

RECOGNIZING THE MT. VIEW-
EDGEWOOD WATER COMPANY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company, of Edgewood, Washington and its General Manager, Marc Marcantonio, for winning the gold medal at the National Great American Water Taste Test and being judged the best tasting water in the United States.

Each year, the National Rural Water Association sponsors the Great American Water Taste Test to honor small community drinking water supplies from across the United States who provide the public with safe, clean, and affordable water. The goal of the competition is to judge great tasting water that comes directly from the tap.

Prior to the national contest, water providers participate in state events. The Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company competed against 19 other water samples from all over the State of Washington to be named the Washington State winner at the Evergreen Rural Water of Washington Fall Conference and Tradeshow. The company was honored for the water's clarity, bouquet, and taste.

The Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company has now earned itself the honor of winning the gold medal at the National competition against 40 other water companies. Judges tasted unidentified samples of water and ranked the samples based on clarity, bouquet, and taste before naming the Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company the 2012 Winner of the Great American Water Taste Test.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company and Marc Marcantonio for winning this national competition and providing customers with the best tasting water in the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF TIM HOUSTON

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I rise today to recognize Tim Houston, an African-American from Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has had a major impact on his community.

As a native of Acworth and pastor of Joshua Gospel Tabernacle, Tim has dedicated his life to helping others.

In his outreach with the Acworth Community Revitalization program, Tim works to improve his local communities and make Georgia a better place for families to thrive and prosper. In his free time, Tim supports the Acworth Football and Baseball Association, as well as the local after-school enrichment programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tim Houston's contributions to his community and church.

HONORING THE TOWN OF
PHILLIPS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bicentennial of the town Phillips, Maine. Two hundred years ago, local families petitioned the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the right to become a township and determine their future. Phillips was incorporated on February 25, 1812.

At the time of its incorporation, Phillips was home to more than 50 families. With all the advantages the Sandy River and its valley offered, the town quickly grew and the people of Phillips established a community which flourished. Among other things, Phillips is especially known as being the birthplace of Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby, Maine's first registered guide, as well as being the headquarters and hub of the Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad.

Today, the more than 1,000 proud residents of Phillips celebrate the bicentennial of their town filled with the same spirit and sense of common purpose that filled the founding families as they petitioned to have their community recognized. These individuals embody the hardworking people of Maine who throughout our history have embraced the challenges and opportunities of living in our state.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Phillips, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to help this community celebrate its 200th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing all the citizens of Phillips well on this joyous occasion.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL
DAVID CHESSEY FOR HIS YEARS
OF SERVICE AT FORT MCCOY,
WISCONSIN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of Colonel David E. Chesser, whose tenure as Garrison Commander at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, concludes February 29, 2012. Colonel Chesser assumed his duties as Garrison Commander on April 3, 2008.

Colonel Chesser's 30 years of dedicated service in the U.S. Army is noteworthy in every respect. He is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, U.S. Army Airborne School, Engineer Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Command and General Staff Officer Course, the Army Management Staff College Sustaining Base Leadership & Management Course, and the Army War College.

Colonel Chesser has committed his life to serving our country and has received many deserving awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with seven Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters,

Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal, the Presidents Hundred Tab, the Distinguished Rifleman Badge, the Combat Action Badge, and the Meritorious Unit Citation, as well as various campaign and service medals.

Under Colonel Chesser's outstanding leadership, Fort McCoy became one of the most capable and desirable Reserve Component training installations in the Army, providing stellar base operations support to over 120,000 Soldiers annually. During his tenure, Colonel Chesser launched and led one of the most dramatic community transformations in the installation's history, propelling Fort McCoy to win the FY09 Army Communities of Excellence competition and again in FY10; a direct reflection of his leadership, strategic planning and thinking. He took an installation that had one of the most difficult records for food service and within one year improved it through sound management and leadership technique which led to the Garrison's Connelly Food Service Awards in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Fort McCoy was also recognized as one of the Army's best in maintenance of military equipment, having won the Army Maintenance of Excellence Award in 2009 and achieving first runner-up in 2010. Colonel Chesser transformed an underperforming mobilization training center into one recognized as one of the Army's best and most effective of the seven active Army Power Projection Platforms.

