

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING VERNON RAY ROSE

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Vernon Ray Rose, a remarkable man with a long history of service to his country and community.

Mr. Rose had a distinguished 18-year career in the United States Army leading men into combat during a tour of duty in Southeast Asia. He was a platoon sergeant of an infantry platoon with A Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, Air, during the Vietnam war. His platoon had the responsibility of rescuing downed U.S. helicopter pilots. In March 1968, Mr. Rose was severely wounded by an enemy hand grenade and was medically retired from the Army.

Vernon Ray Rose was the recipient of many honors during his exemplary military career including the Bronze Star Medal, a Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army Occupation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, the Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Arc Tab.

Mr. Rose's service did not end once he retired from the military. Mr. Rose chose to become a National Veteran Service Officer, dedicating his life to serving veterans over the course of three decades.

It is my privilege to honor Vernon Ray Rose today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for his service to our country and to his fellow veterans. His contributions are worthy of our collective appreciation and respect.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE GALLATIN PLAN

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing, along with Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. WALSH, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. FARR, a resolution to commemorate the bicentennial of the Gallatin plan for infrastructure investment. This plan built on George Washington's vision of connecting the interior settlements with the markets and ports of the East Coast through a network of roads and canals. As Congress looks at major infrastructure investments for this century, it is worthwhile to remember that the achievements of the past were based on sound planning, and important to note that the value of infrastructure investments is dependent on national planning ef-

forts. As we embark on efforts to improve our Nation's civil infrastructure, we should acknowledge and honor the plans that laid the groundwork for our Nation's greatness.

HONORING AMANDA TAVARES

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Amanda Tavares of Robstown, TX, for her hard work in successfully completing the Congressional page program. Amanda has been a shining example of the potential and leadership skills those selected for this selective honor entail.

Amanda, who hails from my hometown, has taken full advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn firsthand how Congress works while gaining valuable experience about the legislative process. She excelled in the challenging environment of the Capitol, got to know new and interesting people, and attend the prestigious House Page School with some of the country's brightest young minds.

Prior to her time in Washington, DC, Amanda was involved in numerous activities at her school and church. She has served as a mentor, tutor, and missionary to an orphanage in Reynosa, Mexico. In addition, she has done home improvement work with the Nehemiah project of World Changers in Norfolk, VA.

Amanda's sparkling personality and engaging demeanor have been appreciated by my office and her fellow pages. The people whom a page meets here will be the movers and shakers in the country for the rest of their life. Washington, DC, is an exciting place and every page who leaves the program tells us the experience profoundly changed their life. Amanda has shared that sentiment and I have no doubt that her time as page will influence her goals.

As Amanda heads back to Texas, I am sure that she will take many of the lessons learned here and apply to her all life and activities. I am proud of hard work and accomplishments, despite being so far from her home and her family. I wish her the best of luck when she returns to school, and know she will use her experiences here to go on and do great things.

HONORING JIM CARROLL

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jim Carroll, a proud veteran and dedicated public servant. Mr. Carroll is retiring this year after 38 years of Federal service, most of which has been

spent with the National Park Service at Mammoth Cave National Park.

Jim Carroll grew up in Hart County, Kentucky, and graduated from Munfordville High School in 1966. He was drafted into the Army in 1968 and served in Vietnam. Upon his return, he enrolled at Western Kentucky University and graduated in 1975.

Mr. Carroll began his tenure with the Park Service in 1972 as a seasonal guide at Mammoth Cave National Park. After a brief assignment at Biscayne National Park in Florida, he returned to Mammoth Cave as a full time Park Ranger. Mr. Carroll then served as a Split Ranger, working with the law enforcement and resources management divisions of the park. Mr. Carroll has been supervised nearly all aspects of Mammoth Cave National Park.

In 1995, Mr. Carroll was named Chief of the Division of External Programs. His responsibilities have included media relations, publications, information technology, concessions management, and community relations.

It is my privilege to honor Jim Carroll today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for his service to Mammoth Cave National Park. I wish Jim, and his wife Sina a safe and happy retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S CONFERENCE OF GOVERNORS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing, along with Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. WALSH, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. FARR, a resolution to commemorate the centennial of President Theodore Roosevelt's Conference of Governors. That conference, which included many State Governors, the members of President Roosevelt's Cabinet, Members of Congress, professional organizations, and Government bureaus—and which served as the first meeting of what today has become the National Governors Association—resulted in a report that incorporated the growing interest in conservation as well as articulated the need for future investments in civil infrastructure. The conference laid the groundwork for many of the critical investments of the 20th century and serves as an important reminder that the value of infrastructure investments is dependent on national planning efforts. In the past few decades, our critical infrastructure has fallen into disrepair. As we embark on efforts to improve our Nation's civil infrastructure, we should acknowledge and honor the plans that laid the groundwork for our Nation's greatness.

• 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.

HONORING NANDO GOMEZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of my most trusted staff members, my Chief of Staff, Fernando P. "Nando" Gomez, Jr. After working in Congress for 7 years, the past 2 as my chief of staff, Nando will be joining the private sector.

