

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE CHOPIN SINGING SOCIETY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an accomplished choral group, The Chopin Singing Society, that is celebrating its 100th anniversary of creating beautiful music and inspiring the Polish community of New Jersey and the surrounding area.

It is only fitting that The Chopin Singing Society be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for the artistic musical group has done much to help Polish-Americans and the community at large understand the rich tradition of Polish music while also celebrating American classics. The deep reverence of the Society's members for their heritage helps to enrich the multicultural tapestry of the District I represent.

The Chopin Singing Society #182 Polish Singers Alliance of America of Passaic, NJ, is one of the oldest independent male choral groups active in the United States. The Society was officially organized on March 10, 1910, in honor of the 100th anniversary of Fryderyk Chopin's birth. The choral group's first Musical Director was Edmund A. Sennert.

The Society's first performance was a commemorative program honoring Polish patriots who fought and died in the 1830 revolt against Russian occupation. When World War I began, 75 percent of the chorus joined the newly organized American Legion of the Polish Army. After the Armistice, the chorus reorganized and one of its first accomplishments was to appear in the American performance of Giuseppe Verdi's opera, eleven *Trovatore*, starring Giovanni Martinelli.

In 1997 and 1998 the Society was the featured choir with the Jimmy Sturr Christmas Show tour appearing at Felician College, Lodi, New Jersey, and in theaters in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Middletown, New York, Springfield, Massachusetts, Easton, Pennsylvania, and the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. The choir has achieved the highest score at international choral competitions of the Polish Singers Alliance of America, PSAA. In doing so, the choir has been awarded the traveling Cardinal Hlond Trophy and maintains the distinction of being the only chorus to win the trophy three times, twice in succession.

The choir prides itself in having in its repertoire the ability to sing Polish, classical, folk and patriotic songs, a complete Latin Mass, as well as American classic and barber shop songs. The Society's busiest time of the year is the Christmas season, fulfilling requests to present its time-honored Polish Christmas concert and to appear as guest choir during the celebration of Mass at many churches throughout the Metropolitan area. The current musical director is Alicja Rusewicz-Pagorek.

The chorus has two recordings to its credit: *Polskie koledy* (Polish Christmas Carols) and

Songs of Poland, a mix of traditional Polish songs. This album (*Songs of Poland*) was remastered on to CD this year and is currently available. Also, this year, the chorus will introduce a new CD of traditional Polish Christmas carols. The success of the Chopin Singing Society stems from its members' dedication and desire to promote and maintain Polish culture through song.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of wonderful, thriving cultural groups such as The Chopin Singing Society.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join the members of The Chopin Singing Society, all those whose lives have been culturally enriched throughout the years, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of The Chopin Singing Society to New Jersey's Eighth Congressional District community and beyond.

HONORING CARLOS BEDOLLA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Carlos Bedolla upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. Mr. Bedolla was honored on Saturday, January 30, 2010, in Chowchilla, California.

Mr. Carlos Bedolla was born in Gilroy, California, and graduated from Gilroy High School. In 1965, shortly after graduation, Mr. Bedolla was enlisted into the United States Army. He completed basic training at Fort Hood, Texas, and was sent to Virginia for advanced training. Mr. Bedolla was designated as an infantryman and was assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Meade, Maryland. For several months the regiment took part in advanced unit training and in 1966 he boarded a ship in Oakland, California, for a 23-day voyage to Southeast Asia.

Upon arriving in Vietnam, Mr. Bedolla was assigned to the 2nd Squadron of the 11th Cavalry Regiment, the "Blackhorse Regiment." The regiment's mission was to conduct "search and destroy" operations on all Viet Cong and North Vietnam regular forces in their area of operation. They provided reconnaissance and security for the 101st and 173rd Airborne and supported several other units. Mr. Bedolla participated in two major operations: Iron Triangle and Junction City. Both operations focused on eliminating enemy strongholds and jungle clearing. It was during these operations that tunnel complexes were found containing tons of rice and supplies for enemy troops.

