

HONORING JOHN AND GWEN
SLOOP

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Dr. John and Mrs. Gwen Sloop on the occasion of their retirement after 27 years of devoted service to First Presbyterian Church.

As senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg, Virginia, Dr. Sloop is a true spiritual leader dedicated to his flock. A powerful preacher, he is a man "on fire" for Jesus. He has been a champion for global missions and has lead dozens of others to follow him into the missionary field. He has been actively involved in Presbyterians for Renewal, the Presbyterian Coalition, the Confessing Church movement and has served on the board of the Presbyterian Outreach Foundation.

Mrs. Sloop has earned a reputation for her selflessness and kindness, routinely demonstrated by her outstanding work with children. Along with her husband, she attended Gordon-Conwell Seminary in Boston before transferring to Columbia Seminary in Atlanta, graduating in 1973. For 13 years they served the growing congregation of the Lithonia Presbyterian Church in the suburbs of Atlanta.

The Sloops are passionate about seeing the Presbyterian Church renewed and growing again. Under their stewardship, First Presbyterian has grown to more than 1,100 members and more than 500 attendees for Sunday services since they were called there in 1986. They are loving parents to three children and devoted grandparents to five grandchildren.

I have had the privilege of attending First Presbyterian Church under the direction of Dr. and Mrs. Sloop. I know them to be dearly beloved by the entire congregation. Though they will be truly missed, we know they will continue to inspire many more followers, just as they have inspired my family and me.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to recognize Dr. and Mrs. Sloop. Their generosity and commitment to leaving this world better than they found it is an inspiration to us all and deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate them on their retirement and wish them continued success and happiness in the next chapter of their lives together.

HONORING THE DUGAS FAMILY OF
IBERIA PARISH FOR THEIR
SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the service of the Antoine and Emma Dugas Family, who selflessly served as aircraft spotters during World War II in Iberia Parish, Louisiana. Their dedication to country, spending countless hours watching the skies of our Gulf Coast as a first line of defense against an aerial assault, deserves our thanks and recognition.

Emma and Antoine Dugas moved from the Atchafalaya Basin area to Lake Dauterive, Iberia Parish, in 1927 following the great floods that predated our Louisiana levee system. At the advent of the war, due to the rural, isolated location of their home, the family was approached by the U.S. Army Air Force to serve as aircraft spotters. This required studying and memorizing various types of aircraft by sight, filling out reports of their surveillance and calling in any observations of aircraft they might spot in the skies. The family faithfully carried out this duty from June 24, 1943 until the war's end in 1945.

Until now, Antoine and Emma Dugas, and their children, Claude "Nook" Dugas, Mabel "Pie" Broussard, Melba "Eunice" Dugas Verret, Antoine "Tan" Dugas, Jr., and John Gabriel "Creed" Dugas, have received no special recognition for their service. Today I would like to take the opportunity to recognize and thank these citizens for their service and hold them up as an example of sacrifice and dedication in service of our country.

This month, on May 19, 2013, the Dugas family will come together at Lake Fausse Pointe State Park—significant due to its approximate location as a midpoint between the Bayou Chene area where the family lived in the basin, and the Lake Dauterive area where the family moved to build their first home on land. As they remember their family history, we thank them for their service and commend them on a job well done.

DISCOVERY SCIENCE CENTER,
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 2013
NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM
AND LIBRARY SERVICE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today, the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, California will be presented with the 2013 National Medal for Museum and Library Service by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

In recognition of their outstanding public service and dedicated community outreach to the families, schools and residents of Orange County, the Discovery Science Center will be given one of our nation's highest honors in the area of arts and humanities.

The Discovery Science Center exemplifies the innovative ways in which a museum can strengthen our communities and foster the creative and educational integrity in our youth. The humanities are an important part of our national fabric and institutions like the Discovery Science Center are inspiring, educating and leading our nation's future.

