

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING MIDSHIPMAN MARISA LEEANN SANCHEZ

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the unexpected and tragic passing of an honorable young woman dedicated to her country.

Midshipman Marisa LeeAnn Sanchez was a bright and talented student at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. A native Hoosier, Marisa was a gifted high school athlete in volleyball, tennis, swimming, and basketball. Marisa also volunteered her time as a member of Student Council and the Athletic Council and Business Professionals of America.

Marisa excelled academically, graduating 10th out of her class of over 300 students. In 2009, I nominated Marisa to the Merchant Marine Academy, and I was pleased when the Academy accepted her. It was with grave sadness that I learned of her recent passing.

The tragedy of losing such a young and promising life is never easy. I give my most sincere condolences to Marisa's family: father, Jeffery McClane; mother, Lisa Robinson Sanchez; stepfather, Gilberto "Gil" Sanchez; stepmother, Heather McClane; three brothers, Joshua Caleb McClane, Milo Sheldon Sanchez, and Christopher Allan Anderson; two sisters, Morgan Anne Sanchez and Kate Argabright; paternal grandparents, Floyd and Jenny McClane; maternal grandparents, Randall and Gloria Robinson; paternal grandmother, Maria Sanchez; great-grandmother, Eva Sellars; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. May they find comfort in the Old Book which tells us that "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail."

MARINE HEAVY HELICOPTER SQUADRON 772 RESERVE FAMILY READINESS AWARD

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772 based at Naval Air Station Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, for being selected as the 2009 Marine Forces Reserve winner of the Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award. Their honor, courage and commitment to our nation and those that serve in defense of it, unquestionably helps to ensure the safety of America and the entire world.

Activated in April 1958, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772 has a proud history of serving our country with great distinction. Courageously serving in the Republic of Vietnam,

Operation Desert Storm, Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as numerous humanitarian relief operations, they have acted with honor and distinction whenever called upon. Today, the squadron continues to build upon this legacy, earning formal commendation for their robust family readiness program.

Improved family readiness programs aid Guard and Reserve families readiness when called up for active duty. In 2000, the Department of Defense established the Reserve Family Readiness Awards Program to formally recognize the National Guard and Reserve units with the finest family support programs.

The Unit Family Readiness Program of the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772 has distinguished itself as an exemplary support program. They have earned this award through their development of seamless, integrated readiness and support programs, in combination with their ability to provide resource information, training, and support services for family members. These programs play a vital role in supporting our nation's service members during a critical time.

Madam Speaker, I thank and congratulate the members of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772 for their honor, courage and commitment. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating this award and wishing these dedicated Marines continued success in their efforts to enhance our nation's military personnel and family readiness.

CONGRATULATING CONGREGATION ETZ CHAIM ON ITS 50TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Congregation Etz Chaim which serves the people of Lombard in my Congressional District. This weekend, the congregation celebrates its 50th anniversary of serving families in our community.

The congregation was founded in 1960 as Tree Towns Congregation in Elmhurst by eight local families. Today it serves more than 550 families in the western suburbs of Chicago. Leaders within the congregation include Senior Rabbi Steven Bob, Associate Rabbi Andrea Cosnowsky, Educator Anne Stein, Administrator Carol Meyer, and President Al Herbach.

Etz Chaim is the only Jewish congregation of its size in the nation with an all-volunteer religious school faculty. The congregation prides itself on being a growing, thriving center of Reform Judaism where both young and old are welcomed and cherished. Etz Chaim depends on the members to shape its character through involvement in programming and committees.

Congregants have always been very involved in local and international issues on a

grassroots level. Over the course of their history, member families have hosted in their homes refugees from Vietnam as well as Soviet Jews escaping oppression. They distribute merchandise made by craftspeople of Lifeline for the Old in Jerusalem. In our own community, social programs include PADS, where the synagogue's social hall becomes a shelter for the homeless every Sunday evening.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, the Etz Chaim congregation is a remarkable institution which has served the people of Lombard faithfully for the last 50 years. Please join me in recognizing its extraordinary impact on the community and wishing the congregation happiness for many more years to come.

HONORING MR. FEDORA MCINTYRE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Fedora McIntyre. Mr. McIntyre served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Portland Tax Collector.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. McIntyre served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. McIntyre is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise in tribute to him today.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINISTRY OF THE CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES AT THE HISTORIC OUR LADY QUEEN OF ANGELS CHURCH, "LA PLACITA"

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Claretian Missionaries' service to the first church of Los Angeles, Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church—affectionately known to its parishioners in Spanish as "La Placita" or "The Little Plaza" church—located in Downtown Los Angeles in the 34th Congressional District.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The Claretians are a Catholic missionary order founded in Spain in 1849 by St. Anthony Mary Claret. In 1906, the Claretian Missionary Fathers arrived in California to work in the San Fernando Mission. Two years later, the missionaries moved their headquarters to San Gabriel Mission where they continue to preach today. In 1910, the Claretian Fathers traveled 10 miles west to expand their ministry to La Placita.

Father Rosendo Urrabazo characterizes the missionary vocation of the church as "bringing the message of God's love, mercy and justice to every part of the world." This guiding principle is clearly evident at La Placita where the Claretian Fathers' dedication to spiritual and community service makes the church a home and refuge for people of all faiths and backgrounds.

On any given weekend, thousands of parishioners from all walks of life attend religious services at La Placita offered in both English and Spanish. Whether the parishioners are homeless, recent immigrants from Mexico, Central and Latin America or vacationing families, La Placita welcomes everyone with open doors, love and compassion.

