

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SHIRLEE AND TAYLOR
GANDY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, for the last three years Shirlee and Taylor Gandy of Fort Worth, Texas, have dedicated themselves to preserving an important piece of both Fort Worth and American history.

On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy awoke in Fort Worth to find thousands of people standing in the cold rain outside his hotel.

The President was in Texas to unify his party leading up to the 1964 election. That rainy day in Fort Worth, he delivered two speeches. The first was delivered to the crowd waiting for him outside the Hotel Texas, and the second to the Chamber of Commerce.

The President greeted the crowd outside, shook hands, and gave a short but rousing speech received with excitement by those in attendance. He spoke of the progress our nation was making, as well as the challenges we faced. He in turn famously challenged the American people to bear the burdens of leadership.

Inside the hotel's ballroom, the President addressed the Chamber gathering, speaking of national defense and Fort Worth's historic role in the effort.

He left Fort Worth to a tickertape parade and the words of his final two speeches faded quickly in the wake of the tragic events that followed. The citizens of Fort Worth, the nation, and the world had just heard the final public thoughts of President John F. Kennedy. His visit was a triumph and his remarks, as much then as now, bear remembering.

Nearly 50 years after the President's death, Shirlee and Taylor Gandy have championed the effort to pay tribute to John Fitzgerald Kennedy, his Presidency, and his historic Fort Worth visit.

The Gandys led the cause, making a generous personal commitment to start the project, which includes a completed 8' bronze sculpture of the President by Texas artist Lawrence Ludtke.

They assembled a committee of friends and members of Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. to guide the process. But perhaps their most impressive contribution to the cause was their time.

They personally labored over all the painstaking details necessary to the project. Their labors were rewarded with a beautiful sculpture, handsome tribute design and a successful fundraising campaign. On February 27th of this year, the Gandys were joined by Fort Worth and Tarrant County dignitaries, including former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Jim Wright, to turn the first shovels of ground on this project. The JFK Tribute in Fort Worth will be complete in the fall of 2012.

When the Tribute opens in General Worth Square on Main Street, the themes of the Kennedy Presidency will find a new public outlet for expression. His last public address and his Fort Worth visit will be remembered in bronze and granite.

And perhaps just as importantly, the warm, genuine, enthusiastic reception President Kennedy received in Texas that has been so long overshadowed by an act of atrocity, will also be remembered.

On behalf of the people of Fort Worth, Texas and the United States of America, I wish to formally thank Shirlee J. and Taylor Gandy for their leadership in the creation of the JFK Tribute in Fort Worth.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT
LOUIS LOTTI, II

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Chief Robert Louis Lotti, II for his 30 years of service at the Belmont and Colma Police Departments.

Robert Lotti started his law enforcement career in 1984 as an officer with the Belmont Police Department. Three years later he was assigned to the traffic division as a motorcycle officer. In 1990, he was promoted to sergeant and served as a SWAT team member, team leader, and tactical commander. In 1997 and 2000 he completed two assignments as acting commander. In 2000, he was assigned as detective sergeant to the investigations bureau.

After protecting the residents of Belmont for 18 years, Sergeant Lotti moved to the Colma Police Department where he was hired as first commander. Within less than a year, he was promoted to chief in May of 2003.

Chief Lotti's dedication, commitment and professionalism are reflected in his many accomplishments, and awards. He is a founding member and architect of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office regional SWAT Team, a weaponless defense instructor, Academy instructor, and inner perspectives facilitator. From 2003–2012 he served on the San Mateo County Police Chief's and Sheriff Association—in 2009 as president. Since 2005 he has been on the Board of Directors of the North Peninsula Food Pantry. He also served the San Mateo County Gang Task Force, the Academy Advisory Board, and the Realignment Committee. In 1987, the Peninsula Council of Lions honored him with the Police Heroism Award and in 1996, he received a commendation from the Belmont Police Department.

During his tenure, Chief Lotti has worked on many homicide investigations, fatal accidents, even a pipe bombing case, but he says the most rewarding part of the job is helping people in need and giving back to the community—both out in the field and at the station.

He has been a mentor to his fellow officers who appreciate his optimism and great sense of humor.

He has volunteered as a little league umpire and sits on the board of directors for the North County Food Pantry and Dining Center of Daly City.

