

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALBERT KRAUSE, JR. FOR HIS 65 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great New Jerseyan. For 65 years, Mr. Albert Krause, Jr., of River Vale, New Jersey has dedicated his life to serving our local communities. As a 58 year veteran of the River Vale Volunteer Fire Department, where he held the office of Chief twice and Fire Marshall and served for another 7 years as a member of the Oradell Volunteer Fire Department, Mr. Krause committed himself to making northern New Jersey a safer and stronger place to live.

As a life member of the New Jersey and New York Fireman's Association's, Mr. Krause has risen above and beyond the call of duty to protect our communities and neighborhoods. Very few people ever reach this milestone in the fire service. For this distinguished honor of 65 years of service, we recognize him as a true American hero.

Nearly one million state and local first responders, of which approximately 750,000 volunteers like Mr. Krause, regularly put their lives on the line to protect the lives of others and make our country safer. Today, we give thanks for the invaluable service rendered by Mr. Krause and other firefighters, who risk their lives to preserve and protect our communities. Courageous servants, such as Mr. Krause have inspired us with their dedication and professionalism.

As we recognize and remember the sacrifices of Mr. Krause, let us draw great strength from his example of selfless service to others. Mr. Krause's 65 years of fire service to River Vale and Oradell embodies the best of the American spirit.

We thank Mr. Krause for helping to renew our respect for public service and providing lasting lessons in courage for many years to come. On behalf of the people of New Jersey's Fifth Congressional District, it is with great honor, that I recognize Mr. Krause for his 65 years of volunteer fire service.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT STEVEN P. JONES FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Steven P. Jones of the Lake County, California Sheriff's Department, for dedicating his professional life to protecting and serving the people of Lake County.

Steven Jones first joined the Lake County Sheriff's Department on March 15, 1973 as a Deputy Officer. Deputy Jones earned Peace Officer Standards and Training certificates in 1977 and 1982. His achievements and disciplined work ethic helped pave the way for his promotion to the rank of Sergeant in 1977.

Sergeant Jones has served the Sheriff's Department in many different capacities. He has served as SWAT team leader, Search and Rescue team leader, Patrol Supervisor, Investigator, Volunteer Coordinator and Commander at the Lower Lake Substation.

Regardless of his specific title or role within the department, Sergeant Jones has always been a leader and an example to his fellow officers. His dedication to the community has been a tremendous benefit to us all.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Jones epitomizes the standards of a true civil servant. For over 30 years he has conducted himself with honor and dignity. Even when he is not working, Sergeant Jones is never really off duty. On Sunday July 14, 1996 Sergeant Jones and his wife Pattie were walking in Library Park, a popular local recreation area. As they walked about, they looked to the water. There they witnessed an accident involving a 5-year-old boy and his Jet Ski. The child had been knocked off of his Jet Ski and was facing certain peril when without hesitation Sergeant Jones jumped into the water and began swimming toward the boy. Fortunately for that boy and his family, Sergeant Jones' strength and training took over and he not only reached the child, he pulled him to the dock and administered proper medical attention until rescue personnel could arrive.

Such is the character of Sergeant Jones.

Mr. Speaker, three decades have passed since Sergeant Jones first joined the force. In that time, his dedication to our community has remained firm and intact. He has never wavered and he has always maintained our confidence. Sergeant Jones has protected and served Lake County faithfully, he has kept us safe. For his outstanding service and amazing call to duty over the previous 30 years, it is proper for us to honor Sergeant Steven P. Jones at the time of his retirement from the Lake County Sheriff's Department and extend out best wishes to him in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on April 22, 2003, I missed rollcall vote No. 211. Had I been here I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 211.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2003 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL SHIELD AWARD, RAMSEY, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinguished honor to recognize five great New Jerseyans for their service and commitment to public safety. Patrolman Timothy Flanagan of the Ramsey Police Department, Assistant Chief Thomas Lanning of the Ramsey Fire Department, Lieutenant Steve Ahlstedt of the Ramsey Ambulance Squad, Captain Chris Hoffman of the Ramsey Rescue Squad and Michael Greenshields of the Ramsey Office of Emergency Management have risen above and beyond the call of duty to protect our communities and neighborhoods. Their selfless service is a testament and model for those who regularly put their lives on the line to protect others and make northern New Jersey safer. It is my privilege to recognize and give thanks for their invaluable service to the people of Ramsey, New Jersey.

