

anniversary of President Woodrow Wilson's proclamation in designating the second Sunday in May as National Mother's Day.

The Mother's Day Centennial Commemorative Coin Act, if enacted, would donate half of all surcharges which are received by the Secretary from the sale of coins to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure for the purpose of furthering research funded by the organization and the other half to National Osteoporosis Foundation for the purpose of furthering research funded by the Foundation.

It is of imminent importance that we recognize our mothers have made immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong nation. The services rendered to the children of the United States by their mothers have strengthened and inspired the nation throughout its history.

We honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the home and family as the true foundation of the Nation.

Today, thousands of mothers in this country have become active and effective participants in public life and public service, promoting change and improving the quality of life for men, women, and children throughout the Nation.

Mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding, and compassion, while overcoming the challenges of modern society; mothers throughout our country juggle between work, family and the household, all with a smile on their faces.

I want to congratulate and praise all of the mothers in America for all of their hard work. Mothers have a huge influence on our everyday lives; we owe all of our success to them. As the famous American author Washington Irving put it best, "A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts." We can never thank our mothers enough for all the sacrifices they have made for us. I wish all families a very happy Mother's Day this Sunday.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE THOMAS I. VANASKIE ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Judge Thomas I. Vanaskie on his appointment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Judge Vanaskie was born in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, in 1953.

He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Lycoming College in 1975 where he was a first-team Academic All-American football player. In his senior year, Judge Vanaskie was named outstanding male student-athlete.

Judge Vanaskie attended the Dickinson School of Law where he was a member of the Dickinson Law Review Editorial Staff and was named to the Woolsack Society for outstanding academic achievement. He graduated Cum Laude in 1978.

After law school, Judge Vanaskie clerked for Chief Judge William J. Nealon of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania from 1978 to 1980.

From 1980 to 1994, Judge Vanaskie worked in private legal practice in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He worked in the law firm of Dilworth, Paxson, Kalish & Kauffman until 1992 before leaving to become a principal member of the law firm Elliott, Vanaskie & Riley.

On November 17, 1993 President Clinton nominated Judge Vanaskie to a seat on the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. His nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on February 10, 1994.

Judge Vanaskie was sworn in on March 1, 1994 and served on the U.S. Middle District Court for fifteen years, including as Chief Judge from 1999–2006.

In 2001, Judge Vanaskie began serving on the Information Technology Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. In 2005, he was appointed by the late Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist as Chair of the Judicial Conference Information Technology Committee and served in that position until 2008.

Throughout his career, Judge Vanaskie has continued to give back to his community. He is the former Chair of the Scranton Preparatory School Board of Trustees and a Member of the Scranton Community Medical Center Board of Directors.

On August 7, 2009 President Obama nominated Judge Vanaskie to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 21, 2010 by a vote of 77–20.

Judge Vanaskie was officially sworn-in by Chief Judge Anthony Scirica of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals on April 28, 2010.

He is only the second judge in the 107-year history of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Judge Vanaskie resides in Clarks Green, Pennsylvania, with his wife, the former Dorothy G. Williams. They are the parents of three children, Diane, Laura and Tom.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Judge Vanaskie on this auspicious occasion. His exemplary service throughout his distinguished judicial career demonstrates he is most deserving of this achievement.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1157, "Congratulating the National Urban League on its 100th year of service to the United States."

As a member of the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, I take great pleasure in thanking my

colleague, Representative ALCEE L. HASTINGS, for introducing this important piece of legislation that honors this historic civil rights organization.

Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in recognizing and congratulating the National Urban League for its 100 years of service to historically underserved urban communities across the United States. The National Urban League was originally known as the National League of Black Men and Women. Created in 1910 as a civil rights organization, the National Urban League has since made tremendous gains in equality and empowerment for the African-American community. Throughout the League's 100 years of service the organization has assisted millions of Americans and especially African-Americans in combating poverty, inequality and social injustice.