Chief Lotti, a lifetime resident of San Mateo County, was born in San Mateo, grew up in San Bruno, attended Terra Nova High School in Pacifica, and received his AA from Skyline College in 1982. He earned his BS in Human Services Administration and MPA in Public Administration from the College of Notre Dame in 1992 and 1997 respectively.

In his well deserved retirement, Chief Lotti is looking forward to spending more time with his wife of 26 years, Karen, and their four children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Chief Robert Louis Lotti, II on the occasion of his retirement after making our Peninsula communities and residents safer for three decades.

IN RECOGNITION OF SGT. STEVEN
B. DAVIDSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor SGT Steven B. Davidson. He is the human resource specialist with the U.S. Army Reserve's 490th Civil Affairs Battalion and currently attends the University of North Texas. Sergeant Davidson was honored earlier this year for his exemplary service to his country and his community as the 2012 Army Times Soldier of the Year.

Sergeant Davidson, along with several others from his unit, was given the opportunity to participate in a French Desert Warfare Course in Djibouti, Africa. Having endured days of food, water, and sleep deprivation, the soldiers embarked on the final march of the rigorous ten-day course. After marching for nine hours in 120 degree debilitating temperatures, one man collapsed and began seizing due to heat stroke. Sergeant Davidson went to his aid, cutting off the man's boots and uniform; he utilized the cut-up uniform pieces as bandages and applied the remaining scarce water to the fallen soldier. He was able to revive and stabilize his condition and saved the master sergeant's life.

Sergeant Davidson graduated with honors from the course in Djibouti and received an Army Achievement Medal for his life saving action and a Military Volunteer Medal for his service while deployed abroad. The Soldier of the Year honor highlights his ongoing military service as well as his sustained commitment to others. Sergeant Davidson volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters, mentors at-risk youth, and gives motivational speeches to elementary, middle and high school students.

• 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.

Perhaps his most profound gesture was presenting his Air Achievement Medal to the man who taught him life saving techniques and served as a mentor, his Northwest High School athletic trainer.

Sergeant Davidson has demonstrated a deep passion for his country and his community. I want to express my appreciation for his commendable efforts on behalf of his fellow citizens within the 26th District and for his valuable service to the State of Texas and our great Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF WARREN
HECKMAN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Warren Heckman who has spent his life serving our community and sharing his passion for music with those around him.

As a teacher and band instructor, Mr. Heckman brought the joy of music to hundreds of students for more than thirty years. He started teaching at South San Francisco High School in 1950, and created the Blue Knights, a jazz ensemble that won countless awards and put South San Francisco High School's music program on the map. The Blue Knights were one of the first high school jazz ensembles and paved the way for similar programs around the country. This jazz group is still part of South San Francisco High School's music program today.

Mr. Heckman's passion for music spread to his students, many of whom have remained in touch with him. In 2006, 180 former Blue Knights from around the country gathered together for a reunion. Many of them continue to play music, both recreationally and professionally, a testament to Mr. Heckman's influence on his pupils at such a transformative age.

In 1958, Mr. Heckman received his Master's degree from San Francisco State University. He also earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music in 1949 and a teaching credential in 1950 from the University of California-Berkeley where he met his wife, Marie, who has since passed away.

During World War II, Mr. Heckman served his country in the United States Navy. He entered the Navy in 1943 one month after graduating from high school. He attended college in Missouri for 18 months, then transferred to midshipman school at Cornell University where he received his commission in May 1945. He attended Fire Control School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Midway* CV-41. As a Fire Control Officer he spent one year on board the *Midway* until he was honorably discharged in July of 1946.

For many years, Mr. Heckman participated in community organizations, including a long tenure as a member of the South San Francisco Elks Lodge. In addition, he helped create the School Personnel Credit Union and led that organization for 17 years, contributing as a board member, secretary and president.

After retiring, Mr. Heckman began a successful business tuning pianos. At 87, Mr. Heckman continues to play the trombone with

a group of local musicians. Mr. Heckman believes that music is a lifetime adventure, and he's been playing the trombone since he was 7 or 8 years old.

