

life, liberty and prosperity throughout the world.

To Megan Abbott, Austin Durr, Laura Pegram, Bruce Taylor and Scott Tuttle, I want to express my sincere thanks for your service in the Peace Corps.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAYMOND E. DOBRATZ, JR.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing of a great citizen and member of the community in eastern Connecticut. Raymond E. Dobratz, Jr. of Old Saybrook, a beloved son and brother, devoted husband and grandfather, died tragically while working on the site of the Kleen Energy Plant in Middletown on February 7, 2010.

Ray was a masterful tradesman and a 40-year member of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 777 who spent his life giving back to the people around him. He served his country with honor in the Army National Guard and also served a member of the Old Saybrook Police for 13 years. He had an incredible sense of what it meant to be a citizen and he spent his life putting that into practice.

Ray's love for his wife, 3 sons, and 5 grandchildren is what really defined him. Two of Ray's sons grew up shadowing their father as a pipefitter. They admired him greatly and were thrilled when they got to spend time with him on the football field. Ray co-founded the Old Saybrook Youth Football Athletic League as a coach in the 1980s and it still exists today. He loved sports and often played football, soccer, and baseball with his friends and family when he had the time. He was a fixture in the community and will be deeply missed.

Ray had a seemingly endless amount of energy to give to his country, town and family. He was a model citizen and family man. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Raymond E. Dobratz, Jr.

RECOGNIZING CURT TOMASEVICZ OF SHELBY, NEBRASKA

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a rare achievement, the pursuit of which took years of hard work and dedication. On February 27, 2010, Curt Tomasevicz became the first born and raised Nebraskan to win a gold medal at the Winter Olympics. The gold medal ended a 62-year drought for the United States in the 4-man bobsled event.

Curt Tomasevicz was born and raised in Shelby, Nebraska. He attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he walked on to play football for the Cornhuskers and was named to the Academic All Big XII team in 2002. He began his bobsledding career in 2004, just two years prior to being named to the United States 4-man bobsled team.

Curt made his first appearance in the 2006 Olympics, when he and his team brought home sixth place. With this first taste of competing on the world stage, he used his Nebraskan spirit and work ethic to strive for excellence in the 2010 games. The United States bobsled team, known as the "Night Train," set records as they accumulated a time of 3 minutes, 24.46 seconds which proved to be nearly four-tenths faster than second place.

He has made all of Nebraska and America proud and is an inspiration to younger generations. His intensity, work ethic, and service to the country was on display for all the world to see during the Winter Olympics. His efforts and accomplishments are remarkable and I thank him for his dedication to the country and excellent example to our State.

THE FALL OF THE ALAMO

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, throughout U.S. history, individuals selflessly and courageously have taken a stand for freedom and liberty, many times against great odds.

March 6, 1836 was one of those times. This date is what most Americans know as the day the Alamo fell against Mexico General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna and his Mexican troops. The siege against the Texian Army lasted 13 days. The battle began on February 23rd when Santa Anna and his army arrived at the Alamo and caught the Texian Army by surprise. On the second day of the siege, Texian Alamo Commander William Barret Travis called for reinforcements, bravely stating: "I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism, and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid with all dispatch . . . Victory or Death."

On the eighth day of the 13-day siege, 32 additional men from Gonzales arrived ready to fight for Texas. Legend has it that Commander William B. Travis drew a line on the ground asking the few men present to step over if they were willing to stay and fight, to defend the Alamo for the sake of Texas. All present stepped over, except one.

There were 189 defenders, including famous knife fighter Jim Bowie and former Tennessee congressman Davy Crockett. All of the defenders were volunteers and originated from all over the globe. Eleven of the defenders were born in Texas, 131 of the defenders were born in some 23 various states in America, 29 of the defenders were born abroad, mostly in Europe, one defender was a freed slave, and there are 17 defenders of which their birthplace has not been identified.

All of the Alamo defenders stood their ground against the overwhelming odds. Some estimate that Santa Anna's army consisted of 6,000 troops. At the end of the day on March 6, 1836, after the smoke cleared, all 189 defenders gave their lives for Texas. The enemy casualties were enormous. As Travis said, "Victory will cost the enemy more than defeat."