Nando's dedication to and interest in public service has led him from the small town of Gregory, TX, to the corridors of two Capitols. During his senior year at the University of Texas in 1994, he began working for the Texas House Speaker James E. "Pete" Laney. Nando worked for Speaker Laney for nearly 5 years and was appointed the House reading clerk during the 74th and 75th Legislative Sessions.

He then moved to Washington, DC, in 2001 and worked for Congressman Martin Frost, serving as legislative assistant and then as legislative director. He joined my staff in 2005 and rose from legislative director to chief of staff.

Words cannot begin to describe what Nando has meant to me, my staff, and the people of the 27th District of Texas. I have relied on Nando for his professionalism, work ethic, and friendship. He takes pride in his work, which is especially personal to him because he was born and raised in the district I represent. For him, it has not just been about serving as my chief of staff—it is about advocating for the issues of his hometown, his family, and his roots.

Nando has also taken an active role with local youth. He serves in Brothers/Big Sisters Mentor program, where he has had the honor of serving as big brother to his little brother, Franklin, for nearly 5 years. Nando is an avid sports fan whose allegiances lie with the Texas Longhorns, Houston Astros, San Antonio Spurs, and the Dallas Cowboys.

Though I bid Nando a sad farewell from my office, it will certainly not be a good-bye. I look forward to seeing him around the Capitol when he comes up to catch up with old friends.

Nando remains a trusted member of my family, and I will always seek his counsel on matters political and personal. I wish him, his wife Kristy and son Dominic the best of luck during the new phase of his life.

FREEDOM FOR RAUDEL MARTINEZ GOMEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Raudel Martinez Gomez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Martinez Gomez is a member of the Plantados Movement for Cuban Freedom. He along with fellow dissidents Victor Yunier Ferenandez Martinez and Joenny Alonso Asiz, were arrested in February 2006 for a crime the Cuban dictatorship calls "dangerousness."

In sham trials they were each convicted, with Mr. Martinez Gomez sentenced to 3 years in prison.

Unfortunately, his imprisonment for what is really political dissent is nothing new for his family. While Mr. Martinez Gomez was facing trial before the dictatorship's facade of a judicial system, his father was imprisoned in a Cuban gulag for nothing more than participating in a peaceful pro-democracy protest outside the French embassy in Havana. The Cuban regime released his father this past May without formally charging him with any crime.

Shortly after his father's arrest, the local chief of the so-called "Committee for the Defense of the Revolution" came to the home Mr. Martinez Gomez shared with his father. Mr. Martinez Gomez was forced out of his home along with his wife, who was 7 months pregnant at the time. But these local vigilance committee goons were not content with forcing Martinez Gomez and his pregnant wife from their home, they wanted to add insult to injury. So they sent a group of ruffians to shout insults and obscenities at Martinez Gomez and his wife as they left the home they had known for the last 11 years.

What exactly did Mr. Martinez Gomez do to cause his conviction for the so-called crime of "dangerousness?" This is impossible to fully know in the totalitarian circus of present day Cuba but perhaps the regime was afraid of the courage repeatedly demonstrated by Mr. Martinez Gomez.

Madam Speaker, this is just another condemnable occurrence in the constant pattern of brutality by the totalitarian tyranny just 90 miles from our shores. And yet, though the tyranny has attempted to stop Mr. Martinez Gomez, he will never cease in his commitment to freedom for Cuba. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Raudel Martinez Gomez and all prisoners of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE PERSONS, GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES THAT ARE IMPOVERISHED, DISADVANTAGED OR OTHERWISE IN POVERTY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute.

I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 198.

Poverty is all too real an issue in America today.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus, I have worked with my colleagues to create a world where no child goes to bed hungry, and where every parent can put a roof over their family's heads.

We have made progress this Congress—but we still have a long road ahead of us.

And while poverty disproportionately affects our minority communities—it does not discriminate on a basis of color.

We must remember poverty is not just a Hispanic, or a Black, or an Asian issue—it is a "people" issue.

Whether it's a family trying to put food on the table, or a child in need of basic health care—when poverty affects one of us, it affects all of us.

I urge my colleagues to join the Out of Poverty Caucus in voicing their dedication to creating a better America for everyone, not just the privileged few.

I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Con. Res. 198.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, I was unavoidably detained. I ask for unanimous consent that the RECORD reflect had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 19, H.R. 4211—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 725 Roanoke Avenue in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, as the "Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office"; and I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 20, H. Res. 866—Honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007, far surpassing all of our previous records.

HONORING DALLAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to rise to recognize Dallas Christian School and join with them in celebrating their 50th anniversary.

In 1957, Dallas Christian School was established with a mission to train students academically, physically, and spiritually. Five decades later, this nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School continues to accomplish its mission by supplementing its academic curriculum with daily Bible classes and chapel services, college courses, extracurricular activities, and an athletic department.

Located in Mesquite, Texas, 90 percent of Dallas Christian School graduates attend institutions of higher education, and since 1992, 20 seniors have qualified for the National Merit Scholarship.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Dallas Christian School's 50th anniversary, and I would like to commend the students, board of directors, faculty, and staff for helping to shape a brighter future for our community and our country.