

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF DEPUTY ROBERT
LEE PARIS, JR.

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the late Deputy Robert Paris who was killed in the line of duty on April 12, 2012. Deputy Paris paid the ultimate price, sacrificing his life, while protecting and serving the citizens of Stanislaus County.

Deputy Paris was born in Tracy, California on January 23, 1959 to parents Robert Paris, Sr. and Elizabeth Paris. He graduated from Tracy Joint Union High School in 1977. He attended Delta Community College before entering paramedic school in 1979. He was certified as a Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic in 1980 and worked for Tracy Ambulance and American Medical Response serving the Tracy community. Deputy Paris graduated from Ray Simon Regional Criminal Justice Training Center in 1993.

Deputy Paris began his career with the Stanislaus Sheriff's Department in 1996 as a Level 1 Reserve Officer. He was sworn in full time in 1999. He served in Patrol Operations, Court Services, Contact Cities, the Special Vehicle Off Road Unit/Water Enforcement Team and the Civil Division. Deputy Paris served his community with pride and admiration.

Deputy Paris was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed spending spring and summer days camping and fishing in the Sierras with his friends and family. In the fall, he would travel to the Rockies to go hunting with his father and friends in Colorado before heading to Montana to serve as a hunting guide. He also enjoyed cycling and golfing in his spare time. He became a successful taxidermist for his own enjoyment as well as for others.

Deputy Paris is survived by his parents, Bob and Jane Paris; daughter, Jami Paris and her mother, Janelle Corso; son, Bobby Paris; brother, Eric Paris and his wife Kari; sister, Krista Torpey and her husband Richard; nephews Ryan and Colin Torpey and niece, Lauren Torpey.

Mr. Speaker, the recognition that I am offering today before the House of Representatives for Deputy Robert Paris is small compared to the contributions and impact he had on the lives of so many. He was truly an invaluable member of our community and an outstanding human being. My thoughts are with Deputy Paris' family, the community and the Stanislaus Sheriff's Department as they grieve the loss of this wonderful man.

HONORING ROBERT LEE SMITH

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, we are saddened by the death of Mr. Robert Lee Smith because our lives have been touched by the life of this one man; and

Whereas, Mr. Robert Lee Smith's work is present in our community and his church, Hillcrest Church of Christ; being a deacon, Bible School instructor, bus driver and singer; and

Whereas, this highly effective motivator utilized his skills to aid in the growth and development of his church; and

Whereas, he gave of himself, his time and talent as he served his family, friends and community; and

Whereas, Mr. Robert Lee Smith was a husband, a son, a father, a friend and a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a special recognition on Mr. Robert Lee Smith for his leadership, friendship and service to all as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby attest to the 112th Congress of the United States that Mr. Robert Lee Smith of Decatur, DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Recognition" by declaring Mr. Robert Lee Smith U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 15th day of April, 2012.

HONORING SERGEANT STEPHEN M.
STEWART

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla Post 9896 Life Member Sergeant Stephen M. Stewart. Sergeant Stewart served the United States of America honorably with the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division in Somalia.

Sergeant Stewart was born in Vancouver, British Columbia on May 28, 1954. He later relocated to the United States and enlisted in the U.S. Army. During his service, he served a 12-month tour in Korea and was part of the advance forces in Operation Desert Storm, which culminated in the repelling of the Iraqi forces and the liberation of Kuwait.

In 1992, while serving with the 10th Mountain Division, the division was deployed to Somalia as part of Operation Restore Hope for the famished populace of Somalia. The divi-

sion's mission was to secure major cities and roads in order to provide safe passage of relief supplies to Somali citizens suffering the effects of the Somali Civil War. When Task Force Ranger and the SAR team were pinned down during a raid in what would later become known as the Battle of Mogadishu, Sergeant Stewart and elements of the 10th Mountain Division provided infantry to the United Nations force sent to rescue them. The ensuing firefight was the longest sustained by the U.S. Army since the Vietnam War.

In September 1994, Stephen and 8,600 troopers of the 10th Mountain Division formed the nucleus of the Multinational Force Haiti and Joint Task Force 190 in Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy. The division's mission was to create a secure and stable environment in which the government could reestablish and hold democratic elections.

