

TRIBUTE TO DR. HARRY
COURNIOTES

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and fellow educator, Dr. Harry Courniotes. Dr. Courniotes served as a visionary in the advancement of my alma mater, American International College, throughout his unprecedented fifty-eight years in academia and thirty-five years as AIC's President.

Attached is a copy of the eulogy of Dr. Courniotes delivered by Richard Sprinthall at a memorial service on March 15, 2011:

First, I want to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to be here with us today to honor President Courniotes, and I know right now Harry is thanking you too. Over the years I have had the honor of introducing Harry Courniotes many times, but today we are not here to introduce Harry but bid him a farewell.

Harry was a member of what Tom Brokaw called the "Greatest Generation" who fought their way through the Great Depression and World War II. Harry served his country in WWII and for those of you who were at the cemetery, you know that he was buried with full military honors.

Several years ago, Sherriff Ashe introduced me to ex-Governor Michael Dukakis and when I told him I was from AIC he lit up and said "my father graduated from AIC" Then he told me had he been elected President, Harry Courniotes might have become Secretary of Education.

Harry was a superb teacher and academic administrator, he embodied that formula for success: a high IQ and a strong work ethic. Harry was a relentless worker, and totally dedicated to the college. He was there morning, noon, and night. Let me illustrate with a tad of hyperbole. Joe Ramah story.

Many of us have the ability to think critically, but very few of us have his astonishing memory and his ability to stay focused. And I know I speak for many of you when I tell you that he both encouraged me with support, and sometimes intimidated me with his unwavering sense of ethical certainty. And once committed to a goal, Harry could stay on task like no one I've ever known. He could hold a strategy in his memory, but then be flexible enough to revise it when he got new input. He told me what he was going to do, and equally important, he told me what he wouldn't do, clearly and with finality. Ask Harry a question and he gave you a straight answer . . . no bluntness, not without support . . . but honestly and directly. Not only did he ever tell me an untruth, he never misled me by omission. Unlike some leaders, Harry Courniotes never poured ambiguity over his intentions.

I have never been more flattered than to have Harry Courniotes asked me to assist him on some project, such as the athletic control board or to help him prepare for an accreditation visit.

And as you all know, he didn't hand out complements as part of some facile social pleasantry. When you received a complement from Harry, he meant it and you could luxuriate in it.

Ted Byrne, former Professor of economics here at AIC and now the editor of a major financial newspaper in Pennsylvania, wrote to me last week and said, "Harry Courniotes saved AIC. I watched him do it up close and personal." And those words have been echoed

by many of you sitting with us today—Congressman Richard Neal, former board member William A. Collins, and former board member Peter Novak to name a few.

Harry was a great man. Too often those words are banded about and are not really earned. In Harry's case they were earned. He was a great family man, husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. And to us at college he was a great leader and to me a great friend.

For me life has suddenly become less full, knowing that his wise counsel is no longer possible.

HONORING THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD'S 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the highly capable and courageous men and women of the Minnesota Army National Guard's 34th Infantry Division, known as the Red Bulls, as they prepare for their third deployment overseas, and to commemorate the 150th anniversary of their predecessor, the First Minnesota Infantry. This May, the Red Bulls will begin their deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, the draw-down phase of U.S. military operations in Iraq.

Since September 11, 2001, the Red Bulls have been called to duty three times to join U.S. military forces in Iraq. During their current mission, their responsibilities will include providing convoy security, route protection and base defense as other troops leave the war zone in Iraq. The Red Bulls have made tremendous contributions to our nation with their honorable military service.

The men and women of the Red Bulls comprise a highly skilled force which routinely accomplishes critical missions both on a federal and state level. During deployment from March 2006 to July 2007, they served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Minnesota Army National Guard's 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division holds the record for the longest serving unit in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the spring of 2009, more than one thousand Red Bulls were again tapped for deployment to Iraq. On this mission, the Division and their leaders were in charge of 16,000 multinational forces. The Division's leadership abilities were proven as they commanded all the coalition military operations in nine of Iraq's 18 provinces and had a direct partnership with more than 40,000 Iraqi Security Forces. They continue to display their excellence with their readiness and preparation for new missions.

Each deployment of the 34th Infantry Division has provided an opportunity for the men and women to share their knowledge and leadership to other troops and help lead operational trainings. The Red Bulls have proven themselves again and again to be an essential part of the Total U.S. Army. Their dedication to United States is always evident through their selfless service and courage in undertaking each mission.

