

others, and honor him for the great work he has done for the people of Philadelphia.

HONORING MR. RODNEY LEWIS

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 Mr. Rodney Lewis, a recent inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. Mr. Lewis is currently President and Chief Executive Office of Lewis Energy Group, L.P.

Mr. Lewis has played an active and outstanding role in the oil and gas industry in the Webb County area. He has contributed his expertise and knowledge to the business community through his tireless efforts towards maintaining and operating his successful company.

Mr. Lewis was born in San Antonio in 1954. As a native Texan, he earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Texas A&M University in Laredo in 1976. Mr. Lewis began his professional career as he supervised field production in South Texas for R.L. Burns Corporation and Stampede Energy of Toronto, Canada. In 1982, he purchased his first well. A year later, Mr. Lewis founded Lewis Energy Group, which became a foremost market leader of South Texas in the exploration and production of gas and oil. Through his hands on experience of over twenty-five years, he has gained a reputation as a drilling, completion, and pipeline entrepreneur. With his savvy business skills and know-how in the industry, he sought to build the company upward, attain a stronghold on the market, and buy out the competition resulting in Lewis Energy Group to experience consistent growth over the years. Currently, the company holds approximately 325 employees with over 1,000 wells with a strong presence internationally, as well. Additionally, with the guidance and leadership of Mr. Lewis, the company has never been subject to any Environmental Protection Agency claims and attains an impressive track record of environmental responsibility.

As a local rancher in Webb and La Salle counties of Texas, Mr. Lewis understands and supports local landowners and the community. He is dedicated to excellence and diligent work ethic, which is synonymous to his business and entrepreneurial endeavors. He is also actively involved in serving on the Board of Directors for the National Air and Space Museum. Currently living in San Antonio with his wife and their four children, Mr. Lewis is an avid aviator and war-bird collector in his spare time.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Rodney Lewis, recent inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. He is greatly appreciated in the gas and oil industry and has shown dedication and exemplary work ethic to contribute to the business community.

HONORING SPC. JONATHAN M. FRENCH FOR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Spc. Jonathan M. French of Chassell, who, despite significant injuries, prevailed in his service to our country. Spc. French is being honored on May 15 as Grand Marshal in the 5th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade of Thanks in Hancock, Michigan. As the community pays tribute to Jonathan, I ask that the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring his service.

As a high school student at Saginaw Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw, Michigan, Jonathan was an avid hockey player. He continued the sport while attending Michigan Technological University, in Houghton, Michigan, where he earned a bachelor's degree in geological engineering as well as a master's degree in civil engineering. He went on to play hockey with the Portage Lake Pioneers as part of the Great Lakes Hockey League, which won three national championships.

Then, in 2007 Jonathan made the decision to swap hockey skates for combat boots, enlisting in the Michigan National Guard 1431st Engineer Company (Sapper). Although he was eligible for the officer training program, he chose to retain his enlisted status in order to fight on the frontlines. Shortly after enlisting, Jonathan was deployed to Afghanistan with his unit.

While in Afghanistan Jonathan was severely injured when a rocket propelled grenade exploded. Despite extensive internal and external injuries, Jonathan "finished the fight" he was engaged in—a testament to his Yooper fortitude. He returned home, to face a new fight—a fight for his life—successfully undergoing a series of extensive surgeries.

Jonathan is now in vocational rehabilitation and is transitioning back into his position as a civil engineer and project manager with the Baraga Telephone Company. Throughout it all, his wife Margaret, whom he married on June 7, 2003, has been by his side when possible and with him in spirit when distance separated them.

Since his decision to enlist, Jonathan has shown grace, courage, humility and bravery. He has continued to serve in his community, volunteering as a Hunter Safety instructor and mentoring local youth. Serving as Grand Marshal in the Parade of Thanks is a fitting tribute for all that Jonathan has given to his country and his community.

Madam Speaker, the Parade of Thanks is a chance to honor the men and women who have answered the call to serve our nation with honor and with dignity. Without their courage and sacrifices, the United States could not be the great nation we are today. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking Spc. Jonathan M. French on his commitment and service and applaud him on being named Grand Marshal of the Armed Forces Day Parade of Thanks.

