

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF BOSCOV'S

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2014*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in partnership with my colleagues, Representative CHARLIE DENT, Representative PAT MEEHAN, and Representative JOE PITTS, to recognize Boscov's, one of the nation's largest family-owned department store chains, on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

Boscov's, headquartered in Berks County, Pennsylvania, was founded by Solomon Boscov in 1914 at 9th and Pike Streets in Reading, Pennsylvania. Solomon emigrated to the United States in 1911, purchased \$8 worth of merchandise, and traveled on foot through Lancaster and Berks Counties selling his wares. Within a year, he had saved enough to purchase a horse and wagon and increase his inventory.

From these humble beginnings, Boscov's has grown to a chain of 43 stores in 6 states with a yearly revenue of over \$1 billion. Currently headed by Solomon's son, Albert, who serves as Chairman and CEO, Boscov's is one of the last family-owned department store chains in the United States. In addition to offering fine merchandise at outstanding value, Albert Boscov has been a tireless advocate for the Greater Reading area and his devotion to the community, through civic and charitable activities, is unrivaled. Throughout its long and storied history, Boscov's has exemplified the notion that quality never goes out of style. And Albert has exemplified the principle of corporate leaders being involved in their community's life and reaching beyond the company office to help those in need.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of its 100 years of faithful service to its customers and community, I and my Pennsylvania colleagues ask that the House join us today in recognizing Boscov's on the exciting occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,991,068,498,107.32. We've added \$7,364,191,449,194.24 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE DESERT VISTA  
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS  
COUNTRY TEAM

**HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2014*

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Girls Cross Country Team of Desert Vista High School in Phoenix, Arizona, home of the Thunder. On November 8, 2014, the team won the Division One State Championship in Cross Country, and the team's captain, Senior Dani Jones, set a new course record for Arizona.

This year, for the first time in Desert Vista High School history, the team qualified for the Nike Cross Nationals, a meet that brings together the fastest high school cross country teams and individuals from around the country. On Saturday December 6, 2014, the team took 5th place at this meet, and Dani Jones took 3rd place in the individual category.

This past year, I have had the great honor of running with the team during their early morning practices. The focus, dedication and spirit of these exceptional young women are inspiring.

Congratulations to the Desert Vista High School Girls Cross Country Team, to Team Captain Dani Jones, and to Head Coach Jeff Messer and his dedicated coaching staff. This amazing team consists of exceptional young female athletes, dedicated coaches, and supportive parents.

I am very proud to represent the students and families of Desert Vista High School, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of these remarkable young women.

HONORING MR. TONY ROACH

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable American Soldier, Sergeant First Class Tony Roach, a resident of Shaw, Mississippi.

Sergeant First Class Roach entered the Army Reserves on February 9, 1990, and completed Basic and Advanced Individual Training as an armor crewman at Fort Knox, Kentucky directly after graduating from Shaw High School. He was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas and Camp Shelby, Mississippi. His overseas assignment include Log Base Seitz in Iraq.

SFC Roach was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, OIF 2004–2005, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, OEF 2006–2014. Most recently, he served eight years as an Observer Controller Team Leader at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

SFC Roach has served with overwhelming admiration at every level within a Tank Platoon to include: Tank Gunner, Tank Commander, Squad Leader and Platoon Sergeant. He has served as an Interim Observer Controller Team Leader, Battalion Operations Sergeant, and Observer Controller Group Leader.

His military education includes 19K (Tanker) OSUT, 88M (Truck Driver), Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, Basic Instructor Course, Recruiting and Retention School, Driver Training Course, Mind Resistant AP Instructor Course.

He furthered his civilian education at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi where he graduated in 1999 with a technical certification in Barbering.

His awards and decorations include: the Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (3RD Award), National Defense Service Medal With Bronze Star (2ND Award), Iraqi campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal with Campaign Star, Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device (2nd Award).

Sergeant First Class Roach has two daughters: Laliya and Brianna; and one son, Tony Cordale. Sergeant First Class Roach is the son of Freddy Bryant and Gloria Roach and has 6 siblings: Gloria, Dellia, Nicole, Lee, James, and Isaac.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing American Soldier.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SAN  
BRUNO CENTENNIAL

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2014*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th birthday of the city of San Bruno, California, a city of about 40,000 residents spreading over 5.5 square miles between the flat lowlands near San Francisco Bay and the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains rising 700 feet above the Pacific Ocean. San Bruno is adjacent to San Francisco International Airport and bestrides the Golden Gate National Cemetery. San Bruno is located in my Congressional District and its scenic beauty and community life make it one of the most beloved cities on the Peninsula.

