

HAPPY 65TH BIRTHDAY VICTORIA
CERNOK

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary milestone of Huntington Beach resident Victoria Cernok, as she celebrates her 65th birthday on July 10, 2012.

A fifth generation Californian, Victoria has continued to be an active member in the Huntington Beach community for more than four decades. Victoria and her husband, John, raised their four children—Jon, Brian, Jill, and Greg—in Huntington Beach, while simultaneously running a private culinary and catering business and staying engaged in her children's education through volunteer parental activities. She also had a great career as a flight attendant—traveling the country serving others, while watching her family grow.

Victoria now enjoys spending time with her two grandsons, Grant and Blake, going for walks on the beach, honing her painting skills, traveling the world, teaching generations of Huntington Beach residents how to create culinary masterpieces at the local Community College, and being an active member in the acclaimed Saint Simon and Jude Church Choir.

Victoria has contributed her life to being a dedicated and wonderful mother and a shining example in her community by giving her time and energy to the betterment of others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Victoria on this special day, July 10th, 2012, and in wishing her a Happy 65th Birthday! May she have many, many more.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE
"TINA" MICHELLE DRABBLE-MCCORMACK

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SOMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep sympathy to offer my condolences to the family and friends of a beloved daughter of American Samoa, Christine "Tina" Michelle Drabble-McCormack, who passed away early on the morning of July 9, 2012 in Phoenix, Arizona following a 6-year battle with melanoma.

Christine, who was known as "Tina" among family and friends, was born on May 30, 1971 in American Samoa, the eldest child of Thomas Hingston Drabble of Te Puke, New Zealand and Ta'alolo 'Chande' Lutu-Drabble of Pago Pago, American Samoa.

As a young girl, Tina attended South Pacific Academy, a private school where her father was one of the founders. At the early age of 9, she learned how to play golf from her uncle Fuga Tolani Teleso and she was selected as a member of the American Samoa Team in the 10 and under age group in the Junior Golf World Competition in San Diego, California, placing 2nd World and 1st Place International.

In the following years, Tina would continue to represent American Samoa, serving as an

American Samoa Flag Carrier in the 15–17 age group Junior Golf World Competition and earning additional 2nd and 3rd place World trophies, and an additional 4th place and two 1st place International trophies among junior golfers.

In 1985 she became a member of the American Samoa Team in the South Pacific Mini Games in the Cook Islands, where her team won the gold medal. Two years later, at the age of 15, she participated in another gold-winning American Samoa team in the renowned South Pacific Games held in New Caledonia in 1987. That year, Tina also won the Individual Silver Medal.

Tina attended Seabury Hall in Maui, Hawaii where she attained a 4.0 High School Grade Point Average in all four years. She was also the only female golfer on the school's all-male golf team. During high school, she also represented American Samoa in the three Fijian Ladies Opens in Suva, Fiji and the Fijian Ladies Classics in Deuba, Fiji in 1989, 1990 and 1991. She won all six of them.

After high school, Tina was accepted at Stanford University and Brigham Young University in Utah but chose New Mexico State University for its golf program. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting & Marketing and was selected as Captain of her college golf team. Before turning pro in 1996, Tina participated in the United States Amateur Links, finishing second to Natalie Gulbis, who is now one of the LPGA's top golfers.

After Tina turned Professional, she played at the Futures Tours and won at Bay Hill Country Club. In 2007, a year after she was diagnosed with cancer, Tina was selected as an American Samoa Flag Carrier in the 2007 South Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, where she culminated her career by winning the Individual Gold Medal for American Samoa.

After college, Tina worked at Ashcraft Investment Company in Encinitas, California, as a Special Assistant to her dad at Sadie's Inn & Sadie's by the Sea in American Samoa and briefly at PICED, an educational development center in American Samoa. Tina was 41 years old in May this year.

It is a very sad time for not only the Drabble family, but also for our American Samoan community. We have lost a beautiful young lady whose contribution to the people of American Samoa, especially as a sportswoman, will always be an inspiration to our young people. Tina was not only an ambassador of the Samoan people to the world but she was also a loving daughter, sister, and friend.