HONORING MR. GARY MUCHA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Gary Mucha as he prepares to retire as Senior Vice President of Integration, Information Management and Performance Excellence for BAE Systems.

A native of Buffalo, NY, Mr. Mucha has over 40 years of distinguished experience in the Aerospace and Defense industry including 30 years of general management line operations experience and over 12 years of Corporate Executive Management responsibilities for BAE Systems. As a senior leader in the company during a period of significant growth, he successfully led the integration of over 20 corporate acquisitions. He has also had primary responsibility for a number of critical functional areas, to include Information Management; Information Assurance; Business Performance Measurement; Safety, Health and Environmental Policy Regulations; Business Continuity; Property and Real Estate; and Strategic Procurement.

As a recognized subject matter expert in his field, Mr. Mucha has made many speaking and lecturing appearances on behalf of BAE Systems at both private and public venues. Most recently, this included speeches at Georgetown University and the University of Tennessee as well as the keynote addresses at the Defense Manufacturing Conference and the Governor of Virginia Global Supply Conference.

In all that he has done, Mr. Mucha has demonstrated both a passion for business excellence and an effective translation of his values and views through his work and appearances in both academia and the public and private sectors during his diverse career. Indeed, his high standards and dedication to excellence exemplify the work ethic and commitment to country of his hometown and all of Western New York. As a result of his commitment to both the growth and development of future business leaders within the organization, Mr. Mucha often accepted mentoring roles within BAE Systems.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of this outstanding industry leader. I congratulate and thank Gary Mucha for his many years of service to this nation and wish him a happy retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF SIR MICHAEL BERRY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful public servant, an exceptional individual and a patriotic American on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Sir Michael Berry is a prominent lawyer in Dearborn, Michigan whose venture into politics began in 1948 with the first campaign of G. Mennen Williams, who was running for governor of the

great State of Michigan. Michael was active in Michigan's 16th Congressional District of the Democratic Party, which he joined in 1950. Michael became a precinct delegate, then a member of the Executive Board, and finally a member of the Democratic State Central Executive Committee, a position he retained until 1964.

Under Michael's leadership from 1964 until 1972, the 16th Congressional District became one of the most powerful congressional districts in the State of Michigan, and grew in the 1960s into the largest in the United States. Michael led the district with an extraordinary sense of fairness and discipline.

Michael was one of the best district chairmen the 16th District ever had. He was smart as all get out, hard-working and he had a great sense of policy and public interest. His sensitivity and honesty always kept the district in good shape. In over 50 years in Congress, the 16th District had many good chairmen, in fact, we have never had a chairman I didn't respect, admire and love, and Michael was amongst the best of them.

Michael Berry went on to serve as the long-time chairman of the Wayne County Road Commission. The International Terminal at Detroit Metro Airport and the Michael Berry Career Center in Dearborn were named in his honor. He was awarded the National Order of Cedar by the Lebanese government on October 21, 1993, and was the recipient of the 1998 Ellis Island Medal of Honor—among many other honors.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in wishing Sir Michael Berry, a truly great American, a very happy 90th birthday.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID L. NICHOLS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of my mentor, teacher, and dear friend David Nichols who passed away at the age of 81 on March 11, 2010. David is survived by his four beautiful children . . . Mark of Oregon, Paul of Hillsborough, Beth DeGolia of Alamo, Stu of Los Altos, his beloved seven grandchildren, his daughter-in-laws and son-in-law. His beloved wife Edie preceded him in death.

David Nichols was born in Turlock, California and received his Bachelor of Science and Master's Degree in Business Administration at the University of California at Berkeley. David was the captain of the varsity basketball team at the university and it was also where he met the love of his life and future wife, Edith (Edie) McEwing who was then the Student Body Vice President.

When he graduated from Cal, David took his first job in Contra Costa County as an Assistant Administrative Analyst. This position was followed by a 35 year career of distinguished public service that shaped the lives of residents of Sonoma and San Mateo Counties. In 1955, David went to Sonoma County as an Assistant County Administrator, and in 1968, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors appointed him Chief Administrative Officer. In January 1977, David became the

County Manager of San Mateo County where he remained until his retirement in 1989. There was a point in time when David, as San Mateo County's Manager and his son Paul worked in the same building as a Deputy District Attorney. His son mentioned that even though they worked in the same building they would rarely go out to lunch because David would instead have lunch at home with Edie.

