

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDINA
McCAGMACK

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable Hoosier, Mrs. Claudina McCagmack, who passed away on April 18, 2014. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for her friendship and service to our community, state, and country.

Claudina was a dedicated Republican Precinct Committeewoman, county voter registration officer, and secretary to the Delaware County Commissioners and U.S. Congressman David Dennis. Claudina also served on the March of Dimes Board, the Muncie Housing Authority Board, and in many other community organizations.

Claudina was one of the first elected convention delegates in Delaware County to fully support my candidacy for Indiana Secretary of State. Throughout my service, I received no less than a dozen handwritten letters of encouragement, congratulations and recognition from her. I frequently sought her wisdom, both personally and professionally. More than anything, she always helped me keep things in perspective. She was a constant reminder to me and others in public service, like Governor Mike Pence, that we should draw on our faith in God. In fact, such reliance was the only way we could truly serve the people of Indiana.

Known in Delaware County simply as "Claudina", she was a frequent stop when I traveled to Muncie. My family always enjoyed our visits with her, as recently as last December. I often ate, prayed, laughed and cried in her home—all in one visit. In casual conversation at her home, Claudina would confide that she paid for her neighbor's roof, even though she was a woman of modest means. She would tell me how she assisted the elderly in the community, even though she was 92 herself. Claudina personified selflessness and humility.

Mr. Speaker, you know I speak often here of American Exceptionalism. I describe it in terms of our unique history and how we are blessed to have as a primary source of that Exceptionalism our founding documents: The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, as amended by the Bill of Rights. What I don't do enough is provide examples of people who embody American Exceptionalism. Claudina, like many of her generation, was a product and a shining example of what Americans ought to be. I hope we never forget Claudina's unwavering commitment to our national heritage and responsibility to future generations. She would expect nothing less from her community, her friends, and her country. If, for no other reason, I can hear her say: 'God demands it of us.'

Claudina leaves her three children, seven grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren behind to remember her love and kindness. She also leaves her extended Republican family to celebrate her life and legacy. She will be remembered and honored by those who knew and loved her as a woman of faith, conviction and compassion. Rest in peace Claudina, and thank you for having such a meaningful impact on my life.

HONORING THE BRUDERHOF COMMUNITIES IN NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, WEST VIRGINIA, AND FLORIDA

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bruderhof communities in New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Florida. This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of Woodcrest, the first Bruderhof community in the United States.

Founded in 1920 in Germany, the Bruderhof is a Christian church community known for its exemplary contributions in education, care for the needy, excellence in business, and inter-faith cooperation. Expelled from Germany by the Nazi regime in 1937, Bruderhof members initially found refuge in England and South America before settling in 1954 in Rifton, New York.

In celebration of this anniversary, it's my honor to quote from Foundations of Our Faith and Calling, the Bruderhof community's constitution:

Our life together is founded on Jesus, the Christ and son of God. We desire to love him, to follow him, to obey his commandments, and to testify in word and deed to the coming of his kingdom here on earth.

Our faith is grounded in the Bible, the authoritative witness to the living Word of God. Through the Holy Spirit, we seek to be guided in all things by the New and Old Testaments.

We hold to the teaching and example of the early Christians and affirm the apostolic rule of faith in the triune God as stated in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

We stem from the Anabaptist tradition, but feel akin to all who are pledged to full discipleship of Jesus. We recognize his power to work in all people, regardless of their creed or walk of life.

Our calling is to Jesus, who calls all people to himself. Jesus sums up the nature of his kingdom in two great commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength," and "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus asks us to live as citizens of his coming kingdom. We must prove our love to him in deeds, putting into practice his words in the Gospels, especially the Sermon on the Mount. His commands are practical: to forgive unconditionally; to renounce all violence; to stay faithful in lifelong marriage; to live free from wealth; to serve as the least and lowest; and to give up all power over others.

To live for the kingdom of God leads to church community. God wants to gather a people on earth who belong to his new creation. Such a people came into being in Jerusalem at the first Pentecost. As described in Acts 2 and 4, the Holy Spirit descended on the believers who had gathered after Jesus' resurrection, and the first communal church was born.

