

HONORING JACK ANNAN

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack Annan, Executive Director of Northeastern Junior College Alumni Association, in Sterling, Colorado. Jack was recently named "Alumni of the Plains", an award given by a non-partisan advocacy group in Northeast Colorado called Progressive 15 to individuals who have excelled in their profession and given back to Northeastern Colorado.

A lifelong Coloradoan, Jack graduated from College High School in Greeley and received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Education from Colorado State University. Jack has invested his life in education and youth development. He began his educational career teaching agriculture in New Raymer and Grover.

In 1966, Jack joined the agriculture department at NJC as a teacher. He later became a vocational counselor and then an admissions recruiter. As an admissions recruiter, he traveled thousands of miles to recruit thousands of students on behalf of NJC. In addition to currently overseeing the Alumni Association, Jack also oversees the college's Alumni Heritage Center collecting and preserving NJC's history. A popular figure, Jack is known as "Mr. NJC" on campus. In 2004, a life-size bronze statue was erected in his honor. Earlier this year, he enjoyed more than two thousand people singing him Happy Birthday at the college's 70th annual commencement ceremony.

In addition to his work at NJC, Jack is the Executive Secretary of the Colorado Young Farmers and directs their state-wide activities. They have recognized him for his many years of dedication and involvement. He is also an active member of the Sterling Lions Club.

Throughout his lifetime, Jack has received numerous awards, including being named to the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame, the Colorado Association for Career and Technical Education Hall of Fame, and the NJC Agriculture Hall of Fame. Despite regular accolades, Jack remains a modest figure. He lives with his wife, Florence, in Sterling.

Please join me in congratulating Jack on his award, his successful career, and his many contributions to the State of Colorado, particularly in relation to agriculture.

RECOGNIZING THE SUMMIT
PROJECT'S LIVING MEMORIAL
TO FALLEN VETERANS

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an organization in my state for its outstanding work to honor Maine veterans who died in the line of duty since September 11, 2001.

The Summit Project engages teams of hikers in carrying stones—some weighing up to 10 pounds—to the summits of Maine mountains. Each engraved with a fallen veteran's initials, the stones are picked by family mem-

bers from a special spot in the veteran's life. The stones come from a range of places, including childhood homes, family camps, and favorite fishing spots. And each has a story to tell about the heroes we lost.

Marine Major David J. Cote of Maine was inspired to start the Summit Project when he climbed Mt. Whitney with a group of Navy Seals. Each carried stones on the 11-mile hike up the 14,500-foot mountain to honor their fallen brothers. Maj. Cote decided to bring the practice to Maine, which has some of the highest numbers of veterans per capita in the nation.

I applaud the Summit Project for engaging people in such a fitting tribute to veterans who gave their lives in service to the country. By toiling up steep mountain trails and carrying the heavy weight of these stones, we can be reminded of the sacrifices these men and women made and the struggles they went through. At the same time, we can symbolically reconnect the fallen to the state they loved and pay respect to their families.

Mr. Speaker, physical monuments in our town squares serve an important role in ensuring that our country's fallen heroes are not forgotten. What makes this project so special, though, is that the monuments are built inside of those who participate. More than carrying stones, these hikers carry the memories of our veterans in their hearts. It's hard to think of a better way to keep the spirit of these veterans alive.

HONORING DR. WALTER LOMAX

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Dr. Walter Lomax. The phrase, "he lived a full life," is often over used these days. But, it is certainly appropriate to say just that about Dr. Lomax.

He was a medical doctor, an astute businessman and a philanthropist. In short, he saved lives in many ways. Dr. Lomax' sterling medical career alone would have been enough of a legacy for most people. But he also blazed new trails in medicine, extending his healing to the most disadvantaged—the poor and the imprisoned. In business he was a titan, creating a diversified network of enterprises that are forward looking and soundly managed. He was a creator of jobs and a boon to the local economy. And, he is remembered as one of our most generous philanthropists. He helped individuals, with power and without power, and causes too numerous to list, although that list certainly includes the Kimmel Center, Philadelphia's premier fine arts performance hall.

His generosity also broadened our understanding of our national history, as was the case in his support for the study of the slaughter of African Americans in the Tulsa Race Riot.

All told, his support of community, cultural and educational causes made this nation and the world a better place.

