

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. SAMUEL OGNIBENE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 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. Samuel Ognibene. Mr. Ognibene served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Ellicott Town Justice.

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

HONORING K-12 EDUCATORS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the 10,000 school teachers in Southern Arizona, and for K-12 teachers across the Nation. I am honored to stand up here today, during National Teacher Appreciation Week, to recognize how tirelessly these men and women work to educate all of our children.

We have an organization in Southern Arizona that works every day to remind everyone of just how much K-12 teachers contribute to the economic and societal well-being of all of our communities. Tucson Values Teachers is not quite 2 years old, but it has made great strides in getting the word out about the value of teachers. And more than that, the organization has been working very hard to ease the economic burden so many of our teachers face in trying to raise families on salaries that are too small.

During this week, we all need to stop and think about how much more we need to do to support our K-12 teachers. More than 50% of all beginning teachers leave the profession within the first five years. Salary is one part of the problem, but the lack of support, mentoring and adequate classroom supplies and assistance are also critical factors.

It is time for our Nation to elevate the teaching profession to new levels of respect and remuneration. Teachers literally hold our future in their hands—they are the ones who, every day, stand in front of our children, working hard to instill in each one of them the knowl-

edge, curiosity and commitment to community that they will need to become our future leaders.

Let's get behind our teachers—let's follow the lead of Tucson Values Teachers. Let's all work together toward an America that Values Teachers. When teachers are paid and revered as much as our top athletes, we will live in a nation that leads all others in innovation, creativity and achievement.

ARNOLD JOHN JACOBS

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr. Arnold John Jacobs, of Forked River, NJ, for his dedicated and tireless service to the United States of America. For his heroism during WWII, Mr. Jacobs is rightfully being honored with the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation Badge and the Philippine Liberation Medal on May 8, 2010.

Mr. Jacobs was born in Philadelphia in 1918 and enlisted in the United States Navy at the age of 17. For the next few years, he honorably served aboard the USS *Nitro* and the USS *Davis* (DD-395). In November 1942, he put the USS *Phillip* (DD-498) into commission and served throughout WWII until receiving an honorable discharge in November 1945. As an active member of Squadron #22, he participated in 23 offensive operations in 26 months during the war and helped in the Philippine liberation campaign.

We, as a nation, are indebted to Mr. Arnold John Jacobs for his honorable service and for the sacrifices he made in protecting our country. I am proud to honor him today and hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating this honorable man for his outstanding contributions to the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAUL REUTER

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a recently departed constituent, Mr. Paul Reuter, a proud WWII veteran, family man and kind soul well thought of by all who knew him.

Born in 1920 in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, Paul enlisted in the Army Air Corps right out of high school, serving as a radio operator on B-18 and B-17 aircraft. He was soon transferred to the 14th Bomb Squadron located in the Philippine Islands. When the Japanese

bombed the Philippines after Pearl Harbor, Mr. Reuter and his fellow soldiers at Clark Air Field were captured and forced to take part in the infamous Bataan Death March across the island as prisoners of war. They spent five weeks in the notorious Tabayas Road detail during which an estimated 18,000 men died while being forced to cut a road through the mosquito and snake infested jungle with little food, rest or water.

After Bataan, Mr. Reuter spent over three years in Japanese prison camps, forced to perform slave labor in Japan's Seitetsu Steel Plant. Upon his liberation on September 9, 1945, shortly after the bombing of Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, Mr. Reuter weighed a mere 90 pounds. He credited his ability to avoid starvation due to growing up during the Depression. Nothing his captors fed him, which included bug infested rice, was too rich for his pallet. Through this dark time, his deep religious convictions, love of country and desire to be reunited with his family kept him mentally strong, if not physically.

Even after such sacrifice, Mr. Reuter's passion to serve and protect his country remained undiminished. He would go on to serve in the military for 15 more years, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant. In 1960, he hung up his fatigues for good, but shortly thereafter joined NASA. A strong believer in the value of an education, Paul went to school at night to earn his associates degree in Applied Science, a path he likely would have taken earlier but for the war. At NASA, Mr. Reuter got a front row seat for history and one of America's proudest moments, serving as part of the team that helped put the first man on the moon.

Following his retirement from NASA, after 40 years of government service, Paul turned his focus to helping his fellow veterans, the "Battling Bastards of Bataan." He served as an officer with the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, an organization which fought for Bataan veterans' rights and sought to serve as a reminder that "the precepts of courage, devotion to duty and sacrifice displayed by the men and women of Bataan, both Filipino and American, have not and will not become outmoded." In the 1980's, Paul received his long overdue Bronze Star for combat, along with a Purple Heart.

Over the years, Mr. Reuter has been quoted extensively in books, interviewed on television and participated in any number of history specials recalling his wartime experiences.

A dedicated husband and father, he and his wife Nickolena were married 62 years until her passing in 2008. They were proud parents to five children, grandparents to 12 grandchildren, and Paul was about to be blessed with his fourth great grandchild.

Mr. Reuter left us on April 16, 2010 at the age of 89. He was a man who lived enough for five men, never forgetting to show appreciation for those around him, dedicated to the common good for all.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING RON YEAKLE ON HIS 87TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor the life and service of Mr. Ron Yeakle on his 87th birthday. Mr. Yeakle is a true patriot. His story of extraordinary heroism and commitment to country has been an inspiration to many.

