

RECOGNIZING THE WOMEN OF THE ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY OF THE BASILICA OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR TROOPS STATIONED ABROAD

**HON. MARK S. CRITZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the women of the Altar and Rosary Society of the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel in Loretto, Pennsylvania for bringing comfort and solace to the members of our military stationed abroad during the holiday season over the last 25 years. In the spirit of giving that defines this magical time of year, these selfless women provide assistance to the Support Our Troops military mail campaign in the lead up to Christmas. This campaign sends letters of support and gratitude to our troops overseas in an attempt to bridge the oceans and continents that separate them from their loved ones.

Dolly Haird, Barb Bender, Maggie Biter, Mae Karabinos, Lucy Mock and the rest of the women of the of the Altar and Rosary Society at St. Michael the Archangel gather thousands of Christmas cards from individuals, families, schools and churches starting in October and send them to Fort Bragg in December, where they are sorted and sent to military bases overseas. This year alone, these women gathered over 21,000 holiday greetings. Their ability to motivate so many members of the various communities of southwestern Pennsylvania to express their support for our troops stationed abroad is a testament to the strength and infectiousness of their altruism.

The women of the Altar and Rosary society have received a number of awards for their service. They have also enlisted a number of local veterans' organizations in their efforts, illustrating the great appreciation retired servicemen and women have for their efforts.

The men and women of our armed forces who are stationed overseas spend the holidays away from their families so that we do not have to. No one appreciates this fact more than the women of the Altar and Rosary Society. The work that they do to support our troops clearly illustrates their abiding belief in the importance of sacrifice for the greater good.

Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to begin the New Year, all of us should resolve to emulate the kindness and generosity these women have demonstrated in their efforts to bring smiles to the faces of our men and women in uniform. I want to congratulate them on 25 years of fruitful service.

A TRIBUTE TO HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA CECILE DUNN-JAHNKE

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Patricia Cecile Dunn-Jahnke, known as Pattie Dunn. A

former Chairwoman of Hewlett-Packard, she passed away on December 4, 2011, in Orinda, California, surrounded by her family. While her life was too short, her accomplishments were recognized and respected by colleagues across the country.

Pattie Dunn's life was a "rags-to-riches" story. Her parents were Las Vegas casino workers. Her father, a vaudeville actor, died of a heart attack when she was a teen, and her mother, a model, left the runway to raise the family's three children. Her childhood was not easy, but Pattie persevered, eventually working her way through college at the University of Oregon and the University of California at Berkeley.

Pattie was a journalist by training and harbored dreams of being the next great American reporter. But after graduation, she instead took a job as a secretary with Wells Fargo Investment Advisers. What she made of her "accidental career" is truly nothing short of extraordinary. She rose quickly through the ranks of her firm, now Barclays Global Investors, and held a myriad of titles, including Chief Operating Officer, Chief Investment Officer, and even Chief Executive Officer. Pattie broke the glass ceiling for women in investment banking.

Pattie then joined the Board of Hewlett-Packard. While her time there was not without rough patches, she will always be remembered as a courageous woman who typified the characteristics we hope to instill in our daughters. By the time she left, Pattie had risen to be its Chairwoman and helped right the ship at HP.

I will always remember Pattie's valiant personal struggle with cancer, and her fight to raise awareness of the disease. Perhaps a columnist remembering her summed up Pattie best—"She rose from modest circumstances to the pinnacle of global finance, earning a legion of admirers who revere her business acumen, her integrity, her philanthropy and her dedication to family."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Pattie Dunn's husband, Bill Jahnke; her children, Janai Brengman, Michelle Cox, and Michael Jahnke; siblings Paul Dunn and Debbie Lammers; ten grandchildren and many other family members. The world lost a giant in Pattie Dunn. How proud and grateful I am to have known her and to have called her my friend.

RESOLUTION HIGHLIGHTING ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to introduce a resolution highlighting the actions taken by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, in the operation of their financial and judicial systems, that are manifestly contrary to the public policy of the United States.

