

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ANNE LUCILLE
CAPRARA

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Anne Lucille Caprara, 102, of Gonzales, who passed away peacefully at her home Wednesday, June 22, 2011. She was born January 11, 1909 in Salinas. She was a member of St. Theodore's Catholic Church and Pro Ticino of Northern California. Anne always said, "You're ok as long as you can still get out of bed," and she was able to do that until days before her passing. She was born in Salinas, but was a lifelong resident of Gonzales. She graduated in 1927 from Gonzales High School where she was recently honored for being the longest living alumni.

She met and married a dashing young man from Switzerland, Victor Caprara. They had three children. Anne was a devoted wife and mother. Being a homemaker was her priority in life. The "famiglia" loved having their family and friends gather around their table, enjoying conversation and eating delicious food which Anne enjoyed preparing. Roasting chestnuts was a must during the holidays.

She and her husband traveled to Switzerland twice to meet Victor's family and visit her relatives in Canton Ticino. Her parents were also Swiss immigrants. They looked forward to the annual Swiss Picnics and dancing to Swiss polkas. Anne's family wishes to express their deepest gratitude to her kind and very caring care-givers, Margaret and Leticia and her long time physician, Dr. Christine Ponzio. Anne was preceded in death by her husband, Victor Caprara in 1973; mother, Angelina Sgheiza; father, Valentino Sgheiza; sisters, Corina Tomasini, and Alice Berry; brother, Leo Sgheiza; granddaughter, Lorelei Ann Farmer; and grandson, Michael Dennis Farmer.

She is survived by her daughters, Loraine Farmer and Dolores (John) Billman both of Salinas; son, Dennis (Janice) Caprara, of Gonzales; grandchildren, Robert Lee Farmer, John "Bowdie" Billman, Bren Billman, Anne Marci, Brian Caprara, Leslie Lombardi, and Sheri Hayes, 17 great-grandchildren and several devoted nieces and nephews.

JUSTICE FOR LAURA CERNA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a former prosecutor and judge in Texas for 30 years, and now as the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, I have heard and seen the gamut of crimes against individuals, families and property. But I have also, unfortunately, heard and seen far too many cases of justice denied.

I hope that this will not be the case in the prosecution of Laura Cerna's murderer Antonio Gordillo.

Laura Cerna was an American mother living her dream in Spain teaching English when she became the victim of a brutal murder, her body mutilated and thrown into a river. Her son was left without his mother and her grieving family without their daughter and sister.

Spanish authorities have a suspect, Antonio Gordillo, in custody and are currently charging him with "Basic Homicide." This charge comes with a penalty of only 10–15 years in prison.

I am calling on Spain to ensure that justice is served and to prosecute Antonio Gordillo to the fullest extent permitted by Spanish law.

Laura Cerna's family deserves to know that her murderer is behind bars for a very long time, unable to harm others. Americans need to know that they will be safe when travelling to Spain and that authorities will do all that they can to pursue justice, not just for their own citizens but for those visiting from abroad as well.

Laura Cerna was not "just some foreigner" as her murderer described her, but a mother, daughter, sister, teacher, and friend. Antonio Gordillo must be brought to justice and receive the maximum penalty for his heinous crime.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING AYDIN TURGUT

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2011

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible achievement of Aydin Turgut, an extremely talented 6½-year-old constituent of mine. Aydin is the son of Tansel and Ava Turgut from Decatur, Illinois.

At 6½-years old, Aydin won the United States Chess Federation National Elementary Championship that was held in Dallas, Texas from May 6–8th. He successfully completed a perfect tournament by winning all seven of his matches, securing first place out of 294 players.

Success does not come without hard work and dedication. Realizing this at a young age, Aydin spends a half hour practicing chess every morning before catching the school bus. While most of his free time outside the classroom is focused on chess, Aydin also plays the piano, soccer, and tennis.

When asked who his hero was in the game of chess, Aydin grinned and pointed to his father Tansel, who is the highest ranking correspondence chess player in the country. In a recent father-son chess match, the two competitors played to a draw.