The National Urban League saw tremendous growth in its partnership with the Federal Government throughout the 1970s. During this time the League began delivering aid to urban areas and making improvements in housing, education, health and minority-owned small businesses. This partnership between the League and the Federal Government revolutionized how the country viewed race relations, challenged the deep discrimination within America's social structure and established the League's reputation as a premier social justice organization.

Since that time, the League has expanded to include 25 national programs, with more than 100 local affiliates in 36 states as well as the District of Columbia.

In my home district in Houston, Texas, the National Urban League has played a strong role in helping the community through outreach programs. The League has sponsored hundreds of such programs over the years from job fairs to Computer Technology courses. These types of educational and community empowerment programs help to improve the quality of life for communities across the United States.

The National Urban League in Houston has also played a strong role in the clean-up and reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. In September 2008, a massive Category 4 Hurricane named Hurricane Ike came ashore and slammed the Texas coastline near my home district of Houston. The National Urban League of Houston has since provided assistance to children, families and senior citizens in the community. I thank the League for its continued support of our community.

Over the past several years, National Urban League has also helped thousands of people weather through one of the worst economic disasters in recent memory. Through the League's Housing and Community Development division the League was able to assist over 50,000 people with mortgage, foreclosure and other similar economic problems in 2009. Furthermore, from this assistance provided by the League's "Foreclosure Prevention" program, 3,000 people were able to avoid filing foreclosure in 2009.

The National Urban League also helps out youth across our nation and promotes childhood education through programs like the League's Education and Youth Development division. Also, programs like the League's "Project Ready" ensure that students will be prepared for the transition from high school to college, or joining the workforce.

The League has also created and outlined 4 new aspirational goals to mark its centennial

anniversary as part of its I AM EMPOWERED campaign. The League has pledged to help achieve the following goals by 2025: Ensure that every American child is ready for college, work and life; ensure that every American has access to jobs with a living wage and good benefits; ensure that every American lives in safe, decent, affordable and energy-efficient housing on fair terms; and ensure that every American has access to quality and affordable health care solutions.

Altogether the work of the National Urban League has been pivotal in improving the lives of millions of Americans through community-oriented programs, civil rights, and leadership opportunities. I stand with my colleagues today in appreciation for the service the League has provided our citizens over the last 100 years and look forward to working alongside the League for the next 100 years.

Since its inception, the National Urban League has been known as an historic civil rights organization dedicated to elevating the standard of living in historically underserved urban communities. The League continues in that legacy today and continuously seeks to empower the citizens of urban and inner-city communities.

I would like to thank and praise the thousands of volunteers, workers and community advocates with the National Urban League who have worked towards the empowerment of their respective communities and the creation of new opportunities.

I ask my colleagues for their support of H. Res. 1157, as well as for their continued support for the National Urban League. Through the continuation of the League's programs over the next 100 years, I am confident that the United States will continue to be a more fair, just and equitable society for all Americans.

I would like to again thank my colleague Representative ALCEE L. HASTINGS for his leadership in introducing this bill as well as for his support of the National Urban League.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1157.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1247, "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 3 through 9, 2010, and throughout the year."

I would like to thank my colleague, Representative STEPHEN F. LYNCH, for introducing this legislation as it is important that we recognize the service and dedication to duty of those in public service here in the United States.

Those involved in Public Service at all levels of government have formed the foundations of our great nation for hundreds of years. From those involved in community education and outreach programs to policy makers at the

State Department our country would not be able to properly function without these praiseworthy individuals. I salute leaders in our government for giving selflessly of their time and energy towards the sustained growth and improvement of our nation.

I would especially like to recognize the men and women who serve in the armed forces. These real-life, modern-day heroes selflessly give of their time—and sometimes even their lives to protect our country against foreign threats. For that we are forever thankful and indebted to them for their service.

