

Convention. I pray that the attendees benefit from her spiritual guidance, her deep faith in Our Lord, Jesus Christ, and draw inspiration from her enthusiasm for spreading the Gospel.

HONORING JOHN W. HARROD

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of John W. Harrod, who was instrumental in establishing the Market 5 Art Gallery in Washington, D.C. and was its president during 30 years of devoted service to the Market 5 Art Gallery.

In the late 1970s, the first District of Columbia Mayor, Walter E. Washington, started a neighborhood arts initiative, and Mr. Harrod launched the Market 5 Art Gallery. The community embraced John Harrod's work in establishing a facility for comprehensive artistic expression, including poetry readings, dance performances, and theater productions, as well as a workspace for artists, musicians, and theater troupes.

Through the Market 5 Art Gallery, John Harrod committed himself to serving the community and filling the void in artistic education in the neighborhood. With John's assistance, a colleague from the Peace Corps was able to start a photography shop for at-risk youth. Throughout its 30 years in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, Market 5 Art Gallery has served as an exhibitor of work by aspiring youth and local and national artists. Market 5 Art Gallery grew in popularity through the Saturday arts and crafts festivals and Sunday flea markets. The gallery remains an indispensable fixture of the community and serves as a prototype for art galleries.

Mr. Harrod graduated from Northeastern University, where he played football. Mr. Harrod was a District native and maintained residence here throughout his 69 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the life of John W. Harrod.

HONORING CAPTAIN GEORGE M. VUJNOVICH

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, as cofounder and cochair of the Congressional Serbian Caucus, I rise tonight to honor an outstanding Serbian-American, Captain (Ret.) George M. Vujnovich, who was recently awarded the Bronze Star Medal, for his heroic actions during World War II.

The Bronze Star is awarded to military service personnel for bravery, acts of merit or meritorious service. When awarded for bravery, it is the fourth-highest combat award of the United States Armed Forces. Captain Vujnovich's participation in the planning and execution of Operation Halyard—one of the most successful air force rescue missions in history and an operation so secret that the

records were only declassified in 1997—certainly exemplifies the heroism required to receive this prestigious military honor.

Captain Vujnovich served with the Office of Strategic Services, the predecessor of the modern Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, and the wartime organization charged with coordinating activities behind enemy lines for the branches of the United States military. Operation Halyard evolved in the wake of the Allied bombing campaign to destroy Nazi Germany's vast network of petroleum resources in occupied Eastern Europe. The most vital target of bombing was the facilities located in Ploesti, Romania, which supplied 35 percent of Germany's wartime petroleum. Beginning in April 1944, bombers of the Fifteenth Allied Air Force began a relentless campaign to blast the heavily guarded facilities in Ploesti in an attempt to halt petroleum production altogether. By August, Ploesti was virtually destroyed—but at the cost of 350 bombers lost, with their crews either killed, captured, or missing in action.

The assault on Ploesti forced hundreds of Allied airmen to bail out over Nazi-occupied eastern Serbia, an area patrolled by the Allied-friendly Chetnik guerrilla army. When the Chetnik commander, General Draza Mihailovich, realized that Allied airmen were parachuting into his territory, he ordered his troops, as well as the local peasantry, to aid the aviators by taking them to Chetnik headquarters in Pranjani, Serbia, for evacuation.

General Mihailovich's attempts to alert American authorities to the situation regrettably initially failed to produce action. Fortunately, fate would have it that when Mirjana Vujnovich, a Serb employee of the Yugoslav embassy in Washington, DC, heard of the trapped airmen, she immediately wrote to her husband, Captain Vujnovich, stationed in Bari, Italy. As an American, descended from Serb parents, Vujnovich knew the region intimately and also knew how to escape from Nazi-occupied territory: he had been a medical student in Belgrade when Yugoslavia fell to the Axis powers in 1941, and he and his wife spent months sneaking through minefields and begging for visas before they finally escaped from Nazi-occupied Europe.

Captain Vujnovich made it his personal crusade to get the airmen home. From the outset though, Operation Halyard encountered opposition from Allied leaders—from the U.S. State Department, from communist sympathizers in the British Special Operations Executive, SOE, even from British Prime Minister Winston Churchill himself. It was an operation that seemed condemned from the start, but Captain Vujnovich persevered rather than let the mission die. His persistence eventually won out. Within only the first two days, Operation Halyard—which officially ran from August 9, 1944, through December 27, 1944—successfully retrieved 241 American and Allied airmen. By the time the Operation was officially ended, Vujnovich's team had airlifted 512 downed Allied airmen to safety without the loss of a single life or aircraft—a truly impressive accomplishment.

