

CONGRATULATING THE TOWER OF HOPE ON ITS OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tower of Hope on its great accomplishments and express my best wishes for its fourth annual gala.

The Tower of Hope was created following the September 11th terrorist attacks in an effort to bring about hope and happiness to our wounded veterans. Through tireless and devoted work, the Tower of Hope raises funds to train assistance dogs and helps pair them with wounded veterans at no cost to our veterans.

Thousands of those brave service men and women have been seriously wounded in combat, many of them suffering from brain injuries, single and double amputations, and other traumatic wounds. Providing them with assistance dogs helps them live more comfortable and independent lives.

Madam Speaker, the Tower of Hope is dedicated to improving the lives of our veterans. Not only have they helped wounded veterans regain their independence, but they have also spread hope and love among those in need and their families. The Tower of Hope has helped veterans and countless others live normal lives, go to college, and support their loved ones. I have the highest respect for the important work they continue to do and the ideals they convey.

My thoughts and wishes are with them on their fourth annual "Lighting the Path" Gala. This event will help raise awareness of the importance of service dogs for wounded veterans and others with disabilities, and educate people about the benefits of such animals. In addition, I am proud of their upcoming initiative, "100 Dogs in 1000 Days," which will raise funds to train 100 service dogs and thus double the current number of service dogs available to wounded veterans.

Throughout the years, this great nation has been shaped by our willingness to help our neighbors in their greatest time of need. This giving spirit that defines our country is embodied in the Tower of Hope. We owe it to our veterans to support the development of a program that inspires hope and strengthens our tradition of compassion to those who need it most.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Tower of Hope for its outstanding work, as well as all the volunteers and donors who have made these programs possible through their generosity. I wish the Tower of Hope the very best with their upcoming initiatives and stand ready to provide any assistance and will continue to advocate for America's veterans.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize today as a National Day of Prayer. Congress first established a National Day

of Prayer in 1952, and in 1988 set the first Thursday in May as the day for Presidents to issue proclamations asking Americans to pray. From its founding, America has had a rich heritage of affirming religious expression in the lives of its citizens. In fact, many of our nation's leaders make decisions based on a set of moral values, often rooted in their religions or spiritual beliefs. Commander-in-Chief George Washington regularly issued orders for military troops to attend and participate in religious gatherings.

In the midst of the recent health care debate in Congress, I attended Sunday Service at the Capitol. I was particularly moved by the quote that was shared during the service, which was originally given by Chaplain Peter Marshall on the floor of the Senate 63 years ago: "Save us from accepting a little of what we know to be wrong in order to get a little of what we imagine to be right. Help us to stand up for the inalienable rights of mankind and the principles of democratic government consistently and with courage, knowing that Thy power and Thy blessing will be upon us only when we are in the right. May we so speak, and vote, and live, as to merit Thy blessing. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

I found this particularly poignant as I prepared to cast my vote on the health care reform bill. One of many issues within this bill was the role of the federal government in supporting abortion services. I believe federal support for elective abortions is morally wrong, and I know many of my colleagues share similar opinions. Chaplain Marshall's words of caution from so many years ago offered me guidance as I cast my vote against the legislation.

Madam Speaker, the National Day of Prayer continues to stand as a wonderful representation of the religious and spiritual heritage of this great nation. Today I urge Americans to reflect on the significance of prayer in their lives and it is my hope that Americans will always observe the National Day of Prayer with reverence and reflection.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PETER A. REILLY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Peter A. Reilly of Connecticut who passed away on April 26, 2010.

Peter Reilly, or the "Commish" as he was called to those who knew him best, was a giant in the Connecticut Labor Movement. Peter joined the Iron Workers Local #15 in 1951. After 12 years as a member, Peter took on the role of Business Agent in 1963 before retiring as the Financial Secretary-Treasurer and Business Manager after 35 years of tireless service. Peter always stood up for the little guy, and he never wavered in the fight to protect the interests of Connecticut's working men and women.