HONORING THE SUMMIT PROJECT

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of The Summit Project and its leader and founder, United States Marine Corps Major David J. Cote, to memorialize Maine's fallen service members since September 11, 2001.

Major Cote launched The Summit Project on Memorial Day of 2013. This outstanding initiative will recognize and pay proper tribute to the sacrifices made by our fallen service members and their families.

Beginning on Memorial Day 2014, volunteers will carry memorial stones to the summit of Mt. Katandin to honor each fallen Maine hero who was given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country during recent conflicts. Each engraved stone will bear the initials, birth year, death year, rank, and service branch of the Maine heroes who valiantly gave their lives while defending our country. The act of carrying memorial stones during tribute hikes across mountains in Maine will become a symbol of solidarity that recognizes the sacrifice of our brave Maine service members and their families.

I grew up and still live in the heart of Maine's Katandin Region, a part of our state built on a strong work ethic and devotion to service above self. Since I was a child, I have been acutely aware of the significant number of Mainers from across the region and the state who choose a life of military service to protect and defend the United States at home and abroad. I can't think of a better place than Mt. Katandin to pay tribute to our fallen heroes and the Maine values that defined their character.

As a living memorial, the Summit Project was created to honor the fallen while challenging the living. The Summit Project ensures that the spirit and sacrifice of our fallen Maine heroes will not be forgotten, and it creates an environment in which their surviving family and friends may continue the healing process. The project exemplifies the values of the people of Maine: service, loyalty, patriotism, and selflessness.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent Maine, the creators of the Summit Project, and the Katandin Region in Congress. Soon, Maine's highest peak will host a fitting dedication to the memory of Maine's bravest.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the members of The Summit Project and Major David J. Cote as they honor the service members from Maine who lost their lives protecting our freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF BREAST
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast Cancer is the most common cancer among women in the U.S. and also the

most common cancer found among every ethnic and racial group in America. Thanks to continuous research efforts to improve breast cancer treatment, the mortality rate for this cancer is gradually declining.

According to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Organization, in 2013, it is estimated that among U.S. women there will be 232,340 new cases of invasive breast cancer and 39,620 breast cancer deaths. It is also estimated that 27,060 new cases of breast cancer and 6,080 deaths are expected to occur among African American women.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among African American women and the second leading cause of cancer death among African American women exceeded only by lung cancer. Studies have found that African American women often have aggressive tumors with a poorer prognosis which leads to a higher mortality rate.

Breast cancer incidence in African American women is lower than in White women overall. However, for women younger than 45, incidence is higher among African American women than White women. Breast cancer mortality is 41 percent higher in African American women than in White women. Although breast cancer survival in African American women has increased in recent decades, survival rates remain lower than among White women.

Over the past 20 years, progress in both early detection and treatment has led to improved survival for people of all ages and races, and with all stages of breast cancer. Between 1990 and 2009, breast cancer mortality declined by 33 percent among women in the United States.

According to the National Cancer Institute, between 2003 and 2009, 89.2 percent of women diagnosed with breast cancer survived 5 years or more after being diagnosed with breast cancer. Death rates have been falling on average 1.9 percent each year over the last 10 years and this is due to the advances in treatment.

Though we have been successful in improving our treatment of Breast Cancer, we still must provide adequate research funding to find a cure for the disease. I therefore stand in honor of all breast cancer patients and survivors to urge my colleagues to support cancer research and ensure that the current and future breast cancer patients have an increased fighting chance for survival.

TRIBUTE TO KOJO NNAMDI

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kojo Nnamdi for his outstanding contributions to journalism in the District of Columbia and the national capital region, and in congratulating him on the occasion of his 15th anniversary at WAMU 88.5, the leading public radio station serving D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

For more than four decades, Kojo Nnamdi has been a source for issues of importance and of interest that has made him a fixture on the airwaves in the Washington region, on radio and television. Born in Guyana, South

America, Kojo has been one of us in the District since 1969, when he came here to develop an independent Black curriculum for the Center for Black Education. Kojo soon began putting on radio plays, and then doing radio news at WHUR radio, where he was news editor, news reporter, and became news director. In 1985, Kojo moved to public television at Howard University Television, where he became a master of hosting a great variety of guests on many subjects on Evening Exchange for more than 20 years. In 1998, Kojo joined WAMU 88.5 as a host of a show called Public Interest. The show soon took on his distinctive name, along with his distinctive voice.

