

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE OXON RUN PARKWAY LAND TRANSFER AND RESTORATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Oxon Run Parkway Land Transfer and Restoration Act, a bill which directs the National Park Service to convey to the District of Columbia all right, title, and interest of the United States to approximately 25 acres of land in Southeast DC, in Ward 8. The purpose of my legislation is to enable a group of churches, the Washington Interfaith Network [WIN], working with the District of Columbia government, to build more than 300 units of low- and moderate-income housing, almost entirely with church-gathered funds. WIN is a coalition of 43 churches. They stand ready to invest \$2.5 million at no interest to finance the construction of these homes. Among the major contributors are: First, the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, second, the Episcopal Archdiocese of Washington, third, the United Methodist Church, and fourth, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

My understanding is that the Interior Department supports this transfer. The land is bordered on the northeast by South Capitol Street, on the west by Oxon Run Parkway, and on the southeast by the Maryland-DC border. Presently, the land is administered by the District of Columbia but is actually owned by the National Park Service. In 1972, the Park Service transferred jurisdiction to the District of Columbia of approximately 100 acres of land in Southeast DC, that includes the approximately 25 acres addressed in my legislation. However, the transfer was made under condition that the land be used for recreation and related purposes. My legislation removes this legal impediment to construction of low and moderate income housing on this land and enables the future homeowners to own full title to their property.

The transfer which I propose is a modest but important step in restoring one of the city's vital residential neighborhoods and the city's overall morale and financial health. Ward 8, the most disadvantaged in the city, has experienced devastating loss of population in significant part because of the absence of affordable housing. In addition, the land which I propose to transfer from the Park Service to the District is currently in a deplorable condition and is an embarrassment to the Park Service and the city. Although this piece of land is ostensibly recreational parkland, it has become unsightly neighborhood dumpyard. Transfer of this land to the District for construction of a residential neighborhood will not only enable environmental cleanup of the property but will also provide desperately needed housing at a site that has become a terrible eyesore.

TRIBUTE TO FRED HOLSTEN

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fred Holsten of South Brunswick, NJ. He was honored Monday, August 4, for his 20 years of volunteer service to Middlesex County Fair by the trustees of the annual fair.

Since retiring as chief of police in South Brunswick in 1974, Mr. Holsten has served many organizations such as the Lion's Club and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. In his over 20 years of service to the Middlesex County Fair, Mr. Holsten has come to be affectionately known as Uncle Fred. Since Mr. Holsten has joined the fair, it has grown to offer a great family atmosphere for all those in Middlesex County. As a result, worthy causes that receive funds from the fair have benefited greatly.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Holsten has set a great example. After an extensive time of service as police chief, he continues as a volunteer. This selfless service to his community is a great example of the indelible American spirit that only makes our country stronger.

I, too, commend Mr. Fred Holsten for the unselfish, heartwarming dedication he has shown.

HONORING RIVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Riverdale Neighborhood House is a settlement house serving 5,000 residents of the northwest Bronx, providing programs for parents, their infants and toddlers, and after school programs. It not only serves young families, but provides outreach and support to homebound senior citizens. Its teen center offers job training and a place to congregate, or as the teens might say, "hang out." Riverdale Neighborhood House also had a pool for local residents, a summer camp for kids, and a thrift shop.

Not only does the Riverdale Neighborhood House do a lot of good for the community, it has been doing it for a long time for this year it celebrates its 125th anniversary. RNH started as a neighborhood lending library for workers to which Riverdale residents subsequently gave land and money to promote social services as well as a reading room. In time it helped servicemen in the Spanish American War, fought problems of sanitation and contagious diseases, aided soldiers' families in World Wars I and II, opened a kindergarten and a seeming infinite number of programs to aid the community and its residents.

On its anniversary, RNH is honoring Paul Elston, a member of its board who has served on so many organizations working for the community that his life would deem to epitomize public service. Riverdale Neighborhood House and people like Paul Elston deserve the acclaim of all people, for they show the benefit and goodness which flows to the community when good people act to benefit all of us.