Mr. Bedolla served as an infantry squad leader and an armored personnel carrier track commander during operations. He directly pro-

vided reconnaissance for his unit and employed tactics to ensure the safety of his men.

Upon completing his tour in Vietnam, Sergeant Bedolla returned to the United States and was honorably discharged in April of 1967. For his service he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with device, the Republic of Vietnam Unit Gallantry Cross with frame and palm, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Army Sharpshooter Badge.

After his discharge, Mr. Bedolla returned to Gilroy, where he met and married his wife, Jessica. He was employed in the retail grocery industry as a store director for 34 years. Mr. and Mrs. Bedolla have 2 sons, 1 daughter, 11 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Mr. Bedolla is a Life Member of Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896, the St. Columba Catholic Church and the Young Men's Institute.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Carlos Bedolla upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Bedolla many years of continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FRANK MCCOY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life and legacy of former Vernon, Connecticut, Mayor Frank J. McCoy. Frank passed away on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, at the age of 87.

Frank was a monumental figure in his beloved town of Vernon. His lifetime of public service began early, serving as an enlisted man in The U.S. Army for 3 years and attaining the rank of sergeant. As a medic, he saw combat in the European Theater of World War II and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. While this contribution alone would have enshrined him forever as a public hero, Frank chose to continue serving his community for decades.

After the war, Frank pursued his education. He graduated from Yale University in 1949 and the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1956. He practiced law for 54 years and served as attorney for the Vernon Fire District during its consolidation with the City of Rockville in forming the Town of Vernon. After two terms on the Vernon Town Council, Frank was first elected Mayor of Vernon in 1969, where he served three consecutive terms. In 1977, he was again elected to a fourth and final term and was the President of the Connecticut Conference of Mayors. Simultaneously, he somehow found time to work as a service officer for the Soldier Sailors Marine Fund for over 40 years helping wartime veterans who were in need of financial assistance.

• 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.

Frank often found ways to combine his love for his community with his love of team sports. In 1960, he formed the Vernon Midget Football League, which eventually led to the creation of the Rockville High School football team. For over 40 years, he coached recreational basketball, baseball, and football in Vernon. In 1965, he formed and sponsored the Vernon Orioles semi-pro baseball team, who won the Greater Hartford Twilight League playoff title in 1996. For Frank, it must have been a truly heartwarming achievement.

Frank has now joined his wife Jeanette, who passed away last year. He is survived by his five children and four grandchildren who, like the rest of us, remember him as an exceptional family man, patriot, public servant and sports enthusiast. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in celebrating Frank McCoy's life and offering condolences to his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes on April 15, 2010 due to official travel. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall 207 "nay"; Rollcall 208 "yea"; Rollcall 209 "nay"; Rollcall 210 "yea"; and Rollcall 211 "nay."

HONORING MR. DONALD MICHALAK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 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. Donald Michalak. Mr. Michalak served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Villanova Town Attorney.

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. Michalak 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. Michalak is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise in tribute to him today.

HONORING RAQUEL RUBIO GOLDSMITH

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, Raquel Rubio Goldsmith, honored teacher, researcher

and community activist, retires after 40 years of teaching at Pima Community College and the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ. She coordinates the Binational Migration Institute housed in the Mexican-American Research and Studies Center at the University of Arizona, where she began teaching in 1983. She retired from Pima Community College in 1999 and has received many honors for her teaching and mentoring of students and younger faculty.

Born in the border community of Douglas, AZ, she is the oldest of a family of nine children. At the age of 16, Raquel graduated from high school in Douglas and was granted a scholarship to the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). She had no choice in 1952 but to accept, since the opportunities in higher education were extremely limited for Mexican Americans, especially those from rural communities and working class backgrounds. Her father was a railroad worker.

