

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 254, a resolution recognizing the unique and distinguished role that Irish Americans have played in the history of our nation.

They have provided the backbone of our workforce, enlivened our art and culture, defended our country, and served in this Congress and as President of the United States.

In fact, there isn't an aspect of our nation that hasn't been improved by the efforts of Irish Americans.

Today, almost one in four Americans can trace their heritage back to Ireland.

With such a large and growing population, it is guaranteed that Irish Americans will continue to have a significant impact on our country for generations to come.

I'm proud to stand today with my colleagues, those lucky enough to be Irish American, as well as those who aren't, and honor this group that has been so important to our nation.

HONORING THE STRATFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the community of Stratford, Connecticut in marking the 100th Anniversary of the Stratford Fire Department. This is a remarkable milestone and a testament to the dedication and commitment of those men and women who devote their professional lives to protecting the Stratford community.

One hundred years ago the town's paid firefighting force was established with the hiring of the first paid fire chief and then volunteer, Allen Judson as well as the merging of two volunteer units, the Mutual Hook and Ladder Company and the Chemical Hose Company. In its earliest years, Chief Judson was the sole paid employee of the Department and he would lead the Department for the next forty-three years. Volunteers were called to emergencies by the ringing of the church bells with Chief Judson coordinating the "bucket brigades," the hand-drawn hook and ladder apparatus, as well as the manually operated water pump. By day the men who worked in Stratford Center responded and by night those who lived within a thousand feet of the Center

responded while horses drew the fire apparatus. Nine years after its establishment, the second paid member of the Department, Assistant Chief William Anthony, was hired and by the 1930s there were more than half a dozen paid members.

Many changes have occurred since those early days of the Department—its responsibilities expanding dramatically and the job becoming more complex and dangerous. Today's 97-member Department staff four stations throughout Town and respond to fires, Haz-mat calls, vehicle extrications, medical calls, as well as plane incidents. Department members also participate in a variety of community activities aimed at fire safety and prevention as well as annual celebrations such as the Memorial Day Parade. The Department does all of this in a Town which today has 50,000 residents, is bordered by eighteen miles of shoreline, is intersected by Interstate 95, the Merritt Parkway, and the Metro-North railroad, and has an airport within its borders.

What makes this centennial celebration even more special is that the proceeds from the parade and festival will benefit the Stratford Professional Firefighters Burn Foundation—a non-profit organization founded in 1999 by the members of the Stratford Fire Department, Local 998 of the International Association of Firefighters to provide economic support to the funding of projects in the areas of fire and burn prevention through education, research, and public awareness programs.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the men and women who dedicate themselves to the protection of our communities as firefighters. They face risks that few of us can truly comprehend. Each day, they must be ready to perform under intense pressure—literally in life or death situations. For one hundred years, the men and women of the Stratford Fire Department have ensured the health and safety of the Stratford community and I am proud to rise today to pay tribute not only to their rich history but to their outstanding and unwavering commitment to public service.

THE PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION ACT OF 2009

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Plastic Bag Reduction Act," legislation that will protect our watersheds, and ultimately the marine environment, by reducing a major source of coastal and marine debris, single-use packaging.

Trash in our watersheds interferes with public use and enjoyment of natural resources, can be hazardous to wildlife, and can break down into tiny "microplastics" that enter the food chain, carrying toxins with them. Trash is a serious problem in the Potomac and Anacostia River watersheds, where every year

cleanup efforts retrieve tons of plastic bags and beverage containers.

Much of the trash that reaches major watersheds does not stay in the watersheds—it is washed out to sea and becomes marine debris. Scientists are becoming alarmed about massive "garbage patches" that are building up in nearly all of the world's oceans. The best-known patch consists of an estimated 100 million tons of plastic debris that has accumulated inside a circular vortex of currents known as the North Pacific gyre. It is estimated to be anywhere from 270,000 square miles to almost 580,000 square miles—between six and thirteen times the size of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Eighty per cent of the plastic in these ocean gyres is believed to come from the land.

The debris that chokes our inland watersheds, our coastlines, and the marine environment sickens and kills thousands of animals every year. Over 267 species worldwide have been impacted by plastic bags and other litter through entanglement or ingestion. Scientists are also realizing that the increasing volume of plastic that is slowly decomposing in the world's oceans may present a longterm problem for marine food chains. As plastic items break down, any toxic additives they contain—including flame retardants, antimicrobials, and plasticizers—may be released into the ocean environment. Not only are the components of the plastics themselves entering the food chain, but so are toxic chemicals that attach to the plastic particles because of plastic's molecular tendency to attract oils.

Many of these chemicals may disrupt the endocrine system—the delicately balanced set of hormones and glands that affect virtually every organ and cell. In marine environments, excess estrogen has led to discoveries of male fish and seagulls with female sex organs.

The Plastic Bag Reduction Act encourages consumers to choose reusable bags by imposing a 5 cent tax on single-use carryout bags beginning January 1, 2010. On January 1, 2015, the amount of the tax increases to 25 cents per bag. The tax applies to paper as well as to plastic single-use carryout bags. Of each 5 cents charged to the customer, the retail seller may apply for a tax credit of one cent for carrying out a qualified carryout bag recycling program. Of each 5 cents charged to the customer, one cent will be transferred to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Finally, the bill directs the Comptroller General to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the provisions of the legislation and evaluate whether imposing a tax on other products, such as food wrappers and containers, could reduce the use of those products.

I am also co-sponsoring Congressman MARKEY's "Bottle Recycling Climate Protection Act of 2009." This legislation will impose a 5 cent deposit on beverage containers, which will reduce the number of bottles and cans that end up as trash in oceans and inland watersheds.