This resolution asks that all further direct or indirect aid or assistance, including assistance derived from Federal funds, by the United States Government to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda should be suspended until

the Government of Antigua and Barbuda provides complete redress of the violations by their government against the rights of American citizens.

Antigua and Barbuda should give full cooperation in investigating the Stanford Financial Group fraud, and should agree to be bound by U.S. courts that adjudicate claims arising from the Stanford fraud.

The resolution also asks the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to fulfill its obligations relating to the expropriation of the Half Moon Bay Resort, which was owned by a group of U.S. citizens.

I ask for its swift passage.

RECOGNIZING RETIRED FIRST SERGEANT LANDRES CHEEKS FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of Retired First Sergeant Landres Cheeks of Canton, Mississippi. First Sergeant Cheeks is a true patriot of our country and served as an integral part of his community for more than 60 years. He dedicated his life, after serving our country for three decades, to giving back to the people of Canton. His mission to economically empower, inspire and motivate the people of Canton is one of great resolve.

Sergeant Cheeks served in the United States Army Medical Corps for 30 years participating in World War II (Germany and France) and the Vietnam War. He is a decorated serviceman, having received the National Defense Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army of Occupational Medal of Germany, Bronze Star Medal, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, and 9th Good Service Conduct Medal. In 2001 he was awarded the Blue Cross Blue Shield Ageless Hero Award. This honor is given in celebration of the spirit and vitality of our Nation's seniors aged 65 and over who have proven themselves exemplarily in the areas of Community Involvement, Creativity, Good Neighbor, Love of Learning, New Beginnings and Vitality. Sgt. Cheeks has proven himself to be a role model of his community.

After having been honorably discharged from the military it was later discovered that Sgt. Cheeks had contracted Agent Orange and developed post-traumatic stress syndrome. Nevertheless, Sgt. Cheeks persevered and began actively assisting the people of Canton with searches for employment and with formulating and sponsoring extracurricular activities for the youth of Canton. He also served as a volunteer crossing guard for Holy Child Jesus School in Canton for more than 25 years.

In 1975, Sgt. Cheeks took his 18 years of experience in coaching little league baseball in the military and sponsored a little league baseball team in Madison County (MS). He also took the discipline and resourcefulness learned in the United States military to organize both Boy and Girl Scouts' troops in Canton, Mississippi.

Sergeant Cheeks' commitment to individual and community wealth building was the driving force behind much of his pledge to serving the citizens of Canton. To that end, he served as the Chairman of the Madison County Union for Progress, a private organization that helps citizens seek and secure employment; he served on the Board of Directors for the Canton Housing Authority, an organization in which he currently still serves as a chief advisor; he served on the G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center's Board of Trustees and Madison General Hospital's Board of Trustees. Sgt. Cheeks has also been the Utility Commissioner for the City of Canton for three years in addition to volunteering with the Full Gospel Fellowship Church under the direction of Pastor Toni Brooks to serve hot meals to senior citizens at their homes once a week. He graciously took care of the personal needs of several senior citizens and hosted a talk show twice per month at WONG radio station that addresses various issues within the community.

Not only is Sgt. Cheeks committed to economic equality and bettering the community, but he is also committed to civic engagement and involvement. He currently sits on the Voter Registration committee and serves as the Chairman of the Membership Committee for the Canton Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Even with all this on his plate, Sgt. Cheeks still made time to own and manage Winn-n-Cheeks Grocery Store for over twenty years after retiring from the Army. Sergeant Cheeks has been a pillar in his community more than half a century and has served our country honorably; I cannot find anyone nobler or better suited to have a federal building named in their honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing First Sergeant Landres Cheeks for his dedication to serving others.

#### HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN IN OUR ARMED SERVICES

#### HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to our men and women in uniform during this holiday season.

While we must always remember those who make the ultimate sacrifice for our country, it is especially important to remember them as we celebrate this holiday season. What should be a time of joy, will be a difficult time for many families who are dealing with the loss of a loved one who has died in service to our Nation.

Two families in my own district are coping with the tragic loss of their loved ones this year. Marine Corporal Kyle Schneider of Phoenix, New York was killed by an improvised explosive device while serving in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He is survived by his parents, Richard and Lorie Schneider, his brother Kevin, and his fiancée Theresa Lynn Dodge.