Captain George Vujnovich's recognition as a hero and valued asset to this country and the United States Air Force is long overdue. Frankly, had the records of the operation not remained sealed until 1997, I feel certain Captain Vujnovich would have received this honor years ago. Nevertheless, the decades

do not and cannot diminish the valor and patriotism of this extraordinary man. I ask all my colleagues to join me now to honor this Serbian-American hero, to thank him for his dedicated service to our country and to congratulate him for winning the Bronze Star. Captain Vujanovich, I salute you.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HISTORIC DETERDING FAMILY—PIONEERS OF CARMICHAEL, CA

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Deterding family for its legacy to Carmichael, California.

After the marriage between Charles Deterding and Mary Shields in 1894, along with their three children they forded the American River during the dry months to claim their homestead. This is where Charles and Mary Deterding established their legacy in Carmichael—on 425 acres of farmland that they continued to plough and live on.

The Deterdings' San Juan Meadow Farm was named for the old Mexican land grant on which Carmichael was later established. Their original farmhouse was on a bluff above what is now Ancil Hoffman Park. Clearing the land, they planted grains and raised livestock.

Mary's lasting impression on Carmichael was her generosity. She donated wood for settlers' cooking and heating. She was the first president of a local improvement club that eventually evolved into the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce. This visionary helped establish the irrigation company that became the Carmichael Water District.

A local school and an Arcade Park bear her name but Mary Deterding's legacy stands tallest in Palm Drive. The avenue that once led to the Deterding farmhouse is shaded by 88 date palms that Mary planted herself.

Younger generations of Deterdings have since included builders, property developers, teachers, landscapers, military and nursing careerists. In 2006, family ranks were reinforced by the famous McNulty babies—quadruplets. The only boy, Russ, is named for his great-grandfather.

Says patriarch Russ Deterding: "As Mary and Charles' descendants, we have to admire how, 100 years ago, they survived such a challenging environment. Their work paved the way for what Daniel Carmichael developed. But nobody paved the way for Mary and Charles. They were the true pioneers."

I am pleased to recognize and congratulate the Deterding family for over 100 years of contribution to the Carmichael community.

HONORING STETSON UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF LAW ON ITS 110TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Stetson University's College of

Law as it celebrates its 110th anniversary. Founded in 1900 in DeLand, Stetson was Florida's first law school. In 1954, the Law School moved to Gulfport, where a handful of students began classes. Today, it boasts an enrollment of more than 1,100 students.

As a proud graduate of Stetson Law School, I can attest to the esteemed community fostered by Stetson University's College of Law in which students learn the skills necessary to become excellent lawyers and effective leaders in society.

In addition to the acclaim received from its students, the law school has earned national and international attention for its exceptional programs in advocacy, elder law, environmental and biodiversity law, higher education law and policy, international law, legal writing, and professionalism.

Stetson University's College of Law has educated thousands of outstanding lawyers, judges, and community leaders over the past 110 years. My experience at Stetson Law nurtured my love of the law, which eventually led me to a career in public service as a member of the U.S. Congress.

Stetson has been a beneficiary of the work of philanthropists like Dolly and Homer Hand. Mrs. Hand holds the admirable designation of being Stetson Law's youngest graduate at the age of 20; additionally, she and her husband have also made tremendous contributions to

the law school, as well as education throughout the State of Florida. Generations of Stetson graduates will surely benefit from the generosity of their contributions.

Madam Speaker I am truly honored to call Stetson Law School my alma mater and recognize it on its 110th anniversary. I look forward to watching future community leaders and scholars graduate and contribute to our Nation.

HONORING THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE BOONTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Boonton Fire Department located in Morris County, New Jersey, as they celebrate 75 years of dedicated service to the community.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Boonton Fire Department plays a vital role in the continued success of the Boonton Fire Department. From assisting at fire scenes, marching in parades, helping the fire department sponsor the

Labor Day Celebration and raising funds, the Ladies Auxiliary has been a constant supporter of the fire department.

Every year, the Ladies Auxiliary holds numerous fundraisers, including bake sales, spaghetti dinners, and, for the past 20 years, a Tricky Tray. The funds generated from these events help supply new equipment for the department's fire trucks and firehouse. They also provide the Auxiliary with the resources to support a number of organizations, including Boonton Welfare Department, Boonton Kiwanis Ambulance Squad, and St. Barnabas Burn Center. Without the hard, dedicated work of the Ladies Auxiliary, the fire department and the community would lack a necessary support system.

Members of the Ladies Auxiliary range in age from 19 to 85-plus years. Many of their members have been active for over 25 years while some have remained active for over 50.

This group of women is truly one to be admired and applauded, not only for their dedication to the Boonton Fire Department, but also for their remarkable dedication to the Town of Boonton.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Ladies Auxiliary of the Boonton Fire Department as they celebrate 75 years of service.