San Bruno is filled with natural beauty and stunning views of the ocean and bay. It has superb schools, a beautiful main city park, and top-notch businesses. The city has also contributed to popular culture and sports as it is the hometown of actress Suzanne Somers, soprano Luana DeVol, musician Ron "Pigpen" McKernan and three famous baseball players: Wally Bunker, Keith Hernandez and Pablo Sandoval.

Long before the city of San Bruno was incorporated, the Ohlone people lived in a village here named Urebure. In 1769, the area was explored by a Spanish expedition led by Gaspar de Portola, followed by a more extensive exploration by Bruno de Heceta. That second exploration resulted in the naming of San Bruno Creek which eventually gave the community its name.

When Mission San Francisco de Asis was established to the north, much of the land around today's San Bruno became pasture for livestock. Grazing continued even after the decline of the missions.

The city had its origins in Clark's Station, an 1849 inn that served as a stop on the Butterfield Overland Mail stagecoach route. This inn was eventually renamed Uncle Tom's Cabin. Significant development of San Bruno didn't begin until after the 1906 earthquake. The first public school was completed that year. The paving of California's first state highway, El Camino Real, began in 1912 in front of Uncle Tom's Cabin, eventually replaced by 14 Mile House and subsequently by other structures and businesses. In 1914, San Bruno was incorporated following a campaign by the San Bruno Herald, the local newspaper. Incorporation allowed more streets to be paved and the population rapidly grew from 1,500 residents in 1920 to 3,610 residents in 1930.

San Francisco International Airport opened in 1927. One of the first visitors to SFO was Charles Lindbergh after his historic transatlantic flight. More aviation history was made when Eugene Ely completed the first successful shipboard aircraft landing, taking off from San Bruno's Tanforan race track, and landing on the USS *Pennsylvania* anchored in San Francisco Bay.

Golden Gate National Cemetery was created in 1939 under the direction of the Presidio in San Francisco. Today, the cemetery is the hallowed final resting place of citizen soldiers who defended our freedom from World War II to the present. San Bruno annually honors their sacrifices through multiple ceremonies great and small. This is a community that cherishes those who gave their all so that all might live in freedom and at peace.

The era of World War II left a dark stain on American history in the form of the internment of Japanese American citizens. Tanforan race track became a temporary internment center. Today a memorial plaque at Tanforan mall serves as a reminder that we must learn from history and never again allow such an infringement on civil liberties.

After the war, San Bruno continued to grow. U.S. Route 101, the Bayshore freeway, opened in 1947. San Bruno high school students had to travel to San Mateo and Burlingame, but in 1950, San Bruno finally had its own high school, Capuchino. Capuchino was the school of a remarkable history teacher who soon entered the State Assembly and then the House of Representatives: Leo J. Ryan. Congressman Ryan loved Capuchino and would sometimes reflect on the lessons that he learned in the classroom from his bright, energetic San Bruno students.

In 1954, the city dedicated a library and city hall. Skyline College, a two year community college, was established in 1960. Later in the 60s, Interstate 280 and 380 were built making San Bruno further accessible and attractive to retail businesses. In 2003, the Bay Area Rapid Transit system extended further into San Mateo County, and a station was opened in San Bruno, further tying this town to others in our region. Just this year, a new train station opened, making rail transit from San Francisco to San Jose even more convenient for San Bruno residents and markedly improving cross-town mobility and safety.

Mr. Speaker, San Bruno's daily life is based upon families. Families go to its churches. Families flock to sporting events, including nationally-competitive youth baseball. Families play in San Bruno Park and walk throughout the community enjoying the small-town atmos-

phere that makes San Bruno so special. There might be some millionaires or someday perhaps even a billionaire living in San Bruno, but fundamentally the community is where American families live so that they may enjoy great schools and great fun amidst like-minded people dedicated to hard work, honest commerce, and civic engagement.

Its 40,000 residents are a wonderful mix of ethnic backgrounds and ages. Under the steady guidance of Mayor Jim Ruane and councilmembers Rico Medina, Ken Ibarra, Irene O'Connell and Michael Salazar, City Manager Connie Jackson and an amazing city staff, San Bruno has reached the remarkable age of 100 years and yet it is still in its youth. No challenge, not even a 2010 explosion that cost the lives of eight precious souls and changed the laws of this nation, can dampen the love of residents for this beautiful city.