I cannot imagine what a terrible experience it is for any parent to witness their child's life slowly coming to an end and I cannot find any words sufficient enough to comfort the Drabble family. In closing today, I can only extend my heartfelt sympathy to the Drabble family, especially Mr. Tom Drabble, Tina's father, and Mrs. Ta'alolo 'Chande' Lutu-Drabble, Tina's mother, who has also been Tina's full time caregiver and patient advocate in the final stages of her daughter's life.

In the Book of Matthew we read, "Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted." I pray that the comfort of God will give Tina's family strength and that through the tremendous sorrow, memories of Tina's life and her beautiful spirit will bring lasting joy to all who loved her. Tina, you will surely be missed.

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CONGRATULATING THE WISCONSIN
INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL COL-
LEGE OF SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE COL-
LEGE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College of Superior, Wisconsin as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) is an impressive institution servicing the growing educational needs of Northwest Wisconsin. Throughout its 100 years, WITC has exemplified the important role of vocational and technical education for effective workforce preparation. Our Nation's varying economy and work environment is dependent on the advancement of new technology and innovation. With each new innovation created, WITC has been the key to supporting and supplying Northwest Wisconsin industries with a new generation of highly skilled workers.

Established in 1912, the Industrial, Commercial and Continuing Evening School in Superior, WI was the first technical school in Northwest Wisconsin founded to specifically address the need for educating those working in the manufacturing industry. As automation and mechanization processes in American industry grew and developed, this technical school shifted with the times to accommodate the changing populations and educational needs.

Workforce enhancement and skills training has seen a great deal of industrial focused positions—from shipbuilding, paper and steel industry directed courses to aircraft manufacturing and electrical work curriculum. Over time, advancing new curriculum, adding associate degree programs, and expanding a distance learning network of online classes and outreach centers has helped to provide students with affordable, flexible and accessible education and career opportunities for Wisconsinites.

In 1987 Wisconsin Indianhead Vocational, Technical and Adult Education district became the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College to more accurately reflect the mission of the school. Today, WITC employs a staff of more than 1,700 and provides education to 6,000 credit students in more than 50 full-time programs, and nearly 20,000.

WITC has provided Northwest Wisconsinites with the important technical and vocational skills needed to succeed and advance in today's economy. These are the achievements that we recognize today as Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College reaches this important milestone—its 100th year anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN FOR BEING NAMED AN INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY COMMUNITY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Village of Homer Glen, which will be recognized this evening as only the fourth International Dark Sky Community in the world. At the Homer Glen Village Hall in the Council Chambers, Mr. Bob Parks, Executive Director of the International Dark Sky Association, will present the village with the award. Homer Glen's commitment to recognizing the beauty of the night sky as well as saving energy has been recognized internationally and I am very proud of their accomplishment. In particular, Village Trustee, Margaret Sabo has been a stalwart supporter of this initiative, and she deserves special acknowledgment.

In 2007, Homer Glen passed the first city ordinance of its kind in Illinois. By setting guidelines for the amount of light commercial business can emit, the village eliminated the need for establishments to escalate the brightness of their signs to garner attention. The ordinance also included a lighting cutoff at night, which reduces glare for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, and protects the natural cycle of night and day for local wildlife. I also want to recognize several establishments in Homer Glen that responded to the ordinance with effective and responsible lighting plans: Eagle Rock Community Church, Firestone Complete Auto Care, Silver Cross Health Center, and Midland Federal Savings and Loan. All of the organizations will be recognized at the event tonight as well as Debra Briggs Luginbuhl who has been a leader in developing the ordinance.

While saving energy, the city ordinance has also allowed for local residents to view the breathtaking beauty of our night sky, something so many Americans cannot do or take for granted. Every summer, local organizations hold a stargazing event at Trantina Farm, where thousands of local residents can clearly view constellations including Bootes, Hercules, the Corona Borealis, and much more. This year, the event will be this Friday, July 13th. Over 1000 stargazers have attended since the beginning of the event, and local amateur astronomers from Kankakee Area StarGazers, the Naperville Astronomical Association, and the South West Astronomy Observers Group come to help others recognize the various celestial bodies.

