

COMMENDING JOHN ANTON OF
HAVERHILL

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to John Anton, the National Down Syndrome Society 2010 Advocate of the Year. Mr. Anton is a resident of Haverhill, Massachusetts in my congressional district. Throughout his life, Mr. Anton has been a leader and advocate for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. His work has touched thousands of lives, and his efforts should be recognized and emulated.

The National Down Syndrome Society is the national advocate for the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down Syndrome. The Advocate of the Year honor commends Mr. Anton's work to enhance the quality of life for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, while helping them to realize their life aspirations and become valued members of their communities.

Mr. Anton certainly deserves this award. He has committed his life to helping individuals adapt to their disabilities, achieve their greatest potential, and work toward productive, independent lives.

In Massachusetts, Mr. Anton was heavily involved in efforts to change the name of the state Department of Mental Retardation to the Department of Developmental Services. He was determined to bring awareness to this cause, and was successful in his endeavor. Massachusetts adopted the new name in 2009. He is to be congratulated on this achievement.

Mr. Anton served as the Chairman of Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong. He spent time as a legislative intern with State Representative Tom Sannicandro and also worked for the Arc of Greater Haverhill-Newburyport. Throughout his life, he has mentored others with disabilities and has been a great inspiration to many. We in Massachusetts are grateful for his service to the Commonwealth.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me today in congratulating John Anton for receiving the National Down Syndrome Society 2010 Advocate of the Year, and for his efforts and dedication to a cause for which he is so passionate.

We thank you, Mr. Anton, for your ongoing service to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and look forward hearing of your continued successes.

HONORING DR. DAVID BENKE

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. David Benke, a math teacher at Deer Creek Middle School in Littleton, Colorado.

Dr. Benke is an ordinary American—husband, father, teacher and coach—but his actions this week in the face of grave danger were nothing short of extraordinary.

As school was letting out on Tuesday, a gunman approached and opened fire on students.

Upon seeing the suspect, Dr. Benke, in a moment of extreme bravery, rushed towards the shooter, wrestled him to the ground, and held on as his colleagues helped subdue the shooter.

He broke up a potentially deadly school shooting, and if it were not for the rapid and selfless actions of Dr. Benke and his colleagues it could have been a much more violent and tragic encounter.

When asked about his actions, Dr. Benke modestly remarked, "If something happens and there's something I can do about it, I want to try and do something about it."

He did more than just "something."

There are many heroes in our midst, and sometimes it takes an extraordinary moment of danger to bring out their true valor.

The people of the Sixth District are fortunate to have Dr. Benke in our community. It is ordinary people like him who do extraordinary things that keeps our community safe.

RECOGNIZING GREG FIRST OF
DADE CITY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Greg First of Dade City, FL. for most of his life, Greg has been a faithful servant to his community; volunteering himself to many causes which have helped to enrich the lives of many.

Born to Jimmy and Mary First in Bedford, Ohio, Mr. First moved to Zephyrhills with his family at the age of 10. After graduating from Zephyrhills High School, he attended the University of Maryland and served in the United States Air Force from 1968 to 1972.

Mr. First has volunteered himself, quite literally, having donated a total of 16 gallons of blood while director of public relations for Blood Net, in addition to volunteering for Meals on Wheels, Relay for Life, and a local Hospice. He has kept up the spirits of Zephyrhills residents as an announcer for Main Street Parades and high school football games. A three-time president of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. First has been a Christian Radio DJ, a lifetime Am Vet Member, and he even started his own local news website, "What's Up Zephyrhills?"

Madam Speaker, on February 26, the Conservative Club of East Pasco will honor Greg's achievements with the Lincoln Heritage Award. I ask you to join me today to honor him on the floor of this house. May we all give back to our communities as much as Mr. First has.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF MEDGAR EVARS AND CELEBRATING THE UNITED STATES NAVY FOR NAMING A SUPPLY SHIP AFTER MEDGAR EVARS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1022, which hon-

ors the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evars, recognizes the important role he played in progressing the cause of civil rights, and congratulates the United States Navy for honoring him with the naming of the United States naval ship *Medgar Evars*. H. Res. 1022 is an important measure that pays tribute to an individual who sacrificed his life fighting for the core American values of equality and civil rights.