It has been an honor for me to serve as U.S. Representative for Wisconsin's Third Congressional District during Colonel Chesser's tenure at Fort McCoy. I know Colonel Chesser's leadership will be greatly missed at the base and surrounding communities, but I am thankful for his leadership and contributions to ensuring that Fort McCoy remains a shining star in the nation's military training infrastructure.

On behalf of my constituents in Wisconsin and a grateful nation, I would like to thank and commend Colonel David Chesser for his years of dedicated service in the U.S. Army and in particular as Garrison Commander at Fort McCoy.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT FOY

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and accomplishments of Robert Foy, as he prepares to retire this year as Chairman of the California Water Service Group's Board. The California Water Service Group (CWSG) provides water utility services to over two million people in five states, including the cities of Chico, Marysville and Wilows, which are located in the Northern California congressional district I represent.

Mr. Foy is a fourth-generation Californian and was born in San Francisco. He attended San Jose University and served our nation in the U.S. Army. Following the Army he worked for Pacific Storage and Moving where he eventually took over as head. On January 1, 1996, he was named as Chairman of the CWSG where he worked to streamline the utility's operations and improve customer service. One project was the construction and consolidation of the CWSG's customer and operations service center in Chico, which I was

able to tour upon its completion in 2002. The utility's operations were previously spread among multiple facilities. The consolidation benefited the California Water Service Group's customers in Chico by allowing them to go to one central location for resolving their service issues.

Mr. Foy also served as Chairman of the Government Relations Committee for the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC) for four years. In the NAWC's Annual Report to Congress, the organization presents their comments on the numerous issues facing private water utilities across the country.

Mr. Foy continues to be an extraordinary individual who has made significant and lasting contributions to our community through his exemplary leadership and service as Chairman of the California Water Service Group's Board.

I am extremely grateful for Bob Foy's service to our nation and community-at-large. I am pleased to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of this impressive American as he retires this year.

HONORING JANET BALL FOR 30 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I wish to include an article in the Fairfax Times from May 6, 2011, recognizing the tremendous service Janet Ball has given to the Fairfax County community for 30 years. I have known Janet for years, and have seen her dedication to helping others firsthand. She is an unbelievable example of the value of volunteerism.

GREENSPRING RESIDENT HONORED FOR 30 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE (By Kali Shumitz, Staff Writer)

During her 29-year career working for the Department of Defense, Janet Ball said she never did much to give back to her community.

So, soon after retiring, she responded to an ad in the Golden Gazette that said the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court was looking for volunteers.

Now 90, Ball is still going strong as a volunteer office assistant for the court system. She also volunteers to sort mail at the Greenspring Retirement Village in Springfield, where she now resides, and helps out at her church.

"I'm one that likes to keep busy," she said. "If I had to sit around doing nothing, I would be going to St. Elizabeth's," referring to the psychiatric hospital in Washington, D.C.

Last month, the court staff honored her for 30 years of volunteer service.

Her supervisor at the courthouse, Loida Gibbs, described Ball as "the admin assistant of the century."

Ball also used to volunteer to do office work for U.S. Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-Dist. 11) when he represented the Providence District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

After he was elected board chairman, she asked him, "Do I get a promotion?" Indeed, she continued to volunteer for Connolly doing office work until he was elected to Congress.

When Ball began volunteering for the court, there were only two judges and the juvenile court operated out of a small building

behind the historic county courthouse building. The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court now has eight judges and recently moved into the remodeled main court building.

Her first volunteer job was collecting contact information and other details from families as they exited the courtroom, a task designed to save probation officers time.

For the past decade, Ball has volunteered for the Volunteer Interpreter Program, logging the hours and types of cases for which interpreters are requested, and producing a monthly report on volunteer contributions.

"In the courthouse, there is more work than even staff can do," said Gibbs, coordinator of the Volunteer Interpreter Program. "Without [volunteers], it would get done, but it would take double the time."