It is a fitting historical coincidence that the current deployment coincides with the 150th anniversary of their predecessors, the First Minnesota Infantry, which heroically supported

the Union Army at the battle of Gettysburg. The First Minnesota's great contributions and sacrifices during the Civil War were exemplary. They have helped to shape the men and women from our state and throughout the United States who choose to serve our great nation in the U.S. Armed Forces. The Red Bulls continue to carry on this sterling example of leadership and commitment to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the commitment and dedication of the men and women of the 34th Infantry Division, the Red Bulls, as they prepare for their next deployment.

375TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE CITY OF
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article that appeared in The Reminder newspaper last week commemorating the 375 anniversary of the founding of the City of Springfield, Massachusetts.

This was truly a joyous occasion, and this article does an excellent job of recording what a wonderful event this was. Congratulations Springfield!

[From The Reminder, May 18, 2011]

CITY CELEBRATES 375 YEARS OF HISTORY,
INNOVATION

(By G. Michael Dobbs)

SPRINGFIELD.—For Congressman Richard Neal, Saturday's events to acknowledge the 375th anniversary of the founding of Springfield had a d j v u quality.

Speaking on the steps of City Hall, Neal recalled that he stood on the small spot 25 years ago as Springfield's mayor during the 350th celebrations.

Neal was part of the thousands of people who attended the day's activities, from the annual pancake breakfast, to the kick-off event at City Hall with the chorus comprised of Springfield school children to the parade that went through downtown to the fireworks that ended the day at Blunt Park.

Neal, whose fondness for history is well known, noted, "The city has given great moments to the country and to the world."

He read a letter of congratulations from President Barack Obama that said in part, "You've written your own chapter in the narrative of the United States."

Mayor Domenic Sarno told the crowd, "You know, we are a good city."

He then said, "We need each and every one of you to be ambassadors for the city of Springfield." The children's chorus clearly moved the audience with its rendition of "The Springfield Song," written by Springfield School music teacher Diane Rodriguez.

Even after the ceremony at City Hall concluded, the pancake breakfast was still being served to hundreds of people.

Sarno and his family led the parade, which started at the Springfield Technical Community College campus and went down State Street to Main Street and concluded at Mill Street in the South End neighborhood. Organizations, businesses and representatives all marched in the parade, which was a little more than an hour in length.

Although the weather didn't give the giant Cat in the Hat balloon any difficulty, the new

traffic lights along the route had the balloon skimming the street.

For many people, "Springfield" is the name of the Simpson's hometown in the popular animated series.

For those who know a little about the history of this country, "Springfield" has a different meaning.

Springfield, Mass., the oldest and the largest city with that name, is known as the "City of Firsts" for a reason—actually many reasons. Springfield is where basketball was invented. It's where the Duryea Brothers built and tested the first American gasoline powered car. It's the community where the first and perhaps most beloved American motorcycle—they spelled it without the "r"—the Indian was developed and manufactured.

It is the city where the first American armory was built and where the Springfield Rifle was made.

And it was the insurrection by Revolutionary War veterans led by Daniel Shays on that armory that led to the creation of the United States Constitution.

Clarence Birdseye chose Springfield as his test market in the 1930s for something truly radical: frozen vegetables.

A group of brothers, the Granvilles, literally off of the farm picked Springfield to be their headquarters in the 1920s and '30s where they would design and build the GeeBee racing planes that still awe aviation enthusiasts.

The city was the home of Milton Bradley, who revolutionized the toy industry with board games. The city's streets, schools and parks gave hometown boy Theodor Gelsel, better known as Dr. Seuss inspiration for later books and illustrations.

All of these accomplishments happened at a place where an English businessman named William Pynchon, the founder of Springfield, sensed potential in the mid-1600s.

According to historian Ernest Newton Bagg, Pynchon, who was a patentee and magistrate to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, was attracted to the Connecticut River Valley as a place rich with fur animals, especially beaver.

After a long voyage from England in 1630, Pynchon began trading goods he had brought from England with native people for furs. What attracted him to Western Massachusetts was the possible encroachment of Dutch traders who had established a trading post along the Connecticut River in what is now Hartford, Conn.

Some of the Dutch traders even came to Springfield, but disease and hunger compelled them back to the relative safety of the Hartford establishment.

Pynchon wanted to succeed where the Dutch had failed and began planning an effort to build a settlement in what is now Springfield in 1635. Using a "shallop," a light single-mast vessel, Pynchon and his expedition sailed up the Connecticut River. He made a camp in what is now West Springfield and his men used the boat's lumber for their new home.

