

Working with the Boy Scouts of America was a joy Tom shared with his entire family. The Bolerjacks' two sons have been scouts for several years, and Tom was an active part of their experience. He served as an assistant den leader for Pack 170 and was the driving force behind Troop 589, starting the troop a few years ago with a handful of boys. Under Tom's leadership, both troops expanded their memberships to approximately thirty scouts.

In addition to serving as Cubmaster, Webelos leader, and Den leader, Tom was also very involved in Boy Scout training for youth and adults. Tom was the Cub Scout Leader Training Chair, the Boy Scout Leader Training Chair, Troop Committee Chair, and the Mustang District Training Chair. Tom also served on the Baloo, Arrowhead & Twin Arrows staff, and was a trainer for the youth protection and new leader programs. He assisted in the Trainer Development Conference. Tom earned his Wood Badge Beads and went on to staff Wood Badge as a Troop Guide. He also served on the organization's Twin Arrows/National Youth Leadership Training and was very active in the Order of the Arrow. Over the years he was honored with multiple awards, including the Cubmaster Award and the Den Leader Award.

Tom has been described as a giver, an outstanding example to others, and an inspiration to everyone who knew him. His friend Graham Crudginton described Tom best when he said, "His energy, his spirit, his dedication are all things that I admire, and are things that have pushed and inspired me to do things I wouldn't normally have done." Tom's ceaseless devotion to the community motivated others to get involved; his passion encouraged the passion of others.

I extend my sincerest condolences to Tom's wife Becky and his two sons, Tommy and B.J. My thoughts and prayers are with Tom's many friends and family members as they endure this difficult time. The North Texas community has lost a devoted citizen and a great man. He leaves behind a legacy of generosity and kindness. The compassion, commitment, and selflessness shown by Mr. Thomas Bolerjack are truly remarkable, and he should serve as an example to all. He will be deeply missed, but his service and dedication will always be greatly appreciated.

BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT OPENS ON WEST COAST

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, the United States Capitol Historical Society has prepared a fascinating exhibit of artifacts and interpretative materials entitled "From Freedom's Shadow: African Americans and the United States Capitol" which is being displayed across America this year. It is a depiction of what is truly one of the better kept secrets in our Nation's history: that the construction of the United States Capitol, and even the casting of the Statue of Freedom that sits atop the dome, was accomplished with the help of slave labor.

Earlier this month the exhibit opened on the West Coast, at Olympic High School in my

congressional district, and it has given everyone in my home community an interesting, yet disturbing, insight into one of the most troubling contradictions of American society in the 18th and 19th centuries. We were a society founded on the principle of freedom and yet even in the construction of the iconic seat of this Government we tolerated and benefited from the labor of people who were deprived of the essential freedoms that were celebrated beneath the Capitol Dome.

This is an important and instructive exhibit, Mr. Speaker, and I am honored to submit for the RECORD an article from the Central Kitsap Reporter that was published on March 1st, entitled "Black History exhibit at Oly exposes 'cruel irony'."

[From the Central Kitsap Reporter, Mar. 1, 2008]

BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT AT OLY EXPOSES "CRUEL IRONY"

(By Paul Balcerak)

Central Kitsap School District board members, employees and educators had the tables turned on them Wednesday night.

It was their turn to learn as they got one of the first looks at the U.S. Capitol Historical Society's traveling exhibit, "From Freedom's Shadow: African Americans and the United States Capitol."

The exhibit, a production of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, offers insight into one of the better kept dirty little secrets in American history: that the U.S. Capitol was built with help from black slave labor.

The exhibit put front-and-center a jarring truth which the historical society's Web site called a "cruel irony."

"It's a real tangible experience of the history that most people don't know," Olympic Principal Bob Barnes said.

Barnes admitted unawareness of the history before being introduced to the project during the plan to bring it to CKSD last year.

"In mainstream history, you get little snippets of things, but you don't really get a feel (for what things were actually like)," he said. "There are lots of little facts out there that our history, as it's written, doesn't necessarily reflect."

Documents showcased at the exhibit cover a period from 1794-1800 and shed light on some of the people history has forgotten. People like Philip Reid, a slave who, ironically, helped cast the five sections of "Freedom," the statue that sits atop the Capitol, in bronze.

The title of the exhibit is in reference to the statue itself.

It wasn't easy unearthing stories such as Reid's, as evidenced by the work exhibit curator Felicia Bell and her colleagues did to bring the exhibit to life.

