

RECOGNIZING SANDY PALMER AS
THE HURLBURT AFA CHAPTER
398 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandy Palmer upon receiving the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398's Overall Teacher of the Year Award for 2010. Ms. Palmer has been a dedicated educator for 27 years, and I am proud to recognize her achievement.

Currently teaching third grade at Shalimar Elementary School in Okaloosa County, Florida, Sandy has taught at every grade level and in a variety of subjects over the course of her illustrious career. She is known for her enthusiasm for and commitment to incorporating space and aviation into her daily classroom instruction. After attending Space Camp for Teachers in 2001, Sandy changed her way of thinking to integrate these ideas into math and science curricula. She uses paper airplane construction to introduce concepts such as distance, angles, and measurements. Sandy also thinks outside the box to keep her students involved, including an annual play that involves launching the International Space Station. The performance provides parents with the unique opportunity to learn what their children are doing in the classroom with Ms. Palmer's innovative teaching methods. For her outstanding efforts, Sandy is this year's AFA Hurlburt Chapter nominee to the Florida State/Regional Teacher of the Year Competition.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am humbled to recognize Sandy Palmer as the Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 Overall Teacher of the Year. For 27 years, she has inspired her students and her colleagues, and she is highly deserving of this honor. Vicki and I wish Sandy and her family all the best for the future.

CONGRATULATING THE WINNERS
OF THE VALOR FOUNDATION'S
NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS
ESSAY COMPETITION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the winners of the Valor Foundation's essay contest. I am honored to recognize the achievements of these students from Loudoun County and this excellent program in the 10th District of Virginia.

The Valor Foundation is an organization dedicated to partnering with individuals and organizations to support local community fire, rescue, and law enforcement groups. The dedicated work of this foundation supports numerous public safety officers and their families during their times of need. To recognize and celebrate these individuals, the foundation held a youth essay competition to honor the first responders.

To recognize the National First Responder Day, Loudoun County Middle School students were asked to submit essays describing, "Why

We Should Have a National First Responder's Appreciation Day." The Valor Foundation collaborated with Randy Kelly, CEO of INOVA Loudoun Hospital, to award five essay winners with savings bonds. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these outstanding students for their achievements, as well as the dedication of the first responders of Loudoun County.

I submit for the winning essays:

Tommy Mai, Belmont Ridge Middle School:

First responders are brave people. They sacrifice their lives just to save other lives at any cost. Whether it's a fire, medical emergency, or a shoot-out, they'll put anything and everything on the line. Think about a jailhouse without police guards, or a burning building without fire fighters coming to the rescue, or hospitals without doctors, nurses, and paramedics. Think about what would have happened during 9/11 without these brave people. Who can think of braver people. They sacrifice their lives for their families, for us, but more importantly, for America.

Ananda Bhatia, Eagle Ridge Middle School:

Every day a crime is committed. Every day a house catches on fire. Every day a person is hurt, a purse is stolen-someone risks their life for someone else! Emergency Responders help people when they need it most. When lives are at risk-they're there for you. Without them, thousands of people wouldn't be here right now. Someone who runs into burning buildings deserves equal respect as someone in the military. Fire fighters, police officers, medical responders, deputies- they deserve respect-and a holiday of their own. I believe Emergency Responders Day would be perfect-and I'm sure many other thankful citizens agree.

Diego Loya, Farmwell Station Middle School:

Who was there to help the victims of 9/11 on that horrific day? Who were first to rescue and help others during and after that tragic event? These people are not the heroes we normally think of with swords, spears or protective armor. They are every day human beings doing what they love and putting themselves in harm's way for their country.

Police, ambulance workers, E. M. T's and firefighters are examples of first responders. They risk their lives to help others. Every day a fire starts or someone is hurt or the police are needed in our communities. Without their presence in our daily lives we would have so many worries. They deserve a day of honor. They desire to be honored and appreciated on First Responders' Day.

Maddie Klaff, Seneca Ridge Middle School:

Believe it or not, in 2007, a total of 181 law enforcement officers and 118 fire-fighters lost their lives while on duty. Because these people do their job, I can walk around feeling safe and protected. These first responders spend their time serving the public and are only minutes away in times of crisis. Many of them do this voluntarily and without pay.

I believe we should dedicate a holiday in honor of those who spend their days looking after us. Their lives are dedicated to protecting ours every day, so we should dedicate one day to recognize them.

