

TRIBUTE TO THE JOHN RAAD
POST NO. 438 OF THE AMERICAN
LEGION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the John Raad Post No. 438 of the American Legion as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The John Raad Post elected its first slate of officers on February 9, 1947 and was granted its American Legion charter No. 438, on December 7, 1947.

Since that time, the Post has been a tremendous resource to its members and to the community. As a former mayor and south Paterson native, I am aware firsthand of the contributions of the John Raad Post. It has been the center of civic and social activity in south Paterson for many years. The Post has been a place for veterans to congregate and for members of the community, including the variety of new immigrant groups who settled in Paterson, to use for social gatherings.

The members of the Post themselves have been active. Members of the Legion not only take care of veterans by visiting them in hospitals and sponsoring recreation activities, but they care for the community. They and their auxiliary sponsor boys and girls to participate in Boys' Town and Girls' Town. They give donations to charity and their concerns for the welfare of our children, Americanism and the world around them are evident.

The Post has 25 members who were original with the Post when it was first conceived 50 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore ask that you join me, our colleagues, the members of the John Raad Post, and members of the entire community, as we recognize the invaluable services of this American Legion Post on its 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MORTIMER

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 1997

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to an exceptional young man, Mr. P. William Mortimer, who has devoted much hard earned effort to achieving the Boy Scout's highest rank of Eagle Scout. This award reflects great initiative, determination and hard work.

Bill currently serves as junior assistant Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 7 of Warwick, RI. By coordinating a horticulture project at Meadowbrook Terrace, a senior citizen retirement community, Bill demonstrated organizational and leadership abilities that have enabled him to achieve his goal of becoming an Eagle Scout. He not only oversaw the entire cultivation process of planting beautiful flowers for the senior community, but he also managed more than 30 other Boy Scouts and parents during the day of planting. His efforts to improve the quality of life for others should be commended.

The 16-year-old son of Paul and Mary Ellen Mortimer and a 1996 recipient of the Who's

Who in American High Schools, Bill resides in Warwick, RI, where he is a student at Warwick Veterans Memorial High School. I am sure his parents are extremely proud of their son's numerous awards and achievements. As an active member of the Warwick Police Department's cadets program, Bill will continue to serve the public to pursue his dream of working for the FBI.

I have confidence that the Boy Scouts have prepared him to face life's challenges with great determination and character. Bill is an example of the best of America's youth, those dedicated to improving life in their community and who strive to reach their highest potential. On behalf of the people of Rhode Island, I would like to thank Bill for his service to the community and wish him great success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY "SKIP"
GOULD

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Harry "Skip" Gould of Nutley, NJ who is being presented this evening with the 1997 Dr. Virginius D. Mattia Service Award in recognition of his 36 years of community service to the Township of Nutley.

Skip serves the community in a volunteer capacity and remains an active member of the Nutley Volunteer Emergency and Rescue Squad. Considering the average volunteer emergency medical technicians active participation is between 4 to 6 years, Skip's dedication is truly outstanding and noteworthy.

Throughout his 36 years of service, Skip has compiled an impressive record. His volunteer hours are estimated to be over 75,000 and he has answered well over 5,100 calls for assistance. He has devoted thousands of hours to receiving training and providing training to other members. Skip has served eight terms as captain of the Nutley Volunteer Emergency and Rescue Squad and two terms as its president.

In addition, Skip is also the mechanic who ensures that when someone needs emergency medical care, the ambulances and equipment are functioning at peak performance. All vehicles and equipment are maintained at the squad's headquarters by Skip, which eliminates a very substantial cost to the squad. He also leads the squad in the maintenance of the headquarter's building.

Skip is looked upon throughout the State of New Jersey as a volunteer EMT [Emergency Medical Technician] with significant expertise in the emergency medical field. His vast knowledge has enabled new volunteers to learn from him and to develop their skills under his direction. He demands excellence in everything he does and the squad's ability to render the best possible care to the community is a direct result of his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I would like for you to join me, our colleagues, Skip's family and friends, and the Township of Nutley in recognizing the 36 years of outstanding dedication and leadership of Harry "Skip" Gould to the community.

TRIBUTE TO ATIM ENEIDA
GEORGE OGUNBA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 1997

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a talented and committed public servant, Atim Eneida George Ogunba, the principal officer of the United States Consulate in Matamoros, Mexico, the sister city of Brownsville, TX, on the international border.

Consul Ogunba was made principal officer in Matamoros in 1994 and has proven herself an outstanding diplomat in the south Texas-Northern Mexico region. She is a wealth of information to area business people and tourists who wish to come to the United States.

My office has numerous dealings with the consulate on a weekly basis. Any time we have asked Consul Ogunba for assistance, she has always been willing to go the extra mile and help. She is an eloquent advocate for the Consulate and has developed a reputation in the State Department, south Texas, and Northern Mexico for fairness, a valuable attribute for a diplomat.

Consul Ogunba was an enormous help to me in 1995, when the U.S. Consulate in Matamoros was targeted for closure by the budget cutters at the State Department and in Congress. She worked closely with me on this issue, and we were ultimately successful in persuading the State Department to remove the U.S. Consulate in Matamoros from their list of recommended closures.

Ms. Ogunba joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1982, serving in Tijuana, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Washington, DC, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. She is a highly decorated consul officer. She was honored with the Harriman Award for her "extraordinary contributions to the practice of diplomacy, intellectual courage and a wazzu zeal for creative accomplishment" in 1994. That same year, she won a State Department Meritorious Honor Award for her service in Costa Rica.

As a result of her efforts to spare the consulate in Matamoros from closure, in 1996 she was recognized with the State Department Superior Honor Award for "creative and inspired leadership as Principal Officer in Matamoros during a difficult period when post faced prospect of closing."

Her next posting will be South Africa, an experience which will be both challenging and rewarding for her. She studied Africa extensively, both in Nairobi, Kenya, and at Rutgers University here in the United States. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering her best wishes and thanks for outstanding public service.

TRIBUTE TO CARLOS A. NEYRA
ESTENS

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

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Friday, May 30, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Dr. Carlos A. Neyra Estens, associate professor in the department of plant sciences at Cook College, Rutgers University.