

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ROBERT D. PUETT

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert D. Puett and recognize his contributions to homeless families and adults in Marin County, CA. Mr. Puett is retiring after 23 years of service with Homeward Bound of Marin.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Bob earned a degree in sociology at San Francisco State University in 1972 and trained as a disaster shelter manager for the American Red Cross in 1983.

In 1987, Bob began working as a counselor in Marin's winter emergency shelter program and joined Homeward Bound as a program director the following year. He managed shelters for the Red Cross following the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 and the Oakland Hills wildfire in 1991.

Always an advocate for those in need, Bob stayed involved when neighbors of the winter shelter protested its location at the Marin County Armory. With authorization from then-Marin County Supervisor Bob Roumiguere, he managed an encampment at the Marin County Civic Center from April to October 1992 to demonstrate the need for a year-round shelter.

The program moved several times in the next two years, landing at the former Hamilton Air Force Base in Novato in 1994. Bob recalls managing the shelter in a large surplus Army tent on a site that flooded regularly and, at least once, lost its roof. Eventually the shelter moved to the warehouse on the site of today's Homeward Bound headquarters.

Taking advantage of legislation that authorized homeless services on decommissioned military bases, Bob helped lead a public education campaign to persuade neighbors of the Hamilton base to create a year-round shelter. I am proud to have worked with Bob, the City of Novato and the Navy, which led to the opening of the 80-bed New Beginnings Center in 2000 with full community support. It was the first such shelter built in the country on a decommissioned military site.

Bob became deputy director at Homeward Bound in June 2000, continuing to build on his desire to offer homeless people not only "a hot and a cot"—a meal and a bed—but an avenue out of homelessness. He oversaw development of the Next Key Center, also at Hamilton, which opened in November 2008 with 32 studio apartments, new offices for Homeward Bound, an expanded kitchen for job training and an event space for public rental.

The Marin County Human Rights Commission honored Bob's commitment and contributions to improving opportunities for people in need with its Martin Luther King, Jr., Award in 2006.

At his retirement party, Bob accepted a "Hair Raising Challenge" and allowed his

trademark ponytail to be cut in exchange for a \$30,000 contribution to support shelter and job training programs at Homeward Bound.

In retirement, Mr. Puett plans to join Homeward Bound's board of directors.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Mr. Robert Puett for his many years of service on behalf of the people of Marin County. He has worked tirelessly to demonstrate his unwavering belief that people can overcome great obstacles to change their lives for the better. For this, he deserves our appreciation.

HONORING EVAN BLASINGAME OF  
NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Evan Blasingame, who is being honored as the Napa County 2011 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Blasingame has taught United States History and International Baccalaureate History of the Americas at St. Helena High School since 2007. Before his move to the Napa Valley he taught in Mendocino County, where he was named Laytonville High School Teacher of the Year.

To Evan, teaching and learning do not stop at the classroom door. Throughout his teaching career, Evan has volunteered to serve as Academic Decathlon Coach, National Honor Society advisor, Interact Club advisor and English Club advisor. He has also supported his peers by serving as St. Helena Teachers Association Site Representative, WASC Team Leader, Teacher Representative to the District Advisory Council and Cofounder of the Vets Back to School Program.

Mr. Blasingame is known as one of the hardest working teachers in Napa County. His door is always open to his students to ensure they reach their fullest potential. He is an engaging speaker who is incredibly passionate about his subject matter and his passion is passed onto his students. He makes history fun and accessible.

A great teacher can have an impact on a young person that lasts forever. All of us can remember a teacher who has had a profound influence on our lives. Mr. Blasingame has had this impact on hundreds of students and is a sterling example of the best his profession has to offer.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Evan Blasingame for the leadership, guidance and inspiration he has provided to hundreds of young people throughout his career. I join his wife, Hiromi, his son Kai and the entire community in thanking him for his service and wishing him continued success and fulfillment.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT NEFF OF  
GRAPEVINE, TEXAS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert Paul Neff of Grapevine, Texas. Robert passed away September 10, 2010 and leaves behind a strong legacy of public service.

Robert served as manager of the Criminal Justice Programs, CJP, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments, NCTCOG, starting in 1999. The CJP facilitates community-planning groups, provides technical assistance to develop successful grant programs and assists local units of government in solutions to common challenges within a 16-county region. Since 2001, he served the Texas Association of Regional Councils Criminal Justice Planners Association as its secretary, chair, and communications liaison to local, regional, State, and Federal agencies. He was also a member of the Advisory Council and Board of Directors of the National Criminal Justice Association and the American Society for Industrial Security, serving as its president of the West Michigan Chapter in 1984.

Prior to coming to North Texas, Robert was a law enforcement officer in Kalamazoo, Michigan for almost 22 years, retiring as a detective assigned to auto theft, street gangs, outlaw motorcycle gangs, and militia groups. He received a master of Social Work degree in Correctional Administration from Western Michigan University, where he also was an adjunct professor in the Criminal Justice Program in the Department of Sociology.

Robert has been described as "street savvy" and applied this knowledge to the criminal justice grant program, helping secure millions of dollars for funding for programs used by local governments and nonprofit organizations. He had the respect of his peers throughout Texas, and was sought by many for his advice.

