

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MEMORIAL TO DONALD HECKARD

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today with a heavy heart; yet, also with personal pride to pay tribute to a great American, Hoosier, mentor, and friend to many: Donald H. Heckard. Don was born on June 19, 1924, in Cass County, Indiana, and he passed away March 1, 2013.

Countless Hoosier friends marked the passing of an iconic figure who cast a significant influence over Indiana politics and vocational education for nearly a half century. For many of the current generation, Don Heckard was the archetypal Hoosier Republican. Conservative in matters of personal and public finance, Don's key to success was his ability to assess an issue, make good decisions, and apply hard work and dedication to the task at hand. Don spent his entire life as a steward of the land in Noble Township, Cass County and was proud to be called a farmer. He was also the owner operator of Logan City Ice Company for thirty three years. To all those who bought ice bags in central Indiana on a hot summer day, Don was known as "Logan Ice."

With strong beliefs in his community and love of family, Don actively served his church in Logansport, Indiana, as a deacon, trustee, elder and Sunday school teacher. Don was appointed by then Governor Otis Bowen as a State Director and Chairman of the Board of the Ivy Tech Community College. Don presided over a period of dramatic growth and development of the regional campus program.

Gerald Gerry Lamkin, President of Ivy Tech Community College, 1983–2007, in his book, "Building Indiana's Community College: My 40-Year Journey," paid tribute to Don Heckard as follows:

I've written much about Don Heckard of Logansport. Of many exceptional members of the State Board of Trustees, none was better than Heckard. I'm not sure what made him so effective? Perhaps it was that he was a farmer, businessman and politician and good at all of them. (As a district party chair, he sat on the Republican state committee. Political people from across Indiana and the nation sought his advice and still do.) A thoughtful man, he's loyal to friends and associates. He sizes up situations well, consistently makes good decisions, possesses excellent judgment and is unflappable. He doesn't argue for perfection, but does expect effort and effectiveness. These qualities made him an extraordinary trustee.

Don had a deep love for his country and expressed his patriotism by his active involvement in politics. He served as a County Councilman for eleven years, and beginning in the 1970s, as Cass County Republican Chairman, Second and Fifth Congressional District Chairman during the governorships of Otis Bowen and Robert Orr, contributing significantly to their election and to Republican control of the legislature during the period. Don served as a

committed Ford delegate to the GOP National Convention that nominated Gerald Ford for the presidency in 1976, and subsequently served as State Chairman of Farmers for Ford. As a Congressional District chairman, Don served on the Republican State Committee and was a delegate to thirteen Indiana Republican State Conventions. Don was also a mentor and personal advisor to Congressman Steve Buyer for 18 years.

Indiana has a special way to recognize one of the state's favorite sons and daughters by awarding the Sagamore of the Wabash as Indiana's highest citizen award. Don was twice an honoree named Sagamore of the Wabash, once by Governor Otis Bowen and the other by Governor Robert Orr.

Don was a noble businessman, civic and political leader, and devoted family man from what American history has crowned the greatest generation. His principles, work ethic, virtues, and values have left positive impressions to the betterment of others in a manner in which the name of Donald H. Heckard will be forever etched in our National Book of Remembrance.

HONORING THE 192ND ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, today I stand with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in honoring a joyous day for our proud constituents of Greek and Cypriot descent. As an enthusiastic member of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, I am truly honored to commemorate the 192nd Anniversary of Greek Independence and celebrate the ties that connect our two great democracies in strength and fellowship.

In reflecting on Greece and America's longstanding tradition as friends and allies, we also honor the accomplishments of countless Greek and Cypriot Americans, many of which first immigrated to our country and grew their livelihoods in New York City, a longstanding bastion America's magnificent diversity. I represent the 11th Congressional District of New York and am proud to serve a large and thriving Greek and Cypriot American community. The remarkable cultural festivals thrown by the Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Bay Ridge, or the Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Churches on the West Shore of Staten Island are beloved neighborhood celebrations that are looked forward to by residents of all backgrounds every year. The countless businesses, services, and entrepreneurial endeavors provided by Greek and Cypriot Americans in Staten Island and Brooklyn attest to the strength of, and support for, this thriving community.

Greek Independence Day is an ideal moment for all Americans to contemplate the

roots of our own democratic tradition. It is important to remember that when the Founding Fathers set out to structure our young republic on firm footing, many of the laws and principles were based on the ancient political philosophy of the Greeks. Appreciating the very architecture of the United States Capitol, our Temple of Freedom, or reading through the Constitution reveals the profound impact the culture and history of Greece has had on our modern customs and institutions.

It is with great pride that I rise today to honor the independence of a nation that, for centuries, has championed the very rights it has had the distinct honor and privilege of nurturing into existence: those of liberty and participation in the democratic process. I have come to know first-hand the vibrant cultural heritage Greek and Cypriot Americans offer to local communities in Staten Island and Brooklyn, and I have every confidence that the common bonds between the United States, Cyprus, and Greece shall live on for generations to come.

CHRISTINE COOPER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christine Cooper for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Christine Cooper is an 8th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christine Cooper is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christine Cooper for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 75, final passage of the SKILLS Act on March 15, 2013, it was my intention to vote in support of final passage. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

HONORING VU QUANG NINH

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I heard of the passing of my late friend, Mr. Vu Quang Ninh, founder of Little Saigon Radio and a media trailblazer in the Vietnamese American community. Mr. Ninh passed away peacefully in Orange County at age 82.

