

RECOGNIZING THE BUILDING EFFORTS OF "HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS" IN WARREN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the "Homes for Our Troops" program in Warren County, Virginia, and bring to the attention of our colleagues a program at work throughout the country building houses for injured veterans returning home from serving our country.

Homes for Our Troops is a national nonprofit, non-partisan organization founded in 2004 and committed to helping those who have selflessly given to our country and have returned home with serious disabilities and injuries since September 11, 2001. They feel a duty and honor to assist severely injured servicemen and women and their immediate families by raising donations of money, building materials and professional labor, and to coordinate the process of building a home that provides maximum freedom of movement and the ability to live more independently.

John Gonsalves, a construction supervisor, started the organization in 2004 after watching a news report of a severely injured servicemember who had returned from Iraq. He realized the need for special housing projects for injured service members. He focused on constructing customized homes with specially adapted and barrier-free features that allow servicemembers to regain some of their independence and mobility.

In its first 2 years, Homes for Our Troops built a handful of homes as it worked to spread the word about its mission. Since then, the organization has grown into a successful national nonprofit organization that has built and donated more than 50 specially adapted homes to severely injured veterans. It has approximately 30 homes in various stages of construction across the United States on a continuous basis. All the services that this organization provides are at no cost to the recipient.

Most recently, volunteers helped to complete a home for my constituent, Army SSG Arthur "Bunky" Woods, who was injured by a sniper's bullet during a tour in Iraq. The Build Brigade, of more than 50 volunteers from the community constructed the frame of Bunky's house in just three days, a project which usually takes several weeks. His new home on Waterhouse Lane in Warren County, Virginia, will be ready by the end of the summer. The home will have controls and special features specifically tailored to Bunky's needs, allowing him to perform everyday actions such as opening doors.

This project would not be possible without the help of Martha Buracker, who is the owner of the Buracker Construction Company in Bentonville. She generously volunteered to be the general contractor for Bunky's home, donating her time and her company's resources. Martha's selfless actions should be an example to all to get involved with this truly remarkable program.

There are hundreds of soldiers who will be needing our help across the country and more coming home each day with life-altering dis-

abilities and injuries sustained while fighting for our freedom. It does not matter what state or which branch of the military these soldiers are from, these are our American heroes, and we all need to unite, support and help them.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this important program so disabled servicemembers can experience the gift of independence.

HONORING DR. DARRON T. SMITH

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, the accomplishments of many start with the works and words of one; and

Whereas, Dr. Darron T. Smith has given of himself for many years in the field of education as a student, professor, editor and lecturer; and

Whereas, upon obtaining his doctorate degree with emphasis in the Sociology of Race, Education, Theory, Social Problems, Race & Ethnic Minority Relations; and

Whereas, Dr. Darron T. Smith is serving our country honorably as one of few African American men who have decided to enter into the field of education as a Ph.D., to teach our future and enhance our present while never forgetting our past. Dr. Smith is sharing his time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through his tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration that have been and continue to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Dr. Darron T. Smith on his achievement of earning his Ph.D., from the University of Utah, May 7, 2010, and to congratulate him as he provides a much needed service to educate and enlighten our future for the betterment of our great nation;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim May 15, 2010, as Dr. Darron T. Smith Day in the 4th Congressional District.

IN HONOR OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and Colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), celebrated on May 19, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

For seventy years, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, a non-partisan organization, has sought to raise awareness of the interests and concerns of Ukrainian Americans and the people of the Ukraine. The UCCA has worked on many initiatives, including a law adopted by Congress in 1948 which allowed more than 110,000 Ukrainians to be admitted into the United States. The UCCA has worked

on the establishment of Ukrainian language radio programs with Voice of America and Radio Free Liberty. The UCCA also successfully lobbied both the House of Representatives and Senate to construct a monument in honor of Taras Shevchenko, the bard of Ukraine, which was unveiled by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1946.