Each week, pastoral services at the church include: 30 regular Masses; weddings and Quinceañeras; 10 scheduled hours of confession; baptism celebrations (totaling more than 25,000 last year alone); and religious education programs for children, youth and adults. The church also offers a monthly program to provide liturgical services to residents of a local housing project.

In addition to addressing the spiritual needs of its parishioners, the church helps struggling families in a wide variety of ways. Assisted by more than 80 volunteers, the parish operates a full time social office that organizes community outreach services and programs, including a health clinic, English classes, food distribution for the elderly, meals for the homeless, legal aid for immigrants, income tax help and a weekly 12-step program for persons suffering from addiction.

Madam Speaker, over the past 100 years, many Claretian missionaries have dedicated their lives to serving the families of the La Placita community. This anniversary, however, three missionaries in particular will be recognized for their outstanding service at the church's May 20 centennial dinner celebration.

Selected by the centennial celebration committee for their tireless pastoral and humanitarian service, the following missionaries will be honored: Fr. Tomas Maten, CMF (1900–1975) who defended the rights of the displaced residents of the Chavez Ravine area now the site of Dodger Stadium; Fr. Luis Olivares, CMF (1934–1993) who worked tirelessly to bring the cause of the homeless and immigrants to the attention of local and national policy makers; and Fr. Albert Vazquez, CMF, (1928–) educator and pastor who shaped the pastoral direction of the parish and its school for more than 27 years.

Today, the clergy and parishioners of La Placita continue the tremendous work and legacy of these three exemplary missionaries.

Recognizing the tremendous needs of immigrants to our country, the church is a local leader in raising awareness and support for comprehensive immigration reform. During the 1980s, the church called itself a sanctuary for refugees threatened with deportation to El Salvador. In recent months, I have had the privi-

lege of participating in two immigration town halls held at La Placita, both of which were attended by hundreds of area advocates demanding the reform of our nation's broken and unjust immigration laws. The seamless transformation of this historic church from a place of worship to a town meeting hall for political action truly typifies the Claretian Fathers' dedication to achieving justice and social change on behalf of their parishioners and our community.

Beyond the walls of La Placita, the Claretian Fathers' prayers could be heard across the country and throughout the halls of Congress on September 19, 2007 when Father Richard Estrada accepted a rare invitation to give the opening prayer in the U.S. House of Representatives. Calling on lawmakers to draw strength from their diversity and make laws to protect all of God's children, he prayed for God to, "Inspire our nation's leaders to seek justice, defend liberty and unite diverse cultures and languages."

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Claretian Missionaries' service at La Placita, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and congratulating them for their devotion and enormous contributions on behalf of the most vulnerable in our community, and I extend to the Order our best wishes for many more years of doing God's work in the historic area of our great city's birth, Downtown Los Angeles.

HONORING MARJORIE BUTLER ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Marjorie Butler on the occasion of her 100th birthday. A longtime resident of the Hudson River Valley, 43 years ago Dr. Butler helped establish the Black Studies Department at the State University of New York at New Paltz. At that time in 1967, only a handful of schools had established similar departments, but today, more than 250 colleges and universities are engaged in the exploration and analysis of the history and culture of African people in the United States, Caribbean, and Africa. Dr. Butler is truly a pioneer of this important academic discipline.

Before her retirement in 1984, as the chair of the department and a professor of psychology, she drew from her life experiences to provide an enriching learning environment for thousands of students, many of whom went on to adopt her goals of human progress and equality as their own. It is because of the leadership, personal courage and dedication of individuals like Dr. Marjorie Butler that our nation has overcome many of its greatest civil rights challenges. Her contributions and devotion to this cause must be recognized and understood and cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate and honor Dr. Butler on her 100th birthday and for her many years of hard and deeply effective work and her service in the cause of social justice.

TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010. As we arrive at another tax filing deadline, I am pleased to support many of the measures to assist taxpayers and improve the Internal Revenue Code that have been discussed in the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight.

I just returned from a tax day event in my district, where I heard from several folks who live in the Second District about how they are saving money this tax year because of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and other recent tax cuts. As North Carolina's only Member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, I am proud to work to promote tax fairness for all Americans. In fact, the vast majority of middle-class North Carolinians are receiving larger refunds or paying less taxes than they were last year or the year before because of our action.

However, many Americans have difficulty navigating the complexities of the tax code. They need to know where to turn for information, which is one of the things we discussed at Monday's tax day event. I am pleased to support this bill because it will help taxpayers get assistance in filing their taxes. Under the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010, we will provide referrals from the IRS to Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITCs), increase funding for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites, expand outreach for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), make sure the IRS notifies taxpayers of unclaimed refunds, and help protect taxpayers from identity theft. H.R. 4994 will also improve tax fairness by studying the delivery of tax refunds and the effectiveness of collection alternatives. The bill also fixes the outdated tax treatment of business cell phones, so that businesses do not face the double burden of providing phones to their employees and also paying taxes for them as a benefit.

Our goal should be to make our tax code more fair and workable for individuals, families, businesses and employees across the country, and this bill does just that. Improving the process for millions of taxpaying Americans should be a bipartisan priority. I support H.R. 4994 and urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in working together across party lines and voting for its passage.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF FRESNO COUNTY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno County, California, on this occasion of their 60th anniversary aptly recognized as, "60 years of Hope and Opportunity."