This historic battle resulted in General Sam Houston having enough time to gather a

strong army of men to avenge Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto 46 days later. On April 21st Sam Houston led an army of 800 volunteers and angry Texans to defeat Santa Anna and his 1,500 strong Mexican army, most of whom were the same invaders that were at the Alamo. This victory played an important role in the Texas Revolution.

Texas was an independent nation for 9 years following the Battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto. The freedom the Texans enjoyed during those years would not have occurred without the thousands of selfless volunteers who risked and gave their lives to protect the liberties they believed every person should retain.

Today the Alamo remains a great treasure to the story of Texas and represents the steadfast, unrelenting character of the American spirit. The fight for freedom that these heroic Alamo defenders displayed is a testament of living boldly and courageously for the cause of liberty. We honor and thank these volunteers for their role in defending and fighting for Liberty and for Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

ALAMO DEFENDERS

1. Abamillo, Juan, TX, 2. Allen, Robert, VA, 3. Andross, Miles DeForrest, VT, 4. Autry, Micajah, NC, 5. Badillo, Juan A., TX, 6. Bailey, Peter James III, KY, 7. Baker, Isaac G., AR, 8. Baker, William Charles M., MO, 9. Ballentine, John J., PA, 10. Ballantine, Richard W., Scotland, 11. Baugh, John J., VA, 12. Bayliss, Joseph, TN, 13. Blair, John, TN, 14. Blair, Samuel, TN, 15. Blazeby, William, England, 16. Bonham, James Butler, SC, 17. Bourne, Daniel, England, 18. Bowie, James, KY, 19. Bowman, Jesse B., TN, 20. Brown, George, England, 21. Brown, James, PA, 22. Brown, Robert, unknown, 23. Buchanan, James, AL, 24. Burns, Samuel E., Ireland, and 25. Butler, George, D., MO.

26. Cain, John, PA, 27. Campbell, Robert, TN, 28. Carey, William R., VA, 29. Clark, Charles Henry, MO, 30. Clark, M.B., MS, 31. Cloud, Daniel William, KY, 32. Cochran, Robert E., NH, 33. Cottle, George Washington, MO, 34. Courtman, Henry, Germany, 35. Crawford, Lemuel, SC, 36. Crockett, David, TN, 37. Crossman, Robert, PA, 38. Cummings, David P., PA, 39. Cunningham, Robert, NY, 40. Darst, Jacob C., KY, 41. Davis, John, KY, 42. Day, Freeman H.K., unknown, 43. Day, Jerry C., MO, 44. Daymon, Squire, TN, 45. Dearduff, William, TN, 46. Dennison, Stephen, England or Ireland, 47. Despallier, Charles, LA, 48. Dewart, Lewis, NY, 49. Dickinson, Almeron, TN, and 50. Dillard, John Henry, TN.

51. Dimpkins, James R., England, 52. Duval, Andrew, Ireland, 53. Espalier, Carlos, TX, 54. Esparza, Gregorio, TX, 55. Evans, Robert, Ireland, 56. Evans, Samuel B., NY, 57. Ewing, James L., TN, 58. Faunterloy, William Keener, KY, 59. Fishbaugh, William, unknown, 60. Flanders, John, MA, 61. Floyd, Dolphin Ward, NC, 62. Forsyth, John Hubbard, NY, 63. Fuentes, Antonio, TX, 64. Fuqua, Galba, AL, 65. Garnett, William, VA, 66. Garrand, James W., LA, 67. Garrett, James Girard, TN, 68. Garvin, John E., unknown, 69. Gaston, John E., KY, 70. George, James, unknown, 71. Goodrich, John C., VA, 72. Grimes, Albert Calvin, GA, 73. Guerrero, José María, TX, 74. Gwynne, James C., England, and 75. Hannum, James, PA.