Throughout the Cold War, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America spoke out against human rights violations and advocated for the liberation of Ukrainian political prisoners in the former USSR. The grassroots efforts of the UCCA continue to focus on encouraging members of Congress to support the process of democratic development in the Ukraine and to promote the needs and concerns of Ukrainian Americans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of the members of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America as they celebrate their 70th anniversary. For seven decades they have brought the issues and concerns of Ukrainian Americans to the forefront of American government and society. As United States citizens whose origins span the globe, we must work to promote bonds of friendship, support, and goodwill here at home and in the nations of our origin.

CELEBRATING ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express strong support for H. Res. 1316—Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I applaud the leadership and continued efforts of Chairman MIKE HONDA, as well as my colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus for bringing this Resolution before us today.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was established in 1977 by the efforts of Representatives Norman Mineta and Frank Horton, and Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga who introduced resolutions asking for a Presidential declaration that the first 10 days of May honor the rich history and contributions of our nation's Asian Pacific Americans. In 1992 Congress expanded the commemoration to a month, in order to fully recognize the impact that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, AAPIs, have on this great Nation.

From the early 1800s to today, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have played a critical role in the development of this country. This year's theme: "Lighting the Past, Present and Future," is fitting as the world's attention turned to the United States to see the historic inauguration of President Barack Hussein Obama. President Obama's diversity reflects the richness and strength of our nation.

We must reaffirm our commitment to the promise of a future for all Americans by eradicating racial and ethnic health disparities, enacting comprehensive immigration reform, providing educational opportunities for the underserved and creating jobs. I am proud that we ensured full equity for the Filipino veterans who proudly served under the American flag

during World War II when we passed H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I also applaud my colleagues for the recent passage of the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which enables the Department of Justice to assist the efforts of Federal, State, and local law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes based on race, ethnic background, and religion, and extends protections to more Americans.

From the construction of the trans-continental railroads to the heroic contributions in World War II and beyond, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made lasting contributions in every facet of American society. We must continue to acknowledge the great achievements this vast and diverse community has provided this nation and I urge my colleagues to support to this resolution.

HONORING DOTTIE McLAUGHLIN

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dottie McLaughlin of United Space Alliance. On June 1, 2010, United Space Alliance will host a Retirement Dinner in Houston, Texas, honoring Dottie's exemplary career supporting America's Space Program.

Dottie began her career supporting human space flight on May 1, 1984 at the NASA Johnson Space Center as a secretary, in the Mission Operations Training Division. She rapidly progressed in the Rockwell Space Operations Company to the position of executive assistant to the president and general manager. In April 1996, all Space Shuttle contracts were transferred to United Space Alliance. Dottie was instrumental in supporting a smooth transition to the new company and the merger of a 10,000-person workforce from 30 different contracts over the next 14 years. Dottie has served as executive assistant to all seven of United Space Alliance's chief executive officers, from Kent Black to Virginia A. Barnes, and has earned the respect of all she has encountered in this journey. Dottie represents the heart and soul of United Space Alliance. With her passion for human space flight, she has poured her energy into the successes that the Space Shuttle program has enjoyed. Through the success of the Space Station construction missions, the two Returns to Flight shuttle missions and early phases of Constellation, Dottie's strength of character fortifies those around her. To many, she represents the very best of the human space flight workforce, and she exemplifies the dedication and commitment to excellence of all those who support our Nation's space program.

Dottie McLaughlin is committed to her country, her family and the welfare of the workers at United Space Alliance. Her passion for human space flight has earned her the deep respect of her colleagues in industry, NASA and the Congress. To quote Dottie, "the most rewarding part of this job has always been the people. Helping the people, be they astronauts, technicians, politicians or fellow administrators, has fulfilled me in ways I could have

never imagined. I am grateful for the role I have played in the Nation's space shuttle program over the years."

I join Dottie McLaughlin's colleagues and friends in honoring her contribution and service to the Nation's space program.

