

IN HONOR OF KIRSTEN C. COTY

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 1st Lieutenant Kirsten C. Coty, a courageous American hero, who recently returned from serving her country honorably in Iraq. First Lt. Coty's military service first began in March 2007, when she joined the Security Forces of the U.S. Air Force. She went on to complete her Air Force Officer Training in San Antonio, Texas before being assigned to the Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In August 2009, 1st Lt. Coty was deployed to Joint Base Balad in Iraq as part of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. In January 2010, she was reassigned to the United States Air Forces Central and extended her commitment of service through August 2010. Upon returning from Iraq, 1st Lt. Coty has been assigned again to the 90th Security Forces Squadron at the Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Characteristic to her distinguished service, 1st Lt. Coty continues to exemplify the strong character and bravery of the men and women who have put their lives at risk to fight to keep our country safe and free.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing 1st Lt. Kirsten C. Coty for her bravery, dedication and achievements. The American people owe her a great debt of gratitude for her selfless service to our great nation.

HONORING ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH IN WESTERN SPRINGS ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the clergy, faculty, staff, students, and parishioners of St. John of the Cross Parish, a Catholic community in Western Springs, Illinois. This Saturday, September 18th, the parish is beginning a year-long celebration of 50 years as a faith community. My wife, Judy, and I will be participating in the first anniversary event which is a Mass celebrated by Francis Cardinal George followed by a parish family dinner reception.

Responding to a growing Catholic population in Western Springs in the 1950s, the Archbishop of Chicago, Albert Cardinal Meyer, authorized the founding of St. John of the Cross Parish in 1960. The original parish included 650 families. The church flourished under its first pastor, Reverend William J. Bennett, and opened a K-8 school of 595 students one year later.

Over the last 50 years, St. John of the Cross has been a pillar of the community in Western Springs. Its primary mission is feeding the spiritual needs of its 13,000 Catholic parishioners in 3,875 families. It is also one of the most generous faith communities in Chicagoland, including providing financial help

and cultivating personal relationships with five churches around the U.S. and one in Uganda, along with helping to serve the basic needs of countless people in the area and around the world. St. John of the Cross Parish also supports a school that currently enrolls 700 students and is one of the top schools in Chicagoland.

As a parishioner of St. John of the Cross Parish, I have been able to witness first-hand the dedication and hard work of current pastor, Reverend David P. Dowdle, and the previous pastor, Reverend Richard Hines. All of the priests and staff members of St. John of the Cross cultivate a culture of charity and community among the parish.

I ask you to join me in honoring the clergy, faculty, staff, students, and parishioners of St. John of the Cross on the parish's 50th anniversary. May they enjoy this year-long celebration and may they provide many more years of commitment and service to the community.

ESTABLISHING ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS VETERANS' CURATION PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5282, a bill that would create a Veterans' Curation Program at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist in carrying out curation and historic preservation activities.

I commend my colleague from Georgia, Mr. BARROW, for his work on this legislation. H.R. 5282 again shows the necessary commitment from the federal government to assist our veterans and military personnel through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

While I am supportive of H.R. 5282, I would be remiss if I did not take a few moments to discuss perhaps the biggest issue for the Corps of Engineers in the State of Georgia—updating the current manuals that affect both the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) Basins. Over the next 18 months before the court ordered deadline for negotiations to be completed, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida must develop a workable water sharing plan with the resources within these two basins.

Madam Speaker, one of the critical aspects of these negotiations will be how Lake Allatoona and Lake Lanier are treated. I firmly believe that both of these lakes should be considered water supply lakes for the purposes of serving the local communities. Knowing that the negotiations are ongoing, it is my hope that common ground on the treatment of these lakes will be reached.

To that end, I applaud the leadership of both of Georgia Senators—SAXBY CHAMBLISS and JOHNNY ISAKSON—on these water issues. Specifically, both Senators have championed the notion of authorizing Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona to be used for water supply and re-allocation of storage to meet the current and future needs of the surrounding towns and cities.

