

HONORING NATIONAL ADOPTION
DAY

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, as a parent of two wonderful adopted children and a co-chairman of the newly established bi-partisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Care, I rise today in recognition of the 12th Annual National Adoption Day which is tomorrow November 19.

As we look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving, it is important to keep in mind there are over 400,000 children in foster care across the nation who will not be spending the holiday with a permanent family. Of these children, nearly 107,000 of them are eligible for adoption and waiting for a family.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, over 19,000 children are in Pennsylvania's foster care system. About 3,300 of these children await adoption.

Each year about 28,000 youth age out of foster care having never been adopted.

I want to issue a challenge those us here in Washington and around the country to make it easier for families to adopt children.

Our goal must be a loving, caring and safe permanent home for each of these children. For this to happen, courts, judges, attorneys, adoption professionals, child welfare agencies, religious and civic organizations needs to work together to finalize adoptions and find homes for children in foster care.

National adoption Day is an essential part of this effort.

For the past 12 years, National Adoption Day has been a nationwide attempt to raise awareness of the children in foster care waiting to find permanent homes and loving families. It is commemorated across the country with numerous events held each year to finalize the adoptions of children in foster care, and to celebrate all families who adopt.

The result is that since 2000, more than 35,000 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day. This year nearly 5,000 adoptions will be finalized in through these special events.

That is why I am gratified to be speaking in recognition National Adoption Day. I also want to thank foster and adoptive families across the country because of the important role that they play in the well-being of our children.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CANON
CITY NOON LIONS IN HONOR OF
THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 90th Anniversary of the Cañon City Noon Lions Club in my district in Colorado. For Ninety years, the Noon Lions have been dedicated to providing aid and assistance to the needy and less fortunate in their community. During the Lions Club International Campaign Sight First II, the Noon Lions were one of five Model Clubs within the

state of Colorado raising over \$32,000 for the program. This program helps under-privileged children from all over the world get much needed eye exams and medications. Last December, the Noon Lions raised over \$3,000 in a "Cash for Christmas" raffle in order to pay for appointments and surgery for a young girl with Amblyopic eye condition and a man with cataracts.

The Cañon City Noon Lions are dedicated to serving their community and the wider world. Ever since they started in the basement of a local YMCA building on November 22, 1921, the Noon Lions have tirelessly devoted their time, effort, and energy to fighting blindness, combating hunger, and aiding seniors and the disabled. With the introduction of the "Sight First" program the Noon Lions have screened the eyes of more than 5,000 children within their community and surrounding area. The Noon Lions look back at their legacy of community service with an eye on the future and on the service they will be a part of in strengthening their community. I am proud of the work they have done my district and I offer them my most sincere congratulations on their 90th anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FAMILY ALLIANCE FOR VETERANS OF AMERICA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional work that the Family Alliance for Veterans of America has been doing on behalf of our veterans, and to congratulate them on the recent launch of their cutting-edge website.

FAVA's Chairman, Rhonda Jordal, has been a tireless advocate for veterans and military families for numerous years. Because of her commitment, FAVA has been at the forefront of providing information, advocacy and support to our veterans and their families in their most crucial time of need. FAVA's nationwide assistance is aimed at helping with any difficult situation veterans or their families find themselves in. This program has found a niche that allows them to assist veterans through their own practices, as well as assisting government agencies in being more attentive and responsive to the needs of America's heroes.

FAVA's goal is to become a comprehensive repository of information that can assist veterans all over the globe, and the launch of their new website is a crucial step in that direction. At fava.westcare.com, families of veterans, and veterans themselves, can read and share their own stories regarding unexpected difficulties and experiences that they have faced. The message that FAVA wishes to convey to every veteran and their family is simple—you are not alone.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to represent Iowa veterans in the U.S. House of Representatives. No one has done more to secure the freedom enjoyed by every single American than our veterans and those currently serving in the armed services. It goes without saying that we must collectively do everything we can to deliver on the benefits and support our veterans deserve, and I am proud

to honor the Family Alliance for Veterans of America for supporting our veterans in such a tangible and meaningful way. Thank you.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE LUKENS
BAND

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Lukens Band of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

Founded in 1911 by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lukens Huston, the first meeting of the Lukens Mission Band brought together fifteen youngsters with little or no musical ability. Today, they number in excess of 40 musicians. The Band performs about 60 times per year and has four subgroups known as the Lukens Marching Band, Lukens Concert Band, Lukens German Band and Lukens Small Ensemble. In its many forms, the Band plays for a wide variety of venues such as community concerts, the Coatesville VA Hospital, senior centers, retirement communities, corporate events and community celebrations.

In 1994, the Band incorporated as The Lukens Band, to reflect a broader scope as a non-profit public organization, the end of support by the Lukens Steel Company, and the start of support from The Huston Foundation and The Stewart Huston Charitable Trust.

Mr. Speaker, in light of its years of service to the community and outstanding entertainment and musical accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing The Lukens Band in celebration of its 100 year anniversary.

HONORING ALEXANDER SCOTT
MASON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Scott Mason. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alexander has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Scott Mason for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on November 14, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted on the following: rollcall No. 837—S. 1412 (Sen. KERRY), “aye”; rollcall No. 838—H.R. 298 (Rep. CARTER), “aye”; rollcall No. 839—H.R. 2422 (Rep. GRIMM), “aye”.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 855 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

RECOGNIZING MAYOR MARILYN STEPHAN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Mayor Marilyn Stephan, as she retires from her position as Mayor of Berkley, Michigan, after more than a decade of service to her community and region.

