CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

October 10, 1998

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Polish American (PAV) Club of Wilbraham, Massachusetts on its 50th anniversary.

The PAV in Wilbraham has for half a century played a vital role in its community. In celebration of this noteworthy occasion, I take this opportunity to express my personal congratulations to each and every member of the Club, and to enter the complete history of the Polish American Veterans' Club of Wilbraham, Massachusetts into today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The History

The hostilities of World War II had come to a close and the veterans were returning to their homes where their families were anxiously awaiting their return home. The local organizations and merchants also combined their efforts to extend their greetings throughout the many months following their return coupled with their similarity of interests, ambitions and background inspired the idea for the formation of an organizational venture of local veterans.

Uniting any group into a functioning organization required the leadership of a person who is familiar with the aspirations and problems of the group, along with a deep interest in their progress. The Veterans of the Tri-Town area were fortunate in having a man who qualified in every respect as an organizer. His interest in the welfare of this body must have had a great influence on leading them into organization. The man, Father John Kiew, was the curate of the Immaculate Conception Parish. His uniting efforts during these important organizational meetings resulted in the formation of a strong “Polish American Veterans Club.”

Father called the first meeting on February 23, 1947, where various types of Veteran groups were discussed. A committee, headed by Edward Hals, was called to do research into an organization that would function best in this area. The new club was to be founded by the Veterans of Polish extraction from the Indian Orchard, Ludlow and Wilbraham area to encourage social activities among members for the advancement of educational and economic welfare of its members. With these ideals in mind, a committee was delegated the task of drawing by-laws. Thus, the first meeting had set the organizational wheel in motion. During subsequent meetings officers were elected and committees for an efficiently functioning organization were appointed. The first few officers were: President, J. John Kiebania; First Vice President, Al Sambor; Second Vice President, Mitchell Kowalski; Clerk, Emil Wysik, Financial Secretary, Thomas Poniatowski; Treasurer, John Smola; Service Officer, Dr. Francis Bacewicz; and Sergeant at Arms, Louis Grondalski.

The name of the club was to be “The Polish American Veterans of Indian Orchard, Ludlow and Wilbraham.”

Founded on the principle of social unity and community service, the club prospered in the ensuing years. From its inception, a vigorous athletic program was sponsored, the most successful being the baseball team which drew an enthusiastic following. They identified the organization throughout the Western Massachusetts area when they captured the Knights of Columbus Tournament in 1949 and were runner-up for the Western Massachusetts Amateur Baseball Championship in 1950. The basketball team has also shared the limelight in completing the season as Western Massachusetts Champions in 1952. The bowling team kept the members active in the winter months. In addition to the organized league activities an intramural basketball program was initiated which filled the gaps or again matches filled what spaces remained in the sports calendar. Trophies representing championships in every major sport are held by the club.

In 1949, the Club Members remodeled the old dairy building on 4½ Action Street as their temporary home and for ten years it served as an informal meeting place for members. The good management of the small club house plus the aid of the members had placed the organization in a financial position which is shared with the resident patient plus prize winning money for Bingo Games, Polish pierogies, rye bread, horse-radish, kielbasa and home baked pastries.

The Sunshine Village and many charitable organizations receive annual donations. The American Legion, Auxiliary, Poland Veterans, Polish American Veterans, Gold Star Mothers, Polish Old Home Week, American Legion, Auxiliary, and the Honor Veterans at Springfield Auditorium.

The greatest highlight in the Club history was the founding of the “Polish American Auxiliary.” The women organized in 1952 under the same policy and the same aims as the Veterans. The Auxiliary has been indispensable in providing assistance to the Club. They have been a mainspring in developing fund raising methods. Our major fund raiser is the Annual Dinner-Dance which draws an enthusiastic following. The Auxiliary occupies their own “Minute Men” dressed in Revolutionary War uniforms which is shared with the resident patient at Ludlow Hospital.