A believer in service to local governments and the criminal justice community, Robert brought critical thinking, innovation and grant funding experience to enhance the level of public safety expertise and protection to North Texans. Robert also invested in his community through the First United Methodist Church of Grapevine, Texas. He was respected by all who met him, and will be greatly missed. Robert was also active in pulmonary fibrosis organization and outreach.

Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to remember Robert Neff. It is my privilege to have this opportunity to honor his life and legacy.

• 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.

TRIBUTE TO MAE LILLIAN  
MITCHELL

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mae Lillian Mitchell of Boone, Iowa, on the recent celebration of her 100th birthday on August 26, 2010.

Mae was born on August 26, 1910 in Keystone, Iowa. In 1944, she married Raymond B. Mitchell and they were together until his death, when he was ninety-one years old. They have two children, Lois and David; and have two grandchildren, Melissa and Andy. Mae is currently residing at the Evangelical Free Church Home in Boone, Iowa. She maintains an extensive collection of poetry and a collection of antique porcelain dolls.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred years. Since Mae's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Mae has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in sending warm wishes to Mae on the milestone of her 100th birthday. I am extremely honored to represent her in Congress, and I wish her happiness and health for many more years to come.

RECOGNITION OF CHARLES RUSSELL FOR HIS BRAVERY AND SERVICE IN IRAQ

**HON. MARY JO KILROY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles Russell for his inspiring work to help rebuild the Iraqi agricultural sector. As a civilian volunteer, Mr. Russell not only helped those directly affected by his service, but also contributed to the overall rebuilding of the Iraqi community.

Along with our men and women in uniform, volunteers such as Charles Russell are an integral part of our mission in Iraq and Afghanistan. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Mr. Russell grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and became an agricultural statistician and expert in the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Selflessly leaving his family and home, Mr. Russell volunteered to serve 16 months helping people he had never met. Mr. Russell served as a USDA Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) agricultural expert on both the embedded PRT-Baghdad 4 and the embedded PRT-Baghdad South in Baghdad Province. He was one of the only civilians in these groups.

Mr. Russell tirelessly worked to create the Mahmudiyah Higher Agricultural Association

(MHAA), a non-governmental organization dedicated to helping Iraqi farmers get access to new technologies, equipment, and low-cost credit. Additionally, Mr. Russell helped the Iraqi people strengthen their communities, improve management of natural resources, and rebuild agricultural markets. For his work he received the U.S. Department of State's meritorious honor award for his sustained, dedicated, and successful efforts. As John D. Brewer, the Foreign Agricultural Service administrator, said, "the efforts of people like Charles are crucial for helping to create stable, democratic, and economically viable societies in countries like Iraq."

I commend Mr. Russell for his undeniable dedication, outstanding personal character, and unwavering commitment to those less fortunate than himself. On September 8, 2010, the United States Department of Agriculture honored Mr. Russell at its Service Recognition Ceremony for USDA employees that have completed deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq. I am proud to recognize and honor Charles Russell for his efforts and patriotism.

CONGRATULATING THE INTERNATIONAL TAOIST TAI CHI SOCIETY ON THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the International Taoist Tai Chi Society on their organization's 40th anniversary.

Predominantly managed by volunteers, the Taoist Tai Chi Society instructs members in internal arts and methods which focus on recovering, improving, and maintaining health and wellness. In following the aims and objectives of its founder, Master Moy Lin-shin, the society also promotes preserving the "essence of tradition in the modern world" and the "dual cultivation of mind and body."

With locations in more than 25 countries around the world, the International Taoist Tai Chi Society unites individuals of different cultures and dialects, creating an international community. I am pleased to note that, in my own 5th Congressional District, the society opened a non-profit, Arizona Chapter in 2008. This chapter has both helped to improve the health of members in my district and facilitate their connection with others throughout the world interested in similar practices.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Arizona Chapter of the International Taoist Tai Chi Society and the entire organization on its 40th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in con-

gratulating the Michigan Economic Developers Association as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. The year-long celebration will culminate during their annual meeting this week in Traverse City Michigan.

The Michigan Economic Developers Association was formed in 1960 to assist local economic development organizations. Over the years they have provided education, information and training to local economic development leaders. Currently 470 members representing all parts of Michigan form the leadership team committed to training economic development practitioners and advancing the economic climate of the State.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be able to congratulate the members of the Michigan Economic Development Association as they celebrate 50 years of leadership in the economic development arena. The men and women of the Association have volunteered their time, energy, resources and insight to improve the economic climate of the State of Michigan and I wish them the best as they develop new, innovative ideas for our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the creation of real estate investment trusts and congratulate the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts on 50 years of service to their membership.

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) opened the door for all investors to participate in large-scale commercial real estate investments. Prior to the passage of tax law in 1960 that provided for the establishment of REITs, this opportunity was generally available only to large financial institutions and wealthy individuals through direct investment in the real estate.

Today, REITs own approximately \$500 billion of commercial real estate assets and 132 REITs are traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Last year, REITs paid out approximately \$13.5 billion in dividends. This access to publically traded and regulated securities has expanded investment and diversification opportunities for millions of Americans and provided more options as they plan and invest for their retirement security.

REITs have become an important piece of the U.S. economy and investment markets, and I congratulate the industry on their 50th anniversary.

HONORING LOU SANDERS

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Lou Sanders for an