Each and every day across our country, across New Jersey and throughout the great borough of Ramsey, first responders selflessly risk their lives to protect our families and neighborhoods. None of them become a first responder for the money—in many cases they volunteer their services. Nor do any of them put on their uniform expecting a life of ease. Day-in and day-out they put themselves in harm's way and stand in the face of danger. They take the job because they want to serve their community and their country. Fortunately, this great country has such heroic men and women.

On behalf of the people of New Jersey's Fifth Congressional District, it is with great honor, that I recognize and salute Patrolman Flanagan, Assistant Chief Lanning, Lieutenant Ahlstedt, Captain Hoffman and Mr. Greenshields for their bravery, courage and commitment to public safety.

TRIBUTE TO ISAIAH HILL, JR.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Isaiah Hill, Jr. This noble man has dedicated and committed his life to serving the people of Miami-Dade County for 38 years in our Department of Parks and Recreation, and he has decided to retire at the end of June.

Mr. Hill began his years of distinguished service in 1966 as a Laborer in the county parks system. Few imagined at that time that this first job would lead to a lifelong commitment to becoming a Skilled Laborer, Golf Attendant, and Maintenance Repair Mechanic.

• 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.

His superiors respect his loyalty, dedication, and commitment to fine workmanship. Anyone who has had the privilege of working with Mr. Hill knows that he will take on any task no matter how hard, and he will always get the job done.

After many years of tireless work and dedication, he has decided to hang up his hat and retire. His many friends and co-workers at Miami Dade Parks and Recreation will dearly miss him, but so will the thousands of Dade County residents who never met Mr. Hill, but who have enjoyed the parks that he helped maintain for so long. The Parks may never look quite the same without his magical touch. He is leaving behind a legacy in the parks system for his co-workers to continue with a high level of commitment to excellence and dedication to service.

Mr. Speaker, Isaiah Hill, Jr. is a good man who does things uncommonly well.

Congratulations, Mr. Hill, and enjoy your retirement.

IN TRIBUTE TO THOMAS SAAM

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Saam will long be remembered by local school children, union workers, Vietnam Veterans, family, friends and hundreds of children in Vietnam. Tom was a patriot who took great pride in America and his service in the U.S. Marine Corps. Always a strong voice for organized labor, Tom was a 26-year employee of General Motors Power Train in Toledo, OH. He was a proud United Auto Worker, UAW, and trustee who believed strongly in the quality of life for workers and their families who remained active as a member of the UAW Local No. 14 Retirees.

Seven years ago, in 1995, Tom Saam underwent a heart transplant. Following successful surgery, Tom became a spokesperson for transplants and a volunteer with the American Heart Association, receiving their prestigious Heart and Soul Award. He served with pride the American Red Cross, Life Connections of Ohio and the Mended Hearts Association. Upon his death on December 7, 2002, Tom Saam became a donor also. During the last 7 years as a proponent for organ and tissue donation, Tom Saam spent a great deal of time speaking to groups as an advocate for donation and educating children about the dangers of smoking. Tom's concern for our children and youth was always present in all that he did.

Tom Saam, a former U.S. Marine, served two tours in Vietnam. Tom Saam never forgot his veteran buddies as an active member of Veteran of Foreign Wars Post No. 3265, Toledo, OH, and VFW Department of Ohio P.O.W./M.I.A. Chairman 1992–1995. Tom served as Post No. 3265 Americanism Chairman from 1990–2002 and served as UAW Region 2B Veterans Representative 1995–2002.

On Veteran's Day in 1999, Tom Saam and several other Vietnam Veterans joined me in our District Congressional Office and placed a conference call to then U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Pete Peterson. From that conversation and meeting, Tom Saam and his core

group of veterans formed the D.O.V.E. Fund, a non-profit humanitarian organization dedicated to helping the children of Vietnam in the areas of health care, improving water quality and building schools. As a charter member and member of the D.O.V.E. Fund Board of Directors, Tom worked diligently to provide the extras such as writing tablets, pencils, toothbrushes, soap and other like items that the children of Vietnam need. Tom never hesitated to approach anyone he felt could provide assistance for a child. His dentist, his insurance agent, his union, his buddies and a variety of local veteran's groups were frequent donors of school supplies, ball caps, candy and anything else that kids needed to improve their quality of life.

