

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. WILLIAM DALE
GIBBS

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Mr. William Gibbs a veteran of World War II who passed into glory on 19 October 2011.

The youngest son of John and Maimi Gibbs, William Dale Gibbs was born on 21 June 1926 in Salem, Missouri, in the heart of the Ozarks. Like many in those years, Mr. Gibbs' parent found work hard to come by and eventually moved the family to St. Louis to find employment.

At the age 18, with World War II still raging, Mr. Gibbs enlisted in the United States Army and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, 325th Glider Regiment. The 82nd was the Army's first Airborne Division. Mr. Gibbs and his unit played a lead role in blunting the German advance during the Battle of the Bulge. He and his unit saw heavy fighting, suffering heavy casualties, throughout World War II.

Mr. Gibbs saw and experienced many things during his service in Europe, but none seemed to impact him as much as the following . . .

“ . . . Upon completion of their objectives, the division moved again towards the Rhine River and Cologne. From there, the order of duty was to push forward into the Rhineland, and then moved again towards Berlin, winding up in a town called Ludwigslust. Here they captured a concentration camp (Camp Wobbelin) which held several thousand prisoners, many were already dead and the remaining were in very poor condition. The survivors were so elated, they were out of control. Their weak mental conditions coupled with the language barrier made it very difficult to administer to their needs. Out of respect for the prisoners, General [James “Jumpin’ Jim”] Gavin ordered a proper burial of the dead prisoners in the center of town. A formal memorial and burial service was conducted by the 325th division Chaplin, Major [George B.] Wood. The German townspeople were forced to dig the graves and attend the service. There were approximately 10,000 Germans in attendance.

After the encounter at Concentration Camp Wobbelin, the unit moved ahead towards the Elbe River. They had great pleasure in liberating some POW camps along the way. The soldiers were reunited with some of the 82nd Airborne Division who had been POWs captured in Italy over a year before.”

According to his son, David, Mr. Gibbs retold this story many times over his life. It was during his earliest memory of this story that David first saw his father cry.

Like so many of his generation, at the end of the war, Mr. Gibbs returned home, married and went to work. After completing his education and finding employment with Inter-

national Shoe Company, he married Shirley Mae Warfel and together they raised a family of three boys and a girl—though they experienced the loss of their first born to leukemia at age five.

The passing of William Dale Gibbs reminds me that all too soon we will lose the World War II generation to history. While we may be losing them, we should not lose their stories and the lessons they teach; one of which is there are, in fact, things for which we should fight, and if necessary, die to preserve and protect.

On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you Mr. Gibbs for your service and sacrifice in Europe; and for returning home and raising sons and a daughter who were so very proud to call you “Dad”.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF GUAM DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Guam and the beginning of the Pacific theater of World War II. In the early morning of December 10, 1941, two days after the aerial attacks on Pearl Harbor and Sumay Village, soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army invaded the shores of Guam.

The Japanese invasion faced resistance at the Plaza de Espata in Hagota by the members of the Guam Insular Guard, who were recruited by the Navy eight months prior to the invasion of Guam. With limited military training, and lightly armed, the Insular Guard was all that stood between the invaders and our people. The Guam Insular Guard fought with great courage in defense of our island but they were overwhelmed in a short time by the superior numbers and arms of the invasion force. This encounter marked the only ground battle against the invading Japanese force on Guam. Shortly thereafter that early morning, U.S. Naval Captain George J. McMillin, Naval Governor of Guam, and a handful of U.S. sailors, surrendered the island to the Japanese Army.

These events marked the beginning of the Japanese occupation on Guam for the next thirty two months. The occupation of Guam was marked by abuse and violence against the people of Guam including forced labor, forced marches, internment in camps, injuries and executions. Throughout the occupation, the people of Guam remained patriotic to America and never lost faith that U.S. forces would return to liberate our island. While we can never truly comprehend the suffering endured by our manamko' (elders) during the Japanese occupation, we continue to honor them for who they are, what they have endured, and how they have impacted our lives and our community.