Throughout his distinguished tenure in county government, David was involved in a number of professional organizations, regional governments and regulatory bodies. They include the Association of Bay Area Governments, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Coastal Commission, Bay Vision 2020 Commission and the National Association of County Administrators, where he served as President in 1977. While he was actively participating in all these organizations, David remained a staunch supporter of the University of California Alumni Association and the Bear Backers who support athletic programs. Beside his family, Cal was without a doubt, the other great of his life.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of David Nichols and that we express our deepest condolences to the Nichols family on their loss. I am especially blessed to have had him as a mentor, a teacher, and friend during the many years I served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, with David as County Manager. David Nichols had a deeply held regard for public service. He treated all employees with respect and made sure those who worked with him were always faithful in the execution of the public trust. He lifted all of us to a higher standard and it was his unquestioned integrity that established a 'gold standard' in everything we did in service to the people we represented. We are indeed a better country and a better people because of David Nichols and his extraordinary legacy of public service, as well as a life with values. America was blessed to have him as a son and a servant of the people.

HONORING JOSEPH PETERS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Peters, who is retiring as Director of the United Automotive Worker's Region 1 in Michigan. Our friendship and working relationship spans the many issues important to working Americans—trade, automotive, and health care—we worked on throughout the years, and it is my pleasure to pay tribute to him today.

Mr. Peters first joined the UAW in 1967 and, in the decades since, has been a tireless advocate for automotive workers. Certainly, the past few years have been ones of tremendous challenge for the automotive industry, and Mr. Peters' dedication to preserving the industry, strengthening it for the future, and supporting the jobs of its employees, was steadfast.

A native of Highland Park, Michigan, Mr. Peters began his career with the UAW Local 400 at the Ford Motor Company Mount Clemens Paint Plant. In 1978, he was elected to serve as the midnight shift committeeman

of the Ford Utica Trim Plant and quickly gained recognition for his hard work and dedication: he was elected to the plant bargaining committee in 1981, chairman of the Utica Plant in 1984, vice president of Local 400 in 1985, and president of Local 400 in 1986.

Mr. Peters was appointed to the UAW International Staff in 1988 and served for the next eleven years in the Union's National Ford Department. There, he was responsible for health, safety, benefits and job security issues, and was involved in four national negotiations. He became assistant director of Region 1 in 1999 and was elected the Region's director in 2005.

Despite this accomplished career, Mr. Peters cites as his greatest achievement the "No Child Without Christmas" foundation. This program brings together union workers, community leaders, and businesses to provide clothing, food, and gifts to thousands of homeless, neglected, or abused children each year during the holiday season.

Mr. Peters' commitment to improving the lives of those around him is unyielding. He has a kind heart, an intense focus on what is important to workers and communities, and a loyalty to purpose and people. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Peters on the occasion of his retirement after more than forty years with the UAW and decades of community and public activism. We recognize his many achievements and extend to him and his wife, Ann, and their entire family our best wishes.

TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLION MOM MARCH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the 10-year anniversary of the Million Mom March and to recognize its efforts to put an end to gun violence. This historic event united approximately three-quarters of a million people, making it the largest protest against gun violence. Celebrating its 10-year anniversary, this event sparked a network of activists supporting a national push to achieve commonsense gun laws. For this, I celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Million Mom March, for its efforts in promoting the safety of our communities.

On May 14, 2000, thousands of activists from all parts of the country arrived in Washington, DC, to promote and defend gun safety. The Million Mom March was made possible by those who tirelessly made calls and campaigned for the importance of their cause. The historic turnout of this day proved that the fight for gun safety is strong and will persevere until commonsense legislation is passed.

On that same day as the march, the Washington Post and ABC News reported that out of 1,068 polled adults, approximately one in ten stated they have been shot at and almost one in four had experienced a gun pointed at them. Since the march, approximately 872,247 people have been killed or injured with guns, but there is no telling how many lives were saved through education and advocacy for gun safety. As the Million Mom March celebrates its 10th anniversary, it is a great time