

HONORING JAY PIERSON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Jay Pierson, the longtime floor assistant to Speakers Gingrich, Hastert and BOEHNER, who will be retiring at the end of the 112th Congress.

It's fair to say that no one knows more about legislative procedure and the workings of the House than Jay. His retirement will leave an irreplaceable void in the institutional memory of this chamber.

Jay started working in the House two years before my election in 1980 and I have relied on his assistance throughout my time here. In fact, whenever my staff had legislative questions, our answer usually started with the exclamation: "Let's call Jay!" And when you called him, you could always rely on his expert advice.

In addition to his wealth of legislative knowledge, Jay is just an all-around terrific person who is unfailingly helpful and ready with a smile. It is these qualities that earned him the respect of members on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, it is an understatement to say that the Republican cloakroom and floor won't be the same without him. I am grateful for Jay's career of service to our country and wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHABAD CENTER OF NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Chabad Center of Northwest New Jersey, Rockaway Township, Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 25th anniversary this year.

Founded in 1988 by a small group of volunteers, Chabad Center of Northwest New Jersey has grown into a regional network of social, religious and charitable programs. The Center is built around the acceptance of every individual on his or her own level, regardless of background, affiliation, age or financial status. By blending traditional values with modern day techniques, the Center has been able to touch many lives through Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties.

At the core of the Chabad Center of Northwest New Jersey is their educational program, offered through the Chabad Educational Center. Their mission is based on the driving principle that the Jewish education system should focus on character development, spiritual consciousness and selfless devotion to the betterment of humanity.

The Center opened in 2008 to provide innovative educational services and cultural enrichment for all ages. Making up the Chabad Educational Center are the state-of-the-art Early Learning Center, Hebrew School, Hebrew

High, Adult Education Institute and the first Community Mikvah established in Northwest New Jersey. Each of these allows the Chabad Center of Northwest New Jersey to bring valuable educational and cultural opportunities to all members of their community.

The Chabad Center of Northwest New Jersey also offers Men's and Women's clubs, giving members of their community the opportunity to socialize and perform acts of philanthropy throughout Northwest New Jersey.

Through their educational, philanthropic and community outreach programs, the Center has established itself as a pillar of our local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chabad Center of Northwest New Jersey as they celebrate their 25th anniversary.

CECIL SCAIFE VISIONARY AWARD AWARDED TO AMY GRANT

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, musical genius is commonplace in Middle Tennessee. We see it on the Billboard Top 40, and we hear it in our local gathering spots. We are a community of notable note-makers, and yet there are those who stand a bit taller among the rest of our blessings. I rise today to honor Amy Grant as she receives the Cecil Scaife Visionary Award and is recognized for her contribution to Tennessee's legendary sound.

Amy Grant's music is more than a simple part of our lives. From her light-hearted hits to the notes and scores that wove their way from our darkest moments, Grant's pen continually casts light into our collective soul. Bluegrass, gospel, Christian, and pop all claim a bit of Grant's heritage as she continues to weave all four together into one signature blend. Her music is a part of our Christmas, our Easter, and our seasons in between.

I ask my colleagues to join with me and celebrate Amy Grant not simply for her legendary sound and steadfast commitment to the music industry, but for her graciousness in paving the way for other singers, songwriters, and bare-footed musicians to come along with her. It is fitting, then, that she be awarded the Cecil Scaife Visionary Award, and I appreciate her faithfulness to Nashville. I also appreciate the hard work and support of those who established and continue the Cecil Scaife Business Scholarship. Your devotion to those who pioneer the way for future music legends helps to strengthen our community and the sounds of our home.

DEDICATION OF THE RYAN WINSLOW VETERANS CENTER

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to announce to this House that the Clay Veterans Center in Center Point in the Sixth District of Alabama has been rededicated as the Ryan Winslow Veterans Center.

The renaming honors the patriotic service of Marine Lance Corporal Ryan George Winslow, who lost his life in Iraq defending our freedoms, and also recognizes his parents, George and Marynell Winslow, who instilled in their son high character and a desire to serve others.