As we commemorate this solemn anniversary, we pay tribute to these Insular Guardsmen for their courage and bravery. We also acknowledge Guam's greatest generation, those who endured the war and survived. Lastly, we pray for the civilians who died during the war and the members of the U.S. armed forces who fought to liberate our island. We must never forget their suffering and their sacrifices during the brutal occupation and liberation. God bless Guam and God bless the United States of America.

SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATING JANUARY 5TH AS NATIONAL BIRD DAY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for designating January 5th as “National Bird Day.” I also wish for my colleagues to consider the following:

That the beauty, songs, and flight of birds have long been sources of inspiration, and that nearly 12 percent of the world's 9,800 bird species may face extinction within the next century, including nearly one-third of the world's 330 parrot species;

That birds are sentinel species whose plight serves as a barometer of ecosystem health and an alert system for detecting global environmental ills;

That many of the world's parrots and songbirds are threatened with extinction due to pressures from the illegal pet trade, disease, and habitat loss;

That public awareness and education about the physical and behavioral needs of birds can go far in improving the welfare of the millions of birds kept in captivity, and that the survival and well-being of the world's birds depends upon ending the illegal pet trade and supporting public education and conservation;

Finally, that the United States Congress has enacted specific laws to protect birds, including the Wild Bird Conservation Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and that January 5, 2012 is being celebrated by Born Free USA as National Bird Day with the intent to raise awareness about bird conservation and protection.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me to support the designation of January 5th as National Bird Day and to encourage their State and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities that promote bird awareness. Furthermore, I encourage all avian experts and professionals working with birds to use this day to create greater public awareness and appreciation of birds, leading to further protection of bird species. Finally, I encourage individuals across the Nation to become more aware of their local avian community so they can be more effective stewards of bird conservation.

• 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.

HONORING NICHOLAS AIELLO FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the members of the Central Labor Council of New Haven, Connecticut as they raise a toast and salute a very special member of Connecticut's labor movement, and my dear friend, Nicholas Aiello. One of the first organizers in the City of New Haven, Nick has long been a strong voice on behalf of working families and is known to many as one of the architects of Connecticut's labor movement.

One of fourteen children, all of whom were garment workers in New Haven's shirt factories, Nick was no stranger to hard work, low pay, and less than ideal working conditions. As Nick recounts in Anthony Riccio's *The Italian Experience in New Haven: Images and Oral Histories*, "When New York got completely organized, the 'runaway shops' came to New Haven. They ran to New Haven where there were no union shops. And they would open up a storefront. They'd put twenty, thirty machines on the fourth floor and most of the stitching plants were on the fourth floor with no elevator. Conditions were horrible . . . Then in the 1930s came the Amalgamated and they started organizing drives in the area." It was with Amalgamated that Nick began as an organizer, taking to the streets of New Haven, rallying workers, and demanding better from industry management. He would go on to become a business agent for Amalgamated and still today remains involved with the Central Labor Council of New Haven. Nick is a pillar of Connecticut's labor movement and has earned the respect and admiration of labor and community leaders alike.

Much has changed from Nick's days in the factories, however, he wanted to make sure that future generations understood the battles that were undertaken to ensure the rights of America's workers. A few years ago, Nick spearheaded the Greater New Haven Labor History Project—an organization whose mission was to collect, preserve, and share the history of working people in the Greater New Haven Area. Nick was determined to see this project succeed and, like in his early organizing days, went door to door to garner support. The response was extraordinary and today its members and staff create traveling exhibits and install them in community venues; preserve and maintain an archival repository of individuals' papers and local union records, documents and artifacts of historical significance; organize public events such as workshops, walking tours, book-signings, film festivals, and talks by esteemed labor historians; offer Records Inventory Services and access by appointment to many of their historical archives; as well as conduct projects such as oral history interviews with retired workers. In addition, the group also presents the August Lewis Troup Award annually to individuals in recognition of their personal contributions to the labor community. None of this would have been possible without Nick's persistence and unyielding determination to see it become a reality and he continues in his efforts by serv-

ing as the President of the Greater New Haven Labor History Project Association.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a personal note of thanks to Nick for his many years of friendship and support. He has been in my corner from the very beginning and even today he still volunteers some of his time in my District Office. I could not be more appreciative of all of his good work on my behalf.

