

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and loyal public servant, the Honorable John Murtha. He was a strong voice for the constituents in the 12th District of Pennsylvania and honorably served as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

I, like so many of my colleagues, am blessed to have known Mr. Murtha on a professional and personal level. It is no surprise that Mr. Murtha will be remembered as such an effective legislator. Given his proud service in the Marine Corps and passionate devotion for the greater good of our nation, Mr. Murtha consistently served as a moral compass for the U.S. Congress.

About a year and a half after the Iraq War started, many wounded soldiers were transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Mr. Murtha visited these soldiers and witnessed the horrific wounds they were suffering with, such as losing a limb or losing complete eyesight. Mr. Murtha invited the veterans staying at Walter Reed, their families and members of Congress to a restaurant meal where he wanted the members to hear the stories of these courageous veterans. He wanted the veterans to express how they became wounded and what they believed Congress could do to help make sure our American soldiers were safe. Through legislation and appropriations funding, the stories from our veterans helped Congress push the military to improve their equipment. Humvee's and protective vests were improved to keep our soldiers safe from roadside bombs and other forms of hostility.

In all his years as an appropriator and legislator, he has always advocated for the safety of our military and has fought to improve the quality of life for American soldiers and their families. It was typical of Mr. Murtha to be modest about all of the care he showed the soldiers and veterans in times of war. After learning of the unacceptable conditions veterans were subjected to at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Mr. Murtha immediately reached out to Members of Congress. He knew it was our country's responsibility to bring justice to our nation's wounded soldiers by ensuring that they received the proper medical care they deserved.

I extend my deepest condolences to his family, loved ones and friends. Mr. Murtha will be remembered as a man of honor, generosity and strength. His unfaltering dedication and care is what made him such an extraordinary person. It is with great sadness that I say goodbye to a great man and friend. I will miss him dearly. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for his longtime service and leadership as a U.S. Representative.

HONORING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FIRE RESCUE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and offer my sincerest thanks to the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue team, specifically the Urban Search and Rescue branch, for their heroic efforts in aiding the relief work in Haiti.

Within hours of learning that a magnitude 7.0 earthquake had struck, Division Chief Dave Downey had organized a task force of 80 strong to respond. With minimal preliminary information, Chief Downey's task force began to mobilize immediately after the earthquake struck on January 12. Having responded to domestic disasters in the past including Hurricane Opal, the World Trade Center and Hurricane Katrina, Chief Downey's Florida Task Force 1 was well equipped to help the devastated town of Port-au-Prince.

Overcoming logistical difficulties such as the transportation of nearly 100 search and rescue personnel as well as their 62,000-pound equipment, the efforts of Florida Task Force 1 resulted in the largest number of survivors ever rescued in history. Rescuing their first victim almost 24 hours before their equipment had even arrived, we should all be proud of Chief Downey's team and the devotion they showed in executing a successful rescue mission.

In Chief Downey's own words, "The breadth of this disaster was overwhelming." With a full view of the destruction, Florida Task Force 1 was forced to overcome countless challenges. With no Internet access or pre-established GPS formats, the task force had no other option but to plan their mission using old tourist maps for the first few—and most chaotic—days. Risking their own lives to save others, the courage and dedication of Florida Task Force 1 is truly an example to us all. Confronted with their greatest enemy—time—I commend the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue team for their quick and selfless response to the crisis in Haiti.

At this time, I would like to submit the names of each individual that made up the courageous Florida Task Force 1:

Alvarado, Patricio; Alvarez, Andres; Baker, Robert; Bell, Raymond; Borz, Ronald; Bramblett, Colette; Bustamante, Miguel; Caballero, Derrick; Canfield, Michael; Capote, Ernesto; Catapano, Kristian; Chung, Richard; Cooper, Rhaldal; Cuminale, Michael; Dombrowski, Lawrence; Downey, David; Driscoll, Stephen; Fernandez, Jorge; Fernandez, Louie; Ferraro, John.