During his service in the U.S. Army, Sergeant Stewart served in various roles. He was a troop leader in billets as a platoon sergeant, a drill sergeant, and held several administrative positions. He retired as a Sergeant First Class. For his service, Sergeant Stewart received the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Korean Defense Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, United Nations Medal for Somalia, and the Army Sharpshooter Badge for the M-16 Rifle.

After his retirement from the U.S. Army, Sergeant Stewart earned a bachelor's degree and teaching credentials. He taught at Sierra Vista Elementary School and the former Mountain Vista Continuation School in Madera Unified School District. His hobbies included running and hiking, and he dreamt of someday climbing Pobeda Peak located near the border of China. He was an influential force in the Chowchilla area to honor WWII veterans through the "Honor Flight" program. He was also commemorated for his service to the California Troops to Teachers program.

Sergeant Stewart passed away in 2012. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Gwendolyn Stewart, daughters Stephanie Stewart, M.D., Sharon Stewart, and grandson Ernest "Jewell" Hall. Sergeant Stewart is a Life Member of Chowchilla VFW Post 9896, American Legion Post 148, Association of the U.S. Army, Young Men's Institute, and St. Columbia Catholic Church of Chowchilla.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sergeant Stephen M. Stewart for his honorable service to our great country.

IN RECOGNITION OF EARTH DAY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Earth Day, which has

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

been celebrated on this day, April 22, for the past 42 years. Since the first Earth Day in 1970, Americans have worked to make cleaner the air we breathe and the water we drink. Four decades later, I am proud to be working with like-minded colleagues in the Congress and the Administration to continue this honored tradition of environmental leadership.

Earth Day was first organized in 1970 by one of the greatest environmentalists in the history of the Congress, Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. Despite his tireless work to raise awareness of environmental conservation, for years the Congress and the administration consistently failed to enact his environmental legislation. Senator Nelson called upon student activists of the day who led a nationwide "teach-in." It is estimated that 20 million individuals participated, demonstrating to Congress the extent of the public's interest in, and concerns over threats to, the environment. The resulting change was dramatic and profound. With bipartisan support and majorities, Congress took the following actions: Created the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (1970); Passed the Clean Air Act (1970); Passed the Clean Water Act (1972); Passed the Endangered Species Act (1973).

Added to this impressive list of accomplishments are the actions taken by the Democratic-controlled 110th and 111th Congresses to preserve and protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the lands we inhabit, and the green spaces where we recreate. Let me briefly mention some of the highlights of this impressive record of environmental stewardship.

In the 110th Congress, the House passed, and I supported the following major legislative initiatives:

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which will increase vehicle fuel efficiency standards for the first time in more than 3 decades, to 35 miles per gallon in 2020, projected to save \$1,000 per vehicle each year. The act will also expand the use of American-grown biofuels and combat oil market manipulation.

Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, also known as the Farm Bill, which made an historic commitment to American biofuels—which are keeping gas prices 15 percent lower than they otherwise would be due to fuel blending—and increased Commodity Futures Trading Commission oversight authority to detect and prevent manipulation of energy prices.

Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008, which extended and expanded tax incentives for renewable electricity, energy and fuel from America's heartland, as well as for plug-in hybrid cars, and energy efficient homes, buildings, and appliances. This legislation is critical to creating and preserving more than 500,000 good-paying clean energy American jobs in the wind and solar industries alone.

Green the Capitol—Under the leadership of newly-elected Speaker NANCY PELOSI in 2007, the House started this program to make its operations a model of sustainability. The House set aggressive targets, including reducing energy use by 50 percent over 10 years. Since the program's inception, the House has reduced its carbon footprint by 73 percent, it purchases wind energy to meet all electricity needs and burns only natural gas at the Capitol Power Plant, with total energy consump-

tion down by 23 percent and water consumption down 32 percent. The project has already saved taxpayers at least \$3.3 million a year.