"It was a lot of primary source research, but also secondary source research (to understand the context of the primary sources)," Bell said.

Also director of education and outreach for the historical society, Bell has spent countless hours at the National Archives, Library of Congress and various historical societies searching for any remnants of information that could contribute to the exhibit. Some of it is scant, but striking; Bell showed off an old timecard used to track all workers' hours that used an "N" next to slaves' names to denote them as "negroes."

The small document offered a blunt lesson: even timecards were segregated.

"It's chilling, but I think it's important to understand so we don't make those mistakes again," CKSD Curriculum Specialist Jeni Zapatka said.

Zapatka was responsible for discovering the exhibit and pushing to have it brought to

CKSD. Thanks to donations from UPS, the exhibit is shipped across the country for free and the only cost to the district was to bring Bell to the area to showcase the exhibit.

"It's fun to see how students from various locations and various backgrounds react to the exhibit," Bell said. "I think that it was kind of an eye-opener for students and adults."

She has traveled with the exhibit to various locations around the United States. Its arrival at Olympic, however, marks the first time either have ever been to the West Coast.

The exhibit is now in the hands of students at Olympic, who spent Thursday being trained as docents by Bell. They'll be the ones to pass information along to the public, which has a few opportunities to see the exhibit between now and March 19 (see gray box).

Students were equally outspoken and struck by the exhibit during their training day.

"I never knew anything about the Freedom statue and all the things the enslaved people had to go through to build the Capitol," junior Amanda

Vincent said. "As it stands now, this exhibit being here is top rate for me."

"I like that it's at our school because our school, in the district, is kind of known as the most diverse," junior Kylee McWilliams added.

The exhibit got high marks from those who saw it Wednesday and several involved expressed excitement for the project's value to students and the public.

"I'm just sorry we don't have it in a place that will be open more hours," school board member Christy Cathcart said. "There was . . . quite a lot of introspection going on (at Wednesday's showing)."

"Everyone went away with some knowledge that they didn't have before."

"From Freedom's Shadow" public viewing times

March 3, 5-7 p.m.

March 11, 6-9 p.m.

March 19, 6-9 p.m.

The exhibit is located in the Olympic High School library.

The exhibit also can be previewed online at <http://uschsonline-exhibits.uschs.org/freedom> (no "www.").

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL REAUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a bill to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program Act.

The National Sea Grant College Program originally was established in 1966 upon the enactment of the National Sea Grant College Act, 33 U.S.C. 1121-1131, to improve marine resource conservation, management, and utilization. The act was last reauthorized by an act of the 107th Congress in 2002, and current authorizations of appropriations expire at the end of fiscal year 2008.

The National Sea Grant College Program is patterned after the Land Grant College System, which was created in 1862. Although originally assigned to the National Science Foundation, NSF, the National Sea Grant College Program was transferred in 1970 to the

newly created National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, within the Department of Commerce. Currently, there are over 30 Sea Grant College programs that represent a network of researchers, educators, and marine extension agents at some of the Nation's top academic institutions. Sea Grant Colleges sponsor a wide range of applied and basic marine science research, education, and training and technical assistance programs promoting the understanding, assessment, development, utilization and conservation of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. Sea Grant Colleges also provide yearlong fellowships to graduate students in marine-related disciplines for placement in congressional offices and Federal agencies.

The bill introduced today would refine the act to modestly expand and clarify the scope and purposes of the National Sea Grant College Program. The bill would provide the national program with the ability to promote, encourage, plan, and implement collaboration among groups of Sea Grant programs, strategic partners, and stakeholders. The bill includes amendments to the act that would describe in more detail the role of Sea Grant in addressing important issues of regional and national concern as identified in the National Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy.

The bill would invigorate oversight and accountability by expanding the responsibilities of the National Sea Grant Review Panel, established by an earlier reauthorization of the National Sea Grant College Act. The bill renames this panel as the "National Sea Grant Advisory Board" to more appropriately and accurately describe its purpose and function. The bill would further authorize the Board to extend participation to non-panel members, principally through the establishment of subcommittees for the purpose of receiving advice and guidance. The revised title and afforded level of new participation reflects a broader and ongoing responsibility on behalf of the National Sea Grant College Program. The Board would be also charged with providing advice to the Secretary of Commerce as to how the National Sea Grant College Program can be best strengthened to ensure the activities of Sea Grant Colleges are consistent with and supportive of national objectives.