Family has always been an important part of Mr. Heckman's life. He enjoys spending time with his son, Mark, and his daughter-in-law, Kathy, who live locally. His twin daughters, Patty and Tina, both live in Gridley, California. Mr. Heckman is also the proud grandfather of David, Sean, Kelly and JW, and the great-grandfather of James.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor the outstanding service of Warren Heckman to the city of South San Francisco and the whole of San Mateo County. He was a role model for other teachers, a beacon for his students, and he will be remembered as an exceptional human being for many years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DON EDWARDS
SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, the first urban national Wildlife Refuge established in the United States. The Refuge is dedicated to preserving and enhancing wildlife habitat, protecting migratory birds, protecting threatened and endangered species, and providing opportunities for wildlife-oriented recreation and nature study for the surrounding communities of the south San Francisco Bay area.

As of 2004, the Refuge spans 30,000 acres of diverse habitats throughout South San Francisco Bay, including open bay, salt ponds, salt marshes, mudflats, upland areas and vernal pools. Located along the Pacific Flyway, the Refuge hosts over 280 species of birds each year. Millions of shorebirds and waterfowl stop to refuel at the Refuge during the spring and fall migration. In addition to its seasonal visitors, the Refuge provides critical habitat to resident species like the endangered California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse. Today, hundreds of thousands of people visit the Refuge each year to enjoy its diverse wildlife and habitats.

The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is part of a complex of six other wildlife refuges in the San Francisco Bay Area. Created by legislation signed by President Richard Nixon in 1972 as the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and administered since then by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it was renamed the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in 1995 in recognition of Congressman Don Edwards' efforts to protect sensitive wetlands in the South San Francisco Bay.

I join in congratulating the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge on its 40th anniversary and I applaud the commitment of all who have contributed over these many years to preserving and protecting our precious San Francisco Bay.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HOLY
ANGELS CLASS OF 1969

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a rare and special occasion for 45 individuals who went to grammar school together 43 years ago. It is nothing short of remarkable that two thirds of the Holy Angels Class of 1969 will gather on this day of November 10, 2012 to reminisce and exaggerate old stories.

The Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus taught at Holy Angels, a Catholic school founded in 1952.

The Class of 1969 consisted of 45 students: Donna Abrahamsohn, Charlene Behnke, Robert Bernie, Kevin Chapot (deceased 2010), Raymond Ciardella, Shirley Conti, Richard Delgado, Mary Dillon, John Gallagher, Robert Gerughty, Randy Golobic, Susan Gomez, Joseph Gordon, Kathleen Griffin, Dennis Harvey, Stephen Haight, Loretta Kelly, Patricia Kerns, Catherine Lapachet, Carole Lindsey, Patrick McLoughlin, James McCarthy, Maura Moran, Paul Nannini, Bruce Olmanson, Thomas O'Shea, Mary Pinelli, George Putkey, Elizabeth Randall, Timothy Rea, Marie Antoinette Rodriguez, Mary Rushka, Kimberly Seitz, Debra Sola, Terrie Sottile, Marialena Spadaro, George Tinetti, Barbara Trapp, Robert Trapp, Linda Tricceri, Peter Woolery, Nina Varni, Thomas York, David Zanini, and Loretta Zolezzi.

By today's standards, a class of 45 is unheard of, but the Holy Angels students assert that it didn't harm any of them in their later lives. They moved on to careers in teaching, public safety, law enforcement, the military, the medical field, and more. Many of them stayed right here in the Colma and Daly City area, home to Holy Angels.

The class of 1969 was the first second grade class to celebrate their First Holy Communion in 1963, a year after Holy Angels church was built. All of the teachers at the school were nuns, except for Miss Sandy Sheffield—unanimously voted everyone's favorite teacher in the 4th grade for her innovative and fun teaching style. Until Miss Sheffield brought in a piñata, most students had never seen one.

Another teacher bringing fond memories to the students is Miss Whitney who taught all the dance routines for the annual May Day festivities. Each class performed a variety of folk dances on this popular day of games and raffles.

Back in the day, the TV show "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." brought out the best in a group of Holy Angel girls portraying themselves as secret agents. They would pass around secret messages in an empty Chapstick container and they would reveal the locations of dangerous enemy agents via walkie talkies. The Class of 1969 refuses to disclose whether one of the class members later joined the CIA.

Life at Holy Angels wasn't all fun and games. In 1963, televisions were not part of the regular classroom, but when President Kennedy was assassinated, the nuns brought in TVs so that the students could witness the funeral.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the Holy Angels Class of 1969 which reminds all of us of