

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MAYOR GIGI GRUBER

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant from my Congressional District, Mayor Claudia "Gigi" Gruber of Itasca. After twelve years as Mayor, Gigi is stepping down.

In her first experience with elected public office, Gigi served one term as a Village Trustee in Itasca. Then, in May 1997, Gigi was elected Mayor of Itasca. Over the years, Gigi has been an insightful observer, keen in her understanding of the long-term challenges facing the Village. Throughout her career, she has tackled these challenges with deft skill, deep understanding, and strong personal integrity.

While constant change has brought a steady stream of new difficulties for Itasca to confront, one thing has remained the same. Mayor Gruber has kept a steady hand to the wheel, advising the Village Board and working tirelessly for the benefit of the community and her residents.

Gigi Gruber has been an advocate for the people of Itasca since her very first days in office. Gigi truly embodies the meaning of a public servant as she approaches her job with compassion and humility. In her time with the Village, she has shown true leadership to bring economic development to the area. Gigi has improved all of our lives and left an indelible impression on the Village of Itasca.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Gigi Gruber is a remarkable leader who has dedicated her life to serving the people of Itasca. Please join me in recognizing her extraordinary service and wishing her every happiness in her life's upcoming endeavors.

A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF
MANUEL BURGOS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Manuel Burgos, a distinguished community activist of East New York.

Manuel Burgos is a true East New Yorker and operates the small business Rare Arts. Growing up in East New York during the 1970s enabled Mr. Burgos to see first hand how disinvestments, crime, lack of social services and inadequate healthcare effects the neighborhood he is from. Mr. Burgos decided to enter community service to enhance the atmosphere and nature of East New York.

Before he turned 13, Mr. Burgos had already participated in many vacant lot clean-ups throughout the neighborhood. By his late teens he worked as a youth leader in his

church's efforts to provide a Friday night safe haven for other youth in his neighborhood. At the age of 16, Mr. Burgos worked on a political campaign that made him realize political participation was the necessary means to effecting real change in communities like East New York. While in college he learned of the community organizing work of other young Latinos around the country and this shaped his future in critical ways.

Throughout his twenties, Mr. Burgos worked in his church as a youth mentor providing youth programming and a safe haven for teens. He worked in several nonprofits such as Cypress Hills LDC and the East New York Urban Youth Corps (ENYUUC) as a director for afterschool programming. While working for ENYUUC Mr. Burgos partnered with local police, community leaders, residents and merchants in a pilot program called Community Safety Initiative (CSI) to create a powerful problem solving consortium that was directly responsible for significant drops in violent crime. During this time, Mr. Burgos served as co-writer of the East New York Weed & Seed.

Today Mr. Burgos continues his work as a technical assistance provider on the local level, giving back to community projects that he helped build years ago. He has authored many papers on community-based collaborative problem solving and he developed a training guide on the same subject. His business, Rare Arts, is the mold of his writing and designing skills.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Manuel Burgos.

AARON MENDOZA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aaron Mendoza who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Aaron Mendoza is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aaron Mendoza is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Aaron Mendoza for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

HONORING WILL ORR FOR HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man from Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that William Orr from Rome, Georgia, has received an appointment to the United States Military Academy. Will attends Darlington School, where he has a 3.93 Grade Point Average and has been selected as a member of the National Honor Society. In addition to his academic achievements, Will has also been an athletic star for Darlington, where he has played on Darlington's football, basketball, and soccer teams. He has earned varsity letters in four sports while at Darlington and was a captain on the football team for two years. Will is also very dedicated to public service and has participated in multiple mission trips with his church. Further, he has been selected to be a part of West Point's Summer Leadership Seminar.

Will Orr is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy. I ask that my colleagues take this time to congratulate Will as well as his parents, James and Jo Orr, for all of his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Will that America has the finest military in the world. Our nation is fortunate to have his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 21, 2009, I was unavoidably delayed and unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 288 through 291. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on No. 288, "yes" on No. 289, "no" on No. 290, and "yes" on No. 291.

TRIBUTE TO SSG JEFFREY ALAN HALL

HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of SSG Jeffrey Alan Hall.

On June 1, 2009, Jeffrey Hall and two other soldiers were killed in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb west of Kabul. Jeffrey was part of

• 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.

the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion in the 10th Mountain Division and had achieved his life-long goal of earning the distinction of serving as a U.S. Army Ranger. As our nation and my community struggles with this sudden loss, I would like to pause and recognize Staff Sergeant Hall and the ultimate sacrifice paid by him and his family.

Jeffrey was an eight-year veteran of the United States Army, earning many well-deserved awards and decorations including two Army Commendation Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, a NATO Medal and a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. This was Jeffrey's third tour in Afghanistan. He was an American Hero who believed in his mission and told his father that this was a sacrifice he was willing to make to protect his country and the freedoms we enjoy.