Peter was also a dedicated public servant. He was a member of the U.S. Army and Merchant Marines, and served our nation honorably during World War II. In his later years he served in a variety of posts on various state boards and committees during the administra-

tions of Governors Dempsey, Meskill, Grasso and O'Neill, carrying his belief in fair wages and standards for the working men and women he cared so deeply about. He later served as Deputy Commissioner and then Commissioner for the Connecticut Department of Labor under Governor Ella Grasso. On a personal note, I had the privilege to meet Commissioner Reilly as a newly elected state representative in 1987 and he was extremely kind and helpful to me. I learned a lot from him and became his friend for life.

While his dedication to his union brothers and sisters was never far from his mind, it was Peter's family that defined his life. While long days on the job often kept him away from home, his beloved wife Ruby, who stood by him for 54 years, including on the day he passed, his son Ed and his daughters Marie and Ruby, were never far from his thoughts. He is survived by them and his sister Marge Stempkowski, as well as six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, the working men and women of Connecticut have lost a great champion, and many like myself have lost a dear friend. I ask that all members join me in honoring the life and service of the "Commish", Peter A. Reilly.

IN RECOGNITION OF ADOPT-A-CAT MONTH OF THE AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the month of June has been designated by the American Humane Association as Adopt-A-Cat Month. The American Humane Association, which is headquartered in Englewood, Colorado, was founded in 1877 and is the only national organization dedicated to creating a more humane and compassionate world by ending the abuse and neglect of children and animals. Established in 1975, American Humane's Adopt-A-Cat Month is a time to bring special attention to the need for—and the benefits of—adopting homeless cats and making a commitment to provide them with a lifetime of loving care.

American Humane's Adopt-A-Cat Month serves as a sobering reminder of this staggering reality: every year, approximately 4 million cats and kittens end up in animal shelters in the United States. Each of these cats is in need of a "forever" home, but tragically, only a small percentage will eventually find one. During Adopt-A-Cat Month, American Humane—in partnership with The CATalyst Council—urges Americans to adopt a homeless cat from their local shelter or rescue group and provide it with a lifetime of love, as well as a lifetime of proper veterinary care. By championing cats as lifelong companions who enrich our lives in countless ways, American Humane is continuing its mission to promote the human-animal bond and combat the crisis of pet overpopulation, during Adopt-A-Cat Month and every month of the year.

IN RECOGNITION OF EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL WINNING THE REGION THREE AWARD FOR THE "WE THE PEOPLE" 2010 NATIONAL FINALS COMPETITION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise the students, their families and educators at East Kentwood High School, located in my Congressional District, who won the Region Three Award during the national finals of the 2010 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition. The students and teacher participating in this year's program have shown the nation the high standard of talent and education found in West Michigan.

The students studied for months before coming to Washington, DC, for the national finals. The team participated in a mock congressional hearing to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles in the U.S. Constitution. The team won local and state "We the People" contests to qualify for the national competition.

I would like to recognize the following students from East Kentwood High School for their outstanding performance: Tacy Allan, Heather Anderson, Brandon Bilski, Sam Broecker, Austin Calloway, Jessica Dippel, Christian Erwin, Natalie Eyke, Brandon Gafford, Alex Giarmo, Gorgen Grigoryan, Erin Letherby, Ian Macneil, Gwenevere Mueller, Brynley Nadziejka, Julia Nguyen, Taylor Sanchez, and Roger Taylor. Their teacher, Deb Snow, also deserves a great deal of recognition for instilling these students with a passion to learn and providing them with the knowledge they needed to succeed.

I would also like to commend the Center for Civic Education for putting on the "We the People" program and providing resources to schools in my district to help educators teach students about the U.S. Constitution. I cannot overstate how important it is for students to graduate from high school with a comprehensive understanding of how our government works. "We the People" programs should be recognized for promoting civic education, and I am pleased that it has had such a big impact in my district. Also worthy of special recognition are Linda Start and Jim Troost, the state coordinators, and Susan Laninga, the district coordinator who are responsible for implementing the "We the People" program in my district.

I am very proud of the students, their families and teacher at East Kentwood High School for winning the Region Three Award in the "We the People" competition, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them for their achievement.

HONORING RALPH ROSS ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Ralph Ross of Knoxville, Tennessee turned 100 years old

on May 3, 2010. I cannot think of a finer father, Christian, or community leader.