Kyle Brown, Simpson Middle School:

Though situations like car accidents and medical emergencies bring grief and sorrow, it is good to know that there are people who are dedicated and trained to help. They are known as first responders. These heroes are

committed to helping others who need them when they can't fend for themselves. These unselfish people know that their lives are sometimes at risk, but they care about the safety of others. I stand for everyone when I say that these first responders deserve a day on which their fellow Americans can show them how much they appreciate their commitment to helping others.

HONORING CAPTAIN JEANETTE
SAID-JINETE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Jeanette Said-Jinete, the first woman to be sworn in as a police officer and receive the rank of Captain in the Town of Medley Police Department.

Jeanette began her law enforcement career at the age of 19 with the city of Homestead Police Department. Years later, she joined the town of Medley and in 1984, was sworn in as the first female Medley Police Officer. In 1986 she became a detective and in 2002 was awarded Officer of the Year for her success in investigating and solving crimes. In 2004, Jeanette was assigned as the assistant to the mayor and a liaison for the police department and in June of last year, was promoted to captain, becoming the first female appointed to this rank and second in command of the police department.

Jeanette is also a member of the Police Honor Guard, the Miami Dade Association of Chiefs of Police, the Florida Police Chiefs Association, and the International Association of Chief of Police, and is a certified computer voice stress analyzer and a certified code enforcement officer.

Aside from her personal achievements in her career, Jeanette has been a driving force for Medley, obtaining numerous grants for public safety and homeland security equipment, and making possible funding for the town "Tot Lot", basketball court, and the Riverside Domino Park. She has also been instrumental in planning community events and ensuring the Town's participation and partnership with other local entities.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask you to join me in thanking captain Jeanette Said-Jinete for her commitment to making the town of Medley a safe place to live, work and play, and congratulating her for her outstanding work ethic and personal achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE MIDLAND
SCHOOL D.A.R.E. GRADUATES

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today the Rochelle Park Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the fifth graders of the Midland School. The young people participating in this important program have made a commitment to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and

gang violence. They have done this with the support of Chief of Police Richard Zavinsky and D.A.R.E. Officer Douglas Arendacs.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. This program allows children to defeat negative cultural influences by opening the lines of communication between law enforcement and youth, empowering students with confidence and courage to say no to drugs.

I am proud of the young men and women who participated in this program in Rochelle Park, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Jenna Alessi, Amna Bajwa, John Califano, Selena Cangialosi, Brittney Cappobianco, Britney Fischbach, John Gerber, Kevin Grieco, Karim Jassim, George Latko, Camron Mickens, Michael Palamara, Nire Rollins, Anthony Sorrentino, Gianni Veloz, Vraj Vyas, Lauren Abrams, Joshua Afocx, Yuna Chung, Jennifer Cichino, Lewyn Concepcion, Drew Every, Suraj Ghumwala, Matthew Kowalski, Alexandra Lehmbeck, Krishalei Locquiao, Samantha McElroy, Joseph Neu, Serena Nguyen, Kyle Ray, Ryan Lewis-Riley, Thadeja Richetts, Bruce Amundson, Kaitlyn Boylan, Heather Buse, Yusef Froogh, Cierra Gamble, T'Shawn Jennings, Owen Lapira, Lindsay Pacheco, Alyssa Poidomani, Steven Riley, Matthew Santana, Jesse Marie Sanzari, Christine Sawruk, Prince Seabrooks, Maicel Shenouda, Jason van der Wilt, Raymond Vasquez.

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2122, a bill introduced by our colleague Delegate PIERLUISI to ensure that the cover-over tax levied on the rum exports from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are used for their original intended purpose; namely to promote the general welfare of the territories' citizens in addition to promoting overall economic development. Currently, the funds are being used, in my opinion, to unfairly support blatant corporate welfare for a foreign-owned company. We do not need to be sending our tax dollars to foreign corporations when we have record unemployment in this country.

Rum that is produced in either Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands, and that is sold in the continental United States, is subject to the same Federal tax as rum produced in the States—roughly \$13.50 for each proof-gallon. However, in the case of the territories, the majority of the revenue is returned by the Federal government to the respective territory, and then the remainder is retained by the Federal government. This so-called “cover-over” tax provision—which has enjoyed strong bi-partisan support for many years—allows the territories to pay for important local programs.