Jeffrey Hall was a soldier but he was also a loving son to his parents Charles and Annette, a devoted husband to his wife Allison and eleven months ago became a father to Audrey Faith. Jeffrey loved life and his family and the outpouring of love and affection by his family and friends is the real tribute to the man that he was and the life that he led.

Staff Sergeant Hall is an inspiring example that we can all look up to and aspire to be like. He put the safety of all Americans before his own, and the people of this nation will be forever grateful. He motivated and inspired those around him and will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and by those who never had the honor and privilege of meeting him.

Our country lost a great soldier and an even better son last Monday. All of us in north Alabama are deeply saddened by Jeffrey's passing. On behalf of the entire community in the Tennessee Valley, across Alabama and a grateful nation, I rise today to remember SSG Jeffrey Allen Hall and to pay tribute to his honor, his sacrifice and his memory.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, please excuse me for departing early on Thursday, June 4, 2009. I left for personal reasons due to the severe illness of my brother. If I would have been here, I would have voted for H.R. 626, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2009.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD A. GILTS AS PERRYSBURG POLICE CHIEF

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I pay a very special tribute to an outstanding Police Chief in the Fifth District of Ohio. Richard A. Gilts of Perrysburg, Ohio has been serving the area for Thirty-Nine years, where he was promoted as the Sixth Chief of Police of Perrysburg in 2003.

Madam, Speaker, there is no question that the safety of our citizens is vital. In January of 1976, when Richard was hired on to the Perrysburg Police Division, he rose through the ranks to become Sergeant in 1983 and Lieutenant in 1993. The safety of its citizens is of utmost importance to the city. Chief Gilts has demonstrated his commitment to this goal through his involvement in programs such as Safety Town, D.A.R.E., and the Perrysburg Police Foundation. Chief Gilts was an active member of Rotary International, having served as the President of the Perrysburg Rotary Chapter from 2005 to 2006.

On August 12, 2004, Chief Gilts dedicated a new 26,000 square foot police facility, which replaced the 4800 square foot station that was constructed at the same location in 1965. On August 28, 2004, Chief Gilts and the Police Division assisted with operational matters during a visit by President George W. Bush at the historic Fort Meigs Memorial Park. In the week leading up to the event, Chief Gilts and the Department were consumed by logistical and tactical issues, such as procurement and placement of equipment and props, fencing, barriers, site and crowd security, medical assistance, personnel scheduling and perimeter security.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute for the service of Chief Gilts. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I wish Chief Gilts all of the best in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF RONALD S. CLINTON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ronald S. Clinton, dedicated community leader and advocate.

Ron Clinton's remarkable twenty year experience is highlighted by a personal dedication to organizational effectiveness and empowering others to succeed. He has devoted most of his professional services to the areas of assessment, consultation, development, planning and management services for small, mid-size and large companies.

Mr. Clinton graduated from Boriqua College with a bachelor's degree in Human Services. He continued his graduate studies at Yeshiva University where he received his Masters of Social Work and specialized in community organizing. It was during this time that Mr. Clinton pursued and developed Helping Hands Unlimited, Inc. (HHU), a not-for-profit organization. It was through HHU that Mr. Clinton created and committed himself to the mission of bringing qualified health professionals into impoverished communities to ensure the delivery of quality care.

Mr. Clinton is President and Founder of Helping Hands Unlimited, Inc. He has represented clients in various capacities working closely with inter-governmental affairs at the city, state and federal levels ensuring the public interest of his clients. One of his paramount goals is to build a creative and aspiring consulting company over a strong foundation and guiding principles of leadership and success.

As a community leader and activist, Mr. Clinton serves on numerous boards and com-

mittees. His drive and passion for effecting positive change are evident through his personal efforts and commitment to stay involved in community service. The vast influential relationships he built over the years strengthened his solid position among his colleagues. Mr. Clinton served as the vice president of Pueblo democratic club in Williamsburg/Bushwick. He was elected as the Democratic Party's Kings County delegate for Al Gore's presidential candidacy. Mr. Clinton ran for the New York City Department of Education School District 32 School Board in 2002. In 2004, Mr. Clinton ran for New York State Senate and served as co-chair of the East New York and Brownsville HIV Care Network and is currently serving as chairperson of Woodhull Medical Center North Brooklyn Network Community Advisory Board.

Mr. Clinton enjoys spending time with his ten-year-old son, Ronald, coaching baseball, basketball and wrestling.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man of great conviction and dedication to community service, Ronald S. Clinton.

EMANUEL MENDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emanuel Mendez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Emanuel Mendez is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emanuel Mendez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Emanuel Mendez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

SUPPORTING BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in celebration of the nation's largest youth scouting organization's 100th anniversary, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 356, a resolution expressing support for the designation of February 8, 2010, as "Boy Scouts of America Day."

The Boy Scouts of America is an outstanding organization that prepares young men to be the future leaders of our Nation. Since 1910, Scouting has helped mold these boys by combining educational activities and