

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, having been absent from the House for the week of October 5th, I would have voted the following way:

Conference Report to H.R. 2997—"nay."

Conference Report to H.R. 2647—"nay."

CONGRATULATING THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDER, NEW YORK, ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Village of Alexander, New York, a beautiful community home to nearly 500 Genesee County residents.

Incorporated in 1834, the Village of Alexander is named after Alexander Rhea, who purchased the first land from his employer, the Holland Land Company, in 1802.

Alexander's history is closely tied to the Tonawanda Creek, which flows northeasterly through the town. The lands along the creek attracted numerous settlers, and Alexander continued to grow throughout the early 1800s and quickly became one of the most populous towns in Genesee County. By 1812, more than 100 families had taken up land in the town.

A tavern, tannery, blacksmith shop, general store, and a library were all soon built. A literary society was then formed out of the library, and after residents were able to raise \$6,000, the Alexander Classical School and later the Genesee and Wyoming Seminary were formed, leading to some of the first secondary education institutions in Genesee County.

Rich in history and community pride, the Village of Alexander and its residents are a true asset to Western New York.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of its 175th Anniversary, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in commemorating the Village of Alexander, New York.

HONORING SPECIALIST SAM D. MERONEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Specialist Sam D.

Meroney who has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and citizenship by proudly serving our country in the United States Army. Specialist Meroney is currently stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, and is most deserving of this special recognition as he continues to fight to protect the United States of America.

Specialist Meroney recently participated in the U.S. Army Military Police Challenge at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. From September 16–18, 2009, Specialist Meroney and his two compatriots competed in thirteen spirited events. Of the nation's top 34 three-man teams participating, Specialist Meroney and his team were able to meet the significant challenges and succeed in winning the overall competition. In addition to this achievement, his team placed first in two individual events. Not only has Specialist Meroney earned the respect of his family, peers, and community, he has also made both the state of Missouri and the United States of America proud.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge all Members of Congress to join me in commending Specialist Sam D. Meroney for his accomplishments in the United States Army and for his efforts put forth in defense of this nation.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE INDIA PLAZA

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions of the India Plaza to the city of Tempe. The India Plaza has been a strong and distinctive feature in the Tempe community since 2003. The plaza serves as a window into the Indian culture, showcasing India's food, clothing, music and hospitality.

Since its beginnings, the plaza has continuously thrived. Its business owners and employees have partnered with local charities and been active in the Tempe Chamber of Commerce. Those same merchants also worked to create a safer environment by promoting the addition of crosswalk and signal access near the plaza.

I am truly privileged to represent such a strong cultural fixture in our district and will continue to treasure the plaza's addition to Tempe's diversity. As many in the Indian community decorate their homes with lights, share sweets and start the new financial year in celebration of Diwali, I am honored to share in their celebration. Again, I am proud to serve the India Plaza and am eager to see its continued success and growth.

Therefore, I urge you Madam Speaker, in rising to congratulate the India Plaza on its partnerships and accomplishments within the community of Tempe, Arizona.

CONGRATULATING THE ALDINE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR WINNING THE BROAD PRIZE FOR URBAN EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 791, congratulating the Aldine Independent School District in Harris County, Texas, on winning the 2009 Broad Prize for Urban Education. I am proud to support this resolution because the Broad Prize for Urban Education reflects the hard work and outstanding effort that the Aldine Independent School District, Aldine ISD, has exerted to improve overall performance and reduce achievement gaps among low-income and minority students.

The honor bestowed upon Aldine ISD is a beacon of hope for improving public education in Texas and the United States. With over 61,000 students enrolled, Aldine ISD is one of the largest local education agencies in my congressional district and nearly 80 percent of those students qualify for free and reduced lunches. Providing a quality education to such a large number of students, especially students with diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, poses challenges for school districts across the United States.

Aldine ISD's receipt of the Broad Prize for Urban Education is a testament to the hard work of parents, teachers, and students as well as the steady leadership of the district administration. Aldine ISD uses a district-wide plan focused on student achievement, student behavior, and community relations. The district administration uses that district-wide plan to ensure that its schools provide a supportive, safe, and—most importantly—effective learning environment. The district has succeeded in communicating clear expectations of academic excellence to teachers and increasing school administrators' oversight of student success.

Aldine ISD's model has produced incredible results. The school district regularly ranks as one of the top performers of all districts in the State of Texas. Studies by Texas A&M University and the University of Texas—Pan American showed that Aldine ISD ranks as one of the best school districts for educating African-American and Hispanic students in Texas. In 2008, African-American students in Aldine ISD achieved higher proficiency rates in math at all school levels and in reading at the middle and high school levels than their counterparts across the State. In 2008, Hispanic and low-income students in Aldine ISD performed the best in State reading and math assessments relative to similar Texas school districts.

A crucial product of Aldine ISD's success is the narrowing of achievement gaps. Math achievement gaps at all income levels were among the smallest in the State and between

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

2005 and 2008 Aldine ISD narrowed the highest percentage of African-American achievement gaps. Not only is Aldine ISD closing the achievement gap but also it is preparing increasing numbers of students for higher education. From 2005 to 2008 African-American and Hispanic student participation in SAT and Advanced Placement rose.

By these measurements, Aldine ISD clearly deserves the Broad Prize for Urban Education. The award is given to large urban school districts that show solid school achievement and demonstrate distinct gains made in narrowing achievement gaps. I am proud of the hard work that Aldine ISD has done to earn this award and I am thankful to the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation for recognizing their efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present in the Capitol for three votes on Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

However, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3689, providing for an extension of the legislative authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center; "yea" on H.R. 3476, reauthorizing the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission; and "yea" on H. Res. 659, congratulating Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. on 98 years of serving local communities and enriching the lives of collegiate men throughout the Nation.

