

from the lake shores of Cleveland, to the emerald fields of County Mayo.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAPS MANDIR OF CHICAGO

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the 10th anniversary of the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Complex in Bartlett, Illinois. For the past decade, this Hindu Complex has been an asset to the community and emblematic of outstanding service.

The temple was completed in only 16 months with the help of over 1,700 volunteers. This vibrant sense of volunteerism has remained strong through the various charitable projects the Mandir has sponsored within the Sixth District of Illinois. The complex is a center of constant activity, promoting a spirit of service through its weekly classes and seminars designed to inspire, energize, promote, develop and sustain the roots of Indian culture. Its members are frequently involved with projects to better education, improve the environment, and provide relief in times of disasters.

In May of 2005, the BAPS Mandir of Chicago was presented with the "Best Building Suburb" award by the Chicago Building Congress (CBC). The Mandir is a fusion of traditional Indian architecture and modern technology, representing a culture that dates back over 8,500 years. Worldwide, the BAPS organization has more than 3,300 centers and maintains a strong volunteer base of 55,000. The organization has received numerous national and international awards for their dedication to humanitarian assistance.

I ask that my Distinguished Colleagues please join me in honoring the BAPS Mandir of Chicago for the valuable contributions it continues to offer the local community.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, it is with regret that I must rise in opposition to the NASA reauthorization bill we have before us today. The space program plays a critical role in driving innovation as well as inspiring our nation's young people to strive for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Unfortunately, the bill before us today places these vital missions in jeopardy.

I strongly oppose the cancellation of the human spaceflight program. The Senate's bill, which was drafted without any House input, places too much faith in the private sector to deliver astronauts and cargo to space. By contrast, the bill approved by the House Science and Technology Committee ensured that there

would continue to be a publicly owned human spaceflight capability developed following the retirement of the space shuttle. There are untold advancements in health care, energy, and environmental preservation to be gained from ongoing human research in space.

I am also concerned that the Senate's bill does not include language ensuring that retired space shuttles will be allocated fairly to museums and educational institutions across the country. The space program is a national treasure, supported with the tax dollars of each and every American. As such, I believe geographic diversity should be a consideration in the allocation of retired shuttles, so I offered an amendment that was adopted in committee to ensure it would be. Unfortunately, the bill before us today includes no such protections, giving unfair preference to some regions while leaving much of the rest of the country effectively out of the running.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing S. 3729.

IN RECOGNITION OF EMMA FRANCES PITTS RHODES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to Emma Frances Pitts Rhodes who celebrated her 97th birthday November 3rd.

Ms. Rhodes was born in Anniston, Alabama, to the late Frank and Margaret Pitts. She attended Ohatchee School and was a charter member of Saks Baptist Church.

She was married to the late S.E. Rhodes and had four children: Earl, Judy, Elaine and Brenda. She also has six grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

I wish Ms. Rhodes a very happy birthday and many more.

TRIBUTE TO CESARINA AUGUSTO EARL

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of an outstanding individual, Mrs. Cesarina Augusto Earl, who will be recognized on October 23, 2010 by the Columbian Foundation for her contributions to the Italian-American community.

Cesarina, an Italian-American herself, grew up in my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey helping her parents operate the print shop on Mill Street which they owned. She continued on this literary path, studying Library and Information Science at Caldwell College and Rutgers University after receiving a history degree from Seton Hall University.

After completing her education, Cesarina served as both a professional and a school librarian and worked as an Education Media Specialist in various public schools in New

Jersey, New York, and California. She retired in 2004 from the rewarding work of helping students and adults find their needs in libraries.

One of the various publications that Cesarina's family printed was their own weekly publication, *La Voce Italiana* or the Italian Voice. It has been in print for 79 years and highlights the positive accomplishments of Italian-Americans. Cesarina has worked tirelessly with her son Douglas as the publisher and editor for 25 years of *La Voce Italiana*.

In addition to promoting issues which affect Italian-Americans, Cesarina has also been an advocate for women's issues worldwide through her involvement in Zonta International.

In addition to her impressive professional accomplishments, Cesarina is a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. She has two adult children and two grandsons.

Cesarina has proven herself to be a leader in the Italian-American community as well as a dedicated employee of the public school system, and I know she will continue this important work in the future.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated servants of the community like Cesarina Augusto Earl.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the residents of Essex County, the Columbian Foundation, Cesarinas's family and friends, and me in recognizing Cesarina Augusto Earl's outstanding service to her community.