There is a more serious side to this organization. Annually, the Members and the Auxiliary gather in their Parade Dress for a march to church to pray for the souls of the deceased Members and Comrades who perished in battle. The Gold Star Mothers were also always revered at the ceremonies. The Auxiliary and the Wives and Widows conducted at “Our Lady of Peace” monument adjacent to the Immaculate Church, at the 1987 dedication “Polish American Veterans Triangle” and concluding at our quarters “Memorial Monument Green.” The Full Military Honors given the deceased are witnessed by the many who gather to join in prayer for their souls.

Many of our Members serve or have served the Community and State in various capacities. Our Post hosted State Councils, Community Council, Senior Councils, in elected Political Offices and other service areas. The Polish American Veterans have established outstanding records and are a guiding influence in our community.

CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUTTS COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN JACKSON, GEORGIA

HON. MAC COLLINS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Butts County Courthouse in Jackson, Georgia.

The anniversary celebration is being held tomorrow, and I wish to submit the remarks I prepared for the occasion for the Congressional Record.

I want to express my deep appreciation to the citizens of Butts County for inviting me to be a part of the 100th anniversary celebration for our county courthouse. During the long and rich history of our county, this beautiful building has endured the test of time. It has long
out-lived its predecessors which were all destroyed by fire.

And over the past century, it has seen many fine men and women elected by their fellow citizens to honorably serve Butts County. It is good to see so many of those who have served here today for this celebration. I myself had the honor and privilege to have served as Chairman of the County Commission.

It was 22 years ago Julie, my family and I began our public service. But I had public service running through my veins long before I ran for office. As most of you know, I was born here in Jackson at the O.B. Howell Clinic. In fact, I was spanked to life by three-term Commission Chairman O.B. Howell himself. I was raised by a mother who was a Flovilla City Councilwoman and a father who always said he wanted to serve on the County Commission. I was destined to be in politics.

But my career in public service would never have occurred without the support, hard work and endurance of my wife, Julie, and my children. I began that career right here at home as Chairman of the Butts County Commission. I then moved to the Georgia State Senate where I served two terms.

Today, I have the honor of serving as a United States Representative in the peoples’ house in our nation’s capitol. I would not have been able to persevere unless my family had been at my side through all of those years and all those campaigns. I also owe the people of Butts County a debt of gratitude for the support you have given me. I regret that state politics prevented me from representing you in the United States Congress.

I have been asked, “Was it worth the time, the effort and the money?” My answer is always, “Yes.”

I have always had a strong desire to give something back to the community, the state and the country that have been so good to me. And, at each step of the way, I have grown a little more.

In many respects, the most challenging and rewarding office I have held is County Commissioner. I was young, energetic and a know-it-all. Serving as a Commissioner taught me humility. During my first month in office, January of 1977, a winter storm with freezing rain brought the rural roads of our county to a standstill. Many fine citizens volunteered to help the county meet the challenge of getting our roads open and people moving again.

I have laughed and joked that we broke up DUIs in Butts County by bargaining with Probate Judge Gene Blue to sentence all of those convicted of DUI to 30 days on the County Commission. DUI arrests declined dramatically.

The accomplishment for which I am most proud was negotiating the contract to install water lines connecting Jackson with Flovilla and Jenkinsburg.

The saddest experience I had as Commissioner was my defeat for reelection in 1980. I had many goals I still wanted to accomplish for the people of Butts County. My good friend and fellow Commissioner, Mr. Everett Brisco, and I knew we would be defeated. I told him during one of our many rides around the County that “a loss in this election may lead to a more rewarding future.”

Time and the people of Butts County were good to me. You elected me to represent you in the Georgia State Senate. During my four years there, I had the opportunity to participate in shaping the laws on issues of great importance to us all—education, taxes, crime, the economy and many others.