Fregeolle, Gary; Garcia, Frank; Garcia-Menocal, Jose; Gelabert, Brian; Gelabert, Manuel; Gimenez, Carlos; Gonzalez, Mario; Gonzalez, Orlando; Gonzalez, Ralph; Hale, Marc; Hall, Richard; Herrera, Ernesto; Hook, Andrew; Hooten, Chad; Jacobs, Edan; Jenkins, Millard; Lefur, Rachelle; Licea, William; Machado, Andres; Major, Malcolm.

Mardice, Yves; Marks, Michael; Matos, Janice; Mclellan, Gregory; Moise, Rudolph; Mullin, Scott; Neetz, Jacqueline; Oldfield, Jeffrey; Oldfield, Monica; Parker, Pamela; Paternoster, Brandy; Paul-Noel, Karls; Pellon, Alejandro; Perez, Alberto; Perla, Marcelo; Perry, Alan; Post, Brandon; Pozo, Rafael; Ramos, Sergio; Richard, Stacy.

Rodriguez, Jairo; Rodriguez, Pedro; Rouse, Jeffrey; Santana, Luis; Seltz, Jack; Smithies, John; Steele, Michelle; Strickland, Gregory; Strickland, Jeffrey; Strull, Michael; Sullivan, Robert; Tonanez, Alvaro; Trim, Anthony; Vaughan, Ray; Wasilkowski, Justin; Webb, Brandon; Whu, Danny; Williams, Kenneth; Wood, Hilda; Yetter, Michael.

As a result of these individuals' inspiring work in Haiti, countless lives have been saved and many more have been assisted. Their selfless mission and sense of commitment is a testament to our Nation's highest principles. As Americans, we cannot thank them enough for the work they have done both at home and abroad.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on February 26, 2010, on rollcall No. 71 (Schauer of Michigan amendment), I inadvertently voted "no" when I had intended to vote "aye."

RECOGNIZING CHRISTI MINISTER

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Christi Minister of Eden Prairie. She received the national Catholic Charities USA "Keep the Dream Alive" award on Martin Luther King Day. Catholic Charities, which Christi had been a part of for more than 25 years, has worked to acknowledge those who give their time and energy to reducing poverty, supporting families and empowering communities. This award, created this year, honors those who have made community service an integral part of their lives. Christi believes focusing on education for all gives everyone an opportunity to experience the American dream. I would like to thank Christi Minister for her commitment to helping others, and for "keeping the dream alive."

HONORING PAUL MASIH DAS,
INTEL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH
FINALIST

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent Paul Masih Das and congratulate him as a finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search 2010. The Intel Science Talent Search is America's most prestigious science competition for high school seniors. Paul is one of only 40 finalists nationwide.

Paul's project, "A Novel Chemical Synthesis for >1 MUM 2 Graphene Sheets," synthesized single-layer graphene (a sheet of carbon that's as thick as a single atom) using a relatively

quick, easy and inexpensive method that he developed.

As a student at Lawrence High School, Paul participates in numerous activities and clubs. As a member of Young Ambassadors of America, Paul has represented the United States on cultural tours of Japan, Spain and Italy. In addition, he plays on the school's tennis team, is captain of the math team and is a member of the chess club. Paul is also an award-winning musician and manages the chamber orchestra. As a senior member of the Education and Labor Committee, I am truly impressed by Paul's accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my congratulations to Paul Masih Das and commend his dedication to education and science.

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and honor the accomplishments of Congressman John Murtha who passed away on February 8, 2010.

America lost a great patriot with the passing of Congressman Murtha, and I join the people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District and countless other Americans in mourning his death. As a veteran, he never forgot the needs of our military and through his leadership as Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, he made sure that our military had the tools it needed to secure America's future. A frequent visitor to injured troops at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Center, Congressman Murtha deeply understood the sacrifices that these men and women made for our country. His ability to empathize with our servicemembers and veterans was absolutely remarkable, and I will deeply miss his leadership in Congress.

Madam Speaker, today I join my fellow colleagues in mourning the death of Congressman Murtha who spent his life serving our country in both the military and the halls of Congress.

