

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYNN MARLETT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Mrs. Lynn Marlett by entering her name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I honor Mrs. Lynn Marlett for her distinguished and devoted service to her profession and to our community as a registered nurse.

Mrs. Marlett has worked in the Las Vegas area as a Certified Nurse Practitioner since 1999, specializing in gastroenterology. Mrs. Marlett has also closely worked with patients on treatment and collecting data regarding Chronic Hepatitis C.

Mrs. Marlett has extensive knowledge in treating patients with Hepatitis C as well as Cirrhosis and Liver Cancer. Recently, Ms. Marlett has worked with the Health District of Nevada as an Educational Liaison. Her research and knowledge were an invaluable resource for the Health District and her colleagues as a whole. Lynn's professionalism and compassion have earned her the respect of her colleagues and have made her invaluable to her patients.

Mrs. Marlett resides in Las Vegas, Nevada with her husband and two daughters.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Lynn Marlett. Her commitment, passion, and dedication to nursing have improved the lives of countless patients in Las Vegas. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HALEY WHATLEY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Haley Whatley of North Richland Hills has just been named one of the top two honorees in Texas by The 2008 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Haley, a seventh-grader, was nominated by Smithfield Middle School in North Richland Hills. In honor of this achievement, Haley will receive a \$1,000 reward and an engraved silver medallion. She also won a trip to Washington D.C. this May to join the other top

nominees from around the country. All the honorees will attend several national recognition events and ten of the participants will be named America's top youth volunteers for 2008.

Haley's passion for volunteering began at a young age. When she was six-years-old, Haley saw a television commercial about kids with cancer, and wanted to do something to cheer up the young patients. She began collecting stuffed bunnies during an Easter campaign, and collected 600 bunnies her first year. Since then, she has found several corporate sponsors, spoken to more than 50 civic groups, and enlisted the help of more than 30 "bunny ambassadors" to help collect bunnies from the community each year. Her tireless efforts have yielded more than 13,000 bunnies for sick children in the last 7 years.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 12 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 80,000 young volunteers at the local, state, and national level.

Ms. Whatley should be extremely proud to have been selected from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I sincerely thank Haley for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. It is an honor to represent such an extraordinary young person in the 26th district of Texas, and I earnestly look forward to seeing the present and future results of her tremendous promise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 243, Motion to Table, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

ZACHARY PATTERSON OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA NAMED BRIGGS & STRATTON DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH REGIONAL CHAMPION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, baseball is the great American pastime, but for twelve-year-old Zachary Patterson of St. Petersburg, baseball provided one of the greatest American lessons.

He learned that with the confidence he gained on the ball field, he could overcome the greatest of obstacles including bullying by his classmates at school. Zachary, a seventh-grader at Admiral Farragut Academy, wrote an essay about his experiences for Briggs and Stratton's "Diamonds in the Rough" competition. The essay was to relate how baseball helped players find the power within to overcome great challenges on and off the baseball field.

Zachary's essay earned him first place in the Tampa Bay region and \$5,000, and a variety of lawn equipment to help the Azalea Little League, in which he has played for eight years. Following my remarks, I will include an article from The St. Petersburg Times about Zachary's experience and also a copy of his winning essay.

Madam Speaker, last October, this House approved legislation with my support calling attention to the serious problem of bullying in our Nation's schools and commending schools for promoting greatest public awareness about bullying and bullying prevention activities. Zachary Patterson has taken his own initiative to call attention to this national problem by reflecting on the impact bullying has had on his life. Please join me in congratulating Zachary for being honored for his efforts and in thanking him for his willingness to tackle this problem head on at the age of twelve.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, April 4, 2008]

BASEBALL CHANGED HIS LIFE

(By Michael Maharrey)

ST. PETERSBURG.—Laughter drifted across the dusty baseball diamond as Zachary Patterson tossed the ball back and forth with a coach. Joy lit up his face, even in the bright afternoon sun.