Some like to define a city by its history, but I prefer to defy convention and to instead define it by the predominant characteristic of its residents. When people ask me to describe San Bruno I offer one word in reply: Optimism. It is the defining characteristic of those who create families, the defining characteristic of those who remain after their children have left, and the defining characteristic of a long series of public servants who have walked in the hills of San Bruno, gazed upon its boundaries, and seen only a bright future in the land that lies between a wonderful college in the hills, the grand city park in the south, the great bay to the east, and precious neighbors to the north. Optimism is the drummer boy in the parade of San Bruno's story.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to celebrate the centennial of San Bruno, California. Yesterday, the Ohlone made their livelihoods upon its shores. Today, America thrives in its bosom. Tomorrow, history will be the child of its remarkable citizenry. Congratulations San Bruno, you are America's heartland upon its western shore!

#### THE "LOST BATTALION"

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2014*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over 72 years ago, the 2nd Battalion of the 131st Field Artillery Regiment (36th Division—Texas National Guard) gathered and met for the first time. The 2nd Battalion was predominately made up of a scrappy group of Northwest Texas farmhands who hailed from towns like Abilene, Wichita Falls and Lubbock. About a year after their initial encounter, the group was detached from its division in Texas and sent out west to the San Francisco Bay where they were told that they would soon be on route to PLUM, a code-name for a destination unknown to the boys from the prairie lands of Texas.

The 2nd Battalion arrived in Pearl Harbor a few days later on November 28, but immediately departed after being warned of a possible Japanese attack. The tragic prediction came true, and on December 7, 1941, the 2nd Battalion was informed that Pearl Harbor was indeed attacked by the Japanese and that the United States was now at war. After leaving Hawaii, the Battalion headed over to Brisbane,

Australia, where they spent Christmas until boarding a Dutch ship and setting sail for Java, an island in the Dutch East Indies, shortly before New Year's Day. They arrived at Java on January 11 and stayed for nearly two months, sharing the island with troops from the Netherlands and Australia, among other allied countries.

After weeks of uncertainty, the boys started to grow restless as they pondered what their next assignment would be. Then, on February 28, their lives would change forever as they heard a quick succession of loud explosions. At this point explosions were sounding off faster than they could count and it became evident that the war's Pacific Theater was quickly encompassing their temporary island home of Java. As the melting pot of troops watched the horizon, they noticed something that appeared to be men swimming ashore. The dozens they first saw quickly turned into hundreds and the onshore troops soon learned that the men were all sailors aboard the USS *Houston* (a ship that was anchored nearby). The USS *Houston* was made up almost entirely of volunteers from the city of Houston, many of whom were just teenagers. That evening, Japanese forces surrounded and attacked the USS *Houston*, killing all but 368 of the 1,011 men aboard. The surviving sailors swam ashore, joined the 534 men of the 2nd Battalion, and would soon become known as the "Lost Battalion."

Though the allied troops on the beaches of Java held off for as long as they could, they finally succumbed to Japanese forces on March 8 after days of relentless, back-and-forth artillery fire. Within a matter of weeks, all of the remaining soldiers of the 2nd Battalion and the USS *Houston* were together at one camp as Japanese prisoners of war. This group of 902 men, nearly all of whom hailed from Texas, soon disappeared, not to be seen again for three and a half years. They would go on to be known as the "Lost Battalion."

For 42 months, these captured American sailors toiled away in different parts of Pacific Asia. Forced together through a tragic turn of events, these men banded together to overcome a set of truly awful circumstances. Physical beatings were daily and torture came to be expected. Hard labor and starvation were now part of their daily routines. But, perhaps the hardest part of it all was being separated from their families without any chance at communicating with them. Their wives, children, parents and siblings all believed they were dead. Though the Japanese camps attempted to make them wish for that fate, they never gave up hope. It was the memory of their families back in Texas that kept them going each day. Moving from island to island in the darkest, dampest bowels of the Japanese ships' smallest compartments, the men were treated like cattle. Then, once reaching their destinations they would be immediately forced into hard slave labor. Some built roads, some worked in Burmese jungles chopping down trees and some mined coal. One of the worst physical punishments was working on a railway that became known as "The Railroad of Death." Working on this railroad amounted to constant torture. Over 70,000 allied soldiers died after being subjected to these horrible 20-plus hour work days. They were constantly starved, and when they did have the opportunity to eat, their food was rotten and full of insects. These men overcame slavery, torture,