

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING TRACE ADKINS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Trace Adkins on receiving the Daughters of the American Revolution prestigious Medal of Honor award. In accepting, Trace will add his name next to previous Medal of Honor recipients; including former New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, Charlton Heston, former U.S. Senator Robert Dole, and fellow recording artist Miss Patti Page.

One of the most unique aspects of my service in the United States Congress is the opportunity to meet talented and dedicated professionals from across the great State of Tennessee. I have long believed the true greatness of our State and country does not lie in its government or institutions, but solely in the creativity, integrity, and passion of its people. We in Tennessee are fortunate to have one of these individuals who exemplify the volunteer spirit and strive to make our community and our country better every day.

Over the years, I have come to know Trace not just as an exceptional artist and performer, but to consider him both a friend and a valued resource. In talking with Trace, his undying love for our country and his genuine support of the brave men and women who currently serve or previously served in the military always stand out.

Earlier this year, Trace went to the Pentagon and received special permission for his heartfelt request to perform his song "Til the Last Shot's Fired" with the West Point Glee Club. At the 44th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards, this performance was not just the highlight of the night, but it allowed Trace to shine a spotlight on the Wounded Warrior Project which provides programs and services for severely injured service members as they transition back to civilian life.

President Ronald Reagan said that if we love our country we should also love our countrymen. One of the clearest examples of living daily these words is Trace Adkins. Whether it's through his successful musical career, his faith community, or other ventures, Trace carries in his heart the spirit of what makes America great. I join with his wife Rhonda and their five daughters in offering praise and thanks to Trace on this wonderful occasion. Please join me in congratulating Trace Adkins and his family on this well-deserved award.

HONORING DAVID ASHLEIGH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Ashleigh upon the

dedication of the Modesto Junior College Swimming Center to be named in his honor. The dedication and naming ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2010, at the Dave Ashleigh Aquatic Center.

Mr. David Ashleigh attended Whittier High School in southern California, where he participated in water polo from 1957 through 1961. During his high school water polo career the team won the California Interscholastic Federation, CIF, championship in 1957, 1958 and 1959. In 1960, he was selected for the Helm's Hall of Fame second team (equivalent to the High School All-American teams today). During his senior year, Whittier High School took second place in CIF. He served as the team captain, was the leading scorer, named Most Valuable Player and was selected for the Helm's Hall of Fame first team. Upon graduating from high school, Mr. Ashleigh attended Cerritos Junior College.

While attending Cerritos Junior College, Mr. Ashleigh participated on both the water polo and swim teams. He was named team captain of the water polo team and the swim team both years he participated. He was the leading scorer and was awarded Most Valuable Player of the water polo team both years. Mr. Ashleigh was named the Junior College All-American Player of the Year in 1962 and 1963. On the swim team he participated in the 100 and 200 breaststroke as well as the 200 and 400 individual medleys. He set school records in all four events and set junior college national records in the 200 breaststroke and the 400 individual medley. In 1963 Mr. Ashleigh was voted the Cerritos College Athlete of the Year.

In 1963 Mr. Ashleigh played water polo and participated on the swim team while attending the University of California, Los Angeles, UCLA. During his first season he was the leading scorer, named Most Valuable Player and was selected as a first team All-American. Mr. Ashleigh red-shifted the 1964 season so that he was able to be a member of the USA Olympic water polo team in Tokyo, Japan. For the U.S. team he played the defensive hole guard and played every minute of every game from the preliminary through the final games. The team placed ninth.

Returning to the UCLA team in 1965, Mr. Ashleigh was named team captain and led the team to be the first undefeated sports team in UCLA history. He was named Most Valuable Player and was selected as a first team All-American. Mr. Ashleigh also swam in 1964 and 1965 for UCLA, where he became the first All-American at UCLA in swimming and was the first swimmer in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, history to flip-turn all turns in the 1650 meter freestyle. Mr. Ashleigh set UCLA school records in the 1650 and 500 freestyle, the 200 breaststroke and the 400 individual medley.

Mr. Ashleigh was a member of the 1964 through 1968 U.S. National Water Polo team and was the 1968 U.S. Olympic water polo team co-captain. In 1967 he was the team captain of the Pan-American Team, which was

the first U.S. team to win gold in International Competition outside of the United States. For his amazing accomplishments, Mr. Ashleigh was awarded the James Lee Award for the Most Outstanding Player at U.S. Nationals in 1965 and from 1963 through 1968 was named All-American in U.S. water polo, AAU.

