

dedicated servant to the Front Range of Colorado, and I extend her my sincerest thanks and wish her the best of success in her future service.

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“UNBROKEN”

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2012*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on a fateful day in May 1943, bombardier Louis Zamperini and his fellow airmen were flying in a B-24 over the Pacific Ocean on a reconnaissance mission. The plane fell apart mid-flight, crashing into the middle of ocean and killing all but three of the 11-man crew.

In the midst of the catastrophe and chaos, Louis along with his pilot Russell Allen Phillips and tail gunner Francis McNamara, found a small rubber life raft. All three avoided sharks, dodged bullets from Japanese aircraft and devised ways to catch rainwater, fish and sometimes birds.

After 33 days on the raft, Francis McNamara died. The chance of rescue for the other two men seemed bleak, until day 47, when their raft finally made landfall in the Marshall Islands.

Once they reached the island, Louie and Russell were immediately captured by Japanese forces and put in a POW camp where they were imprisoned for over two years in several infamous camps, including Ofuna, Omori and Naoetsu. Thought dead by his family, Louis faced torture worse than death.

One particular brutal guard, nicknamed “The Bird,” planned to make an example of the famous Olympian. Louis would look away from The Bird’s eyes and get punched for looking away; Louis would stare into The Bird’s eyes and get punched for staring at his eyes. The Bird would then whip Louis with a 2-pound steel buckle across the face and head. The Bird would torture, starve and force Louis to perform demeaning acts every day. It seems unthinkable, but during the two years of abuse and torture, Louis never broke down. That is a resilient spirit.

Finally, almost 28 months after his plane crashed, Louis was brought home to California. Louis tried to balance the horrors of his imprisonment with his new found celebrity status in America. His life began to spin out of control. This is not where his story ends.

Louis attributes getting his life back on track to a young evangelist named Billy Graham

who inside a revival tent changed Louis’s life forever. After his reconfirmation to his God, Louis became a missionary to the same country that had held him captive. In Japan, he preached the good word of forgiveness to the guards that tortured him during the war.

Laura Hillenbrand tells the tale of the great American hero Louis Zamperini in the appropriately titled book “Unbroken.” Born in Olean, New York in 1917, Louis moved to Torrance, California with his Italian-American family in the 1920’s. Like most rural American children of the era, he grew up poor in the Depression.

Louis’s teenage years were far different from the life he leads today, but, they were a precursor to the spunk he still exhibits some 80 years later. In his younger years, he was in and out of trouble with the law, having established a reputation on the streets of Torrance as a fighter and a thief. It was here that his older brother, Pete, discovered Louis’s talent for running.

In an effort to restore his street reputation, Louis joined the high school track team. Pete helped develop Louis’s natural athletic speed by training him, first for the mile run. By his senior year, Louis set the world’s high school record in the mile run. Soon after, he qualified to run in the 1936 Berlin Olympics where he was the top American finisher in the 5,000-meter run.

At the Berlin games, Louis’s speed caught Adolf Hitler’s attention, and Hitler sought him out for a congratulatory handshake. The dictatorship that Louis witnessed in Berlin would soon affect him personally.

After returning from the ‘36 Olympics, Louis enrolled at the University of Southern California where he earned a track scholarship. It was five years later that Louis enlisted in the U.S. Army. After Pearl Harbor, Louis was sent to Houston to train in the U.S. Air Corps bombardier school. From there, he served as a bombardier in the South Pacific during World War II.

Louis is now 94 years young. Louis has done more in his life than many can claim: he ran in the 1936 Berlin Olympics; fought in the Second World War; survived a plane crash into the ocean; and endured two years of torture at Japanese POW camps. Having lived for nearly a century, Louis still travels the country telling his story and inspiring generations to come. He still has the fight left in him—don’t let his age fool you.

Today, Louis still travels the world and tells his story of endurance and survival. His patriotic legacy of military service and plain old giving back is one of the best examples of our greatest generation in American history. Louis

is that special warrior who never forsook his duty and never forsook his honor. He was unbroken.

And that’s just the way it is.

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF JUDGE  
PETER SIKORA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Judge Peter M. Sikora.

Born on December 11, 1951, Judge Sikora was a lifelong Clevelander. He attended St. Ignatius High School where he ran track, cross country and played on the hockey team. Tragically, at the age of 17, Judge Sikora suffered a life altering trampoline accident that left him in a wheelchair. However, he was able to overcome his injury and have a successful career as a judge.

After earning an associate’s degree from Cuyahoga Community College and graduating as valedictorian from Baldwin-Wallace College, Judge Sikora earned his law degree from Case Western Reserve University. He went on to serve as deputy legal counsel for Governor Celeste in the mid-1980s before becoming deputy director and general counsel to the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

In 1989, former Governor Celeste appointed Judge Sikora to the Cuyahoga Juvenile Court where he continued to be re-elected for consecutive terms until his passing. He was the most veteran judge at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. In addition to his service, Judge Sikora was a dedicated and active member of the Greater Cleveland community. He was a board member for the Cleveland Ballet, International Services Center, Health Hill Hospital for Children and MetroHealth Rehabilitation Institute of Ohio.

I offer my condolences to his sister, Linda Baxendale; nieces and nephews, Nathan (Sara), Jared (Ashley), Aaron (Suzanne), Leah, Molly, Claire, Ava, Hatcher, Briley, Mary Grace and Jack; his caregiver, Jean Foutz and his court staff.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Judge Peter Sikora, who dedicated his life to serving the Greater Cleveland community.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this infor-

mation, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 27

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mark J. Mazur, of New Jersey, and Matthew S. Rutherford, of Illinois,

both to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Meredith M. Broadbent, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission.

SD-215

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10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Joseph G. Jordan, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, Executive Office of the President.

SD-342