse, named Station 48, will be home to the recently merged Essington and Lester Fire Companies. After several years of planning, the township's hard work has produced a state of the art facility that will serve the community for years to come.

The opening of Station 48 represents a new chapter in public safety for the township of Tinicum. Both the Lester and Essington Fire Companies have a long history of heroic and dedicated service. Combining them under one roof will maximize their ability to provide the entire township with coordinated fire protection services.

It is my honor to have been a part of the Tinicum Township Fire Company's ribbon cutting ceremony this past Saturday. It is important to recognize the brave men and women who volunteer their time to protect our communities. Through the years, their names and faces have changed, but the commitment and pride with which they serve has persevered.

The members of the Essington and Lester Fire Companies have selflessly served the community while balancing their full-time ca-

reers and families, and will continue to do so at Station 48. I ask everyone to join me in commending the members of the Tinicum Township Fire Company and to congratulate them on the dedication of their new firehouse.

HONORING DANIEL JESUS
BERMEJO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Jesus Bermejo of Faucett, Missouri. Daniel 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

TRIBUTE TO NORTHWEST INDIANA'S
MOST DEDICATED AND
HARDWORKING INDIVIDUALS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008—

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated and hardworking individuals. On Saturday, January 12, 2008, the Hammond Letter Carriers Organization, Hammond Merged Branch 580 of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) recognized its retiring members for 2007, and they also honored members with at least 50 years of service. The event was held at the Patrician banquet hall in Schererville, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the organization recognized the following retirees for their commitment and their many years of outstanding service to their communities: Kenneth Durall, William Harper, Judy Krause, Roger Reins, Frank Robinson, Tim Rutz, and Audrey Simpson. I wish them all the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

Also honored at the event for their many years of membership in the organization were: Marlin Bossard (65 years), John Schlesinger (60 years), Nolan Camp (58 years), Joe Watson (57 years), Bell Anderson (56 years), Ray Breshock (54 years), Ben Dotson (54 years), Richard Barnard (50 years), and Joseph Pressnell (50 years).

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its workforce. These individuals are an outstanding representation of the work ethic present in Northwest Indiana. They have demonstrated their loyalty to each other and to

their communities through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring these dedicated and hardworking individuals. They have committed themselves to the people of Northwest Indiana, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

HONORING RETIRING HAMBURG
TOWN COUNCILMAN MARK
CAVALCOLI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mark Cavalcoti, a longtime public servant whose retirement at the end of this year will mark the close of a distinguished career in elective office that has spanned nearly two and a half decades.

Mark began his public service as a biology teacher, working 33 years at Frontier Central High School before retiring in 1997.

In 1983 Mark was first elected to serve on the Hamburg Town Board, where he worked to improve and protect Hamburg's unique character. Throughout his tenure the Councilman was deeply involved in waterfront development, greenspace preservation, regional cooperation, and local master planning.

A natural negotiator and leader, Mark acted as the liaison between the town board and several departments and also functioned as Deputy Supervisor for 15 years.

Of all the great accomplishments, one of Councilman Cavalcoti's proudest is working to provide public water to nearly 300 homes not connected to water lines and severely restricted in their water use.

Despite his deep involvement on the town board and his commitment to his wife and two children, Mark still found time to further serve his community as a member of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Columbus, PTAs for Frontier and Hamburg High Schools and as the Chairman of the Eighteen Mile Creek Preservation Committee.

In 2007, Mark Cavalcoti chose not to run for re-election and instead will spend time traveling with Anne, his wife of 45 years.

The Town of Hamburg is a better place because of Councilman Mark Cavalcoti's years of dedication. This community is fortunate to have benefited from his leadership, and I am grateful, Madam Speaker, that you have allowed me this opportunity to commemorate his service here today.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL PATTERSON
FOR SAVING THE LIFE OF
AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Michael Patterson whose heroic actions helped save the life of Chad Hostnick,

a first-grader at Elsanor School in Robertsedale, Alabama.

On the morning of Monday, December 17, 2007, Michael decided to take the bus to school instead of driving his motorcycle as he often does. Michael just had a feeling that he should ride the bus that morning and what followed was simply miraculous.

On the bus ride home from school that Monday afternoon, Michael noticed that 7-year-old Chad appeared to be having trouble breathing. Without hesitation, Michael put to use his first-aid training—training he learned as a part of his Navy Junior ROTC program at Robertsedale High School—and he initiated the Heimlich Maneuver.

When Michael realized that his efforts were not dislodging the object, he quickly began to massage Chad's throat until he located the obstruction and pushed upward. He then attempted the Heimlich Maneuver again and a piece of butterscotch candy came out of Chad's mouth.