Unfortunately, this provision is now being abused to award a sweetheart deal to the Brit-

ish alcohol distiller and importer Diageo. Under the terms of this sweetheart deal, London-based Diageo will receive 46 percent of the U.S. Virgin Islands' cover-over to pay for a new distillery. Madam Speaker, Diageo is worth roughly \$35 billion according to the latest figures. To give Diageo 46 percent of the funds intended for the general welfare of the people of the Virgin Islands, in my opinion, violates the spirit if not the letter of the law. If this type of manipulation is allowed, many experts believe, a race to the bottom will result, with the territories attempting to poach businesses from each other with larger and larger sweetheart deals paid for by the cover-over funds.

For example, Puerto Rico currently receives about \$400 million in carry-over funds per year. From that pool of money, Puerto Rico pays about six percent to the company, Rums of Puerto Rico, and Puerto Rican law states that no more than 10 percent of the funds it receives from the rum cover-over program can be used to subsidize rum producers on the island. This is a reasonable approach. It ensures that Puerto Rico can attract businesses to the island while still having the resources to carry out public works projects.

H.R. 2122 carries forward this common-sense approach. Under the terms of the bill, either Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands may use its cover-over funds to provide unfair subsidies to rum producers. Further, if it is determined by the Secretary of the Treasury that a territory has unfairly subsidized a rum producer, the Secretary can transfer some of the cover-over funds intended for that territory that provided the unfair subsidy to the territory that has been disadvantaged. The legislation defines “unfair” or “per se unreasonable” if the subsidy exceeds ten percent of the covered-over amount returned to the territory's treasury.

Madam Speaker, let us remember the original intent of the cover-over funds, which was to help the territories fund important civil programs for the benefit of the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The purpose was most certainly not to provide corporate welfare to large foreign-owned conglomerates. H.R. 2122 will ensure that the original purpose of the cover-over tax—to advance the general welfare of the citizens—is being carried out. I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense bill.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CITY OF DAYTONA BEACH SHORES

HON. SUZANNE M. KOSMAS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Ms. KOSMAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Daytona Beach Shores on its 50th Anniversary. Since its founding on April 22, 1960, the City of Daytona Beach Shores has been a resort and retirement community located on the barrier island bordered on the east side by the Atlantic Ocean and on the west side by the Intercoastal Waterway (Halifax River).

The City of Daytona Beach Shores has a storied history, featuring a pristine beach where famed race car drivers once vied to set world speed records. The Legends Walk of

Fame tribute features bricks dedicated to these famous drivers and the Otto Schultze Memorial is a tribute to the late City Councilman that includes the seven flags used in automobile racing. The City is also home to The Court of Flags, a rotating display of 12 flags representing the national originals of its residents and highlighting the cultural diversity that unifies our nation.

The citizens of Daytona Beach Shores also have a strong history of responsible governance and stewardship as evidenced most recently by the approval of a local tax to fund underground placement of all utility lines, thus mitigating damages from dangerous tropical storms.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary, the City will place items in a time capsule to be opened at the 75th anniversary of the City in 2035.

Living up to the City's motto of “a better life,” the residents of Daytona Beach Shores truly have enjoyed “50 years of a better life” since its founding on April 22, 1960.

On April 22, 2010, the 50th Anniversary of the City of Daytona Beach Shores, I encourage all residents to recognize and show their appreciation for the many memories and contributions of the community over the years.

HONORING THE WORK OF BARRY LUBOVISKI

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to honor the great work of Barry Luboviski. After serving for fifteen years as Secretary-Treasurer of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda Council, Barry is stepping down for some much deserved rest and relaxation.

Barry's commitment to the working men and women of this country began when he joined the Iron Workers Union, Local 378 as an Apprentice in 1965. He became an active participant in union activities, and in 1981, he started teaching evening classes for the Iron Workers Apprenticeship Program.

In 1979, Barry was elected as a Delegate to the Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO, and he was later appointed to Chair the Political Action Committee of the Building Trades Council. There, he helped organize voter registration drives and membership education.

Soon he was elected to serve as an Executive Boardmember of the Iron Workers Union, Local 378 and continued to help lead his local union until being hired in 1991 by the California State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO as an Organizer. After four years of effective service, he was elected in 1995 to the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO.

It has been an honor to work with Barry these many decades, strengthening worker protections and forging a more just and equitable California. Let the record show that the working people of California are better off because of Barry's leadership.