A TRIBUTE TO WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a courageous group of women who have played an important role in shaping the future of women in the military. On October 18, 1997, the Women in Military Service Memorial was dedicated to the millions of courageous women who have served and continue to serve our country in the armed services. The dedication of this memorial is another page in American history that will give women in the military the recognition they have so longed deserved. This memorial is a reminder and representation of the invaluable service, sacrifice, and dedication women have given our country.

Mount Holyoke College, the oldest continuing institution of higher education for women in the country, resides in my district and is very proud and grateful for the Women in Military Service Memorial. Joanne Creighton, president of Mount Holyoke College, wrote a letter to Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, who was responsible for the organization taking the lead to build the memorial, paying tribute to the Women in Military Service Memorial. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I submit the letter written to Brigadier General Vaught from Joanne Creighton, president of Mount Holyoke College.

As a women's college, we support activities that recognize women and women's varied contributions to the world. It is vital that the experiences of women be known and included as a visible part of history. The women's memorial, which honors and remembers the service, sacrifice, and achievement of the nearly 2 million American servicewomen who have defended America through our Nation's history, accomplishes all of these important tasks and is, therefore, a welcomed and much-needed addition to our Nation's heritage.

Fittingly, it was 55 years ago this November 9, during World War II, that Mount Holyoke was part of the history which is about to be honored by the new memorial. From across the country, women came to Mount Holyoke's campus to receive the training they needed to serve the country. Along with our nearby sister institution Smith College, Mount Holyoke served as one of the very few training centers for women officers. It was a privilege to function during that historic

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

time as a training site for the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corps and the Navy's WAVES [Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service] program.

WAVES, the young women in uniform living and learning at Mount Holyoke, studied such subjects as naval organization, personnel, and administration along with the Navy's etiquette, customs, and traditions. While in training for 5 weeks, WAVES lived in Rockefeller Hall—a campus residential hall that was renamed the U.S.S. Rockefeller—sleeping in double decker beds, eating the same meals as Mount Holyoke students here at the same time. Classes for WAVES were held on campus, drills were held on the athletic fields, and the women marched to meals and to classes wearing their dark blue uniforms. Reveille was at 6:15 a.m. for these women and the day included five recitations, two study periods, drill, athletic recreation, and an evening lecture. It was a rigorous indoctrination, as it was then called, for these women and we salute them today, just as we did many years ago.

After completing their WAVES training, the women were commissioned and offered to active duty. During the 18 months the Navy occupied the U.S.S. Rockefeller approximately 2,500 officers were graduated and went out to duty throughout the United States. They played an important role in our American story and it is with deep gratitude for their efforts that we pay tribute to them and all the others who, in a range of roles, served the country.

We join wholeheartedly in this first major memorial to U.S. military women and this celebration of a very important page in history. We also commend you for the success of the foundation, which you established in 1987, and which has overseen the design, development, and construction of this new structure, and the creation of the week-long commemoration of American servicewomen that will launch the women's memorial.

Sincerely,

JOANNE CREIGHTON.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the 2d Congressional District in Massachusetts will be forever grateful for the invaluable service and dedication women in the military have provided in defense of the United States. This memorial is very welcome in our Nation's Capital and I, along with Mount Holyoke College, rise to congratulate all the women in the military for this milestone in American history.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT GEORGE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Robert George, a constituent of mine who for 30 years put on a long white beard and a red suit to play Santa at Christmas time. Many people have played Santa at shopping malls, private parties and amusement parks. What makes Mr. George unusual is that he was Santa at several White House Christmas functions.

Though a staunch Democrat, Mr. George was very much a bipartisan Santa. He began playing St. Nick at the White House during the Eisenhower years, and continued through the Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush administrations. He has one of the more unusual political scrapbooks I have seen; pictures of Santa and the

Carters, Santa and Gerald Ford, Santa and the Nixons, Santa and John Kennedy and Santa and the Eisenhowers.

In addition to the photos, Mr. George has a collection of thank you letters from inhabitants of the White House. I especially enjoyed the note from Barbara Bush, written when her husband was Vice President, which included this closing line: "The stuffed animals will be great successes with our grandchildren, and we both appreciate your generosity."