Congratulations Discovery Science Center and thank you for making Orange County proud.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MPS
AWARENESS DAY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the National MPS Society for their 38 years of supporting families while searching for cures for this genetic disease. Mucopolysaccharidosis or MPS is a group of genetically determined lysosomal storage diseases that render the human body incapable of producing certain enzymes needed to break down complex carbohydrates. The damage caused by MPS on a cellular level adversely affects the body and damages the heart, respiratory system, bones, internal organs, and central nervous system. MPS often results in intellectual disabilities, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and, most importantly, a drastically shortened life span. Symptoms of MPS are usually not apparent at birth and without treatment; the life expectancy of an individual affected begins to decrease at a very early stage in their life. Research towards combating MPS has resulted in the development of limited treatments for some of the MPS diseases.

I ask my colleagues and their staff to join me in recognizing May 15, 2013 as National MPS Awareness Day. This is an important time during which the MPS disease community will help increase the awareness of this devastating disease, as well as supporting research to improve treatments, find cures and receive early diagnosis. The MPS families are encouraged to reflect and support each other and to reach out to those families who have lost loved ones to MPS. By wearing their purple ribbons and sharing these ribbons within their community, they are increasing public awareness about this disease. This date is also the start of the National MPS Run/Walk season along with other local community activities to raise awareness along with money for research and for family assistance programs. I commend the National MPS Society and their many volunteers for an unwavering commitment to bring about awareness of this disease and to continue to advocate for federal legislation to streamline the regulatory processes and to speed effective treatments and cures for their loved ones. More must be done to find cures and effective treatments, but let us reflect on the importance of this day. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in commemorating National MPS Awareness Day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS
HOME LOAN REFINANCE OPPOR-
TUNITY ACT OF 2013

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Home Loan Refinance Opportunity Act of 2013. This bipartisan legislation improves the federal Qualified

Veterans Mortgage Bonds (QVMB) program to allow eligible States to use tax-free bond proceeds to refinance the home mortgages of our military veterans.

This legislation is necessary during our troubled economic times. QVMB home loan financing was not available to newly discharged veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan until passage of the Heroes Earning Assistance Relief Tax Act of 2008 (H.R. 6081) in the 110th Congress.

Prior to 2008, some veterans may have taken out adjustable-rate mortgages (ARM) to purchase a home during the real estate boom earlier in the decade. It is only fair to them that they have the same opportunity as newly discharged veterans to take advantage of the low-interest, fixed rate mortgages available through QVMB financing.

For some veterans with a costly ARM or interest-only mortgage, this legislation could prevent a foreclosure.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this legislation includes an inflation index to ensure the QVMB program remains viable in the future.

I urge passage of the Veterans Home Loan Refinance Opportunity Act.

CELEBRATING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Nation's public servants and thank them for their invaluable contributions to our country.

In every community, federal employees work to make sure the government is effective, promote the common good and keep us safe. They are the people you call when you need help. As we celebrate Public Service Recognition Week, which started on Sunday, May 5, and ends on Saturday, May 11, I rise to express my gratitude to our civil servants for their tireless dedication and service.

Federal employees often get little recognition for their work, despite the fact that day in and day out many of them are repeatedly put in dangerous situations. From the Customs and Border Patrol and DEA agents working to combat illegal immigration and human trafficking and drug runners, to the FBI agents rescuing children who have been kidnapped and finding suspected terrorists—federal employees perform vital jobs that make our country a safer and better place.

Every day intelligence agents and Foreign Service officers on the front lines of duty sacrifice to defend democracy and keep us safe. The CIA agents who coordinated the raid to kill Osama bin Laden are federal employees. On the evening of the September 11, 2012 terrorist attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya, the Foreign Service officers representing our government at the consulate and annex where the attack occurred were federal employees.

In addition to providing security abroad, federal employees regularly risk their lives to protect us here at home. Just last month, FBI and ATF agents worked diligently to track down the suspects in the Boston Marathon bombings. Without their hard work, we could not

bring the individuals responsible for these unspeakable acts to justice.

It is also important to recognize that many federal employees who are not directly in harm's way graciously serve our Nation. Nurses and doctors at the VA who care for our veterans and wounded warriors, medical researchers at NIH searching for a cure for cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and autism are all federal employees. The FDA inspectors who trace E. coli and salmonella outbreaks to ensure that our food is safe to eat are federal employees.