Chief Warrant Officer Brad Gaudet, a native of my colleague Mr. GOHMERT's district, was killed in Afghanistan after his helicopter crashed near Kabul. He is survived by his wife Ginny, of Liverpool, New York, and two young daughters.

In this season of giving we must remember not only those who have fallen, but also the families they have left behind.

In addition to remembering those we have lost, we must continue to honor those who currently serve. We must remember that there are soldiers who will spend their Christmas in a war zone fighting for our freedom; soldiers who have not seen their families for months.

We must also remember veterans at this holiday time. While their service is over, the debt of gratitude we owe to them for their sacrifice should never be forgotten.

Christmas is an important time to stop and pay tribute to our men and women in our armed services. We are privileged to live in the greatest nation in the history of the world because of their service and sacrifice.

#### RECOGNIZING ERIC FOSS

#### HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work of Eric Foss, my legislative assistant.

Eric has worked in my office since I came to Congress and is leaving Washington, D.C. to return to Kansas. He has been a valued and reliable member of my staff, and it has been my honor to work with him as we serve the great people of the State of Kansas.

Eric is a proud Jayhawk, and a graduate of the University of Kansas and KU law. He has been a great source of information in my office, and my entire staff and I are sad to see Eric leave. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors in Kansas, and know Eric will do great things.

We thank Eric for his service to the 3rd District of Kansas.

#### RECOGNIZING REALTOR ASSOCIATION OF GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE

#### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th anniversary of the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale.

The Association has a long, successful history of growth and success that mirrors the community growth and economic development of the City of Fort Lauderdale and surrounding South Florida community.

From its humble founding in 1922 by six local real estate professionals as the Fort Lauderdale Board of Realtors, the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale has grown over the past nine decades into one of the largest realtor Associations in the state of Florida.

Today, the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale serves more than 7,500 members across Broward, Palm Beach, and Miami-Dade counties who in turn assist tens of thousands of South Floridians.

Since its inception, the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale has helped its

membership conduct thriving businesses and along the way has promoted the highest standards of professional practice in the real estate community.

As a Member of Congress, I have been particularly proud of the Association's work over the years as a constant champion for consumers in our local communities.

In cities and towns across America, realtors provide expert advice and guidance to current and future property owners on what often is the biggest investment a family makes. Realtors promote affordable housing, expand home ownership, and work to end housing discrimination wherever it exists.

The Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale does all of these things while maintaining the highest level of professionalism. The Association's realtors study long hours to hone their professional skills and adhere to the Code of Ethics set out by the National Association of Realtors.

The last few years have been extremely difficult for the housing market nationally, and especially in South Florida. Yet, realtors have stood ready to assist with the challenges of the current market because they know—as all of us who live in South Florida know—that our community is one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise our families.

I am pleased to join in celebrating the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale on their 90th anniversary and wish to honor all of Florida's realtors who serve our communities.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale as it continues its long tradition of excellence to the South Florida community.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF DAVID LOWRY WIDELL

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. FARR, Mr. MILLER, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. CARDOZA to pay tribute to the life of David Lowry Widell who recently passed away at the age of 44. His advocacy and passion for Central California's wetlands, wildlife, and water issues made him a distinguished community leader and notable conservationist. He served our great state in a number of capacities, most recently as the General Manager and Governmental Affairs Director for the Grassland Water District.

Dave was born on May 17, 1967 in Watsonville, California, and was raised in the agriculturally rich city of Los Banos, California. Dave grew up hunting and fishing, and it was at this time that his deep appreciation for the Valley's wildlife and resources developed. His love of the Valley led to a fulfilling career, one where he was able to seek political solutions to some of Central California's most pressing issues.

Dave's reverence for the San Joaquin Valley was enhanced by the knowledge he gained through his education. Upon graduating from Los Banos High School in 1985, Dave studied at Modesto Junior College, and then transferred to the University of California, Davis, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in History in 1990.