76. Harris, John, KY, 77. Harrison, Andrew Jackson, TN, 78. Harrison, William B., OH, 79.

Hawkins, Joseph M., Ireland, 80. Hays, John M., TN, 81. Heiskell, Charles M., TN, 82. Herndon, Patrick Henry, VA, 83. Hersee, William Daniel, England, 84. Holland, Tapley, OH, 85. Holloway, Samuel, PA, 86. Howell, William D., MA, 87. Jackson, Thomas, Ireland, 88. Jackson, William Daniel, KY, 89. Jameson, Green B., KY, 90. Jennings, Gordon C., CT, 91. Jimenes (Ximenes), Damacio, TX, 92. Johnson, Lewis, Wales, 93. Johnson, William, PA, 94. Jones, John, NY, 95. Kellog, John Benjamin, KY, 96. Kenney, James, VA, 97. Kent, Andrew, KY, 98. Kerr, Joseph, LA, 99. Kimbell, George C., PA, and 100. King, William Philip, TX.

101. Lewis, William Irvine, VA, 102. Lightfoot, William J., VA, 103. Lindley, Jonathan L., IL, 104. Linn, William, MA, 105. Losoya, Toribio, TX, 106. Main, George Washington, VA, 107. Malone, William T., GA, 108. Marshall, William, TN, 109. Martin, Albert, RI, 110. McCafferty, Edward, unknown, 111. McCoy, Jesse, TN, 112. McDowell, William, PA, 113. McGee, James, Ireland, 114. McGregor, John, Scotland, 115. McKinney, Robert, TN, 116. Melton, Eliel, GA, 117. Miller, Thomas R., TN, 118. Mills, William, TN, 119. Millsaps, Isaac, MS, 120. Mitchell, Edwin T., unknown, 121. Mitchell, Napoleon B., unknown, 122. Mitchusson, Edward F., VA, 123. Moore, Robert B., VA, 124. Moore, Willis A., MS, and 125. Musselman, Robert, OH.

126. Nava, Andrés, TX, 127. Negan, George, SC, 128. Nelson, Andrew M., TN, 129. Nelson, Edward, SC, 130. Nelson, George, SC, 131. Northcross, James, VA, 132. Nowlan, James, England, 133. Pagan, George, MS, 134. Parker, Christopher Adam, unknown, 135. Parks, William, NC, 136. Perry, Richardson, TX, 137. Pollard, Amos, MA, 138. Reynolds, John Purdy, PA, 139. Roberts, Thomas H., unknown, 140. Robertson, James Waters, TN, 141. Robinson, Isaac, Scotland, 142. Rose, James M., OH, 143. Rusk, Jackson J., Ireland, 144. Rutherford, Joseph, KY, 145. Ryan, Isaac, LA, 146. Scurlock, Mial, NC, 147. Sewell, Marcus L., England, 148. Shied, Manson, GA, 149. Simmons, Cleveland Kinlock, SC, and 150. Smith, Andrew H., TN.

151. Smith, Charles S., MD, 152. Smith, Joshua G., NC, 153. Smith, William H., unknown, 154. Starr, Richard, England, 155. Stewart, James E., England, 156. Stockton, Richard L., NJ, 157. Summerlin, A. Spain, TN, 158. Summers, William E., TN, 159. Sutherland, William DePriest, unknown, 160. Taylor, Edward, TN, 161. Taylor, George, TN, 162. Taylor, James, TN, 163. Taylor, William, TN, 164. Thomas, B. Archer M., KY, 165. Thomas, Henry, Germany, 166. Thompson, Jesse G., AR, 167. Thomson, John W., NC, 168. Thruston, John, M., PA, 169. Trammel, Burke, Ireland, 170. Travis, William Barret, SC, 171. Tumlinson, George W., MO, 172. Tylee, James, NY, 173. Walker, Asa, TN, 174. Walker, Jacob, TN, and 175. Ward, William B., Ireland.

176. Warnell, Henry, unknown, 177. Washington, Joseph G., KY, 178. Waters, Thomas, England, 179. Wells, William, GA, 180. White, Isaac, unknown, 181. White, Robert, unknown, 182. Williamson, Hiram James, PA, 183. Wills, William, unknown, 184. Wilson, David L., Scotland, 185. Wilson, John, PA, 186. Wolf, Anthony, unknown, 187. Wright, Claiborne, NC, 188. Zanco, Charles, Denmark, 189. John, a Black Freedman.

RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, as a returned Peace Corps volunteer, I rise to recognize National Peace Corps Week and the work of the Peace Corps as we approach its 50th anniversary. For over 49 years, the Peace Corps has played an instrumental role in establishing prosperous foreign relations while fostering cross-cultural understandings. Countries from all over the globe celebrate the contributions of the Peace Corps and look forward with anticipation to its continued growth.

During this week, we salute and honor the men and women of this nation who have selflessly served abroad as Peace Corps volunteers, as well as those current volunteers who continue to carry out the Peace Corps mission: world peace and friendship.

The Peace Corps provides a unique opportunity for volunteers to help some of the most impoverished people in the world, work that changes their global perspectives. My personal experiences as a former Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador building schools and health clinics continues to inspire me to actively advocate for the expansion of this program. The work of the Peace Corps and Peace Corps volunteers is invaluable—they are our country's greatest diplomatic tool. My experience marked the beginning of my lifelong commitment to public service. Most importantly, I returned to the United States with a deeper understanding of humanity and a personal commitment to speak on behalf of the marginalized and powerless.

Since President John F. Kennedy's call to service, almost 50 years ago, over 195,000 people have served as Peace Corps volunteers. Although a lot has been achieved since the Peace Corps's inception, the Peace Corps is currently at half the size it was in 1966. As the 50th anniversary approaches, and with the recent devastations in Haiti and Chile, we are only reminded of the significance of community service and the valuable assistance that the Peace Corps can provide.

It is with great appreciation for the Peace Corps and its ability to foster a global community that alongside my colleagues, I have requested \$465 million for FY 2011 Peace Corps funding. A commitment to increase funding will allow the Peace Corps to modernize its systems, optimize the number of volunteers and staff in existing countries, strengthen recruiting and diversity efforts, continue to expand to new nations, and maximize safety and security training and compliance efforts.

I am greatly encouraged by the work of the Peace Corps and look forward to answering President Obama's call to continue to grow the Peace Corps. In this time of world conflict, economic disparities, and when so many are expressing an interest in national service, I hope we continue to re-invigorate the Peace Corps, our Nation's greatest and most cost-efficient diplomatic tool. During Peace Corps week, let us all pay tribute to the hard work, perseverance, determination, compassion, and idealism of Peace Corps volunteers around the world.

HONORING NORTH TEXANS WHO ASSISTED WITH RECOVERY RE- LIEF EFFORTS IN HAITI

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and efforts of several North Texans who assisted the citizens of Haiti after the terrible earthquake of January 12, 2010 struck the country. I am remarkably proud of the work they have done as their presence in Haiti was absolutely critical in the days and weeks directly following the earthquake.

I would particularly like to note the efforts of several medical professionals associated with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center who went to Haiti after the disaster to help with relief efforts. Their work was critically important and helped to save countless lives in the country. Dr. Karl Rathjen, an Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at UT Southwestern spent nine days in Haiti and operated on roughly 50–100 people in the time he was there. Andrew Tyan, a medical student, also spent time in the country to help with relief efforts. Additionally, Scott McGough, a Lewisville orthopedic therapist, and Emily Davenport, a Physician's Assistant, spent a week helping in the Caribbean nation.

Madam Speaker, when disaster struck Haiti, these North Texans answered a call to help. I encourage my fellow colleagues to join me today in recognizing their hard work and sacrifice to help people in need.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSO- NIAN MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I will introduce three bills to modernize the Smithsonian Institution and to enhance its governance and fundraising ability, in keeping with the recommendations of a number of experts, including the Independent Review Committee, chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles Bowsher. This bill, the Smithsonian Modernization Act, makes changes to the Smithsonian's governance structure by expanding its Board of Regents from 17 members, which includes six Members of Congress, the Vice President of the United States, and the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, to 21 members, comprised solely of private citizens. These changes will strengthen both the Smithsonian's governance and fundraising capacity, and it is the first significant change in an old and revered institution since it was established in 1846. The second bill, the Smithsonian Free Admission Act of 2010, seeks to preserve the longstanding free admission policy for permanent exhibits at an institution that is largely funded by the federal government, as envisioned by James Smithson, its founder who contributed the original gift. Finally, the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act of 2010 will apply the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act to