COMMEMORATING ROGER TORY PETERSON

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mr. Roger Tory Peterson, a long-time resident of Old Lyme, CT., who passed away on July 28 at the age of 87. Mr. Peterson, often referred to as the modern Audubon, produced the first Wildlife-related field guide designed for ordinary Americans. In so doing, he revolutionized how citizens across this country experience, view, and appreciate our bountiful natural resources.

Mr. Peterson was born in Jamestown, NY, in 1908. He explained years later how a personal experience with an injured bird and encouragement from his seventh-grade science teacher led him to begin drawing birds. He recalled that soon thereafter he was drawing and photographing virtually every bird in sight. His big break came in 1934 when William Vogt, the first editor of Audubon Magazine, approached him about illustrating a pocket-sized guide to North American birds. This request resulted in the first Peterson Field Guide, which catalogued birds of the eastern United States. Initially, publishers showed little interest in the publication. In the end, Houghton Mifflin agreed in Mr. Peterson's words ''to take a chance on me'' and printed 2,000 copies. Book stores sold each and every volume in about a week and were soon clamoring for additional copies.

The ''Peterson Field Guide'' was not the first publication providing detailed descriptions of birds and other wildlife. We are all familiar with the pioneering works of John James Audubon. What set Peterson's work apart from previous publications was how it blended intricate detail, demanded by biologists, ornithologists, and other scientists, with easy to understand narrative and arrows identifying the distinguishing features of particular species. Mr. Peterson remarked the use of arrows seemed so simple, but no one had used them before. The first field guide evolved into a series of 48 volumes spanning a host of topics, including wildflowers, bird songs, shells, butterflies, mammals, rocks and minerals, animal tracks, fish, and stars and planets. Mr. Peterson illustrated, wrote or edited each and every volume. Every new ''Field Guide'' followed the original format combining detailed illustrations with easy to understand explanations and commonsense hints to assist nonscientists in identifying particular species. To date, more than 8 million copies of the ''Peterson Field Guide'' to eastern United States birds alone have been published. It remains the most popular guide to birds more than 60 years after the first edition was released.

Roger Tory Peterson helped millions of Americans to gain a better appreciation of the natural assets which make our country special. President Jimmy Carter recognized Mr. Peterson's contributions to the country by awarding him the Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, in 1980. The President noted Mr. Peterson had ''furthered the study, appreciation and protection of birds the world over.'' Mr. Peterson's contributions have been recognized worldwide, including two nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize. He received honorary degrees from 22 universities. Recently, The New York City Public Library listed the ''Peterson Field Guide'' as one of the most influential books of the past century. The Roger Tory Peterson Institute for Natural History was formed in 1984 as a national center for teacher enhancement and training. Among other things, the institute assists teachers in incorporating natural resources in their curriculums and serves as a museum to display Mr. Peterson's works.

Mr. Speaker, I know Americans from coast to coast join me in extending our condolences to Virginia Peterson and the other members of the Peterson family. Mr. Peterson's legacy will endure through the ''Peterson Field Guide'' and his numerous other works spanning six decades. Roger Tory Peterson was an extraordinary individual who helped Americans better understand and appreciate their natural surroundings. We will fondly remember him when we pick up the ''Peterson Field Guide'' to identify a bird at the feeder, a flower in the woods, a shell on the beach, or a star high above.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF CICERO-BERWYN ELKS LODGE NO. 1510

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding organization in my district that is celebrating 70 years of service to its community this year, the Cicero-Berwyn Elks Lodge No. 1510.

For seven decades, the members of the Cicero-Berwyn Elks Lodge have worked to improve the lives of their fellow citizens. The members of this Elks Lodge have truly lived up to the benevolent and protective aspect of their name.

Lodge members make weekly visits to patients at Hines Veterans Hospital, distribute food baskets to those in need, and provide scholarships to worthy students in their community. In addition, they don furry suits in the spring as part of their Easter Bunny program and visit senior citizens and children in nursing homes and local hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Cicero-Berwyn Elks Lodge No. 1510 on 70 years of doing good work for their community, and wish them many more years of service to their community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, 1996, I accompanied the President of the United States to Long Island to meet with the families of the victims of the tragic TWA Flight 800. The entire Nation has been paralyzed by this disaster. My prayers and thoughts are with those families and it is my hope that as a nation we can begin to move beyond the hurt and anger. Therefore, I was unavoidably detained from being here to cast my vote on H.R. 3816, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 1997. Had I been here I would have voted no on rollcall No. 357, yes on rollcall No. 358, no on rollcall No. 359, and yes on rollcall No. 360. Finally, on rollcall No. 361 I would have voted yes and on rollcall No. 632 I would have voted no.

COL. ALFRED T. ROSSI PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Gen. Alfred T. Rossi of Nanuet, NY, on the occasion of his promotion to the rank of brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserve.

General Rossi was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers in 1967. Since that time, he has served as an instructor at the Engineer School at Fort Belvoir, VA and as a platoon leader in Company B, Battalion Civil Engineer and subsequently as Battalion Commander in the 854th Engineer Battalion. During his service as Battalion Commander, he was recalled to active duty and served in Saudi Arabia during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. General Rossi also served as Deputy Division Commander for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from September 1991 through August 1995. He is currently Commander of the 411th Engineer Brigade.

During General Rossi's 29 years of outstanding service, he has received numerous military decorations, including the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two Silver Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal with Service Star, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Service Stars, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Hourglass Device, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), and the New York State Conspicuous Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, General Rossi clearly exemplifies the ideals of the U.S. Armed Forces. He has committed his life to the service of both his country and his community. He is fully deserving of our respect and tribute. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to commend and thank General Rossi for his outstanding dedication and service to our Nation and to the greater New York Metropolitan area.

BUSINESS AND EDUCATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY ACT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Business and Education Sharing Technology Act [BEST].