

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. LAUREN
EWING

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Ms. Lauren Ewing, who was nominated to be the 2008 Delaware Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Reader's Digest have nationally sponsored the Youth of the Year program since 1947. The goal of Youth of the Year has been to recognize outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Club and their contributions to their Club, community, school, and family. More than 32,000 youth are served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

Twelve students were nominated for the honor of Youth of the Year through an intensive local and state level selection process, including the nominees' personal contribution to home and family, community, school and their Boys & Girls Club. The nominees had to prepare two essays explaining why post-high school education is important and what the Club means to them. Additionally, students had to prepare a 3–5 minute speech and have an interview session with a panel of judges. The candidates attended the Youth of the Year Summit, where they received professional guidance regarding public speaking, writing, and interviewing skills.

After winning the Local Youth of the Year award, Lauren moved onto the state level competition, where she refined her essay and prepared for the next round of interviews. Lauren was a highly qualified candidate for the Youth of the Year 2008. Lauren actively participates in her local Boys & Girls Club, Simon Circle, where she is the President of the Keystone Club and a member of the Torch Club. Lauren is involved in various organizations, including ROTC, Dover Caring Community Youth Coalition, and Cooperative Extension Nutrition Program.

Once again, I would like to commend Lauren Ewing for being nominated as the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware's Youth of the Year.

IN MEMORY OF JACK GIBSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend and former colleague in the Arkansas State Senate, Jack Gibson of Boyde, Arkansas, who passed away April 24, 2008.

I will forever remember Jack Gibson as a good friend, a devoted public servant and

someone who cared deeply about improving the quality of life in southeast Arkansas. As a natural born leader, he excelled at every task he took on and was an inspiration to all of us who knew him.

Jack Gibson served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a decorated naval pilot, and has been recognized for shooting down the last enemy aircraft of the war. After the war, he returned home to southeast Arkansas to pursue his true passion of agriculture. His advocacy for the industry began while working with his father at their family-owned farm, cotton gin and agricultural spraying service, where he learned the importance of farming to our economy. As a member of the Farm Bureau for over 50 years, as well as his affiliation with numerous other agricultural organizations, he relentlessly promoted the value and resources the agriculture community contributes to the fabric of our State and Nation.

Jack Gibson was also a distinguished State senator representing Arkansas State Senate District 35 for 12 years. He was a thoughtful and diligent senator who admirably represented all those he was elected to serve. I was honored to serve with him in the Arkansas Senate where I experienced his tireless and dedicated work on agriculture and economic development issues facing Arkansas. His leadership in the Senate, whether as a Chairman or Member of a committee or council, was guided by his dedication to the State of Arkansas and to all of those who work and reside in our beloved State. The opportunity to get to know and work with Jack Gibson will forever be etched fondly into my memory.

Jack Gibson will always be known for his outstanding service to our country and his community. Above all, he will sorely be missed as a friend. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Elizabeth Haniken Gibson; his son, Stephen Anderson Gibson of Boyde, Arkansas; his daughter Marcie Elizabeth Gibson of Little Rock, Arkansas; his sister, Mary Jane Bowman of Dermott, Arkansas; and to his nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends. Jack Gibson will be greatly missed in southeast Arkansas and throughout the State, and I am truly saddened by this loss.

HONORING DR. CHARLES GRANT
ON HIS COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Charles Grant for his community service and his friendship for over 20 years. Dr. Grant has been an educator for 35 years and for 25 years has served at San Jacinto College North. His positions have included: instructor of Management Development, director of Con-

tinuing Education, dean of Continuing Education, and vice president of Instruction and for the last 10 years, he has served as president of San Jacinto College North.

Dr. Grant is a graduate of the first class from North Shore High School, in Texas, and received his degree from San Jacinto College. Dr. Grant has been an active part of the North Channel Area chamber of Commerce for many years, where he was chairman of the board in 1997 and was selected board member of the year for 1995.