In 1983, I took on a new challenge—United States Representative for Third Congressional District of Georgia. I have found that many of the issues and concerns in which I was involved as a Butts County Commissioner and as a Georgia State Senator are also issues that concern the Congress—only on a national scale. But while we in Congress engage in great debates over our national defense, the direction of our government, the fate of the President and the future of our children, I am always reminded from where I come.

Shortly after my election to Congress in 1982, I received a letter from my childhood friend, Frank Duke. In that letter Frank wrote, “It is a long way from Flovilla, Georgia to Washington, D.C.” He also enclosed a photograph of the town of Flovilla. We are now grown and gone our separate ways. But Frank’s letter and photograph remind me of the hopes and ambitions we had.

And it reminds me of the values and principles we were taught by our parents, our teachers, and the wonderful people of a small town. I have kept that letter and photograph to remind me of the lessons learned with Frank and the others so many years ago.

As I conclude, I would like to read to you the quote by the great poet Longfellow which is printed in the dedication of the History of Butts County Georgia. It is worthy of reflection by all those who are elected to serve. It reads:

Each one performs his work and then leaves it
Those that come after him estimate His influence over which he lives.

Thank you and God Bless You.

**AUTHORIZING THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER SUFFICIENT GROUNDS EXIST FOR THE IMPEACHMENT OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

**SPEECH OF HON. JERRY LEWIS OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, October 8, 1998**

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives will today make one of the most solemn decisions it can make next to a declaration of war—whether to proceed with a full congressional inquiry into allegations that the President’s actions warrant his removal from office. A bipartisan majority of the House, including members of the President’s own political party, will support the resolution to hold hearings and further investigate the President’s conduct.

The historical significance of today’s action does not escape me. This is only the third time in our nation’s history that Congress has voted to proceed with an impeachment inquiry. Today, particularly, I feel a burden of responsibility as never before during my years of public service.

Like most Americans, I have weighed very carefully the evidence presented thus far by the Independent Counsel. From the very beginning, I have wanted to give the President every benefit of the doubt. I have wanted to believe that he was telling the truth. But it is now clear that he has not been truthful with the American people, with the Congress, with his staff, and with his own wife and family.

No man, not even the President, is above the truth or above the law. Each man and woman must be held accountable to the duly established laws of the United States. In this matter before us, it is very important that the legal process, as outlined in our U.S. Constitution, be continued to its conclusion. It means that the Congress, and more specifically, the House Judiciary Committee, will now hold hearings to determine if the President’s actions warrant his impeachment.

The time this investigation has taken, and the toll it has taken on our country, is a direct result of the President’s efforts to deny the truth and delay the process. He could have—and should have—told the truth from the very beginning but instead he chose repeatedly to lie. Anyone who has served in a court proceeding knows the importance of taking an oath to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. A violation of that oath is perjury. It is now evident that the President has lied under oath. To maintain the fundamental integrity of our system of government, he must be held accountable for his actions.

These actions have not taken place in a vacuum. From the Oval Office to the President’s Cabinet, the President has had a dramatic effect upon our responsibilities at home and abroad. While it is still too early to predict the outcome of this crisis, one thing has become increasingly clear by his own evasion of the truth, the President’s effectiveness and the standing of the United States throughout the world has been severely diminished.

Meanwhile, the work of this Congress is continuing. While the media is focused primarily on the Judiciary Committee’s work, Congress continues to address the enormous challenges facing our country and the world. The United States now faces enormous tests on both the domestic and world stage—terrorist bombings, of our embassies; Saddam Hussein’s threat to invade Kuwait; North Korea’s development of nuclear weapons; and an increasingly fragile peace in Northern Ireland. Closer to home, we are addressing real challenges before us—the future of Social Security, improving education, reducing taxes on American families, and averting a government shutdown.

In closing, President Clinton’s careful and calculated legal response has not served him or our country well. This is a sad day in our nation’s history. The President and the President’s Cabinet have laid bare their true intentions. The President has chosen repeatedly to lie. It is time for the President to come clean and face the facts.

In recognizing this fact, I urge Members to support the Committee’s resolution.