

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MOUNT VERNON OPTIC HERALD

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Mount Vernon Optic Herald, a valuable resource to the constituents of the 4th District of Texas that was recently and fittingly named a "Texas Treasure Business" by the Texas Historical Commission.

The Mount Vernon Optic Herald, which celebrates its 140th year in 2014, is the oldest continuously operating business in Mount Vernon. Not only does the Herald hold a distinguished history within the community, but it is a family business. Members of the Bass family have owned the newspaper for more than 60 years, when Jim and Tish Bass purchased the newspaper in 1952. Their daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Bob Wright, ran the business from 1980 until 2005 when Susan Reeves, granddaughter to the Basses, and her husband John took up the mantle.

The Mount Vernon Optic Herald is the best representation of freedom of speech in service to its local citizens. But more than that, it is also a testament to family values and hard work that define the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate the Mount Vernon Optic Herald on 140 years of achievement that have culminated in attaining the "Texas Treasure Business Award." I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Herald, the readers in the Mount Vernon community, and the Bass family many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR ANDREW WOLDAR AND THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate math professor Dr. Andrew Woldar and Villanova University for winning a research grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Professor Woldar's project on algebraic graph theory was recognized by the NSF for its important contribution to the mathematical sciences. This grant will support a conference at Villanova University in June 2014, which will bring together experts, researchers and students to discuss recent advancements in mathematics. Professor Woldar and Villanova University's dedication to the field and leadership in teaching continue to prepare students with the technical background they will need for successful careers.

The NSF is a leading, independent national academy promoting the progress of science

through research programs and education projects. NSF grants help recognize individuals for their contributions to the mathematics and science communities. I commend the NSF for its continued support of innovative research.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Professor Woldar for his hard work and wish him the best of luck with the conference.

THE ARIZONA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arizona Trail Association and honor its celebration of the Arizona National Scenic Trail's 20th Anniversary.

In a short time, the Arizona National Scenic Trail has become one of the premier long distance trails in the country. The people that have worked to make this happen over the last 20 years are as diverse as the trail itself. The Arizona Trail demonstrates what trail users and land managers can accomplish when they share a common vision.

School teacher Dale Shewalter developed the concept of a cross-state trail in the 1970s and began traveling around Arizona giving presentations on his vision of a trail connecting communities, mountains, canyons, deserts, forests, public lands, historic sites, various trail systems, wilderness areas and other points of interest. The idea was embraced by all types of trail users throughout Arizona, Arizona State Parks, National Forests, the Bureau of Land Management and National Parks Service.

In 1994, the Arizona Trail Association incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and became an organized voice for the trail, bringing together passionate hikers, backpackers, equestrians, mountain bicyclists, runners, trail builders, nature enthusiasts, cross-country skiers and others from throughout the state. These committed individuals provided the necessary route identification, volunteers for building and maintaining the trail, logistical support, fundraising and awareness for the trail and ensured that it received National Scenic Trail status.

I am proud to have segments of the Arizona National Scenic Trail in my district, and congratulate the diverse supporters who made it a reality, including Matt Nelson, Arizona Trail Association's Executive Director, and Gary Hohner, the Association's Board President. And special thanks to all those in Southern Arizona who enjoy the trail now and work to preserve it for future generations.

HONORING JACKSONVILLE JOINT RESERVE INTELLIGENCE CENTER

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the fine men and women serving our nation at the Jacksonville Joint Reserve Intelligence Center (JRIC), located at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida.

The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) has selected the JRIC as the "small" JRIC of the Year. JRICs are designed to recognize the joint nature of the Defense Intelligence and at the same time to improve the Military Services' ability to meet emerging unit and tactical level intelligence requirements. This reachback capability has the added benefit of reducing travel and per diem costs associated with traditional annual training and minimizing forward deployed forces' footprint and sustainment; permitting the reservists to perform their mission at home station.

Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, USA, lauds the Jacksonville JRIC when he wrote, "the award is based on the following criteria: the ability to optimize JRIC management through effective space and systems utilization, while providing maximum flexible access based on mission requirements; the ability to facilitate joint access, joint training, innovation, and a collaborative work effort; and the ability to maximize reserve utilization in support of Defense Intelligence by fostering the integration of multiple intelligence disciplines."

It is a pleasure and honor to represent the great men and women who serve at the Jacksonville JRIC and to see them recognized for their selfless service and dedication. The hard work of the men and women who serve in and around Jacksonville illustrate the importance of the First Coast to national defense, and reiterate that our community's efforts to be an anchor of national security.

IN HONOR OF MASTER SERGEANT GEORGE A. BANNAR, JR.

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I was honored to attend the grand opening and dedication ceremony of the Military Free Fall School's new Master Sergeant George A. Bannar Jr. Vertical Wind Tunnel at Yuma Proving Ground. The new wind tunnel will be used in the Special Forces Qualification Course to teach proper free fall techniques.

Master Sergeant Bannar, the new wind tunnel's namesake, was a member of the Army's Special Forces and was stationed at Yuma Proving Ground as a Military Free Fall Instructor. He enlisted in the Army in October 1996

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

and graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course in July 2003. On his fifth deployment to Afghanistan, Master Sergeant Bannar was killed in action by enemy forces in Wardak Province on August 20, 2013. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star.

Master Sergeant Bannar is survived by his wife Michelle, his mother Sheila Long, and his father George Bannar, Sr. As a husband and a father of three, I cannot imagine the pain of losing a spouse or a child. I extend my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Master Sergeant Bannar.

I know that this new facility and the men and women who train there will stand as a testament to Master Sergeant Bannar and all of our fallen heroes. They fought to protect us and our freedoms. May we never forget their sacrifice.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CHATHAM TRAIN STATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Chatham Train Station, located in the Borough of Chatham, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its Centennial Anniversary.