Baseball has not only provided Zachary with fun times that will one day become fond childhood memories, but life lessons that make him wise beyond his 12 years.

Now his wisdom has translated to much-needed financial help for the cash-strapped Azalea Little League.

Zachary placed first in the Tampa Bay region in the Briggs and Stratton Diamonds in the Rough competition, winning \$5,000 and lawn equipment for his league.

The victory earned him the opportunity to compete against 19 other regional winners for another \$5,000 prize and a trip for four to watch the Yankees play in their final season at Yankee Stadium.

• 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.

Online voting will determine the final winner.

Baseball players ranging from 7 to 14 wrote essays explaining how baseball helped them find the "power within" to overcome challenges on or off the field. Entrants came from within 30 miles of 20 select cities, including Tampa.

Zachary wrote about how kids at the military school he attends used to make fun of him, calling him a nerd and a dork. He said playing baseball gave him the confidence to deal with the taunting.

"Our coach, Joel, always says, 'We have to have confidence in ourselves before we have confidence on the field.' Wow, was he right. After playing baseball for a few years I have come to realize that kids made fun of me because I wasn't confident in myself. I ignored what others said but continued to be respectful to them," he wrote.

The seventh-grader at Admiral Farragut Academy said kids teased him because he's smart, but the confidence he gained on the baseball field taught him to be proud of all of his accomplishments, and that confidence changed his relationship with his classmates.

"Instead of people making fun of me, they are friends with me now. Everything has changed," he said.

Natasha Patterson said she has seen the transformation in her son.

"Now he is willing to try things that he wanted to do but wouldn't because he was picked on," she said. "He's really come out of his shell. Now he's proud of himself academically and strives to do better."

Zachary gets to help decide how the league will use the \$5,000 prize money. He said it needs a new tractor for field maintenance, clay to fill in holes in the diamonds, and chalk for lining the playing area.

If he wins the grand prize, he wants the league to install a handicapped-accessible water fountain.

"That way not just regular players can get a drink, but Challenger players, too," he said.

Azalea is one of only two Little League organizations in Pinellas County to feature a Challenger division. More than 100 special-needs children participate in the program, and one of Azalea's fields consists of a special rubber surface that allows kids to play baseball from wheelchairs.

Dana Hess, the league's treasurer, said the prize money couldn't have come at a better time.

Azalea's fields were built in 1969, and all of the structures and fences are original.

"We really need the money. We maintain what we can as good as we can, but everything is so old," Hess said.

But for those involved with the league, the excitement is not just about money.

"To have someone so young to write something from the heart really means a lot," Carol Vallee, a league volunteer and past president, said. "This is a well-deserved honor for him."

Zachary's mother said she hopes area residents will go online and vote for him, not only for his benefit but because of the good the prize money will do for the league.

"Voting for Zach not only helps children here and now; it will help children in the future," she said.

Voting began March 26 and continues through April 20.

ESSAY BY ZACHARY PATTERSON

I attend a small military school. Military school can be tough and the kids can be very mean. Confidence was my challenge in school. "Dork" and "Nerd" are words people used to call me everyday. I would get very angry and come home sad. I didn't have a lot of friends at school. I didn't understand why

people made fun of me for doing well. I never joined a sports team at school. I never did anything to draw any more attention to myself. I felt if I did, they would make fun of me more. Luckily, I have played baseball for Azalea Little League for 8 years. None of the kids at baseball go to my school. I am never made fun of while I am there. Every year my teammates become my friends. We treat each other with respect and work together as a team. Our Coach Joel always says "we have to have confidence in ourselves before we have confidence on the field". Wow, was he right! After playing baseball for a few years I have come to realize that kids made fun of me because I wasn't confident in myself. I ignored what others said but continued to be respectful to them. I remembered what Coach always says and built up confidence to join football, soccer, basketball, track and cross country. This year I even joined our school's elite baseball team. I'm the starting pitcher. Throughout time, my confidence in myself has outweighed the teasing of others. They now respect me and don't make fun of me. The kids who made fun of me in the past, now "high five" me! If I win, I'd help repair our field we play on. It needs a lot of work!

INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HONORS THE MEMORY OF TOM LANTOS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam speaker, on Monday, April 28th, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, an organization that fights against prejudice based on sexual orientation and gender expression throughout the world, announced its posthumous recognition of our late colleague Tom Lantos for his extraordinary work on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of bigotry. The IGLHRC awarded our late colleague its OUTSPOKEN Award, in recognition of "the leadership of a global ally to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex community whose outspokenness . . . contributed substantially to advancing the rights and understanding of LGBTI people everywhere."

Madam Speaker, I know how well deserved this award is, because I frequently turned to our greatly respected and much missed friend for help in combating anti-LGBT prejudice whenever such matters came to my attention in various other countries. Much of the time when I came to him I found that he was already hard at work in trying to address the particular injustice because no one here did more to fight for fair treatment in this regard internationally. Drawing on his considerable prestige throughout the world, and his unmatched record as a fierce defender of human rights everywhere, Tom Lantos was an invaluable ally in our fight against prejudice.

Madam Speaker, I ask in recognition of just one aspect of the extraordinary work of this extraordinary man with whom we had the pleasure and honor of serving be printed here.

[April 28, 2008]

IGLHRC HONORS THE LATE REPRESENTATIVE TOM LANTOS

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) announced

today that it is presenting a posthumous OUTSPOKEN Award to Representative Tom Lantos, the 14-term Congressman who lost his life to cancer on February 11, 2008. IGLHRC's OUTSPOKEN Award recognizes the leadership of a global ally to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community whose outspokenness has contributed substantially to advancing the rights and understanding of LGBTI people everywhere.

"We are so deeply grateful for Representative Lantos's unwavering commitment to human rights," said Paula Ettelbrick, IGLHRC's executive director. "Throughout his life, Representative Lantos waged a steadfast fight against injustice. His voice, vision and compassion will be sorely missed by all of us in the LGBTI community."

During his fourteen terms as a member of Congress, Representative Lantos, who rose among the ranks to chair the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, was a strong and consistent voice for the rights of the disenfranchised. As the founding co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, Lantos used his prestige as an internationally respected leader on human rights to hold the very first congressional briefing about the global persecution of sexual minorities. He was the author of the International Human Rights Equality Resolution, which he introduced in the 106th and 107th Congress, condemning human rights violations against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people throughout the world.

Representative Lantos regularly challenged the abuses meted out by individual countries to their LGBTI citizens. For instance, along with key congressional colleagues, he protested the arrests of allegedly gay men in the United Arab Emirates, and the stoning to death of a Nigerian gay man. He also asked Congress to "withhold any support for a U.S.-Egypt Free Trade Agreement" in light of the roundup, conviction and re-conviction of reportedly gay Egyptian men, and issued a strongly worded statement asking the Nigerian Government to consider the implications of passing the Same-Sex Prohibition Act, which would have severely compromised the rights of the LGBTI community in that country.

Congressman Lantos was also a staunch ally of LGBTI Americans. He opposed a Constitutional Amendment banning gay marriage, worked to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to sponsor their "permanent partners" for U.S. residency, and introduced a bill, with Representative Baldwin, to extend basic employment rights to same-sex partners of federal employees. He campaigned for adoption rights and marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples, and supported hate-crimes legislation and anti-discrimination protections in the workplace. This is only a small part of his astounding legacy of work in support of LGBTI rights.

Born in Budapest in 1928, Congressman Lantos was the only Holocaust survivor to serve in the United States Congress. He was a teenager when the Nazi's invaded Hungary in 1944 and started rounding up Jews. After being sent to a labor camp, and escaping twice, he returned to Budapest where he joined the resistance, lived in a safe house established by Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg and secretly distributed food to other Jews in hiding. At the war's end, he discovered that most of his own family had perished in the Nazi death camps. Miraculously, he managed to locate his childhood