In the 111th Congress, the House passed, and I supported, the following major bills:

American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, historic legislation that launches a new clean energy economy—to create 1.7 million American jobs (with the Recovery Act); helps reduce our dangerous dependence on foreign oil by 5 million barrels per day; keeps energy costs low for Americans; protects consumers from price increases with lower income families seeing no cost and with no increase to the deficit. The legislation requires a reduction in the carbon pollution causing climate change from major U.S. sources of 17 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050, compared to 2005 levels.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which made historic investments of \$90 billion in tax cuts and investments in clean energy. These investments leveraged another \$100 billion in private investments in energy efficiency, renewable generation, research, and other areas and helped speed the transformation to a clean energy future. The included tax incentives spurred energy savings and created clean energy jobs, as will lead to breakthroughs in clean energy research. The Recovery Act also included incentives to produce new electric cars, develop advanced battery technology, and modernize the electricity grid to make it more efficient and reliable. It is estimated that this legislation created more than 2,700,000 jobs, nearly doubled renewable electricity over four years, and saved consumers up to \$98 a year in energy costs.

Today, it is no less urgent that we take great pains to keep environmental issues from receding into the background. Four out of five Americans live in areas hit by recent weather disasters, and emerging scientific data suggests that such disasters will continue occurring at higher and higher frequencies if we do not take steps to address our changing climate.

My home state of California has made great strides in developing a "green economy" and investing in renewable sources of energy. In 2011, California added more wind power than any other state. The state's wind industry now employs 4,000–5,000 people and is responsible for 3 percent of the California's electricity. Additionally, the solar energy industry in California alone is comprised of over 3,500 solar companies, which employ more than 25,000 people. These industries should be recognized for their contributions to job creation as well as their growing success in securing our energy independence.

Partisan politics threatens to turn back this progress, particularly through the recently proposed Republican budget plans. These plans protect billions of dollars in tax breaks for big oil companies while slashing investments in clean solar and wind energy. We cannot afford to lavish subsidies on oil companies earning record profits, furthering our dependence on increasingly expensive, dirty and dangerous fossil fuel sources.

Since Senator Nelson sparked a widespread interest in our environment four decades ago, environmental legislation has enjoyed support from both sides of the aisle. I am committed to working with my colleagues in Congress and the Obama Administration to continue the bipartisan tradition of environmental protection.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Earth Day this year, let it serve as a timely reminder of the immense opportunities the planet holds, both in terms of current economic growth and future prosperity. It is my hope that we may recapture the energy and enthusiasm behind Senator Nelson's original celebration in order to restore environmental stewardship as a core American value.

IN MEMORY OF JANE MARGARET JOHNSTON

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the late Jane Johnston who passed away unexpectedly on April 13, 2012.

Jane and her identical twin sister, Jean, were born on September 2, 1951 to parents Dennis and Maryellen Tally. The "Tally twins" along with their brothers Larry and Chris, were raised in Tracy, California.

Jane and her husband Tom grew up on the same street together in Tracy. They were married on September 10, 1972. Together for nearly 40 years, they raised two daughters, Jill and Laurie. Jane enjoyed being a stay-at-home mother when her daughters were young, and it was during this time that she finished her college education. Jane earned a degree in Communications from California State University, Stanislaus.

The biggest joy in Jane's life was her family, and she loved spending time with her husband, children and four grandchildren. She adored her young grandchildren—all born in the past three years—and eagerly shared pictures and stories about them with her many friends. She loved family traditions, and always made holidays special for her family. Jane loved being busy, and in addition to spending time with her family and working, she enjoyed golfing at Spring Creek Country Club, traveling, reading and writing.

For nearly 20 years, Jane worked at the Stanislaus County Office of Education, most recently as Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services. Jane was an astute judge of character and was quick to recognize potential in others. She was a member of the Association of California School Administrators, the Modesto Rotary, the California and National School Public Relations Organizations, served on the Moccasin Supervisory Committee and co-chaired the Stanislaus Teacher of the Year Program.

Jane was an active member at Modesto Covenant Church in Modesto. She reached out to help homeless families through programs including Family Promise and the Salvation Army. Jane was a mentor to many colleagues and young children, who she enjoyed tutoring through the Stanislaus Mentoring Program. She was also instrumental in promoting and implementing the Stanislaus County "Choose Civility" initiative.

Jane is survived by her husband Tom; children Jill and her husband Peter Krimmel and Laurie and her husband Jonathan Hansen; grandchildren Cole Krimmel, Logan Hansen, Stella Jane Krimmel and Lucas Hansen; sister Jean Benner; brothers Larry Tally and Chris Tally; and many nieces and nephews.