

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HORSES FOR HEROES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Army Sergeant Curtis Davis returned to America from his last deployment in a wheelchair. He thought he would never be able to walk again. However, he was welcomed back with open arms by his family and friends who told him that wasn't so. Sergeant Davis did not immediately have the physical ability to get back into the active father role of running around with his kids or participating in physical activities that our military men and women dream of doing when they return from serving overseas.

Today, Sergeant Davis is back up on his feet thanks to Horses for Heroes, a program located northwest of Georgetown, Texas, dedicated to improving the lives of injured veterans. Prior to becoming involved with Horses for Heroes, Sergeant Davis could not balance on his own two legs and was unable to walk without a cane or crutches. And after several rides on a horse, his life has improved. He can now walk. He has also learned peace and a therapeutic connection to a horse.

Just like Sergeant Davis, there are several service men and women who were injured in Iraq or Afghanistan. Some of them were physically injured, others were emotionally injured. Horses for Heroes has helped heal these men and women who risked their lives for our freedom. The organization has created a special environment where our injured veterans have gone for support, recovery, and inspiration, all on a horse with a veteran at their side. Improved balance, motor skills, speech, morale, and well being are only a few of the benefits of Horses for Heroes treatments.

Post-war life is a difficult adjustment. It is great to see a local Texas organization investing in the physical and emotional lives of our American heroes.

And that's just the way it is.

MS. DONNA E. PALERMO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna E. Palermo, president of the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, who received the Maternal and Family Health Services Rose Tucker Award. Maternal and Family Health Services is a non-profit health and human service organization working to improve the health of Pennsylvania women and children.

The Maternal and Family Health Services Rose Tucker Award is named in honor of

former Luzerne County Commissioner and long-time employee of Maternal and Family Health Services, Rose Tucker. Ms. Tucker dedicated her life to public service and acted as a health advocate and champion for women, children, and families in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The award is presented to someone who exemplifies those same qualities.

Ms. Palermo has had a distinguished career with the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce. She began as an executive secretary in 1988 and continued to move through the ranks serving as an administrative assistant, vice president, and interim president. In May 2001, she became the first woman in the chamber's 120-year history to serve as president. In June 2013, she will celebrate 25 years with the chamber.

Ms. Palermo has committed years of service to her community. She holds leadership positions on numerous boards including chairman of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership, chairman of the Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and secretary of the Mountain Council of Governments. Ms. Palermo serves the community on additional boards such as Greater Hazleton Partners in Education, Hazleton General Hospital, Leadership Hazleton, Luzerne County Community College Advisory Council, and the YWCA PEARL committee.

Ms. Palermo has been a successful leader for the community. She led efforts to form a health insurance and energy program through a partnership of 17 chambers in Northeastern Pennsylvania. She helped to initiate a Farmers Market in downtown Hazleton as well as a Women's Networking committee in partnership with the Hazleton YWCA and Leadership Hazleton. Ms. Palermo was recognized in 2002 as one of the top 25 women in business by the NEPA Business Journal.

Having worked with Ms. Palermo on economic development and community service projects in the Hazleton area, I can attest to her integrity and strong sense of community pride. Ms. Palermo approaches each task with enthusiasm and optimism and keeps a level head even when situations become tense. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to work alongside Ms. Palermo on numerous projects in the Hazleton area, and I look forward to working with her on future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Donna E. Palermo for her years of committed service to her community. It is an honor to recognize her service, and I congratulate her on receiving the Maternal and Family Health Services Rose Tucker Award. I thank Ms. Palermo for all that she does for our community in Northeastern Pennsylvania, and I wish her continued success in the future.

HONORING JOSEPH STACHON'S
HOMECOMING AS ILLINOIS VFW
STATE COMMANDER

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph J. Stachon as Johnson-Phelps Post 5220 welcomes him home following his installation as Illinois VFW State Commander. As a decorated veteran, a dedicated citizen, and a loyal patriot, Mr. Stachon continues to serve his community and his tireless dedication deserves our recognition. I am especially proud because he is the first VFW State Commander from the 3rd Congressional District.

As a young man, Mr. Stachon enlisted and served our nation honorably in Vietnam as a Green Beret in the United States Army. As a combat rifleman in the 173rd Airborne Brigade, he was deployed from October 1968 until he was wounded in action, coming home in a full body cast in May 1969. On the battlefield his sacrifices earned him a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachute Badge, as well as a National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Mr. Stachon also served for 30 years in the Chicago Police Department. On patrol, Mr. Stachon would occasionally encounter dangerous and difficult situations. In these instances, he was pragmatic and effective, quickly neutralizing any danger for both civilians and officers. He was known for his calm temperament and his reliability, and his commitment to the force and his fellow policemen was well-known and unwavering.

A Gold Legacy life member of the VFW Johnson-Phelps Post 5220 in Oak Lawn, Illinois, Mr. Stachon has served in all chairs including Post Commander ten times and All-State Commander four times. He has also served the Department of Illinois in many offices and is involved in several civic organizations.

Described by his friends as dependable and honest, Mr. Stachon is also a devoted family man who has been married to his wife Barbara for 43 years. Together they have raised two sons, Joseph Jr. and Jon, and a daughter, Julie. He enjoys spending his free time with his children and his four grandchildren: Anthony, Michael, Joseph, and Michelle, as well as his son-in-law, Tom, and daughter-in-law, Marie.

I ask you to join me in honoring Mr. Joseph Stachon on his installation and homecoming as Illinois VFW State Commander.

● 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.

RECOGNIZING W.H. JEFFERSON FUNERAL HOME, INC. FOR ITS CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a minority owned business of Vicksburg, Mississippi, W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home, Inc.