We are a fellowship of brothers and sisters, both single and married, who are called by Christ to follow him together in a common life in the spirit of the first church in Jerusalem. Our vocation is a life of service to God and humankind, freely giving our whole working strength and all that we have and are.

If asked whether we are the one true church, we reply, "No"—we are merely ob-

jects of God's mercy like everybody else. But if asked whether we experience the church as a reality in our daily lives, then we must affirm that we do, through the grace of God.

We give all honor to God, knowing that our life together is nothing unless it is filled with his love and continually renewed by his mercy.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Day of Prayer.

Since 1952, the first Thursday of May in this great Nation has been dedicated to prayer. As in years passed, on May 1, 2014, millions of people of all faiths across the United States will gather together and humbly bow their heads asking God to bless our country. With great pride I can say that many of my friends and neighbors across Florida's 11th Congressional District will be joining me in participating in this annual observance of prayer for our Nation.

This day of prayer is reflective of the faith our Founding Fathers had that the United States of America would one day be a great nation. These men with deep religious and spiritual convictions built our country from the ground up and our continued faith and prayer will keep it moving forward.

Therefore, I, RICHARD B. NUGENT, Member of Congress representing the Eleventh District of Florida, do hereby recognize the district's observance of the 63rd National Day of Prayer.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 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 \$17,437,874,260,412.18. We've added \$6,810,997,211,499.10 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF INDEPENDENCE MAYOR DON REIMAL FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Don Reimal, Mayor of Independence, Missouri. Mayor Reimal will be retiring from office leaving a rich legacy of quiet determination that slowly and methodically lifted his

city from stagnation to restoration. He has the ability to solicit assistance from his constituents while working in tandem with his fellow mayors, county executive, state and federal officials, bringing an era of cooperation to Eastern Jackson County. His style of leadership is embedded in civility, compassion and understanding, rare characteristics in today's political climate. His departure will leave his city in a far better place after his twenty years of public service, twelve years on the City Council and eight years as Mayor.

As Mayor Reimal fondly gave his final state of the City address at the Independence Chamber luncheon, he shared how he witnessed the evolution of his city with personal memories as he and his city grew, evolved and matured. In 1948, during Don's formative years, he grew up in an Independence that encompassed only 3.3 square miles; but by 1975, he had witnessed the city's expansion to 78 square miles. During those years, Don met and fell in love with his wife, Jo, and together they committed themselves to each other, their family and their city. Don, more serious in nature, and Jo, with her outgoing bubbly personality, would serve as the first family of Independence with a deep appreciation for the city's rich heritage and a profound sense of responsibility.

As Independence evolved, there came a slow shift to the city's center of commerce and activity causing the older historic parts of the city to fall into slow decay. Since 1994, in his capacity as Councilman and later as Mayor, he helped to lead the effort to revitalize the area that President Harry S. Truman called home. Under his influence, the Independence Historic Square has had a rebirth due to the restoration of old historic buildings into new and vital centers for its citizens due in great part to Don Reimal working in cooperation with his constituents.

Today, as you visit the old square, you will find the Chicago Alton Depot that opened in 1870 saved, in great part, due to Don and Jo's efforts. The Truman Memorial Building stands tall, restored while Don was City Councilman. Don had worked with State Representative Franklin to obtain funds for the then-named Soldier and Sailor Memorial Building, built after World War I, with the support of local veteran, Harry S. Truman. The building was renamed the Truman Memorial Building, where today's soldiers have been welcomed home and an area in the building has been designated the Veterans Hall, designed for the Veterans' Video Project with recordings housed in conjunction with the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

In addition, the Palmer Junior High was converted into the highly recognized Palmer Center for those over 50. These renovations, along with the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, were the cornerstone to the beginning of the Independence Square revitalization. The final piece was added when the Jackson County Historic Truman Courthouse was renovated and rededicated on September 7, 2013, eighty years after Harry S. Truman dedicated the same building. Don had worked for years to find a way to save this wonderful building where Judge Harry S. Truman served Jackson County.