As for the governors of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, I hope that a compromise including the use of these lakes for water storage and further, that allows them to be part of the water supply for the State of Georgia is on the horizon.

Madam Speaker, I am supportive of the efforts of the bill that we have before us and believe that it is another way in which we can help those who have so bravely served our country through the Armed Forces. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 5282.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF U.S. MARINE CPL. JOE WRIGHTSMAN

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember U.S. Marine Cpl. Joe Wrightsman for his selfless and valiant service to our nation.

On July 18, 2010, our country lost a Marine, and Jackson Parish lost a native son. However, as long as the American flag continues to fly over the sands of Afghanistan and the piney hills of Jackson Parish, Wrightsman's contributions to protecting the freedoms we hold so dear will never be forgotten.

A 2005 graduate of Jonesboro Hodge High School, Wrightsman was serving his third tour overseas—an exemplary achievement of a young man of 23 years old. In a generation where so many men and women have answered freedom's call to duty, his example of heroism and devotion embody what has truly made America a great nation for over two centuries.

Today, our words seem futile in comparison to Wrightsman's service, but as written in 2 Corinthians 1:3, our prayer is "that the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulations, may be able to comfort those in troubling times."

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to U.S. Marine Cpl. Joe Wrightsman and extending thanks on behalf of a grateful nation.

KYLE VANOCKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Sheriff Kyle Christine VanOcker. Ms. VanOcker passed away August 19, 2010 after a heroic battle with lung cancer.

Kyle's career in law enforcement began in 1986 as a police dispatcher for the Wheat Ridge Colorado Police Department. In 1989 Kyle joined the Jefferson County Sheriffs Department. During her years of service to the community, which spanned 24 years, Kyle received many awards and touched several lives by seeing the good in everyone.

Kyle was a model for outstanding service to her community and in honor of her memory, her family sponsored a K-9 dog for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. The Department is naming the dog Kyle.

Kyle had a very large support group from many walks of life which is a testament to the values she possessed. She will be remembered as a dedicated friend and committed to making her community better for all of us.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET RELATING TO EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, Pursuant to the Budget Enforcement Resolution that the House passed on July 1, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an outline of changes within the Budget Committee's jurisdiction to help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, by promoting efficiency and reform of government, and by controlling spending.

While the Budget Committee does not have jurisdiction over specific government programs, it does maintain a broad oversight role over the federal budget as well as budget process.

This year Congress enacted statutory pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) legislation, a measure under the Budget Committee's jurisdiction. The legislation was the culmination of years of work on the part of Congressional Democrats to restore statutory PAYGO after the previous statute expired in 2002. That version of PAYGO reined in new entitlement spending and required new tax cuts to be offset in the 1990s, with the result that the federal budget returned to surplus. The new law likewise will help set budgetary priorities and restore fiscal responsibility. Since its enactment in February, Congress has passed and the President has signed legislation into law with PAYGO provisions reducing the federal deficit by a total of \$58.4 billion over the next five years and a total of \$43.1 billion over the next ten years, according to the most recent OMB scorecard.

The passage of statutory PAYGO built on the internal House PAYGO rule, adopted during the opening week of the Democratic majority in 110th Congress—along with a rule that fast-track budget reconciliation procedures cannot be used for legislation that increases the deficit. The Budget Committee works continuously with other House committees to ensure that legislation coming to the House floor for a vote meets the requirements of these deficit-reducing rules.

One of the critical roles that the Budget Committee plays each year is to set the overall level of discretionary spending for the annual spending bills produced by the Appropriations Committee. This year, the appropriations cap is \$7 billion below the comparable level proposed by the President, and follows a similar reduction of \$7 billion below the President's request last year. Approving these more disciplined spending levels encourages Congress to find efficiencies and reduce wasteful spending while providing enough room to fund critical services and investments at a time when the economy is still recovering from the worst recession in decades.