Ron Yeakle was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. In World War II, Mr. Yeakle served as a bomber pilot. During a bombing mission near Vienna, Austria, his B-24 Liberator was shelled at over 22,000 feet. In a harrowing feat of courage and bravery, Mr. Yeakle survived the jump and was later captured by enemy soldiers and forced to spend 14 months in German concentration camps. In what must have seemed like a hopeless situation at times, Mr. Yeakle and the other captors managed to encourage each other to endure this horrific experience until they were liberated by General George Patton and his men.

After the war, Mr. Yeakle and his wife Dorothy moved to Pensacola, Florida. In 1969, Mr. Yeakle was a co-founder of Piping and Equipment, Inc., where he still serves as a consultant. Additionally, Mr. Yeakle has served on the West Florida Hospital Board and the Ellyson Industrial Park Board. Ron and his wife have two daughters, Priscilla Carroll and Suzanne O'Meara.

It is with great honor, Madam Speaker, that I recognize the life and deeds of Mr. Ron Yeakle on his 87th birthday. He has been a leader both at times of war and times of peace. My wife Vicki and I wish him a happy birthday and his entire family all the best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO KIM WITCRAFT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kim Witcraft of Charles City, Iowa for his achievement as a 2010 Stars of Life award recipient.

The Stars of Life award publicly recognizes and celebrates the achievements of all people working in the selfless and heroic ambulance industry. The Stars of Life Program seeks to honor outstanding individuals as a thank you for their service, their sacrifice and the inspiration they bring to all Americans.

Kim has been recognized as a hero who has assumed several roles to ensure that the American Ambulance Association's Charles City small operation succeeds and continues to provide much needed help to area citizens. He is a state-certified EMS instructor and handles all clinical and education services and schedules most of the trainings for his operation. Kim also handles safety training for fifth and sixth graders in the area and presents many safety talks each year to Iowa elementary school students.

I know that my colleagues in Congress join me in congratulating and thanking Kim

Witcraft, one of Iowa and America's everyday heroes for his service and his constant consideration for the well-being of others in his community.

HONORING THE MICHAEL JAZZ TRIO FOR THEIR MUSICAL GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a unique group of young musicians from my district, the Michael Jazz Trio.

The Michael Jazz Trio is comprised of three brothers from Central Islip, New York: Matthew, David and Jordan Godfrey. These young men have shared with the Long Island community not only their extraordinary talent, but also their passion for philanthropy. On Saturday, May 1st, 2010, they performed at Central Islip High School to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

I am proud to honor the Michael Jazz Trio for sharing their musical gift with the community.

THANKING STATE LEGISLATOR POLLY BUKTA FOR HER SERVICE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Iowa State Legislator Polly Bukta for her service to Iowa and our country. Representative Bukta is retiring from the Iowa State Legislature at the end of the 2010 state legislative session.

Representative Bukta has represented the Clinton region in the Iowa legislature since 1997. She has been a principled, pragmatic leader. In addition to serving on several committees in the Iowa House—including the Education, Local Government, and Transportation, and Veterans Affairs Committees—Representative Bukta is Speaker Pro Tem of the Iowa House. She was elected to this position because she has earned the trust and respect of her colleagues.

On the first day of the 2010 Iowa Legislative Session, Representative Bukta delivered the following remarks to the Iowa House:

Honor the institution. Thomas Jefferson did it, and so did James Madison, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton and other builders of our governmental institutions. They worked tirelessly to make representative government work. Now the well-being of our state legislature is in our hands. Preserve and protect it so it remains a strong, co-equal branch of government. Legislative service is one of democracy's worthiest pursuits. It is an important duty that deserves our time, attention and dedication. To work well, government requires a bond of trust between citizens and their representatives. Try to appeal to the best instincts of the electorate, talk about what you stand for, what you intend to do during your time in office and then work as hard as you can to fulfill those promises. Remember why you ran for

office—to make a difference, a difference for the better.

Representative Bukta has made "a difference for the better" for her constituents and the state of Iowa. Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Representative Bukta and her family for their service.

IN HONOR OF POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY, 2010

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division and of Polish Constitution Day, which is celebrated this year on May 2, 2010. Polish Constitution Day is a time for Poles to honor the struggles, sacrifices and victories of their ancestors. It is a day when people of all cultures join with the Polish community to celebrate the rich culture, traditions and history of Poland.

After almost five centuries of struggle and perseverance, the Governmental Statute of Poland became the first written constitution in Europe on May 3, 1791. An important document in the history of democracy, the Polish Constitution established the separation of government powers, freedom of religion, and abolished key elements of serfdom.

Formed in 1949, the Polish American Congress is a national umbrella organization representing over ten million Polish-Americans. It serves as a unifying force for both Polish-Americans and Polish citizens living in America. Additionally, the Polish American Congress has helped integrate Poles into the United States with programs like the Displaced Persons Program, which allowed almost 150,000 Polish immigrants to enter the U.S. after World War II.

The Polish-American community in Cleveland is deeply rooted in its commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy and hard work. As in years past, the Greater Cleveland community will join in celebration of Poland's rich history and culture by attending events such as the Polonia Ball, the Grand Parade and the Photographic Exhibition.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the Polish American Congress as they celebrate Polish Constitution Day. Their dedication to preserving and promoting their heritage, history and culture with Greater Cleveland serves to enrich and illuminate the brilliant and diverse fabric of our entire community.

PUERTO RICO DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2499) to provide for a federally sanctioned self-determination process for the people of Puerto Rico: