

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. CHRISTOPHER M. THOMFORDE, PRESIDENT OF MORAVIAN COLLEGE AND MORAVIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Christopher M. Thomforde, who has ably served as the 15th President of Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for the past seven years, and will be stepping down in July.

When Dr. Thomforde announced his intention to retire, he expressed that Moravian College and Seminary needs a president with "abounding energy, aspiration, and imagination." He has surely exemplified those values in his years of service to Moravian College, its students, faculty, the Bethlehem community and the greater Lehigh Valley.

One of Dr. Thomforde's most steadfast pursuits during his tenure has been recruiting and supporting a diverse student body that reflects the surrounding community and honors the College's founding principles and mission. The Moravian tradition is exemplified by the words of the Unity of Brethren Bishop John Amos Comenius, the "father of modern education," who wrote in 1632 that "not the children of the rich or of the powerful only, but of all alike, boys and girls, both noble and ignoble, rich and poor, in all cities and towns, villages and hamlets, should be sent to school." Dr. Thomforde has continued to challenge Moravian College to live by those values even during difficult economic times.

During his presidency, Dr. Thomforde has overseen the renovation of the Collier Hall of Science, the construction of the 231-bed Hurd Integrated Living and Learning Community between East Church and Lehigh streets, the construction of a state of the art Fitness Center and the renovation of the Hauptert Union Building on the main campus. His vision has been instrumental in establishing Advancing Into Moravian, a three-week summer program that helps incoming freshmen transition from high school to college life, and IN FOCUS, a year-long program to promote in-depth examination of complex issues, such as poverty, sustainability, health care, and war & peace, from multidisciplinary perspectives.

Dr. Thomforde came to Moravian after a distinguished career which included: serving as the president of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota for five years; president of Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas; chaplain and teaching in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Susquehanna University; pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dansville; assistant chaplain and instructor in philosophy and religion at Colgate University; and teaching Western languages and medieval European history at Tunghai University, Taichung, Taiwan.

Dr. Thomforde earned a B.A. in medieval and Russian history from Princeton University in 1969. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School in 1974, with concentrations in biblical studies, church history, and philosophy. Dr. Thomforde was awarded a D. Min. from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2000, and Susquehanna University awarded him an honorary D.D. in 2001.

I wish Chris and his wife, Kathy, the best as they pursue the next chapter of their life, and I thank them for their service to Moravian College, the Moravian community as a whole, and the Lehigh Valley.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COUNTY COMMISSIONER PETER F. RUNYON

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize Mr. Peter Runyon of Edwards, Colorado. Peter has just stepped down as a two-term county commissioner for the great county of Eagle, Colorado.

Being a commissioner in one of the country's premier resort communities has its challenges, but Peter approached the job with integrity and passion. He served his citizens with a steadfast commitment to making the place they call home a better place in which to live and work. Peter's concerns about community growth and sustainability were the hallmark of his tenure and many important things resulted from his labors.

His pursuit of smart growth, collaborative governing, transportation planning and open space have resulted in important changes in land use regulations, intergovernmental cooperation and a very successful voter-approved open space program, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, It is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Peter Runyon on behalf of the residents of the 2nd Congressional District and myself. His contributions to Eagle County will remain his legacy for many years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF COLONEL DEAN F. SCHNOOR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Colonel Dean F. Schnoor. Colonel Schnoor was a proud resident of Northwest Florida where he retired after serving his nation with honor and distinction.

Colonel Schnoor was born in the small town of Perry, Iowa on June 3, 1925. Colonel Schnoor's service to his country began with his studies at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. After graduating in 1950, Colonel Schnoor embarked on more than 28 years of faithful service to our great country as an Army officer. During his career, Colonel Schnoor earned a Master's in Public Administration at Shippensburg State College, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania and also graduated from both the Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. Colonel Schnoor's outstanding leadership, service and sacrifice contributed significantly in the defense of our nation while assigned to numerous overseas duty locations including the Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Korea, Germany, and Vietnam.