Ryan Winslow, who attended Hoover High School and Jefferson State Community College and belonged to Shades Crest Baptist Church, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in January 2005. Deployed to Iraq with the 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Lance Corporal Winslow performed his duties with great dedication, distinction, and drive despite his young age. Tragically, Ryan suffered fatal injuries during combat operations in Al Anbar Province on April 15, 2006. He died at the age of 19. Ryan's memory is held in high honor, respect, and love by his family, friends, and the many individuals that he touched during a too-short life.

Turning personal loss into a passionate resolve to help others, the Winslows have become great advocates for all soldiers and veterans in Alabama. Marynell Winslow played a lead role in founding Gold Star Families of Alabama to recognize service members who have given their lives in defense of our country and provide comfort to their families. Gold Star Families has recently undertaken a project to build a memorial at the American Village to Alabamians who have given their lives in service to our country since 9/11.

The Veterans Center in Center Point is a special place. Opened in December 2010 by Three Hots and a Cot, a truly inspiring nonprofit organization, the center offers safe shelter to homeless military veterans and helps with their transition back to an independent lifestyle. With a staff that includes formerly homeless veterans, the center goes beyond offering housing and meals and provides services such as life skills training, job searches, transportation to VA hospitals for medical appointments, and companionship and stability. It is a model example of the responsibility and duty that we have as a society to assist the veterans who have sacrificed for us.

The tremendous amount of good that has been done and that will be done in the Veterans Center will now serve as a lasting tribute and thank you to Ryan Winslow and his family, and indeed to every serviceman and servicewoman who has given the ultimate sacrifice to defend our great Nation. The name of Ryan Winslow will be proudly born by this sanctuary of hope and recovery.

It is altogether fitting and proper that the U.S. House of Representatives take time to recognize and memorialize this most important occasion.

HONORING JAY PIERSON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-time servant of the House of Representatives, Mr. Jay Pierson, who is retiring after 34 years of advising Speakers, Leaders and Members of Congress.

When the American public tunes into C-SPAN, the give and take of congressional debate might make about as much sense as the floor of the New York Stock Exchange just before the closing bell. Fortunately, the House has seasoned experts—truly dedicated public servants—who keep up with the details of floor deliberation and legislation so that Members of Congress are able to cast their votes without confusion.

One of the people most responsible for ensuring that House Republicans are informed about important legislation is Speaker BOEHNER's Floor Assistant, Jay Pierson. Jay's role can perhaps be compared to that of an air traffic controller, closely monitoring the flow of floor debate and shepherding Members of Congress to their appropriate positions. While an air traffic controller may use a radar scope for guidance, Jay relies on his dog-eared copy of Jefferson's Manual of Rules and 34 years of experience.

A graduate of Westmont College in Santa Barbara, and a recipient of a Master's Degree from Long Beach University and a Doctorate from the University of Maryland, Jay arrived in the halls of Congress about the same time as the C-SPAN cameras. Dr. Pierson's congressional career began in 1978 in the office of the General Clerk. He began working in the Republican Cloakroom in 1979 for the office of House Republican Leader John J. Rhodes, R-AZ.

Over three decades he held positions of member of the House Republican Cloakroom, member of the Republican Floor Staff and Floor Assistant to the Speaker. He was Assistant Floor Manager for Speaker Gingrich, Floor Assistant for Speaker Dennis Hastert, and now Floor Assistant for Speaker JOHN BOEHNER.

For the past decade, Jay has been an invaluable resource to me during floor debate and votes and I will always value his counsel and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, as Jay prepares to transition to retirement, I join with my colleagues here in the House in wishing him the very best. Jay's wisdom and expertise will be sorely missed.

REFERRING QUAPAW TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA TRUST CLAIMS TO COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, the purpose of this statement is to clarify the scope of the resolution before us. It states that it encompasses Quapaw tribal and individual claims "other than the legal claims that are pending in the Court of Federal Claims on the date of enactment of this resolution."

A question arises. If one or more of those currently pending legal claims are dismissed by the Court for lack of jurisdiction, would the dismissed claim be considered "pending" for purposes of this resolution?