Chatham first became a stop on the Morris & Essex lines in 1838. In 1914, the current station building was built. The building was designed in-house under the supervision of Frank J. Nies, the architect for the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroads (DL&W).

The station complex consists of a station building for the inbound traffic, and a shelter house for the outbound traffic. They are connected by a concrete pedestrian tunnel.

The Chatham Station was designed in the Renaissance Revival style, adapted to the functions of an early twentieth century combination station. The exposed beams and oversized brackets seem to relate to the Stick style, and may have been deliberate gestures to the suburban architectural tradition. The Chatham complex was built in conjunctions with a track elevation project with the roadbed, Fairmount Avenue, built up to its present level after the station and shelter was completed.

In 1929, the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroads, the owners of the railway at that time, spent \$100 million to electrify 173 miles of track over 78 miles of road on the Morris & Essex lines. This meant that Chatham station would be served by electric trains, some of the first in the country.

After World War II, the presence of the Chatham Station would prove to be key in the population increases in neighboring Chatham Township. During this time, rural lands in the township started to be developed for residential use, due to the easy commute to Manhattan.

Today, the Chatham Station is a commuter rail station and a branch of the Morris & Essex Lines. The station serves trains on the New Jersey Transit's Morristown line. These trains travel from Hackettstown to New York's Pennsylvania Station. In 2012, over 80 thousand people used the station.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating both the Chatham

Station, and Friends of Chatham Station as it celebrates its Centennial Anniversary.

IN HONORING THE LIFE OF CALDWELL "HANK" HAYNES

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Caldwell "Hank" Haynes.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida in 1941, Hank was a friend to all he knew. A sports enthusiast, he was the manager of the football team at my own alma-mater, Lee High School, in Jacksonville. Hank attended college at the University of the South in Seawee, Tennessee, where he was inducted into the Athletic Hall of fame after garnering 10 varsity letters, four in wrestling, two in baseball, and four as the manager of the football team.

Following graduation, Hank served as an officer in the Navy for four years. He was on a destroyer stationed in San Diego when by chance he met his wife, Billie Haynes, also a Jacksonville native and Lee High School graduate. They were married for forty-six years where they resided in Jacksonville.

Upon leaving the Navy, Hank went to work for his family's insurance firm, Peter and Bond Insurance, the oldest insurance firm in Florida. He became president of the company in 1981 when his father retired. In 2007 Hank merged the company with GHG Insurance and formed what is now known as Haynes, Peters and Bond Co. Dedicated to his work, Hank continued to work at the firm up until two weeks before his death.

A role model to many, Hank was a well respected leader of our community in Jacksonville. His generosity of spirit and winning personality will make him long remembered. I send his family my heartfelt condolences and I know that Jacksonville will mourn his loss greatly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in this solemn goodbye to Hank Haynes.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESTIVEN RODRIGUEZ, WHO EMBODIES WHAT AMERICA REPRESENTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Estiven Rodriguez, a high school student from my congressional district, to the nation's Capitol as he was one of the additional guests who was seated in the box with the First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden and Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President, at the State of the Union Address on Tuesday, January 28, 2013.

It made me extremely proud to welcome Estiven who has been invited by the White House to represent the best and the brightest students in my congressional district. Students like Estiven inspire us all with hope and optimism for a better America, where everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed.

Estiven Rodriguez is the son of a Dominican immigrant, he arrived in the United States

when he was nine years old and didn't speak any English. When he entered Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (WHEELS) in the sixth grade, he still spoke and understood very limited English. Now a high school senior, Estiven is one of the top students in his class and will attend Dickinson College in the fall on a Posse Foundation Scholarship, making him a first-generation college student. "At only 16, 17 years old, he, in many ways, embodies the spirit of a life-long learner. He is a model student," said Erick Espin, Estiven's 11th grade United States history teacher. Outside of his academic studies, Estiven is also a member of the school's math club, and soccer and track teams. Earlier this month, Estiven attended an event at the White House on expanding college opportunity. His story underscores the importance of the President's goal to give all kids a chance to get ahead, regardless of the circumstances of their birth.

Estiven has been chosen as one of the guests who have been invited to sit with the First Lady to represent the stories of millions of Americans across the country, who are working hard to better their communities, improve their own economic outcomes and help restore opportunity for all."

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY MR. JAKE ALARID

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Mr. Jake Ignacio Alarid on his 80th birthday, which will be on February 1, 2014. Mr. Alarid has a lifetime of achievements in service to his country and his community, and I am proud to work with him on issues facing veterans in Los Angeles.

Born in 1936, Jake is the oldest of thirteen children. Jake displayed spirit and independence at a young age, taking jobs on cattle drives and working the family farm to help support his siblings. In 1953, Jake was drafted to serve in the Korean War. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was deployed to Okinawa and Iwo Jima, Japan, to support the Prisoner Exchange in Inchon, Korea. Three years later, Jake received an Honorable Discharge as a Sergeant and proud Hispanic veteran.

After relocating to Los Angeles, California, Jake completed his Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering at Northrup Aeronautical Institute. In 1964, he went on to work as a reliability test engineer on the Apollo program, which included the Apollo 11 Moon landing mission and Apollo 13. Jake later worked on the Space Shuttle program as a Manager in Space Shuttle Test Operations. After 34 years of service, Jake retired from Rockwell International.

In addition to his strong work ethic, Jake has also demonstrated leadership in the G.I. Forum, a veterans' and civil rights organization, and the largest Federally Chartered Hispanic Veterans organization in the U.S. He was elected as the National Commander for the American G.I. Forum from 1983–1984, and again from 1994–1998.