W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home, Inc., is the oldest funeral home in the state of Mississippi. Established in 1894 by William H. and Lucy C. Jefferson, W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home has served Vicksburg and surrounding communities for 118 years, under the direction and sole ownership of members of the Jefferson family.

Both William H. and Lucy C. Jefferson were active in their community and served in various social and civic organizations. The Jefferson torch of service has been passed along for generations. The family's commitment to meeting the sovereign needs of its customers during their time of bereavement has been the business' anchor, even during some of the country's most trying economic times.

Today W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home, Inc. continues to carry on the tradition of dignity and compassion for its clients.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring, W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home, Inc. and their contributions to their community.

RECOGNIZING MR. GENE GRUBER FOR WINNING HIS 5TH, AND HIS FAMILY'S 15TH, USA NATIONAL PLOWING TITLE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gene Gruber of Richmond, Minnesota, upon being awarded his 5th, and his family's 15th, USA National Plowing Title on August 6, 2012.

Mr. Gruber's victory means that he will represent the USA at the 60th World Plowing Contest in Olds, Alberta, Canada, on July 19–20, 2013. Going against 31 other countries, he will compete for the 5th time internationally, and in his last international competition in New Zealand (2010) he finished 9th. Mr. Gruber's skill and ability with the plow are only matched by his generosity, as he has not hesitated to teach other plowmen across the United States the knowledge necessary to be a plowing champion.

As farmers across the nation work to put food on the tables of all Americans, we can respect the dedication and industriousness that they show as they labor to grow and plow their crops every year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to join with me in recognizing Mr. Gene Gruber upon this award.

HONORING THE TARAPANI FAMILY FOR 101 YEARS OF BUSINESS AND SERVICE IN TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Tarapani family of Tarpon Springs, Florida, on the accomplishment of 101 years of business and service in Tarpon Springs, Florida. Throughout their time in the United States, the Tarapani family has lived the American Dream, applying hard work and determination to create a successful small business in our community.

Having emigrated from Lithuania to the United States through Ellis Island as a young boy, Abraham Tarapani opened his first storefront in Tarpon Springs in 1911. The store was an old-fashioned dry goods store, selling clothing, fabrics, hats and other general merchandise. To this day, the Tarapani Department Store proudly serves the people of Tarpon Springs and northern Pinellas County.

Over the last century, the Tarapani family has become a staple of the Tarpon Springs business and civic communities. Through four generations, members of the family have actively and attentively served their local customers, while also serving the greater community with their participation on many boards and associations, including the American Legion, the Tarpon Springs Rotary Club, the Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce, the Tarpon Springs Board of Commissioners and the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, among others. Abraham Tarapani and his wife, Margaret, had two children: Helen and Abe, Jr. Abe, Jr. and his wife, Florida Belle, had three children: Abe III, John and Florida Belle. And finally, John had a son, Townsend. These members of the Tarapani family represent four generations and their contributions have helped to make Tarpon Springs a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 100 years the Tarapani family has represented the best of the American entrepreneurial spirit. The family has become a pillar of the local Tarpon Springs community. Their economic success and ability to adapt with the changing times exemplify the strength of this country's business community, and I commend them for their contributions to our area.

“REPEAL AN OLD RELIC”

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago this week then President George H.W. Bush signed the FREEDOM Support Act into law. This law gave money to the countries of the former Soviet Union to help them build democracies from the rubble of failed communism.

That is, except one. Wrapped up in this big bill was a tiny provision, called “Section 907,” that forbid any money from going to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan is a strong partner of the United States. After 9/11, Azerbaijan allowed our planes to fly in its airspace and contributed troops to Afghanistan. With 7 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, it will be an important player in increasing Europe's energy security. The country is also a predominantly Muslim country that is a friend of Israel and the free market system, unlike its tyrannical neighbor Iran. Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama recognized the importance of our alliance with Azerbaijan and waived Section 907 via Executive Order every year since 2001.

In fact, from Secretary Albright to Secretary Powell, Secretaries of State from both Republican and Democrat administrations over the last 20 years have supported the repeal of Section 907. Congress should do away with this archaic and obsolete relic of the past and repeal Section 907. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF TERRENCE “TERRY” O'BRIEN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished career of Terry O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

Terry will retire this November, after 24 years of exemplary public service to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC). Mr. O'Brien's integrity, along with his proven ability to be an effective leader, helped him to be elected President of the MWRDGC in 1997 for a two year term. As of 2011, he has been re-elected President eight times unanimously by his fellow commissioners.

Stemming from a long career in the environmental field, Mr. O'Brien has been able to bring extensive knowledge to enhance and streamline many of the tasks and responsibilities of the District at the least possible cost to local taxpayers. Further, based on his highest possible standard of public service and strong business sense, under President O'Brien's leadership, the MWRDGC is one of the few governmental agencies in the State of Illinois to have an AAA bond rating. This is a testament to his dedication to the citizens of the Chicagoland area to secure the highest possible return on investment. During his term as President the MWRDGC has abated over \$262 million dollars back to the taxpayers of Cook County. In addition, Mr. O'Brien is an aggressive vocal advocate for maintaining the health of area residents by preventing pollution in Lake Michigan, local rivers, and streams. He has actively pursued continuous funding for the MWRDGC's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP); this large undertaking captures sewer overflow before it can pollute the drinking water supply. Since TARP's implementation in 1985, over 950 billion gallons of combined sewer overflow have been captured that otherwise would have polluted the area waterways. The system's final tunnel was completed in May of 2006, making all 109 miles of tunnel operational during rain events in Cook County.