RECOGNIZING THE MERRIAM AVENUE SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Newton Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the fifth graders of the Merriam Avenue School. The young people participating in this important program have made a commitment to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence. They have done this with the support of Detective Lieutenant Michael S. Richards and D.A.R.E. officer, Det. Tom Tosti.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. This program allows children to defeat negative cultural influences by opening the lines of communication between law enforcement and youth, empowering students with confidence and courage to say no to drugs. I am proud of the young men and women who participated in this program in Newton, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Miguel Carlitos Camacho, Robert Caton, Anoushka Chatterjee, Cinthia Diaz-Moreno, Cheyenne Fletcher, Jason Gabbard, Nicholas Giracello, Seth Gormley, Brian Hoskins, Summer Muscher-Malone, Jadea Nobles, Zachary Norman, Logan Owens, Mia Randazzo, Isaiah Reese, Melissa Robinson, Charles Sherwood, Nicole Strus, David Zambrano, Joselyne Acosta Barradas, Mason Allen, Isabela Bryant, Mark Capparelli, April Ciccio, Faith D'angelo, Alexander Duckworth, John Foran, Andrew Ghaleb, Skylar Hildebrandt, Mackenzie Kimble, Destany Masino, Zoie Meininger, Amber Pierce, Lisa Qarmout, Jose Rodriguez, Liam Shernce, Chandler Spencer, Brandon Turner, Luis Arrazola, Paula Barth, Blade Boyer, Marcus Coward, Holly Donovan, Gift Ingabire, Brooke Ingram, Austin Kalaydjian, Julie Ann Leatham, Lindsay Luchetti, Charles Maker, Gregory Rinehart, Abel Sanchez, Hannah Squires, Kathryn Szatkiewicz, Sean Tracy, Kathryn Van Orden, Melanie Villacis-Mora, Kenneth Whitehead, Jasmine Aguilar, Olivia Castimore, Andre Chavarria, Robert Day, Casie Dolan, Gina Donatelli, Timothy Fitzpatrick, Hunter Grave de peralta, Collin Kelly, Willie Little, Rhiannon Lubas, Alecia Marmora, Francis Militano, Natalia Quintero, Adeline Shickel, Tevin Spencer, Taylor Thieme, Matthew Unorski.

URGING INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, this week is National Hurricane Preparedness Week and I encourage all Americans to ensure they are prepared in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster.

Officials at all levels of government are working to ensure they are prepared to respond to any disaster that may impact their areas. However, disaster preparedness is not only a government responsibility. Individuals and families have an important role to play as well.

Individuals should make a disaster preparedness kit with items like water, nonperishable food, a first aid kit, flashlights, medications, and copies of important documents. The Florida Division of Emergency Management in my home State has a website, www.floridadisaster.org, which is a great resource for disaster planning. Other States provide these resources as well. Individuals can also visit Ready.gov and Hurricanes.gov for additional information.

Madam Speaker, the time to prepare is now. I urge all Americans to take these simple steps to get prepared to weather the storm.

COMMEMORATING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Jewish American Heritage Month. This May marks the fifth Jewish American Heritage Month, a month that highlights the many contributions of the Jewish American community. In 2006, we celebrated the first Jewish American Heritage Month after the diligent work of Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ led to the passage of the Jewish American Heritage Month Resolution in 2005.

While the Jewish American community contributes to our country each and every day, this month is a special time to recognize and teach about the achievements of Jewish Americans. For over 350 years, the Jewish Community has contributed to our rich, diverse, and shared culture in this country. Despite the long history of Jews in the United States, Judaism as a culture is not widely understood by all Americans and instances of anti-Jewish prejudices unfortunately do occur.

This month, events are happening all over the Nation to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month by promoting awareness of Jewish Americans' traditions and impacts. Jewish American Heritage Month provides all of us with an opportunity to learn more about the Jewish people and dispel misconceptions.

Last winter, the Daniel Pearl Education Center sponsored a trip for 70 teenagers from Middlesex County in New Jersey to visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The students, from all different backgrounds, had the