

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES E. WHITE

## HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 1997*

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. James E. White, rural housing specialist of the USDA, rural development. Mr. White retired on May 31, 1997 after a distinguished 26-year career.

He began his Federal career with Farmers Home Administration in 1971 as an assistant county supervisor in Lincoln, IL. He was promoted to county supervisor in Golconda/Metropolis in 1975. His final career move was to rural housing specialist in the Illinois State office in 1976. Mr. White remained in that position until his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring the achievements of James White to the attention of my colleagues in the House, and ask that they join me in expressing our appreciation and congratulations to Mr. White for his tremendous service to the people of Illinois.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 1997*

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on official business on Thursday afternoon, June 19, and Friday, June 20, and had to miss rollcall votes on the floor of the House.

Had I been present on June 19, I would have voted as follows: "Aye" on rollcall votes 214, 215, 216, and 217.

Had I been present on June 20, I would have voted as follows: "Nay" on rollcall vote 219, "no" on rollcall vote 220, "Aye" on rollcall vote 221, and "no" on rollcall votes 222, 223, and 224.

CHIEF SMITH: LOYAL SERVICE TO SOUTH LYON

## HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 1997*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loyal and dedicated officer to the community of South Lyon in Oakland County, MI. Chief of Police Gerald L. Smith, in his 19th year of service as chief, will retire on August 26th.

After serving in the U.S. Navy from 1960 to 1963, Smith began his career in law enforcement for Waterford Township in 1964 and served until 1971.

Smith was Oakland County's senior substance abuse program coordinator from 1971

to 1979 where he worked with the County's health department to fight the scourge of drugs.

In 1979, he was appointed director of public safety and police chief for the city of South Lyon. When the Public Safety Department was dissolved in 1985, he continued to serve the community as chief.

Gerald Smith has dedicated more than 37 years of his life to protecting others. His leadership, courage and bold vision have been an inspiration not only to those who worked for him, but to the community he served.

The dedication of Gerald Smith exemplifies his committee to making South Lyon a safer place for our families. He is a loyal public servant who deserves the recognition, honors and accolades he receives.

TO A DEDICATED HERO SHERIFF RIECK KENDALL

## HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 1997*

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero, Sheriff Rieck Kendall of Moultrie County, IL. He is responsible for saving two young children, Timothy and Cheryl Poptlett, after they were abducted by their father from their custodial mother in July 1994.

In 1996, Sheriff Kendall discovered money that was intended for the abductor which was regularly funneled to an address in the Honduras. He contacted Honduran authorities and persuaded them to assist in the investigation. International cooperation, involving Interpol and fostered by Sheriff Kendall, led the authorities to discover that the children were living on a small island off the coast of Honduras with no electricity, running water, routine medical attention, or schooling. When word got to the children's father that the authorities were on to him, he piled them and their few belongings into a boat and headed for another hideaway. During the escape, the boat capsized. Local fishermen found the children and their father floating in the water and clinging to a gas can. Police rescued the children and arrested their kidnapper.

Truly, finding Tim and Cheryl was no easy task. Sheriff Kendall's devotion to recovering the Poptlett children involved more than following leads, but taking the time to make daily phone calls and reassuring the Poptlett family that he was pursuing their children's case. It takes a brave and dedicated man to not give up and simply go home after his other work is done. He persevered and put the Poptlett children and their family first. Mr. Speaker, because of Sheriff Kendall the Poptlett children were recovered and are home with their family.

Mr. Speaker, I want to honor Sheriff Kendall for all his valiant efforts and persistence. According to the National Crime Information Center [NCIC] there were a total of 955,252 missing persons in 1996 alone. In that same year

more than 99 percent of all missing child cases were resolved successfully. We can thank people like Sheriff Kendall for his inspiring statistic, because they refused to give up and provided support for the families who had to struggle through such terrible crises. It is an honor to represent Rieck Kendall in the U.S. Congress.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. MARVIN HARPER AND AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 102 OF BARNARD, MO

## HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 1997*

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues, I would like to have printed in the RECORD the following article from the Nodaway News Leader paying tribute to Mr. Marvin Harper and American Legion Post No. 102 at Barnard, MO, for their efforts in providing Nodaway R-IV students an unique public speaking program.

[From the Nodaway News Leader, Mar. 8, 1997]

SOUTH NODAWAY FIRST GRADE STUDENTS LEARN PUBLIC SPEAKING EARLY

You're never too young to learn, especially when it comes to communication. The American Legion is helping South Nodaway R-IV students get a head start on developing their speaking skills.

Marvin Harper, who serves on the Department of Missouri Oratorical Commission for the American Legion, has created a unique program that provides young students an opportunity to speak in public.

"The point of this is to develop skills to learn how to talk in front of people," Harper told South Nodaway's first grade students.

Harper visited the class last week and discussed the American Legion and the importance of being an effective communicator in everyday conversations. Each child was then given a chance to stand up in front of the class and speak for about 30 seconds. Many of them talked about the U.S. flag, Abraham Lincoln and President Clinton.

First grade teacher Bonny Acklin believes the program is very beneficial.

"It's a good experience for them," she said. "It is different for the students to talk in front of someone else they don't know."

This is the third year Harper has conducted the program. During the first year, he worked with a few students in a pilot program. Last year, the kindergarten all had a chance to give a short speech. This year, Harper has visited both the kindergarten and first grade class.

"Hopefully we'll work right on up to the sixth grade," he said. Harper said he was not aware of any other program of this type in the United States. Later this year he will submit a report to the state oratorical commission about the effectiveness of the project.

The American Legion sponsors a national oratorical contest for high school students. Participants in that contest speak about the U.S. Constitution and can earn scholarship

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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.