Aydin is well on his way in following the footsteps of his father. I congratulate Aydin on his accomplishments and wish him best of luck in his very bright future.

IN HONOR OF EUGENE J.
VAILLANCOURT FOR HIS 24
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE
TO THE CITY OF BOSTON AND
THE VETERANS' SERVICES DE-
PARTMENT

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2011

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Eugene J. Vaillancourt in recognition of his 24 years of dedicated service to the City of Boston and the Veterans' Services Department. Throughout his nearly quarter century of service to the City, Gene worked passionately and tirelessly advocating on behalf of veterans.

Gene Vaillancourt was born on October 5, 1942, and raised in South Boston. On February 3, 1963, Gene married the late Rita Calla. They had 2 children, Gene and Billy. Gene has 3 grandchildren, Jennifer, Jordan and Erin.

After graduating from South Boston High School in 1960, he entered the United States Marine Corps (USMC). During his career he served in all 4 Marine divisions at Hawaii, Alaska, Japan and several stateside bases. A disabled combat veteran, Gene served 2 tours in Vietnam in both the 1st and 3rd Marine divisions from 1966–1967 and 1970–1971; for his brave and admirable contributions, Gene was decorated with a Purple Heart. A highly decorated veteran, he was also awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for Outstanding Service, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm. He retired from USMC as a Sgt. Major in 1987 with 27 years of service.

In August of 1987, Gene was hired by the city of Boston Veterans' Services Department and was appointed the assistant commissioner in 1992. During his 24 years with the department Gene played a very active role with various veteran related issues and projects including assisting in the installation of many veteran memorials throughout the City of Boston.

During his time at the Veterans' Services Department, Gene lobbied for well earned benefits for veterans including real estate abatements, increased annuities for 100 percent disabled veterans, and annuities for both Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Wives. On July 1, 2003, Gene proudly accepted his appointment as the Commissioner of the City of Boston Veterans' Services Department, and continues to advocate on behalf of his fellow veterans.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join with Gene's family, friends, fellow veterans, and the city of Boston to thank him for his incredible service to his country and his dedication and commitment to veterans. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Gene's distinguished career and in wishing him good health and success in all of his future endeavors.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORT OF LONG BEACH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of one of the world's busiest transportation centers, the Port of Long Beach. In my District, one out of every 8 people is employed by the Port, and over 300,000 jobs across Southern California are directly involved in its operations.

As a Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I look to the Port of Long Beach as a model seaport, bringing business and economic opportunities to our area through ever more efficient methods of facilitating economic trade, guided by a philosophy that is sensitive to our environment and prepared for emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, on June 24, 1911, the Port of Long Beach, located on 800 acres of marshland at the mouth of the Los Angeles River, was officially opened to the world. The S.S. *laqua* unloaded 280,000 feet of redwood lumber at a small pier of wood and concrete, becoming the first ship to call on the Port of Long Beach. The port now services nearly 5,000 vessels and handles more than \$100 billion worth of goods each year.

After the Los Angeles Dock and Terminal Company, the Port's original owner, declared bankruptcy in 1916, the City of Long Beach acquired the harbor and appointed a Board of Harbor Commissioners to direct its operations. In 1925, it was decided that the Port ought to be an independent city department with its own independent board.

Since then, the histories of Long Beach and its port have been intertwined. After nearly a decade of dredging and harbor improvements, in 1926 the Port of Long Beach attained "deep water" port status and recorded 1 million tons of cargo having passed through its piers since the *laqua*. The 1930's witnessed the expansion of the San Pedro Bay breakwater and the discovery of oil, ushering in an era of unprecedented growth for the Port and the City of Long Beach.

The U.S. Navy established a facility in 1940 at Terminal Island that would become the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, which provided critical support to America's operations in the Pacific during World War II, and remained a major military facility until 1997.