In May of 2001 Tom traveled with other veterans on a return trip to Vietnam. Tom had arranged through a Vietnamese-American contact to obtain what was believed to be the remains of 2 American M.I.A.s' and return these remains to our government in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. As a result of his efforts, Tom was named the June 2001, Citizen of the Month by Toledo's Mayor and was awarded the UAW Walter P. Reuther Distinguished Service Award for his courageous efforts. The D.O.V.E. Board of Directors is planning to build a school in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam and dedicate it in Tom Saam's memory.

Tom is the father of Thomas, Jr., Jeremy, Laura and Jamie and the husband of Barbara. He will always be remembered as a loving husband and father, a veteran's advocate, a tough Marine and union member, a gentle spirit and mentor and a proud American. Mr. Oscar Bunch, President of Local No. 14 and long time friend of Tom said, "Everyone who had anything to do with Tom just loved him." Many of us in Northwest Ohio share Oscar's sentiment. Tom Saam will be missed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT OF 2003

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague Congressman MARK UDALL in introducing the Environmental Justice Act and commend my colleague, Congressman MARK UDALL for his work on this issue.

The Environmental Justice Act will make permanent an environmental justice Executive Order 12898 issued by President Bill Clinton in 1994.

It attempts to address environmental injustice within existing federal laws and regulations by prohibiting discrimination in programs that receive federal funds.

This issue has been one of my priorities as a public servant because I have seen the damage—first hand—that environmental injustice can bring to poor and minority communities.

I grew up in the shadow of one of the largest landfills in the country. As the landfill grew, so did other regional pollution. Today, the area, which is 63 percent Latino and where 15 percent of families live in poverty, suffers from water pollution from Superfund sites and the gravel pit industry.

In the Los Angeles area, it is estimated that over 71 percent of African Americans and 50

percent of Latinos reside in areas with the most polluted air, while only 34 percent of whites live in highly polluted areas.

But we are not alone. Environmental injustices are happening nationwide.

Consider the plight of the people of South Omaha, Nebraska where descendants of immigrants who labored in the city's meatpacking plants are fighting to restore city parks and stop the health risks posed by unsanitary conditions at the plants.

Or consider the people who live in Livermore, California near one of the nation's principal nuclear weapons research labs, and who are fighting radioactive contamination that has caused many cancer cases.

In the past we might have accepted our fate but today we chose to fight back.

Hardly a day passes without the media informing us about a neighborhood that is fighting a landfill, incinerator, chemical plant or some other polluting industry.

This was not always the case. Just three decades ago, the concept of environmental justice had not registered on the radar screens of most environmental, civil rights or social justice groups.

In 1996, I had the honor of introducing the first piece of environmental justice legislation in the country. Since that time, 30 other States have adopted similar laws, policies or other statutes that protect and recognize the importance of environmental justice communities.

Today, we enjoy a greater ability to connect with the public through grassroots organization and the media but our laws still offer few protections to disadvantaged communities.

I am committed to changing this and look forward to working with Congressman UDALL and others to make sure that environmental protection starts with environmental equality.

This bill is one step in that fight.

HONORING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EDUCATION TASK FORCE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the African American Education Task Force for its clear record of success in encouraging and acknowledging academic achievement by African American youth in Oakland.

This June, the African American Education Task Force will hold its Second Annual Academic Awards Celebration at the ACTS Full Gospel Church in Oakland. At this celebration, more than 1200 African American students from 8th through 12th grades in the Oakland Unified School District will be honored for attaining grade point averages of 3.00 or above for the 2002–2003 school year.

These outstanding young people's accomplishments are especially remarkable in light of the dismal budgetary climate that now grips the State of California. I want to commend each of them for having an understanding of the importance of staying in school and the responsibility each individual has to take advantage of the educational opportunities available to him or her. By continuing to be the best students you can be and completing your education, you will have more opportunity to achieve your personal goals and our shared goal of world peace.