

HONORING MS. PRISCILLA
PENFOLD

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 the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Ms. Priscilla Penfold. Ms. Penfold served her constituency faithfully and justly during her tenure as a member of the Dunkirk Town Council.

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. Ms. Penfold served her term with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her 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. Ms. Penfold is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to her today.

RECOGNIZING HERITAGE
FARMSTEAD MUSEUM

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Heritage Farmstead Museum, a living-history museum in Texas' third congressional district which maintains an authentic look at 19th century life on the Blackland Prairie of North Texas.

The museum welcomes more than 30,000 visitors annually to its 4.5 acre working farm complex. Guests get a first-hand, educational look at old farming techniques, a blacksmith shop, an original school house, and the 14-room 1890 farmhouse which serves as the heart of the museum.

Heritage Farmstead's visitors range from classes of local school children learning about prairie life to Girl Scout troops on camping adventures and area residents enjoying the museum's Fall Harvest Festival.

Converted from a private home to a public museum in 1972, the Farmstead has been recognized by the Plano Landmark Association and the National Register of Historic Places. It also boasts a State of Texas Historical marker and was just recently reaccredited by the prestigious American Association of Museums.

This designation makes the Heritage Farmstead Museum one of only two accredited museums in Collin County, 39 in Texas, and only 775 nationwide, a tremendous accomplishment.

I am pleased to recognize this outstanding museum from my own hometown of Plano, Texas before the United States Congress today. For its tribute to our past through the education of our children, our future, I tip my hat to the AAM-reaccredited Heritage Farmstead Museum. Congratulations! God bless you, and I salute you.

HONORING DENNIS AND PHYLLIS
ENGER OF NORTH DAKOTA

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dennis and Phyllis Enger of Portland, North Dakota. Over the past several years Dennis and Phyllis have dedicated a significant portion of their time honoring and giving back to our Nation's heroes.

Dennis decided to take up woodworking in retirement; this led him to begin making walking sticks. Once he had a few sticks completed he decided to have Dan Stenvold, the President of the North Dakota Vietnam Veterans of America and the Mayor of Park River, to bring the completed sticks to Walter Reed to present to injured soldiers on one of his trips to Washington. This initial gift so touched the families of these soldiers that Dennis and Phyllis decided to continue making walking sticks for our returning soldiers.

The dedication of the Engers to giving back to our soldiers is truly remarkable and deserves to be applauded. The care and attention to detail on each of these walking sticks is remarkable; Dennis and Phyllis travel around the state to pick up scrap wood and work for more than 20 hours on each one. Their efforts have been aided by the Boy Scouts in Portland and the North Dakota Vietnam Veterans who have provided help with funds and help sanding the rough walking sticks. These gifts to our wounded soldiers have deeply touched and are deeply appreciated by those that have received them.

The work of individuals like Dennis and Phyllis Enger who work tirelessly and selflessly to honor our veterans is worthy of our highest respect. I stand today to honor their service and to give my thanks on behalf of the people of North Dakota.

HONORING FRANK P. CALESTINO

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize an exemplary federal employee from my district, Frank Caletino. Representing the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Mr. Caletino works as the Deputy Director of Intelligence for the Afghan Threat Finance Cell. This is a unique, interagency effort to disrupt the flow of funding from the Afghan opium trade and other terrorist resources. Afghanistan poses a unique threat to our national security and it will take more than military presence to stabilize the region.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service declared Mr. Caletino to be one of 32 finalists for the prestigious Service to America Medals—or Sammies—in 2010. These awards are granted to outstanding federal employees who have made significant contributions to our nation.

Final selection of eight candidates will be made on September 15, and will also include the Partnership for Public Service's announcement of the Federal Employee of the Year. I

am very proud to call Mr. Caletino one of my constituents and I wish him the best of luck in the final announcement and all of his future endeavors.

ELECTRON BOY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank a special young man, Erik Martin, who helped save the day in Seattle and buoy the spirits of every person who watched or heard of his heroic actions.

Erik, pressed into service by a distress call from Spiderman, transformed into Electron Boy at a moment's notice. He helped release trapped Seattle Sounders FC players at Qwest Field in Seattle, saved a Puget Sound Energy employee stuck in his bucket truck in Bellevue, and then raced back to Seattle to help dozens of people trapped at the top of the Space Needle by his arch nemesis Dr. Dark and Blackout Boy. Electron Boy saved the day and we were all in awe.

Madam Speaker, Erik, Electron Boy, is often unable to get out of bed because of his struggles with liver cancer. No matter how brave and strong Electron Boy is, sometimes even he needs a little more rest. Thankfully, the morning Spiderman needed his special talents, he immediately leapt into action and acted heroically. We can't thank him enough.

Although Electron Boy did most of the work, Madam Speaker, he did have a little help. Therefore, I want to thank the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Seattle Sounders FC, the King County Sheriff's office, the Bellevue Police Department, Puget Sound Energy and everyone else who helped clear the way to make Electron Boy's heroism a reality. Madam Speaker, Erik Martin is a hero and this whole House thanks him for his ability to transform into Electron Boy. Perhaps one day Electron Boy will come to Washington, DC to save lives. Erik commented that his day of heroic actions was the best day of his life. Well, Madam Speaker, I'm thankful Erik had such a great day because it helped millions of others have a great day as well.

HONORING JUDGE RAUL VASQUEZ

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 Judge Raul Vasquez, a recent award recipient of the Liberty Bell Award in Webb County of South Texas. Judge Vasquez is currently completing his third term as the 111th District Court Judge in Laredo, Texas.