Don's personal touch has had lasting impacts, as he respectfully listened to his constituents, providing support and encouragement to projects that would serve as stepping

stones for further neighborhood stabilization. He was rarely deterred, but would just try another way to accomplish his goals for the city. In 2007, the voters approved a school district change that would expand the Independence school boundary on the western side of the city and annex seven schools. Don and the city knew that they could provide a better opportunity for the students and bring families back to that part of the city. The Mayor worked with a prominent group of local citizens to upgrade an area known as the Norledge Place Redevelopment site, also in the newly expanded school area. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan visited the site in 2011, praising the work of the community and city for using NSP funds and working with private and local funds to transform a depressed area into a site of remodeled and rebuilt homes. With much needed improvements for transportation, a new transit center was built and the IndeBus lines were developed to provide better access for the citizens of Independence.

During his time in office, Mayor Reimal helped to shepherd the continued economic growth along the I-70 corridor and the Little Blue Parkway. With the closing of older outdated hospitals, Center Point Hospital opened in 2007, and in 2012, Children's Mercy East opened in the expanding eastern part of the city. Don has never been deterred from criticism if he believed in what he was doing. He supported new shopping areas, the Greater Independence Business Incubator, fought to have the new Genealogy Library built in Independence, and an Independence Event Center that is the home of the Mavericks hockey team and the Comets soccer team. Mayor Reimal has brought excitement to Independence as both teams are of championship caliber.

His accomplishments are far too many to list, but we can all learn from Don's amazing ability to work with people of all political persuasions and interests. He is deeply admired, well respected and will be sorely missed because he truly cares for his city and the constituents that he was elected to serve. I will remember him as a quiet man whose heart and mind is always in the right place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in saluting the Mayor of Independence, Don Reimal, for a lifetime of dedicated service, and wishing him and his Jo a wonderful retirement.

HONORING THE NORTH AMERICAN PROFESSIONALS AND ENTREPRENEURS COUNCIL FOR ITS 2014 INNOVATION CONFERENCE AND ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING A STRONG AND INNOVATIVE AMERICAN ECONOMY

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the North American Professionals and Entrepreneurs Council (NAPEC) on the occasion of its 2014 Innovation Conference. Drawing many of its volunteers and organizers from the suburban Chicago district that I represent, NAPEC demonstrates a commitment to fostering innovation and supporting the entre-

preneurs and startups that will increasingly define our success in the 21st century.

Lacking the necessary support, too many of our brightest entrepreneurs' ideas and innovations never get off the ground. Dedicated organizations like NAPEC and the volunteers who make them great—many of whom come from the Tenth District—are helping these young innovators go from startup to step out to success.

Organizations like NAPEC play a key role in building and maintaining the infrastructure and networks our innovation economy needs. I am grateful for the tremendous work of NAPEC, and I look forward to many more years of supporting innovation and ensuring our economic success.

From a successful 2014 Innovation Conference to all of its work throughout the year, NAPEC is hard at work trying to kickstart our economy and accelerate our startups.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday April 2, 2014 I was not present for 3 votes. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 152, I would have voted "nay;" had I been present for rollcall No. 153, I would have voted "nay;" had I been present for rollcall No. 154, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 52 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Saturday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful State and country, we welcome these heroes to the Nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Don W. Bohnert, U.S. Army Air Force; Wallace F Burton, U.S. Army Air Force; Walter D. Haines, U.S. Army Air Force; Glenn V. Koch, U.S. Army Air Force; Ernest A Meyer, U.S. Army Air Force; Orvin J Sletten, U.S. Army Air Force; Robert H. Walton, U.S. Army Air Force; Thomas L. Warren, U.S. Army Air Force; Miles R. Barfield, U.S. Army; Chelsey T. Barton, U.S. Army; John C. Bates, U.S. Army; Donald L. Freeman, U.S. Army; Theodore P. Geck, U.S. Army; James C. Hickey, U.S. Army; Cordino Longiotti, U.S. Army; Richard M. Macdougall, U.S. Army; Benjamin D. Morrison, U.S. Army; David Ha. Packard, U.S. Army; Albert V. Panacy, U.S. Army; James B. Ragsdale, U.S. Army; Robert J. Resner, U.S. Army; Gordon P. Rutter, U.S. Army; Raymond O. Sims, U.S. Army; Arthur N. Sorenson, U.S. Army; Charles W. Weeks, U.S. Army; Howard L. Abbe, U.S. Navy; Fred A. Carneau, U.S. Navy; Gail D. Cox, U.S.