In addition, on May 28 of this year, I introduced H.R. 5454—the Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act of 2010—that will enhance fiscal discipline by allowing the President to sign spending bills into law while culling out unneeded or wasteful items and proposing that Congress rescind them. "Expedited rescission" under this bill requires Congress to consider the President's recommendations as one package, without amendment and on a fast-track basis, guaranteeing an up-or-down vote within a specified time frame. While expedited rescission will not eliminate the federal deficit, it will be one more tool to control spending. Forty Democrats have joined me in cosponsoring this bill, including five Budget Committee members.

Finally, in light of the Budget Committee's broad oversight role on the federal budget, four Committee members have been appointed to the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. With representation on both sides of the aisle from the House, the Senate, and the private sector, the Commission is charged with building consensus on ways to wipe out the deficit and improve the long-term fiscal sustainability of major entitlement programs. The House Democratic leadership has pledged to vote this year on any legislative recommendations reported by the Commission and approved by the Senate, and agrees that deficit reduction as a result of the recommendations cannot be used to offset costs of future legislation. The deficit-reduction proposals of the bipartisan commission will be issued in December.

The Budget Committee will continue to examine ways to reduce the deficit and increase efficiency in government spending. I look forward to working further with all Members of Congress to address the long-term budget challenges facing the nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, September 14th, I was not present for rollcall vote 519. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE RAY A. CONNER AS 2010 CHESAPEAKE FIRST CITIZEN

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Honorable Ray A. Conner as he receives the distinguished designation as First Citizen of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia for the year 2010. This prestigious honor is bestowed annually by the Chesapeake Rotary Club to an individual whose record of service and reputation of excellence and integrity exemplify the Rotary motto: "Service above self."

Ray has an extraordinary record of public service that extends from his professional po-

sition as Chesapeake's Commissioner of the Revenue to his tireless efforts on behalf of a broad spectrum of community life.

Demonstrating a lifelong commitment to excellence, Ray, an honor graduate of Great Bridge High School, received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Old Dominion University and entered public service as a Magistrate for the City of Chesapeake, Virginia. Rising quickly to the position of Chief Magistrate, Ray then became Commissioner of the Revenue—a position to which he has subsequently been re-elected eight times by the citizens of Chesapeake.

Ray earned certification as a Master Commissioner of the Revenue from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia, and his high professional standards have earned him positions of leadership as president of the Virginia Commissioners of the Revenue Association and president of the Virginia Association of Locally Elected Constitutional Officers. Ray has also served on the Advisory Committee of the Virginia Institute of Government and the Board of Trustees for the Virginia Retirement System.

Ray's impressive and extensive record of service to the community includes leadership roles as president or as an officer of the Chesapeake Regional Health Foundation, the Chesapeake Rotary Club and its Foundation, the Chesapeake Crime Line, Oak Grove United Methodist Church, and the South Norfolk Ruritan Club. Ray also serves on the boards of directors of the Southeast Virginia Community Foundation and Towne Bank.

Ray attributes his accomplishments and community spirit to the work ethic and personal values instilled in him by his parents, Dorothy Conner Payne and the late Clarence E. Conner, and to the loving support of his wife, Gretchen Maurer. Ray Connor has managed, through the force of his passion for his hometown and his profound commitment to serving others, to build a lifelong career of making Chesapeake, Virginia, a great place to live.

Madam Speaker, I feel privileged to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and commending the Honorable Ray A. Conner as 2010 First Citizen of Chesapeake.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELLEN NOËL ART MUSEUM

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ellen Noël Art Museum on its 25th Anniversary. For a quarter century, this institution has brought world class art to the dusty roads of West Texas. It is a beacon of knowledge and culture that shines across the Permian Basin.

Through the museum's art classes, workshops, and collaborations, a generation of Texans has been afforded a window on the wider world that rivals those in Dallas, Austin, and beyond. Just recently, the museum was selected to be an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution because of its "well deserved reputation for its collections, exhibitions, and educational programming." This opportunity will give the museum access to the vast collections of the Smithsonian Institution and allow