There are federal employees who propel our country to the forefront of scientific advancements. Scientists at Department of Energy labs, NASA astronauts, engineers and scientists all work to keep America competitive in the increasingly global economy. Meteorologists at weather service storm centers track hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, and blizzards so that we can prepare for inclement weather and natural disasters.

Defense civilian riggers, machinists, refuelers, and engineers who repair sophisticated electronic weaponry systems at our Army depots, Air Force bases, and shipyards are the federal employees who support our military personnel. Air traffic controllers work to make sure we are safe when we travel. Federal firefighters protect homes and businesses when a lightning strike sets a national forest on fire. Park Service rangers facilitate safe hiking and camping in our national parks and tours of our national battlefields.

These are but a few of the essential services federal employees provide. I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking them for their service to ensure the safety and security of our Nation.

MIKE AND CORKY HALE STOLLER CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL THE- ATER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on April 27th, in Montgomery, Alabama, leaders of the civil rights movement and the Southern Poverty Law Center came together to dedicate the Mike Stoller and Corky Hale Stoller Civil Rights Memorial Theater.

It is appropriate that the theater is named for Mike and Corky because of their ongoing commitment to the civil rights movement. The Stollers are two of kind—in music, in activism, in their generosity of spirit.

Since the day Corky came to Mike's studio to record demos as a musician, they have been partners in every sense of the word: fighting together for liberty and justice for all, for the basic dignity of every human being.

Mike and Corky's values run deep. They are tireless in their work. They are idealistic and compassionate, dedicated and determined. They know what they believe and recognize what's needed to follow through and get the job done. Thanks to their boundless energy, their beautiful relationship with one another, and their friendship with so many others, they have made a difference in advancing the cause of civil rights.

At the opening of the theater dedicated in their names, we heard Chairman Emeritus of

the NAACP Julian Bond's extraordinary presentation of how African Americans influenced and shaped musical history from around World War II to the days of Elvis Presley and beyond.

Through the story of music, he told the story of the civil rights movement—how music popular among Americans emerged from the compositions well-known among African Americans; how the attraction of American teenagers in the 1950s to traditionally African-American styles helped advance the movement and break down barriers among races.

What a fitting tribute to Mike and Corky Stoller, whose music made them famous and whose compassion made them special. When Mike joined Jerry Leiber to write "Hound Dog," "Jailhouse Rock," and countless other hits, he was helping sow the seeds of an effort that would connect communities through music, that would transform American culture, and that would grow with Mike and Corky's leadership for the cause of justice.

Now, Mike and Corky's names will remain inscribed on the Civil Rights Memorial Theater in Montgomery. Their legacy will be intertwined with the names of the men, women, and children remembered at the memorial, who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. Their theater will stand tall alongside the Wall of Tolerance and the wheel of water that reminds us of the biblical charge to "let justice roll down like waters, righteousness like a mighty stream."

At this theater and across the country, may all Americans associate the names of Mike Stoller and Corky Hale Stoller with their contributions to music and their leadership for civil rights.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ARTURO ALBERTO DIAZ, SENIOR OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION, MILITARY SEA- LIFT COMMAND

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Mr. Arturo Alberto Diaz, a public servant of the highest caliber who dedicated his entire life to the service of our nation. Over a career that exceeded three decades, Mr. Diaz selflessly served the United States Navy shipbuilding and maritime industry, contributing directly to the delivery of over 40 ships to the nation's maritime forces. Mr. Diaz passed away on December 24, 2012, but he has left behind a long and lasting legacy to our nation—both through his unparalleled technical contributions to the strength and flexibility of our Navy's surface fleet and through the generation of professionals that he has mentored throughout his time in federal service. Today, it is my great honor to recognize his achievements and thank his wife and family for his service.

Mr. Diaz's pursuit of a life of public service began in 1972 at the Admiral Farragut Academy in New Jersey, where he spent three years and ultimately achieved the Battalion Executive Officer position his senior year. Upon graduation, he entered the United States