Ralph has had an amazing, blessed life. But despite his personal business success, he remains a humble Christian who devotes his resources, time, and heart to others.

Like many of Ralph's generation, he entered into the military during World War II after completing dental school and served admirably as the head of the dental corps at Camp Blanding, Florida.

While safeguarding the health of his fellow soldiers during the war, Ralph met the love of his life. Frances was the head of the nurse's corps at Camp Blanding, and that chance encounter would result in a 63-year marriage, two children, and four grandchildren.

Ralph served full time from April 1, 1941, to May 9, 1946. Even after the war, he continued his commitment to the United States, serving in the Reserves through the 1960s and retiring a Lieutenant Colonel.

Following his military service, Ralph got into the construction business. It takes a lot of hard work, determination, and a bit of luck to get a successful business off the ground. Ralph did it twice.

After getting much of the contract work for construction at Oak Ridge, a subcontractor ran off with most of his supplies and pay for the work. He was left with a shovel, a bulldozer, and no money.

Never one for self-pity, he started from scratch again by joining his brother in the coal business. And once again, he built a very successful business, selling it in 1982.

Ralph is a shining example of how to live a Christian life. Blessed with security on this Earth, he has never stopped giving to those who are not as fortunate.

From serving as President of the North Side Kiwanis Club in Knoxville, to his activities with Campus Crusade for Christ, YOLK Youth Ministries, Young Life, and Shriners International, Ralph spends his time helping others, especially youth. He is also a generous benefactor to the University of Tennessee.

I graduated from high school with Ralph's son Roger and used to frequently play basketball at his house. I have known Roger Ross almost his entire life.

He describes a bulletin board in their home filled with images of his father's generosity. "You name it, he was in it," Roger says. "Being a Christian was Daddy's life."

As a member of First Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, and then later Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, Ralph served as elder and deacon. He is a very outgoing individual and meeting other people is his favorite thing.

"He always told me not to lie, and he never said a harsh word about anybody. And he would always help people," Roger says. "You ask him for help, or came and asked him for money, and he would give it to you."

Ralph lives by the creed that you always help those in need, even if some folks may try to take advantage of you. "That's life," he always says. "It doesn't mean you stop helping people."

Madam Speaker, Ralph Ross, through his faith in God, continues to live an honorable life. I call his devotion to others to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD and wish him a very happy 100th birthday. Roger Ross says of his father, "He just has people everywhere that love him." I think there is no better definition than that of a good life.

CELEBRATING MOTHERS AND MOTHER'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the actions of the House of Representatives in recognizing the role of mothers. I strongly support H. Res. 1295, which recognizes the significant contributions of mothers in building strong families and communities across the nation.

Madam Speaker, as we quickly approach Mothers Day this Sunday, let us recognize the tireless efforts and contributions to society, the personal sacrifices made, and the wise guidance that mothers provide everyday. The creation of Anna Jarvis, first observed on May 10, 1908, Mothers Day serves as a day of remembrance and reflection on the unyielding love and affection that mothers provide, reminding us that no matter the distance between mother and child, the maternal bond can never be broken.

Madam Speaker, Harry Truman once said "no one in the world can take the place of your mother. Right or wrong, from her viewpoint you are always right. She may scold you for little things, but never for the big ones." Mothers play a central role in the development of our children, raising them with values and morals, inspiring and encouraging them to reach for their dreams. No one among us would be where we are without the influence and encouragement of our mothers. Although there is no salary or compensation for the efforts of mothers, their words, actions, wisdom, and love are priceless.

One of my favorite quotes about mothers states "Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, comrades and friends—but only one mother in the whole world."

I would also like to take a chance to recognize two of the mothers in my life, my mother, Mrs. Christine Callier, the woman who shaped every facet of my being as a child, and my wife Mereda, who is the light of my life. I am blessed to have two beautiful, strong and intelligent women to walk through life with.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution which celebrates the most important profession in the world: motherhood.

HONORING MS. IMELDA NAVARRO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Imelda Navarro, a recent inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. Ms. Navarro is currently the Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operation Officer of International Bank of Commerce in Laredo, Texas.

Ms. Navarro has contributed to the community of South Texas and the International Bank