IN MEMORY OF MELISSA JANE DELL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, sadly Melissa Jane Dell of Ridgeland, South Carolina succumbed to Huntington's disease at age 40 on November 9, 2010. She was the daughter of Ouida and Wayne Dell and the mother of Bethany Dell. Her brother Eric Dell, Chief of Staff of the Second Congressional District, presented the following family witness on November 11, 2010, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

MELISSA DELL—A LIFE OF LOVE AND HUGS

I would like to begin by thanking God for my sister, Melissa. She was an inspiration to me and so many others. I also would like to thank everyone here today, as everyone has touched Melissa and our family in a special way. I especially thank family members who have been so faithful to Melissa over the past few years and especially the past month. Especially, Aunts Charlene, Linda, Karen, Pearnease, and Barbara and cousins Allison, Michael, Cynthia, David and Theresa. I also want to thank my mom for her tireless devotion and dedication to Melissa and Gayle and TaWanda who would come to care for Melissa whenever called. The last group I would like to thank is the caretakers and the staff and friends of Melissa at the adult day care and physical therapy in Ridgeland. She loved the day care and physical therapy and its people so much. She was never happier than when she was at the day care and physical therapy.

God made a special person when he made Melissa. We are all created by God to serve

a purpose here on earth. Her purpose was so special, and she fulfilled her purpose beautifully in 40 short years. Melissa suffered physically more than most of us in this church will ever suffer. But, she always had a smile on her face and hug in her hands.

I want to talk a little about Melissa's younger years, but focus mainly on the last fifteen years of her life, as I think that is when Melissa truly shined here on her earthly journey. When we were growing up, Melissa was always the "good" child. I was the one that was always getting into trouble and she would never tell on me to mom and dad. Melissa and I enjoyed many fun times together playing in lakeview terrace with friends who are some of her pall bearers today. I remember the fun times of swimming in our pool, playing kickball, always being outside and eating ice cream from Mr. Bunton's ice cream truck. She ate so much ice cream that she gained the name "Popsicle". She enjoyed ice cream for as long as I can remember. She was an avid basketball and softball player in high school and always enjoyed being around people. She also attended Georgia Southern for three years and I remember visiting her there while in high school. She always made me feel older than I was, which I enjoyed at the time. I thought it was cool to have an older sister who was in college. She was a role model for me in that sense. She was always good at math and enjoyed working in restaurants because she enjoyed "taking care of people."

Melissa also had a strong love for her daughter Bethany. When Melissa could no longer drive, she would push Bethany all over town in a stroller to spend as much quality time with her as she could. I will always remember Melissa and Bethany playing silly games together and Melissa just having a ball. She was a great mother.

As most of you know, Melissa fought Huntington's disease for the past 15 years or so. This is a horrible disease that my family has dealt with for many years. I firmly believe that God allowed her, instead of me, to have Huntington's disease because she was a much stronger person than me when it comes to handling pain and she had a better ability to show her love to others through this earthly pain. To those of you who have known Melissa, you have known a special person and have received a gift from God by knowing her. There is no doubt in my mind God used Melissa's suffering to show us His love and to further His kingdom. The more Melissa suffered and the closer she got to heaven the more I could see the Cross in her and the more she shared the Christian principles of Unconditional Love and Prayer.

Just this week, I e-mailed my office staff about Melissa's passing and I received an e-mail back from one staffer that read: "Sorry to hear this Eric. I will always remember Melissa reaching out to give me a hug as soon as I introduced myself—it was obvious she had a wonderful spirit—that has not changed!" It's interesting that I received this e-mail after I had already begun writing this eulogy from the premise that was spelled out in this e-mail. I'm sure everyone here has received that wonderful unconditional hug from Melissa. She is now hugging everyone she sees in heaven.

Melissa was a strong woman who promoted Love and Prayer throughout her earthly struggle with Huntington's and used her body as a temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 6:19-20 states: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?" She couldn't speak as we do, but she furthered the Kingdom of God more than I could ever do.

When preparing for this eulogy, I found a verse that is very appropriate and fitting to

Melissa. 1 John 3:18: "Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." This is a perfect description of Melissa. As Huntington's began to overtake her body, she was not able to communicate with her tongue, so she communicated with her hands. To those of you who know her, you know, the first thing that she would do when you saw her was to raise her hands and hug you. It didn't matter if she was at home in her chair, in the hospital or out on the town, she would always want a hug from whomever she saw. She would even do this if I came in the house and she was half asleep. The more Melissa suffered, the stronger God showed us Jesus in her actions. God was using her body as a temple of the Holy Spirit to show us how Jesus wants us to love.

Melissa didn't ask if someone was poor, rich, old, homeless, handicapped, young, black, brown, or white, she wanted to hug them and love them. If only we could be this loving in our daily lives. Can you imagine walking down the street and hugging everyone you see and showering them with love? Wouldn't that make for a wonderful, beautiful world? This was Melissa. This is what I remember about Melissa more than anything. She could not speak with her mouth, but she spoke way more with her actions than she could have ever done with her mouth. She was showing the love of Jesus to everyone she met regardless of infirmity, class status, race, or wealth. What a model for us to live by.

Secondly, Melissa reminded us to pray. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 states that we should "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." God has placed people like Melissa in our midst to further His kingdom. Think about it for a minute, if we didn't have people like Melissa, we wouldn't lean on God and pray so much. God wants us to pray continually, not just occasionally, but continually. Melissa gave us reason to pray continually and draw us closer to Christ. I want you to remember this. When you see someone who is suffering from earthly challenges, think of Melissa and pray. What a great legacy to leave.

Melissa taught us to love, unconditionally and to pray continually. There is no better gift. Through her suffering, she allowed Jesus to shine upon us and show us His way of love and prayer. She allowed Christ to use her suffering to expand His kingdom. In closing, I say to Melissa, the words of Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. You are at rest now. You have served your God and are now at rest." Thank you for letting Jesus use your illness to shine on everyone you met. You are truly an angel sent from God and inspiration to all of us.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE WARREN SLOCUM

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life's work of the Honorable Warren Slocum, San Mateo County's Chief Elections Officer and County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor, who is retiring after more than two decades of extraordinary service to the County.

There's an old expression that "the people who vote count, as well as the people who count the votes." Warren Slocum counted the

votes. He counted them for 23 years, always keenly aware of the importance of both the voters and the counters to the functioning of our government. Warren Slocum has been, quite simply, the man behind the machinery of our great democracy.

Long before becoming that man, Warren Slocum was a soldier and a student. He enlisted in the Army and served in Vietnam, returning to attend San Diego State University on the G.I. Bill, and graduating with Honors in History in 1972. He later pursued graduate studies at San Diego State and Stanford University and worked in the private sector before embarking on his storied public service career.

Rising from Elections Supervisor to Assistant County Clerk and Recorder, Warren Slocum was elected County Clerk-Recorder in 1986, and Chief Elections Officer and County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor in 1993. Warren Slocum's office gave him the longest official title in the County and some of the greatest responsibilities. He managed up to 2,500 staff and an annual budget of \$24 million, overseeing the conduct of all elections and voter registration, the valuation of property, and the recording of official documents, including birth, death, and marriage certificates.

Warren Slocum pledged and delivered the highest quality service, guaranteeing integrity and access in the voting process, promoting civic literacy and participation, and providing accurate assessments and first-rate record keeping. Under his leadership, overall office expenditures were reduced by 20%, making millions of dollars available for other programs. Warren Slocum's colleagues have recognized his tireless efforts by selecting him to head countless professional associations. The San Mateo County Economic Development Association has hailed his work as "an example of responsiveness, efficiency and action by an elected official and government office which should be the model for all public agencies."

Throughout his service, Warren Slocum never stopped seeking better solutions. A self-proclaimed "public sector entrepreneur," Warren Slocum brought the spirit of Silicon Valley to his many endeavors, making the San Mateo County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor's office the most committed to innovation in the Nation. In 1992, and with no supplemental appropriations, he converted the old lever voting machines to a cutting-edge optical scan system, and followed up in subsequent years with an extraordinary display of innovation and modernization. He co-founded the Smart Voter Project, which provides sample ballots and voter information online, and he was the first in California to implement electronic recording. He created the "Wedding Cam" system, allowing friends and relatives to view civil ceremonies on the Web. His blog was the very first on the subject of election reform and verified voting, and his expertise on these matters led him to become a leading voice on high-tech voting in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *MSNBC*, and *NPR*.

Warren Slocum's well-deserved retirement will give him more time with his wife Maria Diaz and their two sons, and for his many hobbies, which include hiking, kayaking, golfing, reading, and playing the piano. Knowing Warren Slocum, however, he won't stop moving. He once swam the "Escape from Alcatraz" race, finishing 286 out of nearly 1,000 swimmers. No doubt, even in retirement, there are more impressive efforts in his future.