CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES THE PLAINSBORO VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Plainsboro Volunteer Fire Company's 40th anniversary.

Over the last forty years, the members of this organization have made a tremendous contribution to their community by protecting their residents and assisting other local departments.

In the days when there were more cows than people in the Township of Plainsboro, a handful of farm workers and American Cyanimid employees decided to erect a fire station. In the first full year of operation, the Plainsboro Volunteer Fire Company responded to 30 calls for service.

In the early days of the fire company, the alarm was sounded by the stationary fireman on duty at a local farm who would blow the farm's steam whistle when a fire was reported. Firefighters living in the village section of the township could hear the alarm easily. Their family members then relayed the alarm by telephone to members living in outlying areas of the community.

The first truck used was a 1940 American LaFrance with a 640 gallon per minute pump—which stands in contrast to the current 1750 gallon per minute pump that the department uses today. The department has continued to update its fleet of vehicles, purchasing the newest and most efficient fire-fighting equipment.

Over the years, the Plainsboro Fire Company has drawn financial and moral support from Princeton University, one Fire District, and many appreciative citizens. These groups have aided the Plainsboro Fire Company by raising the funds to keep the department running smoothly.

What has not changed about the Plainsboro Fire Company is its dedication and commitment to serving the needs of its community. The 40th anniversary of the department is being celebrated tomorrow at an Anniversary Dinner. The dedication and hard work that is continually demonstrated by the members of the Company is to be admired. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the Plainsboro Volunteer Fire Company.

KID DAY AMERICA/INTERNATIONAL

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday May 20, 2000, the Wilbert Family Chiropractic office will be the official Chiropractic office representing the 6th annual ''Kids Day America/International'' event in Austell, Georgia. This event will focus on health, safety and environmental issues which affect children, their families and the communities in which they live. This will be done with the help and support of the Austell Police Department, whose D.A.R.E. program will directly benefit from the event. The Austell Police Department will be on hand to fingerprint ID children, and the Wilbert Family Chiropractic will donate photos of the children. This information will be used to produce ID cards for the children. ''McGruff'' the Crime Dog will make an appearance and be joined by Leo the Lion of the D.A.R.E. program. The Austell Fire Department will be participating also, with their Fire Safety House, which helps teach children and their parents about fire safety.

I want to congratulate and commend Dr. Marci Wilbert and the Wilbert Family Chiropractic for sponsoring ''Kids Day America/International.'' This program is a positive, grass-roots, community based effort which will help to strengthen our community, and have a positive impact on children and their families.

RESOLVING THE CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following editorial from the Boston Globe on April 29, 2000, for the RECORD. The editorial was brought to my attention by Mr. Shri Srithilliampalam, president of the Eelom Tamil Association of America and an activist in the Boston area that continues to call for observance of human rights in Sri Lanka and a peaceful settlement to the 17-year ethnic conflict. We must encourage the parties involved to stop the terror and negotiate a peaceful and immediate end to this war.

[From the Boston Globe, April 29, 2000]

PUSHING PEACE IN SRI LANKA

The long, lethal civil war in Sri Lanka receives little attention here, but for sheer senseless blood-letting it is comparable to the Balkan conflicts. The need for a cease-fire and mediated peace talks became more evident than ever this week when the separatist Tamil Tigers chased 17,000 Sri Lankan army troops from their key strategic position in Elephant Pass, straddling the narrow isthmus that links the south of the country of Jaffna, capital of the Tamil area in the north.

Both sides in this merciless war have committed atrocities, both have suffered terrible losses, and both have sought revenge for past outrages. When government forces recovered bodies of soldiers killed in the fall of Elephant Pass this week, they discovered to their horror that many of the corpses had been mutilated.

The Tamil fighters were taking vengeance for the desecration of their cemeteries four years ago and for acts of ethnic cleansing visited upon the civilian population of their northern province.

The Tigers have often sent terrorist packing suicide bombs into crows of civilians. This past December they wounded Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga in one eye and killed 25 people in such an attack. To overcome the army's base in Elephant Pass this week they blew up wells, cutting off the troops' water supply in a dry climate where the heat surpassed 100 degrees. Senior officers dying of dehydration were airlifted out of their trap.

For their part, government forces have been denounced by Doctors Without Borders and the Red Cross for denying medicines to everyone in the north, civilians and fighters alike.

The United States has had little to do with this war except to sell some weapons to the government and provide some military training. Many of the weapons have fallen into the hands of the Tigers, and the training has done little good. To save the lives that are being squandered on both sides, Washington should now counsel Kumarantunga and her government to accept a cease-fire supervised by international monitors and to pursue to peace talks that Norway has offered to mediate.

HONORING THUNDER BOY

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention the heroism displayed by Thunder Boy, the masked superhero of Albuquerque. Thunder Boy recently saved the city of Albuquerque from the clutches of the Evil Grouch. Though slow to anger, Thunder Boy does not suffer villains gladly. He rescued Weatherdog, turned the city's fountain back on, and recovered stolen toys for many sick children at Carrie Tingley Hospital.

Through his deeds, Thunder Boy has become Albuquerque's preeminent super hero. Time and again, through all adversity, he has proven himself a true hero, capable of whatever bravery and self-sacrifice are necessary to right a wrong or save a life. But, Mr. Speaker, let us not forget the joy that Thunder Boy brings to those around him daily, even when villains and evil-doers are on vacation.

Thunder Boy's generous heart is what makes him a true hero. He saved Albuquerque because he cares about our city and our neighbors. But his heroism shows in other ways as well. When he sees people who are sad, he smiles to brighten their day. He relishes the peace he finds in others' happiness and wants to spread joy to the world. Thunder Boy shows us that the most important superpower is the ability we all have to make someone else's life better simply by being kind.

Thunder Boy shows us that heroes are not only found in comic books or on television, but are here around us every day if we only look hard enough. Today we honor his strength and kind heart. His fight to help mankind will not be soon forgotten, and neither will his smile. May he teach us all the friendship and kindness that we may all become better people in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the newspaper in Albuquerque, formerly the Daily Planet but now known as the Albuquerque Journal, has been on the trail of Thunder Boy, trying to reveal his true identity. The paper has unconfirmed reports that Thunder Boy, when not battling the Evil Grouch, is a 4-year-old boy name Isaiah Perea, son of Alex Perea and Tanya Larranga, who is fighting another kind of battle—against Leukemia. His wish, through Make-A-Wish Foundation, was to be a superhero. On May 16, 2000, the Foundation arranged for him to save Albuquerque from the Evil Grouch. This report, of course, is still unconfirmed.