The port continued to grow in size, capacity, and technological sophistication. It became the first of its kind in the Americas to install a shore-based radar system in 1949, and Time Magazine dubbed the Port of Long Beach "America's Most Modern Port." In 1973 the Port of Long Beach became the first port in

the Western Hemisphere to receive the Environmental "E" Award from the American Association of Port Authorities for its efforts to prevent oil spills, process sewage, clean the harbor, and monitor water quality, and received the E-Star Award from the United States Department of Commerce one year later.

In 1980, the Port of Long Beach was the first American port of call for Chinese ships following normalized relations. 1996 and 1997 saw the Port of Long Beach handling more shipping containers than any other U.S. port. Today, nearly 1 out of every 5 American shipping containers pass through its facilities.

The Port also continues its legacy of environmentally sensitive operations through its Green Port Policy and its Clean Air Action Plan which have become the model for similar facilities around the world seeking to improve water quality, reduce emissions, prevent contamination, protect wildlife, and implement sustainable practices in daily operations.

In recent years, the Port of Long Beach has taken unprecedented steps to connect with its surrounding communities, offering free tours of the Port to the public, holding community forums, awarding scholarships, pioneering trade-related educational programs, and hosting the annual Green Port Fest.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Port of Long Beach for a century of innovation and the critical role it plays in American trade with the world. I am thankful for the contributions to American shipping made during the Port's history, and I acknowledge the critical importance of the Port to America's continuing prosperity and future trade for the next 100 years.

HONORING TWO ITALIAN MAYORS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge two Italian mayors who serve some of the most popular destinations in Italy: Dott. Antimo Silvestre, Mayor of Casandrino, Italy, and Dott. Antonio Di Brino, Mayor of Termoli, Italy. As an Italian-American and a former mayor of a Pennsylvania city rich in Italian culture, I believe it is important to recognize my counterparts in my family's native country.

Located in southern Italy, Casandrino is part of the Greater Naples area, which has a population exceeding one million people. The Palace of Capodimonte, the Napolitan National Gallery, and the Catacombs of San Gennaro all surround the city center of Casandrino, attracting visitors from around Italy and the world. Casandrino remains at the center of Italy's culture of art, history, and commerce.

Termoli has a rich history as a seaside village on the Adriatic coast of Italy. It is known

for the purity of its waters and white, sandy beaches. Less developed and more historical than other seaside towns of Italy, Termoli features restored Romanesque architecture and many fine restaurants and resorts. Termoli humbly welcomes thousands of Italian and foreigners each year.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the vital role mayors hold in our local communities. I understand that mayors face many similar challenges around the world, and I recognize my friends and colleagues Dott. Antimo Silvestre and Dott. Antonio Di Brino as distinguished leaders in their communities.

HONORING JANICE SCOTT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Fresno resident Janice Scott; and to recognize Janice for her dedication to changing her life's path. Over the past three years Janice has worked hard to overcome many challenges, an achievement which deserves to be recognized.

Less than a year ago, Janice, a 36-year-old Fresno native, was homeless and lived in a tent city located in downtown Fresno. After being involved in an abusive relationship for three years, Janice had no job, no educational degree, and no hope. Janice struggled to meet her basic needs and be a productive member of society. During this time, Janice was approached by Mr. Greg Barfield, Fresno's "Homeless Czar", and was given the opportunity to move off of the streets and into her own apartment provided by the City of Fresno.

The City of Fresno's community-wide initiative known as "Fresno First Steps Home," provided Janice with a more stable environment. Janice not only took advantage of this opportunity, she used it as a springboard to work toward a better life. She enrolled in the North Campus of Heald College with a full-ride scholarship, and is on track to graduate with honors. Upon graduation, she is excited to pursue a career in Medical Administration. Janice knows that her future career will allow her to give back to the community which provided her the opportunity for not only a new home, but to begin a new life. Earlier this year, Janice's accomplishments and hard-work were recognized by Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearingin, who presented Janice with a prestigious award, entitled the "Key to the City".

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Janice Scott for her hard work to better her life and provide hope to others around her, and wishing her great success in her future endeavors.