In recognition of Michael's efforts, Master Chief Petty Officer Robert Dairy awarded him the Meritorious Service Ribbon, the highest honor available to Navy Junior ROTC members.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me recognizing Michael Patterson for his heroism and commending him on his quick actions to save the life of Chad Hostnick. The citizens of Robertsedale and the state of Alabama are forever thankful. Michael is a true hero.

HONORING THE UPPER MAIN LINE YMCA

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Upper Main Line YMCA on the dedication and grand opening of its new facility.

Since its charter in 1962, the Y has become a vital resource, now serving more than 20,000 residents of Berwyn, PA, and the surrounding communities. In addition to providing traditional exercise facilities, YMCA offers programs, classes, and events for youth, teens, families, and older adults in everything from painting to tennis to babysitting.

In order to accommodate a growing community and membership, over the past 40 years, the Y has renovated, reconfigured, and expanded Cassatt Mansion and the surrounding property. The new building houses an 8,500-square-foot Wellness Center, new locker rooms, exercise, cycling, and dance studios, expanded childcare services, and a cafe overlooking the tennis courts, complete with internet access. In addition, the new facility provides improved handicapped and parking accessibility.

The opening of this new facility furthers the YMCA's mission to build healthy spirit, mind, and body through programs and facilities that nurture children, strengthen families, and build strong communities.

Madam Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in commending all those who have generously contributed their time, effort, and resources to the Upper Main Line YMCA and its state-of-the-art facility.

HONORING ALEXANDER E. COOPER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander E. Cooper of Platte City, Missouri. Alexander 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

HONORING MR. MARK MAASSEL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008—

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many years of dedicated service of Mr. Mark Maassel. Having known Mark for a long time, I can truly say that he is one of the most committed, knowledgeable, and honorable citizens in Northwest Indiana. Nowhere has his knowledge and commitment been more evident than in his faithful service as President of Northern Indiana Public Service Company, Northern Indiana Fuel and Light, and Kokomo Gas and Fuel for NiSource. Mark has served NiSource with over three decades of dedicated leadership in different roles throughout the company, and has been a constant fixture and involved in virtually all aspects of NIPSCO's business. For his efforts, I would like to thank him and extend my best wishes for his retirement.

Mark Maassel has spent his entire life, both professionally and personally, working at ways to improve not only NIPSCO, but society as a whole. Mark has continuously devoted himself to our community by serving on the Board of Directors of several local community organizations, such as: the Indiana Humanities Council, the Indiana Chamber, the Ivy Tech Foundation and the Northwest Indiana Forum, at which he served as Chairman in 2006. During this time, Mark has shared his unrivaled expertise and knowledge of his field with local organizations. From his service at NIPSCO and NiSource to his work with various organizations in Northwest Indiana, Mark has always sought opportunities to better our community with his expertise.

Looking back, it is no surprise that Mark was chosen to lead NIPSCO. Following a very successful undergraduate career, earning a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Minnesota, Mark was initially offered a job at NIPSCO to work on a proposed nuclear plant. Since beginning with NIPSCO in the late

1970's, Mark has completely dedicated his professional life to the advancement and improvement of the company and the quality of life for its customers. Due to Mark's involvement at so many levels of NIPSCO's business, his tenure as president will forever be remembered.

Though it may be difficult to imagine where he has found the time, Mark has always been a dedicated husband and father, raising three children with his wife Christine. They are the proud parents of Jesse, Lee and Jill, all now grown. He has also found time to develop several hobbies, becoming an accomplished woodworker and golfer, as well as a novice runner.

Madam Speaker, Mark Maassel has devoted his life to improving NIPSCO and to serving the people of Northwest Indiana. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service, perseverance, and dedication. I also ask that you join me in wishing him the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE GARRETTTFORD DREXEL HILL FIRE COMPANY FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Garrettford Drexel Hill Fire Company for 100 years of service to the residents of Upper Darby, Pennsylvania.

The Garrettford Drexel Hill Fire Company is the oldest of Upper Darby's five fire companies, and is the only one that remains entirely comprised of volunteers. What began with a handful of citizens committed to protecting the people of Drexel Hill has grown into a company with over 60 active members. These men and women selflessly protect the community while balancing their full-time careers and families. Through the years, their names and faces have changed, but the commitment and pride with which they serve has persevered.

I would like to recognize in particular James Verner, who served as chief of the company from 1913 until his tragic death in 1934. His was the first and only line of duty death to strike the Garrettford Drexel Hill Fire Company.

The Garrettford Fire Company, as it was originally known, started with just two Babcock extinguishers. From these humble beginnings, Garrettford Drexel Hill has expanded to an impressive, modernized apparatus fleet. The current firehouse, built at the site of the converted Baptist church, which originally housed the company, now has four bays and a spacious hall to accommodate this growth.

I ask everyone to join me in commending the members of the Garrettford Drexel Hill Fire Company, past and present, for their service to the community, and to congratulate them on reaching this 100-year milestone.