For his many contributions to our community and particularly for his invaluable efforts with the Connecticut labor movement, I am proud to join the members of the Central Labor Council of New Haven in extending my heartfelt thanks to Nicholas Aiello. I extend my very best wishes to Nick and his son, Michael, for many more years of health and happiness.

CONGRATULATING AL AND CHRIS
BELILACQUA ON THEIR INDUC-
TION INTO THE NATIONAL WRES-
TLING HALL OF FAME

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements of 2012 National Wrestling Hall of Fame inductees Al and Chris Bevilacqua—the first father and son to be so honored in the same year.

For nearly a half century, Al Bevilacqua has worked tirelessly to advance the sport of wrestling as a coach, organizer, mentor, and teacher. Named USA Wrestling's Coach of the Year in 1983, Al has managed successful programs at the high school and college levels, including two years at Division I Hofstra University. Al's greatest contribution to the sport, however, may be his role as co-founder of Beat the Streets, a New York City-based wrestling program that promotes the values of hard work, dedication, and self-discipline among the area's youths. He will receive the Hall of Fame's Order of Merit for his many contributions to the sport.

A two-time All-American at Pennsylvania State University, Chris Bevilacqua has continued his father's legacy of athletic excellence and community involvement. A fixture in the sports media industry, Chris helped found CSTV, the first 24-hour cable network dedicated to college and amateur athletics, which was sold to CBS in 2005. Chris currently serves as CEO of the Bevilacqua Media Company, a strategic advisor to media and entertainment interests. He will receive the Hall's Outstanding American Award.

Al, Chris, and their fellow honorees will be recognized in June during the Hall's induction ceremony in Stillwater, Oklahoma. I congratulate them and join their family and friends in celebrating their many contributions to the wrestling community.

SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT
OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to clarify my position on H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act.

My vote in support of H.R. 1254 is not without reservations. I support this legislation because the health and safety of our citizens is my primary concern. This legislation will protect our communities, and particularly our youth, from more than forty new and dangerous synthetic drugs. These substances have been the cause of violent incidents and numerous deaths around the nation and it is preferable to immediately list them as Schedule I as opposed to allowing them to continue to be abused in our communities.

Criminalizing these substances, however, will not solve the root problem of drug abuse in our communities. I have serious concerns about the over-criminalization of drugs. Mandatory minimum sentences lead to over-capacity criminal justice and prison systems at significant burden to taxpayers. I have long advocated for a comprehensive approach to drug abuse treatment, including education, prevention, treatment, research, and enforcement. In fact, I have authored legislation to expand accessible treatment, especially for underserved communities, and research into cutting edge treatment therapies. Responsible law enforcement is just the way to address this issue, and it must be executed in conjunction with a robust and multifaceted approach that targets the root of drug abuse problems.

I also have concerns about the impact of penalties in H.R. 1254 on our scientific research processes. While, it is regrettable that H.R. 1254 circumvents the process for listing drugs as laid out in the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), it is necessary in this circumstance. The evidentiary procedure in CSA has worked well for determining the listing of new substances. Unfortunately, it can be time-intensive and the law enforcement community, including the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Department of Justice, supports the immediate listing of these synthetic drugs because of the harm they inflict on our communities. This bill increases the length of time that a new substance can be temporarily scheduled by the DEA, thereby allowing more time for the usual CSA listing process to be carried out.

Throughout my career I have supported scientific research. The study of synthetic drugs is important for understanding their impact on health and their potential beneficial uses. Unfortunately, most of the substances included in this legislation have not been subjected to extensive scientific study, and I am concerned that listing them as Schedule I drugs may inhibit the study of these drugs. While the DEA has a procedure for scientists to study Schedule I controlled substances, it presents greater barriers for scientists to work with these drugs. As of October 4, 2011, the DEA has 325 researchers conducting research with Schedule I controlled substances. These researchers include research centers and universities who seek to better understand the effects of