Mr. Ninh lived a very prosperous and productive life, dedicated to public service. His career spanned more than half a century in both Vietnam and the United States. Mr. Ninh grew up in turbulent times during the Vietnam War. He was called on by Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem of Vietnam to take charge of Armed Forces Radio right after his graduation from the Army Academy. Mr. Ninh later served as the head of the youth department in Central Vietnam and produced many radio programs, collaborating by the United States and the Republic of South Vietnam government.

After the fall of Vietnam, Mr. Ninh resettled in California but the dream of becoming a radio man never left him. In 1980, he established Radio Tieng Vong Que Huong (Echo of the Motherland), which lasted for 3 years. Mr. Ninh paved the way for the Vietnamese-Americans in the world of radio broadcast when he established Little Saigon Radio. He turned the station into a strong and constructive voice for the community. Today, my thoughts are with his family, friends and the Little Saigon Radio family. His loss will be remembered and felt by all those who were inspired by his legacy.

DARLENE TAPIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Darlene Tapia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Darlene Tapia is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Darlene Tapia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Darlene Tapia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RED CROSS MONTH

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, since 1943, every President has declared March as "Red Cross Month." This year is no exception. As the Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I recently was able to visit the National Red Cross, along with the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee—Mr. PAYNE, Jr. from New Jersey, to learn about their operations and show our support. During the visit, we learned that each year the Red Cross responds to about 70,000 natural and man-made disasters, ranging from small incidents, like house fires, to large-scale disasters like Hurricane Sandy and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Additionally, the Red Cross, through numerous blood drives, provides approximately 40 percent of the Nation's blood supply.

The visit also provided us with the opportunity to tour the Digital Operations Center. The Digital Operations Center is the first social media-monitoring platform dedicated to humanitarian relief. The Digital Operations Center equips the Red Cross to better share safety and preparedness tips during natural disasters and aims to empower communities suffering during disasters to use social tools to seek help. After visiting the Digital Operations Center, I was very impressed with how the Red Cross has begun to leverage social media and uses smartphone apps to keep citizens informed before, during, and after disasters.

I am personally thankful for the Greater Indianapolis Red Cross chapter and its volunteers. This chapter has truly embraced the Red Cross ethos of turning "compassion into action." Just last year, volunteer Disaster Action Teams responded to more than 500 house fires and assisted over 700 families in recovering from emergencies and disasters. Additionally, more than 30 volunteers from East and Central Indiana were an integral part of the Red Cross' relief operations after deadly tornadoes struck Southern Indiana in March of last year. These examples highlight just a few of the capabilities a typical local Red Cross chapter can offer.

In the upcoming weeks, when you are back in your Congressional District, please take a moment to thank your local Red Cross for all the work they do. The Red Cross is vital to our Nation's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, regardless of the size, and they deserve our appreciation.

SHIPYARD LAYS KEEL OF THE JOHN WARNER SUBMARINE**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that former Virginia Senator and Secretary of the Navy John Warner was honored last Saturday at a keel laying ceremony

at Newport News Shipbuilding, a subsidiary of Huntington Ingalls Industries. This is a special occasion for the Navy and the Commonwealth of Virginia as the *John Warner* SSN 785, a 377-foot nuclear-powered submarine, is the first *Virginia*-class fast attack submarine to be named after a person. The submarine's apt namesake shows John Warner's dedication to the service of our country. Construction of the 12th *Virginia*-class submarine began in 2009 and it is scheduled to be delivered to the Navy in 2015. I am pleased to have served with John Warner in Congress and submit a Daily Press accounting of the ceremony.

[From the Daily Press, Mar. 17, 2013]

SHIPYARD LAYS KEEL OF THE JOHN WARNER SUBMARINE

(By Michael Welles Shapiro)

On Saturday the former lawmaker whose fingerprints are all over Newport News Shipbuilding's involvement in the construction of *Virginia*-class nuclear submarines watched as his initials were welded onto a piece of the shipyard's latest boat.

In a rarity in military shipbuilding, the shipyard laid the keel of a fast-attack submarine with its namesake, former senator and Secretary of the Navy John Warner, in attendance.

The boat is the 12th in the *Virginia*-class program and it is scheduled for delivery to the Navy in 2015. The shipyard, a unit of Huntington Ingalls Industries, builds the boats in partnership with General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., a unique arrangement that Warner is credited with helping to start.

Shipyard president Matt Mulherin said naming the latest submarine for Warner is fitting because "he led the efforts to create this teaming agreement between Newport News Shipbuilding and Electric Boat to cooperatively build these submarines."

Navy leaders also spoke glowingly of the joint construction program. Adm. John Richardson, the director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, said, "the on-time, on-cost, on-quality implementation of this program is well-known."

Warner also received accolades from lawmakers in attendance.

Sen. Mark Warner, who is no relation, said he admired the former senator for being a politician who was willing to set aside politics when push came to shove.

Mark Warner, a Democrat, said that when he was governor, John Warner, a Republican, spoke out in support of a Mark Warner budget bill that had stalled during a partisan tug of war.

"We could use a lot more John Warners in the United States Congress at this point," he said.

John Warner's wife, Jeanne, is the submarine's sponsor.

To close the ceremony the couple chalked their initials on a steel plate before shipyard worker Matthew Shilling welded the letters onto the metal.

Shilling, 27, said after the ceremony that he'd been practicing welding block letters during the week leading up to the keel laying.

But Warner threw the shipbuilder a curve when he wrote his "J" in cursive with a flourish. "I was nervous," Shilling said, saying he's more accustomed to working in a loud construction environment.

Warner also improvised a bit as the ceremony wrapped up.

The Navy and Marine Corps veteran made an unexpected gesture to show that the submarine represents not just him but an entire generation that served in World War II.

He asked the sub's prospective commanding officer, Cmdr. Dan Caldwell, to