HONORING THE PEACE CORPS FOR
49 YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY
SERVICE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, since President John F. Kennedy announced his vision for an American volunteer service, the Peace Corps has made extraordinary contributions to millions of people across the globe. It plays an ongoing role in encouraging mutual understanding and nonviolent coexistence among peoples of diverse cultures.

In the 49 years since its inception, nearly 200,000 Americans—including my son Paul—

have served in 139 countries across five continents. These volunteers have provided lasting contributions to the agriculture, economy, technology, education, health, youth, and environment in areas of the world that require it most.

In the course of their service, Peace Corps Volunteers learn new languages, gain international experience, and develop an understanding of other cultures. Their work and the skills they develop strengthen our ties to the global community and enhance our positive image abroad.

Because of these achievements and its commitment to volunteerism, the Peace Corps is one of the most cost-effective foreign policy initiatives employed by our nation.

I've proudly supported the Peace Corps throughout my time in Congress. I've fought to increase recruitment of volunteers, develop training programs in education and AIDS prevention, and to help returning volunteers with student loans. Most recently, I voted for and Congress passed an increased investment in the Peace Corps, allowing the creation of new programs in Indonesia and Sierra Leone this year.

On this 49th anniversary of its founding, I applaud the Peace Corps for its important work and honor its volunteers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 75, 76, and 77, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 49th anniversary of the Peace Corps and to commemorate Peace Corps Week.

Volunteers of the Peace Corps have served valiantly since President John F. Kennedy challenged Americans to work towards the cause of peace. Since its creation on March 1, 1961, nearly 200,000 Americans have answered that call to contribute and improve Americans' understanding of other peoples and other peoples' understanding of Americans. At a time when extremist philosophies are increasing throughout the world, we need these dedicated individuals more than ever.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the 6,671 Peace Corps volunteers, including 153 volunteers from the State of Georgia, who are currently working to provide expertise and developmental assistance to 76 countries. These volunteers are dedicating themselves each day to the vision of President Kennedy. These individuals share their time and talents by serving as teachers, business advisors, HIV/AIDS educators, as well as sharing their knowledge of information technology, agriculture, the environment, and health.

On this anniversary I would like to acknowledge Jonathan Lewis, who is a prime example of a volunteer who is working to accomplish the goals of Peace Corps. Jonathan has been working in Kazakhstan this past year to organize the first official youth developmental group in the country, focusing on leadership, work ethics, and healthy lifestyles. At night he volunteers his time teaching English and American culture to students in schools and libraries around the country. Jonathan's efforts and all the Volunteers represent the caring spirit that runs deep in our country.

Today I honor the Peace Corps and its brave volunteers for their service to our nation and to the international community. In our ever-shrinking world, the mission of the Peace Corps is more vital than ever. I hope that each one of my distinguished colleagues will join me in commending these men and women for their service.

HONORING THE REVEREND CEDRIC
HUGHES JONES, JR.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Cedric Hughes Jones, Jr. I congratulate Reverend Jones on his installation as the newest Pastor to the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia.

Reverend Jones will be the fourth Pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church. He is excited to begin a new chapter of its history and will continue to support the church's major community outreach efforts. I am confident that Reverend Jones will carry on the outstanding legacy of community service shared by the previous Mount Zion Baptist Church pastors.

The Mount Zion Baptist Church is excited to welcome Reverend Jones into their community, and is confident that Reverend Jones will continue the church's mission and further build up their place within the surrounding community. The church has a long history of support for and outreach to their community. In providing meals, housing and clothing, as well as scholarship funds and other financial assistance, the Mount Zion Baptist Church has helped those in their community in the most need of help.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking the Mount Zion Baptist Church and Reverend Jones for their work in bettering their community, and congratulate Reverend Jones on the occasion of his installment as Pastor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 75, 76, and 77; H. Res. 1072, H.R. 3820, H. Res. 1097, I missed these votes because car trouble caused me to miss my flight. On the next flight, because of heavy traffic, I missed these votes.