A longtime resident of Berkley, Marilyn's record of service long predates her involvement on Berkley's City Council and as Mayor.

In a demonstration of her commitment to building a stronger community, Marilyn dedicated her professional life to educating and nurturing the development of her students. As a teacher, first in Clarenceville and later in the Berkley School District, Marilyn made development of future generations her daily responsibility. Whether it was teaching English or home economics, Marilyn brought with her an unwavering commitment and passion for educating her students in the skills they needed to become successful. As a debate coach, Marilyn helped her students refine their critical thinking and public speaking skills, both of which are required for being an effective leader.

As a passionate educator in her community, Marilyn's work during her tenure did not end in the classroom. In her home, Marilyn raised her children with the same zeal she displayed in her teaching and today is a proud mother and grandmother. As an impassioned leader among her fellow educators, Marilyn also served a decade as President of the Berkley Education Association.

It is no surprise that a quiet retirement was unlikely for Marilyn and in November 1999 she was elected to the Berkley City Council and later as Mayor of Berkley in 2005. In her role as Mayor, Marilyn has been a strong voice of the needs of her community in important regional organizations like the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the Woodward

Avenue Action Association and the South Oakland County Mayors Association. Under her leadership, Berkley has successfully implemented major road improvements, stabilized its financial outlook and updated its master plan, all of which made Berkley a better place to live for its residents. As a testament to the improvements she oversaw, Forbes Magazine and Business Week named Berkley one of America's best affordable suburbs in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Marilyn's lifelong career of service to Berkley, Michigan. I know that her dedication, passion and leadership will be greatly missed within Berkley's city administration and by its neighboring communities. I wish Marilyn many happy years with her children and grandchildren in retirement and I know she will continue to be a voice of positive change in her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, I was detained in a meeting and inadvertently missed a vote in a series of recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote No. 850 (on agreeing to the Cicilline amendment to H.R. 822).

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL “DAN” SISEMORE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Daniel “Dan” Sisemore who passed away on November 11, 2011 in Newport Beach, California. Dan was a pillar of the community in Corona, California and he will be deeply missed.

Dan Sisemore was born on November 9, 1934, in California. In 1952, Dan and his father began work in the construction industry. With just one truck they founded the company More Truck Lines. The business grew and in 1969 they started All American Asphalt with an asphalt plant in Westminster, California. The company has grown exponentially over the years and now owns an aggregate quarry in Corona, California and six asphalt plants throughout the region. All American Asphalt is not only a material supplier but also a fully integrated road construction firm. All American Asphalt employs 850 employees, all of whom took inspiration from the founder and leader: Dan Sisemore. Dan was a visionary in the industry and the quintessential American entrepreneur.

Dan's hobbies and interests included golf, fishing, hunting and horse racing. He enjoyed the desert and spending time with friends at the beach. The way in which Dan lived his life should serve as reminder to others that the power of an individual with drive, perseverance and a stellar work-ethic can do great things.

Dan was the loving husband to Betty, brother to Cindy, father to Toni, Tracy, Donna and Mark and devoted uncle to Bob and Don. He was affectionately known to his grandchildren as “Papa.”

On Saturday, November 19, 2011, a memorial service celebrating Dan's extraordinary life will be held. Dan will always be remembered for his incredible contributions to business, his work ethic, generosity, and love of family. His dedication to his work, family and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Dan's family and friends; although Dan may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remains and will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTING

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent a district along the Hudson River that is steeped in history and produced the first American school of painting in the mid-nineteenth century, called the Hudson River School of Painting. Its founder and spiritual leader was Thomas Cole, who, in 1825, sailed up the Hudson River to the Catskill Mountains and painted inspiring pictures of New York State sites that attracted instant acclaim. Thomas Cole was born in Bolton, Lancashire in northwest England in 1801. He emigrated to the United States in 1818, and around 1832, rented a small studio in my district called Cedar Grove. This is now known today as the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. Complementing Cedar Grove, and also located in my district, is the home and studio of Frederic Edwin Church, who was a student of Thomas Cole. During the last 40 years of Church's life, he created a 250 acre estate called Olana. Olana is a National Historic Landmark located in Hudson, NY, and I proud to represent this fine marker of our history, which is home to the Hudson River School of Painting. The painters that gathered here, among them Asher B. Durand, Jasper F. Cropsey, John F. Kensett, Sanford R. Gifford, formed the first coherent society of artists in America, and led the fine arts until the end of the Civil War. Today, their major paintings are seen in museums throughout the United States, including major federal buildings in Washington, D.C., such as the White House, State Department, and National Gallery of Art. They depict the landscape of America, and some have said these were the first environmental conservationists, who glorified our land and its contours in the mid-nineteenth century.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the effort to place creative bronze “Arches” historic markers along the Hudson River, marking where these artists painted. My colleague, Rep. ELIOT ENGEL, recently unveiled a Hudson River School of Painting historic marker at Hastings on Hudson, and others will be placed at Hook Mountain, on the Hudson River near Nyack, with a beautiful view of the Tappan Zee Bride and Haverstraw Bay, as well as at Newburgh, New York. Greg Wyatt, Director of the Academy of Art at the