I thank Chairmen CONYERS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the author of this legislation, Congressman HANK JOHNSON, who has taken the time to remember the invaluable work of Medgar Evars and to celebrate the United States Navy's efforts to honor this American hero.

Medgar Evars was born in 1925 in Decatur, Mississippi. Growing up in the heart of the segregated South, Medgar Evars experienced the worst of racial oppression. Still, in 1943, he volunteered to serve his country in World War II, and fought valiantly with the United States Army in the Battle of Normandy.

After fighting overseas for the cause of freedom and democracy, Medgar Evars returned home to a segregated country as a second-class citizen. He dedicated himself to activism, working tirelessly for the cause of racial equality on behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As a result of his activism, Medgar Evars was the target of numerous death threats and assassination attempts. But his bravery and dedication knew no bounds and he continued his important work until he was tragically murdered on June 12, 1963.

It is entirely fitting that we honor Medgar Evars, who in his life as well as his death, helped move our country out of a time of oppression and segregation and into an era of greater tolerance and equality.

It is equally fitting that the United States Navy has chosen to honor Medgar Evars with the naming of the United States naval ship *Medgar Evars*. This ship, a *Lewis and Clark* class dry cargo ship, is a state-of-the-art vessel that will provide essential logistics support to Navy operations around the world. Just as Medgar Evars helped bring our nation racial reconciliation, the United States naval ship *Medgar Evars* will help the Navy to promote peace and conflict resolution throughout the world. This ship is one more way in which the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evars will continue to serve as a beacon of equality.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1022.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
LINDA GROVER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Linda Grover, an author and an activist for global peace. Ms. Grover turned her strong sense of justice into words and actions. Ms. Grover consistently fought for the common good as a volunteer and as a leader on behalf of numerous local, national and international projects.

Following her marriage to Broadway actor-singer Stanley Grover, Ms. Grover led a 7-

year crusade to save and preserve the historic apartment building at 325 Central Park West. Thanks in part to her persistence and commitment, New York City officials overturned their decision to condemn the building. After the building was saved and restored, Ms. Grover led the effort to purchase it and transform the apartments into rent-controlled co-ops.

Before moving to New York City, Ms. Grover was named clerk of what is now the National Resources Committee's Office of Indian Affairs at 21 when she was also a legislative aide to Congressman Sam Yorty of California. She also worked for the National Committee for an Effective Congress and was a case-worker for the International Rescue Committee following the Hungarian Revolution. Despite a lengthy illness, Ms. Grover continued her work from her apartment in Washington, DC. To the end she maintained her passion, energy and dedication.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor of Ms. Linda Grover, whose dedicated efforts organizing for peace have given all of us hope for a better world. I offer my condolences to her loving family and many friends; especially to her beloved children, Cindy, Steven and Jamie. Mrs. Grover's love for her family and her legacy of peace will never be forgotten.

TRAGEDY IN KHOJALY, AZERBAIJAN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the tragedy that occurred in Khojaly, Azerbaijan on February 26, 1992. Many lives of the Azerbaijan people living in Khojaly were lost and scores of others were destroyed when they were brutally attacked by Armenian forces on February 25–26, 1992.

With a population of 7,000, Khojaly was one of the three largest urban settlements of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

Armenians established the blockade of Khojaly in the fall of 1991, cutting off ground transportation on October 30. Electricity and water supplies were cut off in January 1992. By February 1992, almost all of the Nagorno-Karabakh except Shusha and Khojaly had fallen under control of Armenians backed by Russia's 366th regiment.

On the night of 25 February 1992, the Armenians and the Russian 366th launched an attack on Khojaly.

The Armenians had declared that a "free corridor" would be provided for civilians to leave Khojaly. However, people were attacked on their way to Aghdam, the nearest Azerbaijani settlement.

The Khojaly tragedy was covered by the foreign media including the Boston Globe, the Washington Times, New York Times, Financial Times, and many other European and Russian news agencies. On November 29, 1993, Newsweek quoted a senior U.S. Government official as saying, "What we see now is a systematic destruction of every village in their [the Armenians] way. It's vandalism." Human Rights Watch called the tragedy at the time "the largest massacre to date in the conflict." The extent of the cruelty of this massacre against women, children and the elderly was unfathomable:

613 people were killed including 63 children, 106 women, and 70 elderly.