Since joining WAMU 88.5, Kojo has brought the Kojo Nnamdi Show into communities across our region, documenting transformations and educating residents about the issues that span the interests and concerns of the region. His show casts a broad net, covering politics, culture, the arts, and education. His interviews and live debates among candidates, and always probing and informed questions, have helped hold elected leaders accountable. While covering national and international concerns alike, Kojo never forgets where he lives and the struggle of the residents of the District of Columbia for full voting rights, budget autonomy, and statehood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kojo Nnamdi and the entire team at the Kojo Nnamdi Show for their 15 years of outstanding service to the field of journalism and to the residents of the District of Columbia and the national capital region.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SOUTH WARD FIRE COMPANY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATIONS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the South Ward Fire Company of Tamaqua, Pennsylvania. This year marks their 100th anniversary as a firefighting unit.

Organized on October 22, 1913, the South Ward Fire Company has dedicated itself to preserving the safety, property and well-being of Tamaqua residents and surrounding communities for a century. Since the early 20th Century, the operation has grown from using a hand-drawn horse cart out of rented space at the Vulcan Ironworks on Spruce Street to erecting three new stations. The South Ward Fire Company today regularly maintains and updates its equipment and methods of operation, serving as a model fire and emergency response organization. The Company is composed of a competent and disciplined team of volunteer firefighters who are committed, well-trained and dedicated responders to fires and other emergencies.

I offer my congratulations to the South Ward Fire Company on achieving this remarkable milestone, and I applaud them for providing effective fire and emergency services to their fellow citizens for the past 100 years.

RECOGNIZING DR. MICHAEL F. MURPHY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Michael F. Murphy, who will be retiring as superintendent of Clarke County Public Schools on June 30th, 2014. Dr. Murphy has served in this role since 2008.

I submit the following article from the Winchester Star, which is the text of Dr. Murphy's retirement announcement, delivered at a Clarke County School Board meeting on Monday, October 28th. [As reported by the Winchester Star on October 29, 2013]

OPEN FORUM: 'INCREDIBLE JOURNEY'

I will always remember the evening of June 12, 2008 . . .

Marie and I, along with School Board Chairman Robina Rich Bouffault and Interim Superintendent John Taylor, had just finished dinner and dessert at V2 in Winchester. Robina reached into her purse, presented me with an envelope, and asked that I consider becoming the next superintendent of the Clarke County Public Schools. She was more than ecstatic, and I was honored, humbled, and, to be honest, just a little bit surprised.

Looking back, it has been an incredible journey. For last five-plus years, I have been blessed to have worked with some of the most outstanding individuals in the field of public education. They are passionate, caring, and want the best for each and every student. They are administrators, teachers, technologists, instructional assistants, bus drivers, custodians, secretaries and office managers.

There are countless others who, while unnamed this evening, provide the leadership and support to help Clarke County Public Schools be one of the best-kept secrets in the Commonwealth. Together, with the help of great parents and guardians, they have nurtured and supported the children of this community, built technology networks and schools, and ensured that each and every student has had the best possible education they could provide. Their list of accomplishments is beyond reproach; I commend each and every one of them for their service.

Their voices may be quiet, but their hearts are big and full of hope, energy, and enthusiasm. They are my champions. They are the 99 percent. And they are the true leaders of Clarke County.

I would also like to take a moment to thank Janet Creager Alger and Barbara P. Lee for their steadfast support and encouragement. Janet is the only sitting School Board member from the board that hired me, and Barbara joined soon after. Thank you both for your unwavering leadership, service, and support.

As we go forward into November and start the Fiscal Year 2015 budget process, I would like to again share with our community that we are one of only 36 school divisions in the Commonwealth fully accredited; that we are proud of our 97.3 percent on time graduation rate, and that 75 percent of our high-school graduates received an advanced diploma. We offer International Baccalaureate and academic, athletic, music and arts programs that are second to none. We support a host of expanded opportunities for students of all ages, and our applied behavior analysis program serves as a model for the Commonwealth. Yes, we certainly have a lot to be proud of, and this is just the short list . . .