MEDIA GIVE TALE OF TWO PROTESTS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, in Pittsburgh and Washington, DC, the national media have given us a tale of two protests.

The media's coverage of the conservative September 12 protests intentionally tried to paint a negative picture of the protestors, even though there were no arrests or acts of violence.

The Washington Post described the 9/12 protests as an outpouring of a "spectrum of conservative anger."

The New York Times used words like "angry" and "profane" to describe the protests.

Fast forward to the radical-left G-20 protests in Pittsburgh recently.

The New York Times headline called the protests a "Peaceful March."

CNN described the protests as "more peaceful, less confrontational," even though there were dozens of arrests and businesses damaged.

The national media should give fair coverage to protests on both sides, instead of demonizing conservatives and praising radical liberals.

REMEMBERING NAVY SEAL, SO2,
RYAN JOB

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, it is with great remorse that I rise today to remember the life of Navy Seal, SO2, Ryan Job. Ryan joined the Navy in 2002 with the goal of joining the select Navy Special-Operations Force, known as the SEALs. Ryan was eventually deployed to serve in Iraq in 2006. While on patrol in the city of Ramadi, Ryan was wounded in an assault, which resulted in the destruction of one of Ryan's eyes and severing the optic nerves of the other. This attack left Ryan entirely blind. After spending time in multiple military hospitals across the country, Ryan's stamina and determination allowed him to make a full recovery, and in 2007, he and his wife Kelly moved to my district and settled in North Scottsdale. There, he was able to complete his business degree, and landed a job with General Dynamics.

Ryan was able to make this smooth transition back to a civilian life with the help of the non-profit Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation. This incredible organization is devoted to providing aid and support to injured men and women of the U.S. armed forces to help them realize their goals of returning back to their homes and becoming productive and active members of society. The Sentinels of Freedom helped Ryan to locate the condo he and his wife chose to live in, found him the job at General Dynamics, and also enrolled him in online classes to allow Ryan to finish his degree. In return, Ryan became a spokesman for the organization and an advocate for veterans, as he wanted to make sure that his fellow men and women in uniform would be able to make the same transition as he did.

On September 24, 2009, Ryan underwent another surgery. However, this time, there were complications, and in an absolutely heart-breaking turn of events, our brave and inspiring friend Ryan Job passed away.

Madam Speaker, I hope that you will join me in remembering and celebrating the life of Ryan Job. My thoughts are with Ryan's family and loved ones during this difficult time. Ryan is a hero to us all. He will be dearly missed, but he will never be forgotten.

PROCLAIMING CASIMIR PULASKI TO BE AN HONORARY CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES POST- HUMOUSLY

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 26 to honor General Casimir Pulaski, a Polish born National hero, as an honorary American citizen.

Casimir Pulaski received designations ranging from "Soldier of Liberty" to "The Father of the American Cavalry" for his honorable service of fighting for freedom on two continents. In the United States, streets, counties,

squares, and even an American submarine bare his name. Both the beginning and end of his noble life are cloaked with mystery—competing stories exist about his birth and death; however, his actions of defending freedom in his homeland of Poland as well as America are renowned.

Casimir Pulaski was born to a family of Polish nobility either on March 4 or 6, 1745, 1746 or 1747 in Winiary, Warsaw, or Waka on the Pilica, Poland. Pulaski's distant relatives give his birth date as March 4, 1747 in Winiary, Poland; however, scrupulous biographical notes of the Pulaski family history state that Casimir was born on March 4, 1746, but gives no mention of the place. On the other hand, baptismal records show March 4, 1745 as the date of birth, connecting his given name to his birth on the feastday of St. Casimir. The date of Casimir's actual baptism was recorded as March 6, 1745 in Warsaw on Nowy Swiat Street. Then again, the National Park Service records his birth date as March 4, 1747 in Waka on the Pilica, Poland.

Regardless of his curious beginning, historians agree that Casimir began his military career at the age of fifteen when young Pulaski joined his father and other members of the Polish nobility in opposing the Russian and Prussian interference in Polish affairs.

After being banished to Paris, Pulaski met Benjamin Franklin who urged him to support the colonies in the American Revolution. Pulaski was impressed with the ideals of a new nation struggling to be free and volunteered his services. Franklin wrote to George Washington describing Pulaski as "an officer renowned throughout Europe for the courage and bravery he displayed in defense of his country's freedom."

In 1777, Pulaski arrived in Philadelphia where he met General Washington, the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. After coming to the aid of Washington's forces and distinguishing himself as a talented military tactician, Pulaski was sent south to assist American colonial forces. Georgia became the only American colony to be re-conquered by the British on December 29, 1778, and Pulaski was sent to assist Comte Jean Baptiste Hector d'Estaing and Benjamin Lincoln regain control of Savannah from the British who had amassed about 3,000 defenders.

The areas surrounding Savannah created a difficult environment for the French and American forces. The left and right sides of Savannah are marshlands which created tough obstacles through which to advance. In the front of the city, a cleared plain of small rolling hills made it impossible for a group of soldiers to advance without being seen from the redoubts that encircled the city. The Siege of Savannah became one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolutionary War, and a military failure of colonists with more than 1,000 of the attacking forces killed. In 2005, archaeologists with Coastal Heritage Society discovered the long-lost Spring Hill Redoubt. This unearthed the site of the bloodiest fighting of the siege and scene of the mortal wounding of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski.

While historians can agree that Pulaski commanded the French and American cavalry during the Siege of Savannah and sustained mortal wounds during fighting from grapeshot on October 9, 1779, consensus ends there.

Two divergent tales of his death continue today—one from a Georgia family, another