Dr. Grant is a member of North Shore Rotary Club since 1987, serving as president for the 2002–03 year, named a Paul Harris fellow, and was awarded rotarian of the year for 2004–05. Dr. Grant is a charter sponsor of San Jacinto College North Rotaract Club for 25 years; Rotary District 5890 Rotaract chair for seven years; serving on the Rotary International Rotaract Committee for three years and as the Rotary International Rotaract chair for 2005–06. Dr. Grant has served as the college coordinator for CDS International's German-American Youth Exchange Program for 24 years and has hosted, along with his wife, Gail, a German exchange student.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize Dr. Charles Grant, for his service to San Jacinto College North and I congratulate him on his continued commitment to community service.

CHIEF LARRY SHIFLET: TEXAS
LAWMAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Texas is known for its legendary Lawmen that bring criminals to justice. Today, I want to recognize the life of Assistant Chief Deputy Larry Shiflet. He is a lifetime member of what is referred to in my part of Texas as the Poe-leece. It is an informal organization made up of my long-time friends in the Texas law enforcement community. It is an honor to pay tribute to him today as he retires from public service.

Larry Eugene Shiflet was born in Houston on Sept. 2, 1940 and was destined to be a Texas Lawman. At the age of 17, he joined the U.S. Air Force. After serving his country for four years, a friend got him a job in the Union Pacific Railroad Police Department.

He got to do what most boys from Texas only dream about doing: being a real cowboy that protected railroad cars from bandits. He worked in the special investigative unit that tracked down thieves, drug smugglers and hobo stowaways. He later became the head of the investigative unit and had jurisdiction over four states. He worked for 20 years with the railroad before retiring for the first time.

After leaving the rail road police, he obtained additional police training and he was soon hired by the Harris County Precinct 4

• 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.

Constable's Office in Houston, Texas. His attitude as a deputy was to enforce the spirit of the law rather than the letter of the law. Chief Shiflet's personality and professionalism earned him respect from both those he worked with and with those he arrested. He inspired many young deputies to strive for excellence and they credit his leadership as the reason for their professional success.

His boss and close friend, Constable Ron Hickman, described Chief Shiflet as being a part of the backbone of the organization. "Chief Shiflet's keen sense of community involvement, understanding of law enforcement responsibility, leadership skills, wisdom and experience have made him an indispensable part of our organization," said Hickman. "His fair, but firm hand has provided a stalwart position that many of us have looked to for resolution during difficult times. I have had the distinct pleasure of working alongside Larry for 25 years and count him among my best friends."

Hickman also described Chief Shiflet as a man that is fully aware of the real dangers of police work, but at the same time is deathly afraid of snakes. Even after working for years along the Texas border for the railroad police, Hickman said that Chief Shiflet is still very likely to shoot somebody to get out of the way of a snake.

Along the way during his career in the Constable's office, Chief Shiflet met his wife Cynthia Calvert when he worked in Atascocita. She was the editor of a local newspaper at the time and called him to ask about the violent crime wave of bicycle thefts in Kingwood. Chief Shiflet suggested that it would be best to discuss the bike thefts over a cup of coffee. That face to face meeting request was the beginning of a relationship that later led to their marriage.

In addition to his law enforcement career, Chief Shiflet had a brief stint as an unofficial U.S. Ambassador to Ireland during a family vacation. At every pub his family stopped at for a meal and a drink, Chief Shiflet would have to defend America and President George W. Bush's foreign policies. As soon as the natives heard the warm, southern drawl in Chief Shiflet's voice, they knew he was from Texas and would launch into anti-American foreign policy tirades.

Chief Shiflet patiently, respectfully and eloquently explained that they were wrong and America was right. As only a true American patriot would, Chief Shiflet spent his entire family vacation defending America and our President from Irish criticism.

Ironically, even though he has spent 50 years in public service through the military and law enforcement, Chief Shiflet started his working career in the newspaper business and it looks like he will end it with newspapers. When he was 10 years old he delivered newspapers by hand from his bike for an old city paper called the Houston Press. In 2007, he and his wife started a community newspaper company called the Tribune newspapers. Instead of delivering papers on a bicycle, he will soon be delivering issues of the Tribune from his red Corvette.