In Mexico City she was fortunate to live with a great aunt who was a concert pianist and introduced her to a world of artists, intellectuals, and writers. She received undergraduate and advanced degrees in law and philosophy from UNAM. Upon returning to Douglas in 1961, she met, and later married, Charles Barclay Goldsmith. Barclay was a reporter and a recent graduate of Stanford University. He joined the United States Diplomatic Corps as a cultural attaché shortly thereafter and they were stationed in Merida, Mexico, and later in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Several years and two sons later, they moved to Pittsburgh, PA, where Raquel worked in a poverty program and Barclay completed a Masters in Fine Arts in directing from Carnegie Mellon University. In 1969 they moved to Tucson, where Raquel became a founding faculty member of Pima Community College. With others, she was charged with establishing the curriculum in an educational environment that followed a participatory democracy management model, from the janitor to the students to the faculty to the administration. All had a voice.

Professor Rubio Goldsmith flourished in this creative world, and she became a leader in institutionalizing diversity at all levels, instituting open-enrollment, establishing Mexican-American, African-American and Women's Studies, teaching Yaqui and Tohono O'odham histories and languages, and pioneering classes for credit in barrio community centers. She championed computer technology even before it had a widespread role in higher education. She fought tirelessly for hiring minorities at all levels, and became a master teacher and constant advocate for students. She was especially focused on older female students, and helped form an exemplary program for female bilingual aides in public education. With her support, many of those women went on to become bilingual teachers not only in Spanish but in the native languages of the borderlands.

Professor Goldsmith also established a long record of publication and centered her research on women of the borderlands. She researched the cultural impact of a community of Mexican nuns in Douglas and the importance of gardens for women in the isolation of the desert. She became a recognized specialist in women's studies, focusing on Chicana/Mexicana women. She pioneered surveys to document human rights violations suffered by migrants (and citizens) that offered the first important empirical evidence of the

impact that growing border militarization was having in border communities, and how those impacts were moving into the interior.

Recently, her research has centered on the post-1994 period that has led to a "funnel" effect of migrant movement that has caused so many deaths. Her cutting-edge scholarship is acknowledged by invitations to present at local, national and international forums and participate in academic, policy-making and community-based discussions. Professor Goldsmith has always made an effort to present academic research to the community by setting up presentations in neighborhood centers. At one time she conducted local radio programs on Spanish-language radio, teaching the history of Mexico and having on-air, call-in cultural discussions with the community. She believed that information should be shared with the community instead of isolated at educational institutions.

Professor Rubio Goldsmith has also devoted herself to working in promoting human rights. From her student years to the present, she has engaged in community-based activism. She worked on local issues with El Concilio Manzo in Tucson in the early 1970s and issues of immigration advocacy with them through the mid-1980s. She led the Zapatista movement in Tucson with Pueblo Por La Paz, participating in Chiapas with Zapatista convocations. She was the co-author of a play about the Zapatista uprising, "Tres Dias/Thirteen Days", performed by Borderlands Theater locally and the San Francisco Mime Troupe nationally. She is a member of Derechos Humanos and has been a board member of the Little Chapel of All Nations. She has been an active and tireless supporter of Raza Studies in high schools, and has served on the advisory council of the Institute of Mexicans Abroad (Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior) of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Relations.

Professor Raquel Rubio Goldsmith has been a wonderful mother to two sons, Chris and Pat. Christopher Goldsmith is a poet and has been a teacher of English for many years at Tucson High School. Patrick Goldsmith is a professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin. She has two grandchildren, who are the joy of her life, and is married to Barclay Goldsmith with whom she has shared a lifetime. Our community is very blessed for the service of Raquel Rubio Goldsmith, whose life's work continues to enrich us all.

RECOGNITION OF THE BYRD POLAR RESEARCH CENTER

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor The Byrd Polar Research Center at The Ohio State University for fifty years of leadership in polar and alpine research. My staff and I had the pleasure of visiting this innovative research center on the campus of The Ohio State University where we met with Director Ellen Mosley-Thompson and Dr. Lonnie Thompson and saw some of their pioneering research first hand. We visited interactive classrooms, the cold lab, and cold storage facility, which houses the research center's impressive collection of ice cores.