In addition to his outstanding leadership as a member of our Armed Forces, Colonel Schnoor was also a devoted leader in the Northwest Florida community. Following Colonel Schnoor's retirement from the Army in 1979, he established and managed a small business called Whispering Pines Christmas Tree Farm in Allentown, Florida. This family-run farm is a treasured institution in Northwest Florida where residents often gather year after year to select their family Christmas tree. Colonel Schnoor's farm also includes a petting zoo with animals such as goats and turkeys which has been cherished by countless families from across the region.

To some, Colonel Dean Schnoor will be remembered as a patriot, who answered the call of duty on numerous occasions with honor, distinction and bravery. To others, he will be remembered as an integral part of the Northwest Florida community who left behind a lasting legacy. To his family, Colonel Schnoor will always be remembered as a loving husband, devoted father to his children, and as a proud grandfather and great-grandfather. His contributions to our nation, and his community will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life and service of Colonel Dean F. Schnoor. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to Colonel Schnoor's wife, Joyce, his 10 children, 26 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and the entire Schnoor family.

SEPTA

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority. I am proud to congratulate SEPTA on receiving the 2012 American Public Transportation Association's 2012 Award for "Outstanding Public Transportation System."

• 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.

There has been much debate in our nation's capital as to the most effective way to grow our economy in these difficult times. However, lawmakers from both parties agree that without a modern transportation infrastructure, we cannot compete in a 21st century global economy.

SEPTA has taken the lead in the Philadelphia region and in the nation by making effective investments to modernize its own infrastructure and by providing a more complete and enhanced customer service experience.

I have seen firsthand the result of these efforts with the opening of improved stations in Langhorne and Croydon, two Bucks County communities served by SEPTA's regional rail system. These upgrades have a real impact on the day-to-day lives of thousands of commuters and are an asset to our region. The hard work and dedication of the men and women and SEPTA are evident not just in increasing ridership, but also in their recognition by the APTA as our nation's leading public transportation system. Congratulations once again to everyone at SEPTA. I am confident that you will continue to lead the nation in 2013.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF
FORMER PEORIA MAYOR JIM
MALOOF

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of former mayor of Peoria, Illinois, Jim Maloof, who passed away at the age of 93 on January 19, 2013. There is no doubt that Peoria will sorely miss its greatest champion, but his legacy lives on in the city he rebuilt and in the hearts of all who were touched by his generosity. It is difficult to capture a life that was as impactful as Jim Maloof's, but many noteworthy tributes have been written. I want to share just some of the high points in the life of this extraordinary man.

Born in the back of his parents' Peoria grocery store in 1919, Jim would live his life as a true son of the city. Even as a child, his warm spirit and merry character drew people to him, and his legendary penchant for singing began in childhood. As he grew up, Jim became a successful businessman in Peoria, operating a dry cleaner and then a real estate firm that continues to thrive today.

One of Jim's most enduring and powerful legacies is his contributions to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. In 1971, he met Danny Thomas, the founder of St. Jude, and agreed to help raise funds for an expansion of the hospital. Jim proved to be a prolific fundraiser, and one of my favorite stories about him from this time was his use of song and dance routines in his pitches. Just one year later, in 1972, he became the national Executive Vice-President of St. Jude's and opened the first affiliated clinic in the country right in Peoria, Illinois.

The impact of Jim's work with St. Jude is difficult to overstate. St. Jude has given thousands of children a chance at long and healthy lives after receiving a diagnosis that was once considered a death sentence. The research done by St. Jude has advanced

treatments and cures for dozens of diseases. But beyond the material, as in all things, Jim's most important contribution to the children and families of St. Jude was hope. Jim's passion for healing manifested itself in a different way in 1984 when he decided to run for mayor of Peoria. At that time, Peoria was experiencing a period of economic downturn, with thousands of layoffs, a diminishing population, and a dying downtown area. "Would the last one to leave Peoria turn out the lights?" was a common saying in the area at the time.