The native people seemed friendly and Pynchon was impressed with the virgin forests with large and small game, a river teeming with shad and salmon and lands ready for agriculture.

Pynchon left his men and returned to the settlement of Roxbury by foot. When he returned the next spring, he was told the relationship between the natives and Pynchon's men had deteriorated and Pynchon was forced to move his operation to the eastern side of the river.

Despite the problems, caused in part by the damage to the natives' cornfields by the settlers' free-range hogs, Pynchon was able to come to an agreement on July 15, 1636, to acquire the desired Agawam land. Further ne-

gotiations gave him the control of an area from the Chicopee River to the Mill River.

Trouble with crops, a narrowly averted war with the native people and even an earthquake were some of the challenges early settlers faced. Pynchon was right, though, about the richness of the area for furs.

Bagg noted in his 1936 history of Springfield that although there was no record of just how well Pynchon fared during his 15 years of trading furs in the area, his son John continued the business after his father returned to England and regularly shipped 2,000 beaver skins annually to merchants in his native country.

Pynchon has the additional distinction of being the author of the first book "banned in Boston." His 1650 book, "The Meritorious Price of a Man's Redemption," took exception to Puritan theology. The colony's General Court condemned the book and copies were burned on Boston Common.

Pynchon was under great pressure to recant and after one appearance before the Court, he decided to transfer all of his holdings to his son John and return to England before he was forced to appear before the General Court once more. He left the colony in 1652. His death at age 72 in 1662 closed the first chapter in the city's history.

Pynchon's legacy was that his purchase of land just didn't create one community, Springfield, but the following towns and cities as well: Agawam, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Southwick, Westfield, West Springfield, Wilbraham and Enfield, and Suffield, Conn.

No less a person than General George Washington had a hand in the next major development of the community. In February 1777, Washington authorized an "establishment of the laboratory at Springfield."

The armory became known as a center for technological innovation in manufacturing and undoubtedly led to Springfield becoming a center for skilled manufacturing.

Another famous gun maker, Smith & Wesson, made the city its home and is still in business today.

Early in its history, the Armory attracted the attention of a group of farmers enraged at the taxation tactics of the Massachusetts state government. In February 1787 as part of a series of armed protests, Daniel Shays, a Revolutionary War veteran and farmer from Pelham, led a group of men to capture the armory. Although Shays failed at the armory, his protest succeeded in showing the weakness of the Articles of Confederation and in May 1787 the Constitutional Convention was convened to re-shape federal government.

Thomas Jefferson expressed his reaction to Shay's Rebellion previous to the attack on the Armory in a letter to James Madison on Jan. 30, 1787. Jefferson wrote, "I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical. Unsuccessful rebellions, indeed, generally establish the encroachments on the rights of the people, which have produced them. An observation of this truth should render honest republican governors so mild in their punishment of rebellions as not to discourage them too much. It is a medicine necessary for the sound health of government."

The armory inspired another kind of reaction from American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Longfellow and his second wife Frances visited Springfield and the Armory in 1845. The tour inspired what was considered to be Longfellow's most effective anti-war poem, "The Arsenal at Springfield."

The first two stanzas are:

"This is the Arsenal. From floor to ceiling,

Like a huge organ, rise the burnished arms;
But from their silent pipes no anthem, peal-

ing

Startles the villages with strange alarms.

"Ah! What a sound will rise, how wild and drear,

When the death-angel touches those swift keys!

What a loud lament and dismal Miserere
Will mingle with their awful symphonies!"

In the book "Springfield Memories," published in 1876, Mason Green wrote about the development of the city: "Modern Springfield was born with the peace of the War of 1812. In the re-action from embargoes and war from 1814 to 1825 there was a general housecleaning and business re-adjustment. The old tavern site was cleared off for a Common, a church and court-house was built by the side of it and another church (Unitarian) down Main Street, Union and Court Streets were opened, the river bridge, that was swept away by a flood was restored (1818), a line of boats was established between the village and Hartford, connecting with Boston and New York schooners, neighboring water powers were utilized, many mechanics and artisans were called in, who became residents, and the Weekly Springfield Republican was started, which insured the place a future."

In 1936 when the city was celebrating its 300th anniversary, the unaccredited author of one of the commemorative booklets wrote, "Varied are the products of Greater Springfield: Intricate machines, radios and electrical appliances, tires, motorcycles, garments, arms, games and school materials, books and magazines, newspapers, wire, chains, machine tools, cigars, chemicals and medicines, valves, oil pumps, fine paper, jute boxes, clocks and leather goods. Here once were the pioneers in the manufacture of automobiles. Across the river are the railroad shops."