In 1968 Mr. Ashleigh began coaching water polo and swimming at Modesto Swim and Racquet Club in Modesto, California. During the 3 years that he coached there, he had an overall record of 235 wins and only 43 losses. He coached the boys 14 and under 1971 Junior Olympics National Champion water polo team. Later he coached the boys 12 and under and boys 14 and under swim teams that set national records in the 200 freestyle relay and the 200 medley relay.

Mr. Ashleigh began coaching swimming and water polo at Modesto Junior College in 1971. In his 27-year career at the college he compiled an overall record of 827 wins and 272 losses. He had 51 winning seasons out of 54 total seasons and has 27 Conference Championships, between the two sports. Under his direction, the water polo team has an overall record of 487–178. Eighteen of his water polo teams made it to the California State Championship Tournament, 81 athletes were selected as All-Americans, 13 conference championships and 5 NorCal championships. From 1984 to 1990 his swim team was 73–0 in dual meets; from 1977 to 1992 the team was 158–11–1 in dual meets. He coached 78 All-American swimmers. The swim team won 14 conference championships and 4 state championships.

In 1991, Mr. Ashleigh began participating in Masters water polo. He played on various teams and won three world championships and placed second three times. While playing Masters, he had the opportunity to play water polo in Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Great Britain, Croatia, Hungary, Italy and India. He was inducted into the California Community College Athletic Hall of Fame in two divisions (coach and player) and was named the 2008 S.O.S. Athlete of the Year. In 1978, Mr. Ashleigh was elected into the U.S. Water Polo Hall of Fame and will be inducted into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate David Ashleigh upon his many achievements being honored at the new Dave Ashleigh Aquatic Center. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Ashleigh congratulations on his many accomplishments and many years of continued success.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY WORLD WAR II VETERAN'S PROJECT

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Snohomish

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

County World War II Veteran's Project participants and organizers.

I would like to begin by thanking all veterans for their service to our country. From the beaches of Normandy to the mountains of Afghanistan, our men and women in uniform have overcome and continue to overcome tremendous adversity to fulfill their missions.

Our nation's veterans have helped keep us safe, and helped keep us free.

It is important that our community remembers and honors the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served in our military, as well as their families and supporters.

Although future generations may never meet a veteran of World War II, the book assembled by Janell Wood and Christina Moore, "War and Sacrifice," will help all of us understand how our neighbors in and around Snohomish County contributed to this nation's largest war effort at home and abroad.

I thank Janell and Christina for their work recording the individual histories of this diverse group that came together to defeat the Axis Powers. I also recognize the following individuals whose experiences during World War II comprise this book, and honor them for their service:

Lois Auchterlonie, Elwood Barker, William Brayton, Donald Brown, Lawrence "Maggie" Bryant, Joseph Burkard, Dan Burris, H.B. "Chris" Christie, Paul Cormier, Herbert Courtney, William Dean, Ted Dufour, Roy Eastman, Fred Ensslin, Earl Horn, William Husted, Frank Hutchins, Leo Hymas, Stanley Innes, Edwin Kirchgessner, Grace Kortbein, Arthur Langdon, Marcelle "Honey" Langdon, Arthur Larson, Eleanor Leight, Leonard Martin, Harold McMahon, Truman Merritt, William Miller, William Moore, Robert Otto, David Pesznecker, Wallace Pesznecker, Art Poier, Paul Schaus, Ervin Schmidt, Allen Stewart, Jack Terhar, George Thorleifson, William Tygret, Louise Vandervanter, Maurice Vincent, Mick Wagelie, Jack Walter, Maynard Wege, Theodore West, Lonnie Williams, and Robert Willingham.

Our nation's triumph in World War II could not have occurred without the hard work and sacrifice of these men and women and millions of others who gave up ordinary jobs as teachers, factory workers, and businessmen to fight enemies of freedom around the world.

Upon returning to the United States and civilian life, these brave men and women helped America achieve an era of unprecedented economic prosperity.