I would also like to recognize members of local, state and federal police and fire departments all across the country. Because of the protection and stability they provide our communities we are all able to live safe and healthy lives.

Madam Speaker, officially establishing the week of May 3 through 9, 2010 as Public Service Recognition Week would seek to show our continued support for those in the public sector across our nation. It is important that we recognize these individuals for their service to our country as well as for the role they play in the continued success of our nation.

I stand today with Representative STEPHEN F. LYNCH and other Members of Congress in reaffirming our support and appreciation for those in Public Service.

I ask my colleagues for their support of H. Res. 1247, as well as for their continued support of government employees and public servants. By increasing our support for those in government jobs and promoting the importance of these jobs for our nation, we will ensure that our government remains efficient and productive for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1247.

HONORING ALEJANDRO VALADEZ

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Alejandro Valadez, who honorably served the City of Chicago as a member of the Chicago Police Department for 3 years before his untimely death on June 1, 2009.

At just 27 years of age, Officer Valadez maintained a strong reputation for outstanding performance and professionalism on the job. Within his three short years of serving the Chicago Police Department he was awarded a department commendation and 22 honorable mentions.

A South Side Chicago native, Officer Valadez lived his life with honesty, integrity, and courage never wavering from the task at hand. Alejandro was known to love his job and gladly served the Chicago police force alongside his brother, sister, and expectant girlfriend.

On June 1, 2009, Officer Valadez made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the residents of the Englewood community in Chicago. Shortly after midnight, he and his partner were questioning several residents when a vehicle drove up to them and opened fire. Bullets struck Valadez once in the leg and once in the head. He was later rushed to John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital where he died the next morning.

I rise today, representing with the City of Chicago, to express my deepest gratitude and sympathy to Officer Valadez's family for his dedication and courageous commitment to keeping our communities safe. Chicago and the United States will forever remember Alejandro Valadez for his heroic sacrifice by the addition of his name to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, DC, on May 15, 2010.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PROMPT RESPONSE TO AT- TEMPTED TERRORIST ATTACK IN TIMES SQUARE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1320, "Expressing support for the vigilance and prompt response of the citizens and law enforcement agencies in New York and Connecticut to the attempted terrorist attack in Times Square on May 1, 2010. Their exceptional professionalism and investigative work following the attempted attack, and their consistent commitment to preparedness for and collective response to terrorism."

Mr. Speaker, democrats are focused on keeping Americans safe. This was an excellent example of Federal, State, and local law enforcement and counter-terrorism authorities working together in a coordinated way, and also a good reminder that citizen awareness and responsible action by every day Americans is also a key component in defeating those who seek to harm us. This timely awareness and cooperation resulted in a quick and appropriate response Saturday night, and combined with a sophisticated and aggressive investigation, led to a swift arrest shortly thereafter.

It is prevalent that we live in a dangerous world with ever-evolving threats. The Obama Administration and our State and local law enforcement authorities understand the nature of the threats and are working tirelessly to defeat them. In Congress, we provided state-of-the-art resources, tools, and authority to wage this fight against terrorism and we will continue to do so in the future. Some may want to politicize this very serious attempted attack and dispute whether the suspect should be read his Miranda rights, taken to federal court or given other rights afforded to U.S. citizens.

Because the suspect is an American citizen, even Glenn Beck agrees that the Constitution must be upheld with respect to a citizen's rights in this case.

DEMOCRATIC RECORD [AND CONTRAST WITH
REPUBLICAN APPROACH]

We have tripled the number of our troops fighting on the central front in the war against al Qaeda and their extremist allies in Afghanistan—after years of taking our eye off the ball and under-resourcing this fight. We have successfully stepped up our partnership with Pakistan, which has gone on the offensive for many months in the rugged border region with Afghanistan—after years in which al Qaeda was able to establish a safe haven.

We have worked with our partners to target al Qaeda's leadership, and to take out key terrorist leaders—increasing the pressure to a