

an evening where it was possible for families to sit down and simply spend time with one another.

This doesn't sound like a radical idea, however seven months of preparation were required to clear families' schedules—guilt-free. Ridgewood is an active community, with outstanding youth programs and sports and an involved adult community. However, in our eagerness to expose our children to these programs, we all can be accused of over-scheduling our children, and ourselves. I think this is not only true for Ridgewood, but for cities and towns all over the United States. Ridgewood's family evening struck a nerve in America, as this town event made the news in *The Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and *USA Today*, to name a few. *Good Morning America* spent time with families on that day and CNN featured the event on their show *Crossfire*. Ridgewood's plan to bring families together for just one evening resulted in people across the country stopping for a moment and reflecting on their own families' activities and commitments.

Perhaps not every town will be able to create such a successful evening as Ridgewood did, however families can create their own "Ready, Set, Relax" nights. I don't believe the Ridgewood community could have anticipated the tremendous positive response their evening received. I commend the planners of the family night, particularly Marcia Marra, Jenny Breining, Carol Williams, Tracy Autera, Doug Fromm, Anne Zusy, Wendy Schwehm, Denise Smith, Jenny Given, Donna Olsen, Beth BaRoss, Patti Roche, Cynthia Busbee, Adele Hoffmeyer, and Frank Sonnenberg. Additionally, I commend the families and members of the Ridgewood community for their participation. Their vision has made Americans look again at their hectic schedules of baseball games, band practice, club meetings, youth groups and music lessons. And hopefully, more families will spend an evening together occasionally, or even schedule a new event of their weekly calendar—family time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Village of Ridgewood for the example they have set for America by taking time out for family. This is a lesson from which we can all benefit, in our districts, and in our own families. Thank you Ridgewood.

RECOGNITION FOR THE PENN
LAKES GIRL SCOUTS

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor the 90th anniversary of Girl Scouting, the world's largest organization for girls. Juliette Gordon Low founded the organization on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Georgia. Through Girl Scouting, girls acquire self-confidence and expertise, take on responsibility, and are encouraged to think creatively and act with integrity—qualities that are essential in good citizens and great leaders. In my district in northwestern Pennsylvania, the Penn Lakes Girl Scout Council is made up of

about 11,000 girls and volunteers. One in five girls in the five-county area served by the Penn Lakes County participates in girl scouting where they are encouraged to develop to their fullest potential.

Girl Scouts can be found in schools, public housing, churches, community centers, battered women's shelters, Head Start facilities, in-school programs, juvenile homes and international centers. The Penn Lakes Council is dedicated to meeting the individual needs of young women in all communities. The council's outreach initiative is designed to serve girls in underprivileged areas. Individual Girl Scouts are mentored in situations where a troop format is not available.

In the Penn Lakes Girl Scout Council, girls learn by doing, and they are encouraged to make contributions to the world around them through community service. Since the Sept. 11 tragedy, Girl Scouts have made patriotic ribbons, written letters to firefighters and volunteers, given their own money to America's Fund for Afghan Children, and collected more than 20,000 lollipops for New York City children. All in an effort to let the world know that Girl Scouts care.

The quality programming provided to Girl Scouts in northwestern Pennsylvania would not be possible without a dedicated network of adult volunteers. These dedicated women and men give their time and energy to ensure continued service to the increasing number of girls who want to become Girl Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Girl Scouts of America for 90 years of ensuring that girls have a quality foundation for becoming successful women. May girl scouting enjoy another 90 years where girls can continue to grow strong.

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BATAAN DEATH MARCH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 60th anniversary of the infamous Bataan Death March, in which thousands of American and Filipino soldiers lost their lives in one of the most brutal episodes of World War II.

On December 22, 1941, the Japanese Army landed in northern Luzon in the Philippines and began to push southward toward Manila. At first, General Douglas MacArthur was inclined to confront the Japanese on the beaches, but without air support the U.S. Navy's small Asiatic fleet was in no position to challenge Japan at sea. While the U.S. regulars and Philippine Scouts were excellent troops, they were severely outnumbered and would have had no air support.

Giving up his initial strategy of defeating the enemy on the beaches, General MacArthur instead decided to withdraw to the Bataan Peninsula and pursue a strategy of defense and delay, by shortening his lines and using the mountainous, jungle-covered terrain to his advantage. He hoped they could hold out long enough for a relief force to be mounted from the United States.

By March 1942, however, it was clear that help from the United States would not arrive in time. Lacking sufficient food and ammunition, and wracked by dysentery and malaria, nevertheless the American-Filipino force bravely continued to fight.

In March, President Roosevelt ordered General MacArthur to leave the Philippines and escape to Australia, handing over his command to Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright and to Maj. Gen. Edward King.

On April 9, 1942, with food, supplies and ammunition virtually gone, after four months of gallant resistance, the exhausted and starving U.S. troops in Bataan were forced to surrender.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the courageous defense of Bataan had a shockingly tragic end. Marching their prisoners toward camps in northern Luzon, the Japanese denied food and water to the sick and starving American and Filipino soldiers for more than a week. When the weakest prisoners began to straggle, Japanese guards shot or bayoneted them and threw their bodies to the side of the road. Even those soldiers who were healthy when the March started became ill with dysentery and malaria along this long road.

It is estimated by some historians that Japanese guards may have killed more than 600 Americans and 10,000 Filipino prisoners during this long and brutal March, and that more than 1,500 American and 25,000 Filipino soldiers may have lost their lives after reaching their destination.

Meanwhile, General Wainwright and his troops on the small, fortified island of Corregidor in Manila Bay had been able to continue resisting for another month, despite being under constant Japanese artillery and air bombardment. But on May 6, 1942, after Japanese troops stormed ashore on the island, General Wainwright agreed to surrender Corregidor and all other U.S. troops on the Philippine islands. And by May 9, 1942, the battle for the Philippines had ended, though there remained some Americans and Filipinos who escaped to the mountains and continued to wage a guerrilla war against the Japanese.

Mr. Speaker, this week, on the 60th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March, there remain thousands of surviving American and Filipino veterans who continue to bear the scars, both physical and emotional, of that war crime. All of the courageous soldiers who fought, persevered or perished on the Island of Philippines at Bataan and Corregidor played a distinctive and vital role in World War II. Their stories, and the full history of the Bataan Death March must never be forgotten.

Inscribed on a monument in Corregidor, there is a poem by an unknown poet that pays homage to these brave soldiers: "Sleep my sons, your duty done. For Freedom's light has come. Sleep in the Silent Depths of the sea or in your bed of hallowed sod. Until you hear at dawn the low clear reveille of God."

Mr. Speaker, I call on all Americans who cherish liberty and freedom to join us this week in respectful recognition of the brave United States and Filipino soldiers who served in the Philippines during this fateful event.