Madam Speaker, human health is directly linked to the health of our watersheds and

• 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.

oceans. Each of us needs to take responsibility for protecting these essential resources. We can do so through the simple step of taking reusable bags with us when we shop. The Trash Free Watersheds Act creates a tax that I hope no American will choose to pay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I regret my absence from the House on April 21st and April 22nd, but I was in my district welcoming President Obama to Newton, Iowa, former home of Maytag, and now home to a growing wind power industry, where we celebrated Earth Day and focused on alternative energy development and the green collar jobs this will create. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, and 199, and I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 198.

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF ITASCA

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Village of Itasca in my Congressional District. Through a dedicated community-wide effort, Itasca has earned the designation of an International Safe Community from the World Health Organization.

This impressive effort places Itasca at the forefront of public health and safety efforts as the only Illinois community, and one of only five communities across the nation to receive this prestigious designation.

By developing community programs including self defense classes, home safety inspections, an unused prescription drug disposal program, investing in defibrillator equipment and training, and establishing a Community Emergency Response Team; the Village of Itasca has worked to engage its citizens, first responders, and local leaders in making Itasca a healthier, safer place to live and work.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Village of Itasca for achieving this challenging goal and setting an outstanding example for all Illinois communities to work together to tackle public health and safety challenges.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF JAMES GRIFFIN BOSWELL II

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from the House, Mr. NUNES and Mr. RADANOVICH, and from the Senate, Mrs. FEINSTEIN to pay a special tribute to the life of an agricultural icon of California,

Mr. James Griffin Boswell II of Indian Wells, California. James passed away on April 3, 2009 at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife Barbara Wallace Boswell, three children and several grandchildren.

Mr. James Griffin Boswell was born on March 10, 1923 in Greensboro, Georgia to William Whittier Boswell, Sr. and Kate Hall Boswell. James graduated in 1941 from the Thacher School an exclusive private boarding school in Ojai, California. In 1946 he received his B.S. in Economics from Stanford University. Prior to graduating from Stanford, "JG" as he was most commonly known, served in the United States Army during World War II where he was stationed in the South Pacific.

At the age of twenty-nine, James inherited one-third of the JG Boswell Company after the death of his uncle, JG Boswell I. At that time the company held 150,000 acres in California. During the next half century, James spent a good portion of his time transforming the family farm located near Corcoran, California in the San Joaquin Valley.

The diversification of the JG Boswell Company created many industry leading developments. Mr. Boswell's labs developed new, highly productive seed varieties as well as technological improvements that increased their capacity. He was an innovative water user, one of the first to employ lasers when leveling fields allowing water to flow evenly and efficiently. His careful water management also included hiring agronomists to determine when and how to irrigate. This allowed the Boswell farms to produce more cotton with less water than their competitors. James remained a very private man, in spite of periods of growth and success for his enterprises, which included such things as diversification into real estate development and farming ventures in Australia. His family business maintained that private reputation throughout his life.

James Griffin Boswell served as Chairman, President and CEO of the JG Boswell Co. from 1952 and continued until his retirement in 1984. After his retirement James continued to serve on the Boswell Company Board of Directors until his passing. In addition, Mr. Boswell served on the Boards of Safeway, General Electric, Security Pacific Bank, Bank of America, and Up with People. James was a trustee of the California Nature Conservancy, Cal Tech, Thacher School, the James G. Boswell Foundation in California and the Boswell Family Foundation in Idaho. Many were the recipients of Mr. Boswell's generosity.

It goes without saying that Mr. James Griffin Boswell's dedicated involvement to the cotton industry earned him a reputation of respect and enormous appreciation from Central Valley cotton farmers, and the agriculture industry in general. James was known as the Cotton King. My colleagues and I are honored and humbled to join his family today in celebrating the life of this amazing man. His presence will be dearly missed in our community in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF U.S. CAPITOL POLICE LIEUTENANT DOMINICK COSTA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Dominick Costa for his more than 31 years of public service to the U.S. Capitol Police Department and our congressional community.

Since his appointment to the U.S. Capitol Police on October 3, 1977, Lieutenant Costa has held several important positions within the Department. He has served in the House and Senate Divisions, Capitol Division, and the First Responder Unit. As an instructor and as a supervisor in the Training Division, he helped develop and enhance the skills of fellow officers. Over the years, Lieutenant Costa also worked as a Crime Scene Research Officer, a member of the U.S. Capitol Police Department's Ceremonial Unit and as an Administrative Sergeant in charge of the Department's Victim Witness Program. After being promoted to Lieutenant in November 2004, Lt. Costa served as the Watch Commander, providing area command for all Department operations and serving as the U.S. Capitol Police Chief's representative in his absence.

On January 3, 2009, Lieutenant Costa retired after over three decades of exemplary service as a member of the U.S. Capitol Police Department. He is currently residing in La Plata, Maryland with his wife Barbara of 28 years and daughter Danielle. His unwavering commitment to the public serves as an inspiration to all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I rise to once again praise Lieutenant Dominick Costa for his outstanding public service to the Congress and to his country. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Lieutenant Costa well in his retirement and thank him for all his years of service.

HONORING ST. PAUL INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHOOL AND MR. JAMES WILLIAM SMOTHERS AND MRS. ALICE OLENZA SMOTHERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Paul Industrial Training School and the dedication of a Texas State Historical Marker in commemoration of this institute.

St. Paul Industrial Training school was founded in Henderson County, Texas by James William Smothers and Alice Olenza Smothers in the 1920's. This couple placed a particular emphasis on educating orphaned and abandoned children, and throughout the course of six decades, thousands of African American students received instruction at their institute. The Smothers' dedication to service was unwavering, and even when a tornado leveled the campus in 1942, the couple resolved anew to continue their work. Today, St. Paul Industrial Training School, Inc. continues