To the veterans of World War II, and those that supported them, thank you for service to our country, and your involvement in our community.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR JOHN TAYLOR'S SERVICE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of John Taylor and honor his more than 40 years of service with the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Refuge Manager John Taylor began his career with the National Wildlife Refuge System

in 1969 as a GS-3 Student Trainee. For three years he worked with the Mattamuskeet, Piedmont, and Back Bay National Wildlife Refuges. In 1971 he was promoted to his first assistant manager's position.

His career has taken him across the continent, from North Carolina to Alaska. He has worked with 15 refuges across 9 states. He worked with several refuges just as they were being set up, including the Becharof and Alaska National Wildlife Refuges.

While working with the Alligator River and Currituck National Wildlife Refuges he was instrumental in the Red Wolf Reintroduction Program. Red wolves were nearly extinct ten years ago. Now, thanks to his efforts, they can once again be seen in their natural environment.

John Taylor also supported the establishment of the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, the first Refuge in the state of Kentucky.

John Taylor has worked selflessly for more than 40 years to protect and preserve the beauty of our country's natural environment for future generations. For the last 19 years, he has served as the Refuge Manager of the Tennessee Natural Resource Refuge. He has been noted for his leadership abilities and his eagerness to get the public further engaged in conservation efforts.

Tennessee's natural beauty and amazing diversity of plant and animal life remain one of its most treasured endowments for future generations.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in thanking John Taylor for his years of service both to the public and to the environment. He will be missed, and we wish him well on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING NAVAJO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—LEGO ROBOTICS TEAM ROBOBUFFS

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Navajo Elementary School's Lego Robotics Team, in Scottsdale, Arizona. Building upon their STEM focused education, nine extraordinary students made it to the semi-finals at the FIRST LEGO League State Championship which I attended at ASU's Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering this past winter.

As a teacher for almost 28 years, I understand the importance of hands-on learning experiences and real-life scenarios that help students connect learning in the classroom to the real world. I believe that Navajo's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum is key to creating a learning environment that fosters innovation and creativity.

The kind of teamwork and creative thinking that was shown in the RoboBuff's design is going to help return our country to economic prosperity. Any one of these students might be the next Bill Gates.

Navajo Elementary is giving its students a head start, preparing them for college and beyond. In this competition, they are not only taking math and science curriculum to the next level through problem-solving and experimentation, but are learning life skills.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the extraordinary achievement of the Navajo Elementary School Lego Robotics Team: Tatianna Walker, Hailey Freeman, Nick Lowry, Tino Velez, Michael Majercin, Chad Bonfanti, Wade McEachern, Abby White and TJ Smith, along with the exceptional leadership of their coaches Cathy White and Chip Bonfanti, and their mentors Dr. Christine Loots, Dr. Bill Johnson, Jim Deng, Alicia Payne and David Schaeffer.

AMERICA COMPETES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5116) to invest in innovation through research and development, to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. HARE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of this first amendment en bloc to the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010. I support this legislation because I believe a substantial investment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics translates to innovation and good-paying jobs. As a member of the Education and Labor Committee, it is clear to me how federal grant opportunities for colleges provides for a strong American workforce.

Mr. Chair, included in this en bloc amendment is language I authored which seeks to give every higher education institution, regardless of funding history or its location, a fair shot at receiving funding.

I have concerns that a disproportional amount of the funding authorized under this bill would end up being awarded to large institutions, which may eclipse small colleges and universities, many of which are located throughout rural America.

Let me be clear—I strongly support, and encourage, all institutions of higher learning to pursue federal STEM funding opportunities. What my provision does is simply express the sense of Congress that when the grant-making authority is evaluating two or more applications of equal merit, that additional consideration should be given to applicants in rural areas and those that have no history of federal STEM grant funding.

Mr. Chair, because there are many bigger schools which have an entire staff dedicated to searching for grant opportunities, I believe that we must ensure there is a level playing field so that all areas of this nation and schools of all sizes and resources are able to benefit.

I believe the language I authored will benefit the overall legislation by enabling unprecedented STEM funding access to schools all across this nation.

I would like to close by thanking and congratulating Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for their extraordinary work in crafting the underlying bill. I was proud to support the 2007 COMPETES legislation, and I am proud to support its reauthorization.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting both en bloc amendment number