I commend Homer Glen for joining Flagstaff, Arizona, Borrego Springs, California, and Sark Island in the English Channel as an International Dark Sky Community. The residents of this village have shown initiative and leadership in appreciating our night sky and I hope others will follow.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT D. PETERSON

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Colonel Robert D. Peterson; who has served West Virginia through his leadership for the past 3 years at the United State Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District. Col. Peterson is responsible for the 300 navigable miles of the Ohio River basin. Col. Peterson employees over 800 staff members to maintain 35 reservoirs, and nine locks and dams. I want to personally congratulate Col. Peterson for his continued success.

The awards of Col. Peterson are just a fraction of what he has truly accomplished. Col. Peterson has successfully managed 35 flood projects that prevented over 11.3 billion dollars in damages while allowing over 30 million visitors to support these regions through tourism. He was responsible for the processing of 94 tons of commercial traffic valued at \$18.6 billion dollars through nine locks and dams. He oversaw the ongoing construction of the Bluestone Dam including communication of risk in the event of dam failure and held a Combined Emergency Exercise to educate affected federal, state and local governments to potential dangers. As a result, the Huntington District was selected by the Great Lakes and Ohio River division as the Regional Dam Safety Production Center and soon after, selected by the Corps of Engineers Headquarters as the Corps' national Mandatory Center of Expertise for Dam Safety.

I had the honor to work with Col. Peterson as he executed nine Project Partnership Agreements for environmental infrastructure projects providing water and sewer service to unserved and underserved residents of the Second Congressional District, resulting in improved public health and safety. He has proven to be an effective communicator in a variety of public venues on the federal, state and local level, including such forums as the Ohio River Basin Alliance of which I have been involved. And lastly, he issued 800 permits for mining, highway construction, and flood emergency, including the permit to place West Virginia's newest resident, the Boy Scout Jamboree on a post-mining land site within our beautiful state of West Virginia.

Col. Robert D. Peterson is an outstanding soldier, friend, husband and father. He is a 1985 graduate from the prestigious academy of West Point, graduating with a Bachelors of Science and from the U.S. Army War College with a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies. Col. Peterson was awarded the Bronze Star, three Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Master Parachutist Badge, and the Bronze Order of the deFleury Medal.

Col. Peterson's work has greatly enhanced the state of West Virginia and the world around him. Congratulations to Col. Peterson on his numerous accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2012 WASHINGTON, DC FALUN Dafa EXPERIENCE SHARING CONFERENCE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome participants of the 2012 Washington, DC Falun Dafa Experience Sharing Conference and Rally.

I share Falun Gong's commitment to freedom of expression and peaceful demonstration. As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, every person has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and we must do all that we can to ensure that citizens here in America and around the world have access to these fundamental rights.

Since Falun Gong's inception in 1992, it is estimated that millions of individuals have been drawn to its guiding principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. These principles are enduring cornerstones of a democratic society. Yet, as we mark over 60 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is a travesty that those who hold Falun Gong beliefs have been persecuted and tortured. I look forward to the day when Falun Gong practitioners can freely express their beliefs without fear of reprisal.

Mr. Speaker, peace and justice are not only values but calls to action that we must live out every day. I will continue to act here in Congress to promote peace for all persecuted communities and work for a more just world.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK "BEN" HODGES' SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major General Frederick "Ben" Hodges, United States Army, for his extraordinary dedication to duty and selfless service to the United States of America. Major General Hodges will be moving on from his present assignment as the Chief, Office Congressional Legislative Liaison (OCLL) for the United States Army to become the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Land Command, Chief.

A native Floridian from Quincy, Major General Ben Hodges graduated from the United States Military Academy in May 1980 and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer. After his first assignment as an Infantry Lieutenant in Germany, he commanded Infantry units at the Company, Battalion and Brigade levels with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and in combat during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. His most recent operational combat assignment was as the Director of Operations, Regional Command South, in Kandahar, Afghanistan during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Major General Hodges has served in a variety of Joint and Army Staff positions to include Tactics Instructor at the Infantry School; Chief