8 families were wiped out.

25 children lost both parents.

130 children lost one parent.

487 people were wounded including 76 children.

1,275 people were taken hostage.

Armenia still occupies close to 20 percent of Azerbaijan. Nearly 1 million Azerbaijanis live as refugees in their own country, displaced by Armenian aggression. Resolutions issued by the U.N. Security Council and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, PACE, have ordered Armenia to withdraw from Azerbaijan's lands.

Azerbaijan is a strong ally of the United States in a very important and very uncertain region of the world. I ask my colleagues to join with me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the tragedy that happened to the people of Khojaly.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Alzheimer's Project Act. I would like to thank my colleague and fellow cochair of the bipartisan Alzheimer's Task Force, Mr. CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, for continuing to partner with me on this important legislation.

An estimated 5.3 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, and one in ten individuals has a family member with the disease. Unless science finds a way to prevent or cure it, nearly 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease by the year 2050. Additionally, in 2005, Medicare spent \$91 billion for the care of individuals with Alzheimer's disease, and this amount is projected to increase to \$160 billion in 2010.

While we have made great progress in the battle against Alzheimer's, much more needs to be done. This bill will establish a National Alzheimer's Project Office and interagency Advisory Council to help coordinate a national plan for Alzheimer's research, care, and related support services. The National Alzheimer's Project Office will be established within and overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services. Alzheimer's efforts throughout the federal government will be coordinated and continually evaluated by this entity, including research, clinical care, and various support programs. The Alzheimer's Association has endorsed this bill which will modify care delivery and help prevention of this awful disease.

Madam Speaker, in order to help fight this disease and reduce the number of patients who suffer from Alzheimer's, it is imperative to better coordinate federal activities relating to this disease. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation, and I look forward to continuing to work with them throughout the legislative process.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMIE McMURRAY'S WIN AT THE DAYTONA 500 IN THE NO. 1 CHEVROLET BASS PRO SHOPS/TRACKER BOATS CAR

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's great spectator sport, NASCAR; its most prestigious race, the Daytona 500; and the 2010 champion, Southwest Missouri native Jamie McMurray. On Sunday, McMurray rode to victory in a Bass Pro Shops sponsored car. His stunning win sparked excitement among all NASCAR fans, especially those in Southwest Missouri, where he learned his racing skills.

McMurray started 2010 without a ride, having been released from another team at the end of the 2009 season. When Springfield, Missouri-based Bass Pro Shops owner Johnny Morris decided to return to NASCAR sponsorship with Earnhardt Ganassi Racing, McMurray got the call to drive. McMurray won the Daytona 500 in the No. 1 Chevrolet Bass Pro Shops/Tracker Boats car, leading by only two laps, the least in the race's history.

Jamie McMurray started stock car racing in the early 1990s on tracks in Bolivar, Missouri; Lebanon, Missouri; and at the I-70 Speedway in Odessa, Missouri. In 1992, at age 16, McMurray began driving NASCAR late models and raced in the NASCAR RE/MAX Challenge Series in 1998–1999. By age 21 he had won the NASCAR late model division on the Lebanon track. In 1999 he began racing on the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series circuit.

McMurray's breakthrough came three years later, when he was offered a full-time Busch Series ride. He earned two victories on the Busch Circuit and finished sixth in series points. In 2003 as a NASCAR regular, he was Rookie of the Year.

When NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Sterling Marlin was out with an injury, owner Chip Ganassi offered McMurray the seat to complete the 2002 season. It didn't take long for Jamie to make his mark on the sport. In his second race with Ganassi in Charlotte, North Carolina, McMurray won the UAW-GM Quality 500 at Lowe's Motor Speedway.

Now in his ninth season, McMurray is racing for the new Earnhardt Ganassi team. In his first race of the season, he scored a victory in the granddaddy of all stock car racing events: the Daytona 500.

Every racing fan in Southwest Missouri was thrilled that McMurray won the race in a No. 1 Chevrolet Bass Pro Shops/Tracker Boats car from the Southwest Missouri-based company. McMurray endured years of hard work on local tracks to earn his way into the winner's circle of America's greatest stock car event.

For NASCAR fans in Southwest Missouri, I want to offer my congratulations to Jamie McMurray, Bass Pro Shops/Tracker Boats, and to their families and supporters.