Ball said the mostly Spanish-speaking volunteers tease her sometimes because she is the only person involved with the program who is not bilingual. But Gibbs sees that as an asset, because her skilled volunteer interpreters often get pulled to other tasks.

"I have told her she's not allowed to learn any other language," Gibbs joked.

When Ball had double bypass surgery about five years ago, Gibbs recalled, court staff and volunteers visited her at the hospital every day. They also threw a big surprise party for her when she turned 90.

"It's my family away from home," Ball said.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM F. OWEN, JR., PRESIDENT AND CEO, UMDNJ

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best wishes to Dr. William F. Owen as he concludes his tenure at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. It is my distinct pleasure to thank Dr. Owen for all he has done for the students, staff and the Greater Newark community for the past four years in his capacity as President and CEO of UMDNJ. I am proud to add my congratulations to that of his family, friends and colleagues as they celebrate in honor of a man who has been an integral part of the changing landscape of Newark. For all the leadership he has shown and the contributions he has made, Dr. Owen is a worthy recipient of the accolades he received on February 22, 2012 during a reception held in his honor.

Fortunately, my office has always been able to collaborate with Dr. Owen and his staff to bring informative programs to residents of the 10th Congressional District at various events including the bi-annual Health and Wellness Expo hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Dr. Owen's involvement was instrumental in making the 2011 Expo a success. Dr. Owen also guided UMDNJ through a tumultuous period of instability. His leadership was key in bringing the institution back to a prominent position within the Newark Collegiate and Healthcare Community.

Although Dr. Owen was very successful during his tenure at UMDNJ, there was one partner who was an invaluable assistant, his wife Alice Owen. Through their combined efforts, they were able to work with the UMDNJ Hospital Auxiliary to help raise funds for several new rooms. These additions helped patients

and families have a more pleasant and comfortable experience during their time at the hospital. The greater Newark community as well as the UMDNJ family will truly miss this wonderful team.

Mr. Speaker, I know my fellow members of the House of Representatives agree that Dr. William F. Owen has been an integral part of UMDNJ. He has had a stellar career here in Newark and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, two of the least noticed and most dangerous trends of recent years have been Azerbaijan's rapidly growing military budget and its increasing bellicosity toward Armenian-populated Nagorno-Karabakh. Last June, during Azerbaijan's largest military parade since the Soviet era, President Aliyev vowed to avenge the deaths of Azerbaijani soldiers killed during the 1988–1994 Nagorno-Karabakh war and declared that "the war isn't over yet; only the first stage is over." He then boasted that Azerbaijan's defense budget is twenty times larger than it was just eight years previously and larger, in fact, than the entire budget of Armenia.

Mr. Speaker, it is particularly appropriate that today, February 27—the anniversary of the 1988 Azerbaijani pogrom directed against its own Armenian population in Sumgait—that we commit ourselves to stopping these ugly threats. Armenian history is drenched in tragedy. Everybody knows about the Armenian Genocide, even if, sadly, only a minority of my colleagues has been willing to recognize it officially. But fewer know about the hundreds of thousands of Armenians murdered under the Ottoman regime in the nineteenth century. And fewer still, it seems, know about the pogroms and ethnic cleansing that Armenians living in Azerbaijan suffered at the hands of Azerbaijanis as the Soviet Union was breaking up.

The Sumgait pogrom that we recall today lasted three days and resulted in the murder of hundreds of Armenian civilians. Other anti-Armenian pogroms took place in Kirovobad November 21–27, 1988, and in the Azerbaijani capital Baku January 13–19, 1990. During this era, there were media reports of Armenians being hunted down and killed in their homes. The systematic pattern of all these attacks suggested that something even more sinister than a mob uprising was at work.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan seems bent on destroying every last vestige of the Armenian presence in Azerbaijan. For example, there is videotaped evidence of the Azerbaijani government's December 2005 systematic desecration and destruction of an ancient Armenian cemetery, including thousands of intricately carved grave-stones in Djulfa, in a section of Azerbaijan near the Turkish border. I believe our State Department still has not adequately examined this incident, and I call on it to do so.

Today is a solemn day as we recall this history of murder, displacement, and destruction, but it is this very history that underscores the