The first American-made gasoline powered car was built and tested in Springfield by Charles and Frank Duryea on Sept. 20, 1893. The city would later be the site for a factory producing Duryea cars. The Knox Automobile Company produced cars from 1900 to 1914 in Springfield and stayed in business with tractors until 1924. And the city was picked by Rolls Royce as the site for its only American automobile 28 manufacturing plant. The Springfield Rolls Royce facility opened in 1920 and closed in 1931 and the cars made there are sought after by collectors.

Also still highly prized are the Indian Motorcycles made in the city from 1901 to 1954. The brainchild of engineer Oscar Hedstrom, the "motorcycles" were the first ones made in this country and were well-known for their power and durability.

Brought to the city by bicycle racer George Hendee, Hedstrom developed a motorcycle that he tested publicly on May 25, 1901 on Cross Street hill. Newspaper reporter R.D. Pepin wrote about the test on its 25th anniversary.

"Hedstrom bravely climbed the old hill and forcefully demonstrated to the residents of Springfield the first step towards an industry destined to fill a long place in the field of industry, utility and sport."

Pepin noted that Hendee had featured motor-drive bicycles made in Europe at his bicycle-racing track. "The uncertainty of these motors was a source of great anxiety to the management and of dissatisfaction to the patrons of the track," Pepin wrote.

With Springfield a growing center of transportation technology, it's little wonder that a group of brothers came off of the family farm to Springfield to pursue their dream of developing faster and more powerful airplanes. Although the Granville brothers were

in business for only five years from 1929 to 1934 and built just 24 aircraft, their revolutionary designs created a legend among aviators.

Springfield was also a city of ideas as well as industry and technology. Abolitionist John Brown made the city his headquarters in 1846 when he established a business to represent wool producers to the New England mill owners. Later, the city was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

G & C Merriam, Company, was founded in 1831 as printers and booksellers and the pair of brothers—George and Charles—purchased the rights to the name and all copyrights to the best-seller dictionary written by Noah Webster in 1843. Since that time, the nation's best-known reference book has been written and published in Springfield.

When stumped about how to excite his winter physical fitness class, a young Canadian attending the International Y.M.C.A. Training School remembered Duck on a Rock, a game from his youth. Taking a soccer ball and a peach basket, James Naismith developed the game of basketball in 1891, quite possible the most popular indoor sport.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame draws more than 250,000 visitors a year to its Springfield shrine to the game.

A number of people prominent in show business and the arts are natives of the city. During the 1920s and 30s, Broadway and radio star Julia Sanderson was a popular performer.

The classic movie musicals “Born to Dance” and “Broadway Melody of 1940” feature another Springfield native Eleanor Powell. The beautiful and athletic dancer was a star at MGM. She was married to actor Glenn Ford for a number of years and by the end of her life she turned her energies to religion.

Lawrence O'Brien, Kennedy family supporter, postmaster general, head of the Democratic Party and commissioner of the National Basketball Association, was another well known Springfield resident. His father had a tavern where the MassMutual Center now stands and he received his law degree from Western New England College.

Perhaps the most interesting favorite daughter is June Foray, whose family left their home on Orange Street and traveled to California where she eventually became one of the most highly regarded voice actresses in animation providing the voice for Rocky in “Rocky and Bullwinkle,” Granny in the Twenty cartoons and many other characters.

Students at the former Classical High School could still find evidence of that school's most controversial graduate, Dr. Timothy Leary. His name could be seen carved into at least one desk. Leary was one of the prominent leaders of the counter culture in the 1960s who urged people to “turn on, tune in and drop out.”

Springfield's most beloved native was Theodore Geisel better known to generations of American as Dr. Seuss. The author and illustrator took inspiration from the city of his birth from the names of streets—“And to Think that I Saw it on Mulberry Street”—to his father's position as superintendent of the city's parks—“If I Ran the Zoo.”

The Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden at the Springfield Museum complex pays tribute to the innovative storyteller.

Springfield's latest burst of national publicity came in 2007 with a contest that asked fans of “The Simpsons” to pick the Springfield that is actually home to the best known dysfunctional family. Although Springfield Mass., didn't win in a surprising upset to Springfield, Vt., the producers of the animated series and film knew better. They had prepared a special poster before the contest's

final results that declared the movie was filmed in Springfield, Mass.