Mr. George has been Santa in more places than the White House. He has participated in Christmas parades in Hollywood, Tulsa, Toledo and Phoenix, and has appeared on numerous television programs through the years.

When he's not Santa, Mr. George is still infused with the spirit of giving. He has spent more than a decade aiding the LA Mission, and has been quite active with Easter Seals, the Starlight Foundation, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

If you call Mr. George at home, he answers with the number of days until Christmas. He is obviously a man who loves his work.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Robert George, whose dedication to making this a better world inspires us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE HUNTS POINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORP.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Hunts Point Local Development Corp. for 10 years of success working for the economic revitalization of the Hunts Point community in the South Bronx.

Today, the Hunts Point Local Development Corp. [HPLDC] celebrates its 10th anniversary with a 10th annual tent party at the Hunts Point Cooperative Market in my South Bronx congressional district.

HPLDC was established in 1988 as a non-profit community-based organization to act as an engine for economic development in Hunts Point.

During the past 10 years, HPLDC has been instrumental in providing the services that corporations and residents need to succeed in commerce. Its wide range of programs and services to the community include: a bilingual entrepreneurial development program, industrial park business advocacy, computer literacy training, Internet training, and commercial revitalization. Through its Business Outreach Center, HPLDC provides counseling, seminars, workshops, and management technical assistance to small business and entrepreneurs.

Today, the dynamic Hunts Point community encompasses 600 businesses and 19,000 employees, and is the largest distribution center in the Northeast. To HPLDC's credit, the corporation has provided assistance to more than 500 entrepreneurs and businesses and has helped secure over 4 million dollars in small business loans.

Among other important achievements, HPLDC was chosen to serve as the administrator for the Hunts Point economic development zone. It also lobbied for inclusion of the Hunts Point community in the New York City Federal Empowerment Zone for the South Bronx.

HPLDC received an excellence award from the U.S. Small Business Administration for small business development. Most recently, it has launched efforts to help rebuild the New York City 41st Police precinct and to establish a new U.S. Postal Office in Hunts Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Hunts Point Local Development Corp. for a decade of achievements spurring economic development in Hunts Point, and in wishing them continued success.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE ADA BERRYMAN: AN OHIO PIONEER

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, throughout history, there have been trailblazers who have achieved important firsts and made enormous contributions to the development of this Nation. While the names of some of these individuals are recorded in the annals of history, there are many others who should be recognized.

I rise to acknowledge the contributions of Mrs. Ada Berryman, a former resident of Warren, OH, who was the first African-American to be appointed to the State Housing Board. This feat by Mrs. Berryman in the late 1940's was just one of many achievements during her lifetime.

Mrs. Berryman was born in 1910 in Troy, AL. When she was young, her family fled to Ohio to escape the segregation of the South. Mrs. Berryman resided in Warren, OH, for 45 years. She is credited with the founding of the Warren Chapter of the NAACP. It was Ohio Governor Frank Lausche who saw fit in the late 1940's to appoint Mrs. Berryman to the State Housing Board. She became the first African-American to be chosen for this important State board. In addition to her appointment to the housing board, Mrs. Perryman served as president of the Warren Urban League board, and as a member of the Trumbull County Welfare Board.

Mrs. Berryman was also active in the Democratic Party. She was a member of the NAACP Federated Democratic Women of Ohio. In 1957 Mrs. Perryman ran for city council on the Democratic ticket. She won the primary election, but was defeated in the November general election.

Mr. Speaker, Ada Perryman passed away in 1967 at the age of 56. Throughout her life, she sought to make a difference. She challenged segregation, she challenged the political system, and she challenged our society. I want to note that a member of Mrs. Berryman's family, her granddaughter, Ada Posey, serves as Acting Director of the Office of Administration for the White House. She brought to my attention the achievements of this remarkable individual. I share the family's pride in Mrs. Berryman's accomplishments. I am pleased to share this information with my colleagues.