In my view, the answer is no. Our intention with the reference resolution is to request from the Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims a report containing findings of fact and conclusions of law concerning the nature, ex-

tent, and character of the Indian-trust related claims of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma and its tribal members for compensation. As the language of the resolution suggests, these claims may be legal or equitable in nature, and exclude only the claims that are already within the jurisdiction of the Court of Federal Claims (including the statute of limitations) and are already pending in the Court of Federal Claims on the date of enactment. If a claim is dismissed as being outside the statute of limitations or for jurisdictional reasons, in my view, it was not pending on the date of enactment.

The intent behind the resolution is to have the Court review and render a final and complete resolution of all such claims—that resolution to occur either in the pending cases under the jurisdiction already granted the Court of Federal Claims by the Indian Tucker Act or else under the terms of H. Res. 668.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT SOUTRA

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achievements of Marine Sergeant William Soutra, Jr in Afghanistan. Sergeant Soutra recently received the Navy Cross, the second highest honor given for valor in combat.

Sergeant Soutra is a resident of Worcester and a 2004 graduate of Worcester Vocational High School, where he played lacrosse, football, and hockey. Sergeant Soutra attended Becker College before joining the Marines in 2005.

Over a two day attack beginning on July 10, 2010, Sergeant Soutra's element leader was mortally wounded by an improvised explosive device. With his unit disoriented, Soutra, alongside his military dog Posha, immediately took charge. Sergeant Soutra, without an interpreter, physically re-positioned each Afghan commando to fire in an accurate manner before repeatedly running through enemy gunfire to lead his 10-man commando unit across 1,100 meters of open terrain, all while "relentlessly" firing his rifle. Additionally, Sergeant Soutra helped carry casualties out of the line of fire while orienting air support from jets and helicopters.

Simply, his actions went beyond the call of duty, saving the lives of Marines, Sailors, and Afghan commandos.

Too often, heroic actions of our military's elite special operations forces, like Sergeant Soutra, go unrecognized. It is simply the nature of their job to take on the most dangerous tasks, with no hope for glory or public acknowledgement.

Sgt. Soutra put his own life on the line without a second thought, not because he expected credit, but because it was the right thing to do to protect his men.

Mr. Speaker, our nation is lucky to have men like Sergeant Soutra serving us. I know that all of my colleagues, constituents, and fellow residents of Worcester will join me in offering our humble gratitude for his actions, and sincere congratulations on his recognition.

HONORING DWIGHT E. RADCLIFF

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Dwight E. Radcliff on the celebration of his retirement and for his outstanding years of service to Pickaway County and the State of Ohio.

It is an honor to congratulate Sheriff Radcliff on this momentous occasion as the longest-serving sheriff in the United States of America. Serving as the Pickaway County Sheriff since 1965, Sheriff Radcliff has been committed to the citizens of Pickaway County by protecting life and property, preventing and solving crime and responding to all requests for assistance.

Following in his father's footsteps, Dwight became the second Radcliff to become the Sheriff of Pickaway County and the family name has held the office for 78 of the last 82 years. Over the past several decades, Radcliff has had both trying and memorable moments—from living in the county jail with his family to apprehending the rarest of criminals. Because of his great dedication and reputation for law enforcement, Pickaway County is often referred to as "Putaway Pickaway" by local and statewide residents.

On November 6, 2012 his son Robert was elected sheriff and will become the third generation of Radcliff's to hold this office. Dwight is married to Betty his wife of 59 years and is the father of three and grandfather to eight grandchildren, and great-grandfather to two great-grandchildren.

Thus, I join the citizens of the 7th Congressional District in congratulating and honoring Sheriff Dwight E. Radcliff for his many years of dedication and exemplary service to Pickaway County and the state of Ohio, and to extend best wishes to him and his family for much success in the future.

THE MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR CLARIFICATION ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Mortgage Originator Clarification Act to clarify the definition of the term mortgage originator in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

I support responsible lending policies and consumer protections throughout the home buying process to provide the best products and transparency for consumers. However, the Dodd-Frank Act was hastily put together and crammed through Congress. Unintended consequences of regulations prescribed in the Dodd-Frank Act, if implemented without specific consideration of manufactured housing, could eliminate housing finance options for families seeking to purchase affordable manufactured homes.

Multiple definitions and standards for mortgage origination, such as those in Section 1401 of Dodd-Frank and the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing (SAFE) Act, are confusing to the manufactured housing industry, consumers interested in buying