The bill would amend Sea Grant program performance review standards. Adopted as part of the 2002 amendments, the review requirements have had the unintended consequence of creating a disincentive for programs to work cooperatively or form partnerships. Implementation of new measures for program review combined with policies aimed at advancing "continuous program improvement" should ensure effective program assessments.

In addition, the bill would increase the percentage of funds exempt from the non-Federal match requirement from the current 1 percent to 5 percent. Many Sea Grant programs address issues of local as well as national concern. In the case of local Sea Grant projects within States, the general match requirement is appropriate. However, the match requirement makes it difficult for Sea Grant to participate in joint competitive programs with other NOAA offices or other Federal agencies because incoming proposals for Sea Grant funding require a match, while proposals from the other agencies often do not.

The bill would also exempt the Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program

from having to match grant awards in order to achieve parity between fellows placed in congressional offices with those fellows placed in Federal agencies.

Finally, the bill also supports reasonable and justifiable increases in authorized appropriations for Sea Grant. Authorized funding levels would increase from \$66 million to \$100 million for the period between Fiscal Year 2009 through Fiscal Year 2014.

The National Sea Grant College Program has established an impressive record over the course of its 38-year history. The reauthorization bill introduced today builds on the sensible recommendations of the Sea Grant Association, the Sea Grant Review Panel, other stakeholders, and consultations with personnel assigned to NOAA's Sea Grant Program Office. Sea Grant provides countless benefits to the American public, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reauthorize and strengthen this important extramural marine conservation program.

HONORING MR. PEDRO JOHNSON
FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE IN
CONNECTICUT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to my dear friend, Pedro Johnson, who has recently decided to retire from his service for his tribe, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

I have known Pedro Johnson for many years and have seen firsthand how he has dedicated himself to improving the lives of others and this Nation. Pedro honorably served in the United States Air Force prior to joining the University of Connecticut Police Department in 1966. He dedicated over 20 years of service to the UCONN police, holding the positions of department liaison, martial arts instructor, and police photographer, before retiring in 1992 at the rank of sergeant.

Retirement would be short-lived for Pedro, and it would not be long before he continued his life passion of public service. As a member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, Pedro was elected to three terms on the Tribal Council including one term in the prestigious position of treasurer. During his time on Tribal Council, Pedro worked with his fellow council members on an incredible transformation that has made the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe into one of the most respected Tribes in the Nation.

Under Pedro's leadership, the Tribe has become a major economic and cultural focal point in the region. They have become one of the largest employers in the State of Connecticut and opened the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, which contains one of the largest collections of indigenous artifacts in North America. The dedication and commitment of Pedro Johnson has been instrumental in shaping the Tribe's vision for the future.

Pedro has always been involved in public service. Over the years he has sat on the board of directors of the Foxwoods Development Company, Natchaug Hospital, Eastern Connecticut State University, Bushnell Theater, Old State House, and the Savings Institute Bank. He was also a member of the Ma-

sons Fraternal Order and held the position as worshipful master of his lodge for several years.

We could not pay proper respects to Pedro without mentioning his lifelong partner, his wife Linda. Pedro and Linda recently celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary, and I know they have been a source of strength and love for each other for nearly five decades. They have two children, Michael and David, who have brought them great joy over the years.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to pay tribute to a man who has done so much to improve the quality of life for his Tribe and indeed, the people of Connecticut. I know that Pedro is retiring from his position at the Tribe, but I know he will continue to be an active member of our community and I look forward to working with him in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 2007 NATIONAL
PRINCESS OF THE AMERICAN
MINIATURE HORSE REGISTRY,
ALYSSA PALAS OF STORY CITY,
IOWA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the 2007 National Princess of the American Miniature Horse Registry, Alyssa Palas of Story City, Iowa.

In September 2007, Alyssa was crowned at the National Miniature Horse show in Tulsa, Oklahoma. As princess, Alyssa presented all the awards during the show, including presenting her mother with Reserve National Champion honors for their two-year-old gelding. She will reign until the 2008 national show.

Alyssa and her family have been involved in the miniature horse business for six years. The Palas family competes across the country under the farm name Royal Palas Miniatures. They received 31 National Top Ten placings at the 2007 national show.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending and congratulating Alyssa Palas. I consider it an honor to represent Alyssa and her family in Congress and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROAD RUNNERS
CLUB OF AMERICA

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Road Runners Club of America. The initial organizational meeting took place on February 22, 1958, in a small hotel room in New York City. Five running clubs emerged from that meeting. Today, the RRCA has more than 700 member clubs, representing 180,000 distance runners nationwide. Included among these are 18 clubs from