As Chief Shiflet retires today from the Harris County Precinct 4 Constable's Office, I am honored to recognize his lifetime of law enforcement service. For 46 years, he has put on a badge and a gun to protect and serve the people and communities that he loves. As

he hangs up his gun for the last time today and turns in his badge, he can ride off into the sunset in his Corvette knowing that he is loved, respected and appreciated by so many.

Happy Trails to you, Chief Shiflet. Thank you for a job well done and for all your hard work to make our Texas neighborhoods safer.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT MATTHEW RYAN VANDEGRIFT

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of a fallen hero and Marine from my district, First Lieutenant Matthew Ryan Vandegrift, of Littleton, Colorado. First Lieutenant Vandegrift was killed while conducting combat operations in Basra, Iraq, just four days after celebrating his 28th birthday.

First Lieutenant Vandegrift, stationed in Iraq since August 2007, was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Lejeune, NC. Matthew was part of a team responsible for training Iraqi security forces. Through his service, Matthew played a critical role in establishing Iraqi sovereignty by preparing Iraqi security outfits with the knowledge and expertise necessary to survive as a free and independent democracy.

Born and raised in Austin, Texas, First Lieutenant Vandegrift found his home in Colorado, when his family moved while Matthew was studying international business at Texas A&M University. While at Texas A&M, Matthew maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average, and participated in the Midshipmen Battalion NROTC program. Following graduation, Matthew returned to Littleton, when in 2005 he courageously decided to continue the Vandegrift family tradition of serving America, by joining the United States Marine Corps.

First Lieutenant Vandegrift fought to protect and preserve the freedom and democracy that we as Americans enjoy. First Lieutenant Vandegrift exemplified what it is to be an American, and he will forever be remembered for his sacrifice and patriotism.

Madam Speaker, my most heartfelt condolences go out to Matthew's family and friends. He will be missed by all those who knew and loved him.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES "CHARLIE" NILES

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today with sadness to note the recent passing of a constituent, Mr. Charles "Charlie" Niles, a resident of Plattsburgh, New York, who died at the age of 85 on April 2, 2008.

I greatly appreciate the service Charlie provided to our Nation as a member of the U.S. Army during World War II and for his 33 years of service as a part-time immigration inspector

at the Port of Champlain in Champlain, New York. In addition to that service, Charlie also served the community of Champlain, New York. Specifically, he taught English at Northeastern Clinton Central School. Charlie retired in 1988 and was a member of the New York State Retired Teacher's Association. I am advised that he made Shakespeare, Steinbeck, and other classics come alive for his students while teaching them to speak and write the "King's English."

Accordingly, I now wish to extend my deepest sympathies to his wife of 62 years Elizabeth L. Niles, sons Charles A. Niles, Jr. and John Niles, daughter Marilyn Donohue and grandchildren Adam C. Niles, Jennifer L. Niles, Ryan J. Donohue, and Timothy B. Donohue.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. GREGORY HENRY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. Gregory Henry, who was nominated to be the 2008 Delaware Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Reader's Digest have nationally sponsored the Youth of the Year program since 1947. The goal of Youth of the Year has been to recognize outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Club and their contributions to their club, community, school, and family. More than 32,000 youth are served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

Twelve students were nominated for the honor of Youth of the Year through an intensive local and state-level selection process, including the nominees' personal contribution to home and family, community, school and their Boys & Girls Club. The nominees had to prepare two essays explaining why post-high school education is important and what the club means to them. Additionally, students had to prepare a 3–5 minute speech and have an interview session with a panel of judges. The candidates attended the Youth of the Year Summit, where they received professional guidance regarding public speaking, writing, and interviewing skills.

After winning the Local Youth of the Year award, Gregory moved onto the state-level competition, where he refined his essay and prepared for the next round of interviews. Gregory was a highly qualified candidate for the Youth of the Year 2008. He volunteers with the Smyrna Police Department and plans to become a Citizen Auxiliary Policeman, being the youngest member of the department. At the awards ceremony, Gregory was honored with the Best Essay Award.

Once again, I would like to commend Gregory Henry for being nominated as the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware's Youth of the Year and winning the Best Essay Award.