As with all great figures in history, from Abraham Lincoln to Martin Luther King, Jim Maloof was uniquely suited to his time. When most people looked around Peoria in 1985, they saw a dying city and little reason for hope. Jim Maloof looked around the same city—his city—and saw something worth saving. His vision looked past the boarded up downtown and the vacant houses to the people who, with just a little inspiration, could turn it all around.

And that is exactly what happened. After being elected, Mayor Maloof threw open the doors of government to the citizens and businesses of Peoria and gave everyone a role in revitalizing their hometown. Committees of volunteers developed and implemented projects to revamp the downtown area, including the addition of the Peoria Civic Center, draw new businesses to Peoria, and grow existing ones. Jim's faith in the city was boundless and infectious. Another of my favorite stories about Jim is the mugs he had made listing the great cities of the world: New York, Paris, London, and Peoria, and he affectionately referred to Peoria as the "Little Apple". In 1989, only four years after Mayor Maloof took office, Peoria was named an All-American City.

But the real gift that Jim gave to Peoria was pride. He was an unabashed champion for the city, using his gift for song and his limitless energy to revive the spirits of a dejected town. After serving three terms as mayor, Jim reentered the private sector, but his presence as a Peoria landmark remained undiminished as he hosted telethons for St. Jude, Christmas carol singing every year in the downtown he rebuilt, and participated in community events.

Jim Maloof played in Peoria. He inspired us and challenged us to do more and reach higher, and to do everything with a cheerful heart and a song. His music will live on in the lives of the children saved by his work with St. Jude and in the city he loved.

RECOGNIZING PAUL PLATTNER'S
CAREER OF CREATING WORK OP-
PORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Paul Plattner on the occasion of his retirement after 39 years of service to NISH and the AbilityOne Program, through which he has helped identify and create work opportunities for the blind and for people with disabilities here and in communities across America.

Mr. Plattner began his career at NISH in 1974, working as a part-time bookkeeper two

and a half days a month. It wasn't long before he advanced from that humble beginning to take on a number of other roles and duties, currently serving as Vice President for Operations. He has worked directly with, and earned the respect of, staff in every major federal agency. He also has developed close working relationships with community rehabilitation programs across the Nation.

Under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, the AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from community-based nonprofits that train and employ individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities. Whether it is performing custodial services, packing medical kits for our troops, working in food service or one of many other duties, AbilityOne workers are making a positive difference in our community. I and many of my colleagues here in the House, both Democrat and Republican, are AbilityOne Champions, and we know firsthand the positive effect this program has not only for the individuals and their families, but also for us as well.

Mr. Plattner has dedicated his life's work to helping provide residents with disabilities in every community with the opportunity to learn new skills, to succeed in a workplace environment, and to gain greater independence and quality of life. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Plattner for his heartfelt commitment to improving the lives of those with disabilities and in wishing him well in his retirement.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF SAINT PATRICK PAR-
ISH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Saint Patrick Parish in Chatham, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 125th Anniversary in January of 2013.

The Township of Chatham gained a local, stable Irish population in response to the terrible potato famine in Ireland, in the 1840s. These Catholic families picked up and settled in Chatham, regularly attending mass in a local Madison Parish. However, these immigrants decided they needed a local parochial school for their children since all other options were deemed to be too far. The St. Patrick Catholic School was incorporated in 1875, followed by the completion of a new building for parishioners in 1887, marking the birth of the St. Patrick Parish. After renovations due to fires in the early 20th century, the Parish built a new church in 1955. As the church continued to grow, it decided to establish a new Parish Center in 1989 which would house a rectory, convent and youth ministry in addition to providing resources for program expansion. This center, in 2009, was named after the late, beloved Father Hinds.

The demographics of the once predominantly Irish church have grown significantly to include members of many different heritages such as Italian, Polish, Asian, and Hispanic that reside in Chatham. The parishioners have also begun several ministry programs such as Environmental Stewardship, Christmas in a