A community of rich diversity and history, Springfield today is the home of national companies, three colleges and a law school. It was named the fourth “greenest” city in the nation and was recognized as one of the greatest centers of small business and entrepreneurship in the country. Its best days are not behind it.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT MICHAEL TOUSSAINT-HYLE WASHINGTON, A UNITED STATES MARINE KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Michael Toussaint-Hyle Washington, a United States Marine who was killed with three other Marines while supporting combat operations in the Farah Province in Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device struck their Humvee on June 14, 2008.

Michael T. Washington was born on October 6, 1987 at Camp Pendleton where his father Michael Washington Senior served also as a Marine. Michael would follow in his father's and his grandfather's footsteps to become his family's third generation to serve in the United States Marine Corps.

Early on, young Michael Washington had a strong sense of faith and duty. As a student at Stadium High School in Tacoma, Washington, Michael enjoyed playing soccer, reading, playing practical jokes on his family, and was a member of Stadium's ROTC program.

While listening to a story on the radio with his father, Michael heard a journalist speak highly of the Marines after returning from Iraq. The journalist spoke of the Marines' virtues and bravery on and off the battlefield. Michael Senior knew his son was destined to become a Marine when his son turned to him and said, “I want to defend people who can't defend themselves. It takes a lot for people to stand up and do this.”

Michael Washington did just that, joining the Marine Corps at age 17. On March 11, 2007, a year before his death, then-Corporal Washington's squad was ambushed in Iraq. Washington provided the support fire necessary to enable his fellow endangered Marines to escape the kill zone and return to safety. He received commendations from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines for Outstanding Achievement in the performance of his duties as Fire Team Leader of the 3rd Platoon, Golf Company. Washington was promoted to Sergeant soon after to become squad leader in the 1st Platoon at only the age of 20.

Sergeant Washington died a proud Marine while serving in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Forces. Michael is survived by his father Michael Washington Senior—a Seattle firefighter and former United States Marine, his mother Grace Washington—an artist, community activist, and teacher at Salhalie Middle School, and his sister Aja Collins—an Army veteran whose husband Erik recently returned from Afghanistan where he served with the 101st Airborne.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in paying tribute to Sergeant Michael Toussaint-Hyle Washington in honor of his love and sacrifice for our Nation.

In honor of Michael, I also ask that this poem, penned by Mr. Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

HIS PARENT'S SON!

His, Parent's Son!
This, most magnificent of all ones!
This, United States Marine . . .
So brilliant there . . . all in your most heroic shades of green!
His Father's Son, who had so learned from his Father's Father . . .
And, all of these ones!
As all three were but United States Marines!
As you Michael so watched your Father, growing up to be . . .
Just like him, as will be done!
Ooorah. . . three generations of United States Marines . . .
As all were but our America's very best, her cream!
As To Strength In Honor Michael, your fine heart would so convene!
As They Will Be Done, on earth as in Heaven . . . you now rein!
As Michael, you were but one . . .
Who so died and bled, one of our Nation's most golden of all sons!
Such selfless sacrifice, and such brilliance. . . Which shines so bright, is so hard to explain!
Dying, for your fellow woman, child, and man. . . As seen!
As you so stood so very grand, all in those magnificent shades of green!
Teaching us so all about. . . What the word love so truly means!
As a Freedom Fighter, who so shined so bright there in heroic shades of green!
As Michael, you live on. . . all in our hopes and dreams!
Just, like the morning sun. . . to you, our hearts so run!
Moments, are all we have!
To bring the light!
To fight the darkness!
To worship the good, and win that fight!
As you so boldly marched off to war!
All because of your most magnificent soul. . .
As why for you Michael, we so mourn!
All at the loss of you, and for all of yours!
Is but just that high price of freedom, that for us Michael you so paid!
And we so too suffer, living without you no more!
And across Washington on this night, as you so lay your head down and begin to cry. . .
And but our Lord's tears, for you Michael. . . As he now so weeps!
Knowing, of your most sacred gift. . . And of your most devout life so lived!
To ease your pain. . .
So have a most gentle sleep, let not your hearts so weep. . .
For Michael is an Angel now, as ever with you to keep!
And you shall see him again. . .
Enlisted, in the Army of our Lord. . . Across the heavens he so reaches. . .
All because of Michael, what your fine life so meant!
Making A Difference With It All, as was how your precious time was spent!
As you so lived and died, so benevolent!
Answering, that call to arms. . . Your fine life so spent!
For, no greater pain can so be felt!
Then, to lose your only wonderful son, as before our Lord you've cried and knelt!
As, I pray your most broken heart will heal!