Judge Vasquez is a highly respected and distinguished jurist. He has served the youth of our community and dedicated his sense of justice and fairness to dispose of cases efficiently. His accomplished efforts towards devoting his life to the judiciary have had a great impact and truly benefit the people of South Texas.

As a native Texan, Judge Vasquez was raised in a small historic neighborhood in Laredo. He had a modest upbringing as the sixth child out of seven. In 1972, he graduated from Martin High School and attended Junior College for 2 years. He received his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Houston in 1979. Soon after, he started his career as an Attorney at Law for the Laredo Legal Aid. In 1981, he became the youngest Justice of the Peace elected in Laredo and served Precinct 1 for 5 years while at the Law Offices of Raul Vasquez. Judge Vasquez was elected Judge of the County Court at Law #1, serving for 12 years. He was also a faculty member for the Texas College for New Judges, where he lectured on issues regarding domestic violence. The end of this year, Judge Vasquez plans on retiring, bringing a close to his professional career of over 28 years of being a judge. His leadership and successful career have truly benefited the community and courtrooms with fairness and justice.

Not only has Judge Vasquez held an esteemed and honorable career, he also devotes much of his time to community organizations for helping troubled youth. His passion for helping the youth led him to be the Founding Member of the Laredo Youth Conference, Webb County Angel Wish, and Children's Coalition. He also served on Advisory Boards for Communities in Schools, SCAN, and Child Advocacy. Judge Vasquez has been a Member of numerous organizations such as the Webb County Court Administration of Judges, State Bar of Texas, Laredo Bar Association, and Webb County Auditor's Department. Throughout the past 20 years, he has been recognized on various honors. He was awarded the LULAC Tejano Achiever Award, Law Day Honorary Chair, and Crime Stopper Alfa Award.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to have had this time to recognize Judge Raul Vasquez on his career and community involvement. He has contributed his time, knowledge, and efforts to the judiciary and to community outreach for our youth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 255, I was away from the Capitol due to commitments in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE BROADCASTING CAREER OF PEDRO GARCIA AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Pedro Garcia for his 40 years of service to Connecticut and Puerto Rico as a broadcaster and sports

commentator in these communities. On May 9, 2010, Mr. Garcia will deservedly be recognized by community leaders in Connecticut for his outstanding career and service to others.

Born in Patillas, Puerto Rico, Pedro Garcia comes from a humble and hardworking family, including his parents Irene Cruz and Enrique Garcia, and his fourteen brothers and sisters. While Mr. Garcia's parents and four of his siblings remain in Puerto Rico, the rest of his family lives in my home State of Connecticut.

Pedro Garcia is widely known throughout the world and respected for his professionalism and tremendous talent as a broadcaster and sports commentator. He first endeared himself to the Connecticut region in his work for WEHW in Windsor, CT beginning in 1968 and for WLVI in Hartford, CT in 1970. He then went on to WLIY and WNEL in Puerto Rico before returning to Connecticut to work for WRYM in Newington for the past two and a half decades.

In addition to his broadcasting career, Mr. Garcia has a long history of involvement in the community. He has served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Puertorriquen Parade in Connecticut and worked with former Connecticut State Representative Maria Sanchez to address the needs of the Latino Community. I also commend Mr. Garcia for his important work with other countries, such as Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Peru, where he reported on education, health, sports and politics.

Pedro Garcia has touched many lives and is especially loved for his sense of humor and compassion toward others. I commend him for his outstanding career and service to the Greater Hartford and Puerto Rican communities.

HONORING ELOISE GREENLEE 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 Eloise Greenlee of Hancock, who has served her country honorably and her community admirably. Eloise 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 Mary, I ask that the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring her service.

Born in Ohio in 1922, Eloise discovered her love of music at an early age. As a young girl she loved to play the trumpet. Following the United States' entrance into World War II, Eloise enlisted in the U.S. Army on November 9, 1942 and put her musical skills to work. While stationed at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, Eloise was recruited to be a travelling member of the U.S. Army Women's Army Corps Band, playing her beloved trumpet.

The band instilled a patriotic spirit, entertaining those serving in the Armed Forces during the war. Eloise could often be found playing trumpet for the wounded military personnel aboard Red Cross medical ships returning home from the frontlines. She played her music and boosted morale for three years before being honorably discharged on November 9, 1945.

Her time in the Army was just the start of Eloise's service and adventures. In addition to becoming a licensed pilot and writing a book on her travelling experiences, she has volunteered at two local hospitals and continued her love of music forming the Keweenaw Swing Band with her husband Robert. She and Robert have also raised three sons.

The Parade of Thanks is a celebration of those who have served their country. Therefore it is appropriate that Eloise, a woman who has spent the past 88 years celebrating life and service through music, has been given the honor of Grand Marshal.

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 Eloise Greenlee for her commitment, recognize her service and applaud her on being named Grand Marshal of the Armed Forces Day Parade of Thanks.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,943,495,066,136.13.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,305,069,319,842.33 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING MR. JOHN J. HURLEY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I am here today to honor the appointment of Mr. John J. Hurley as the 24th President of Canisius College. Hurley, a 1978 alumnus who previously served as the college's executive vice president and vice president for college relations, will be the first lay president in Canisius' 140-year history.

A native of Buffalo, John graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Kenmore and received a Bachelor of Arts degree summa cum laude in English and history from Canisius College in 1978. Upon graduation from Canisius, John won a full fellowship to the Notre Dame Law School from which he earned a juris doctor degree in 1981. He served as an associate in the Chicago law firm of Keck, Mahin & Cate from 1981-1984 before returning to Buffalo in 1984 to take a position as an associate (1984-1988) and then partner (1989-1997) at Phillips, Lytle LLP.