

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. KENNETH E.  
RUSSELL

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2003*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay special tribute to Mr. Kenneth E. Russell, a member of my constituency and a true American hero.

Ken Russell is the last surviving member of a group of 17 paratroopers who, in the early hours of D-Day in 1944, parachuted into the town of Ste. Mere Eglise, France.

Ken's heroism and bravery are to be commended. His actions during the D-Day operation have been included in many histories of the liberation of France, including D-Day and the Citizen Soldiers by Dr. Stephen Ambrose, among others.

As he made his way to the ground from his C-47 troop transport, Ken witnessed unthinkable violence. Many of his colleagues did not make it to the ground before being shot by German gunfire.

Both Ken and his friend, John Steel, landed atop a church in Ste. Mere Eglise. Ken landed especially hard, causing damage to his spine which limits his activities to this day. Both paratroopers were helpless as their parachutes were tangled in the church rooftop.

As he dangled helplessly above the ground, Ken was hit in the light hand by German gunfire from the ground below. While still suspended in their chutes, both Ken and John were spotted by a German soldier. Before the German could shoot at Ken and John, he was shot by another American, Sgt. John Ray.

After freeing himself from the church rooftop, Ken Russell blended into the landscape and later met up with paratroopers from the 82nd and 101st Airborne. Soon after, the troops set up a defensive position on a road leading to Ste. Mere Eglise and came under attack several times. Each time they were successful in defending their position.

For the wounds he sustained on the church rooftop, Ken Russell was awarded two Purple Hearts. For his determination and bravery, he was awarded the Silver Star.

Mr. Speaker, Ken Russell is a true American hero. His selfless actions during the D-Day operation saved lives and contributed to our great victory in World War II. I can say without hesitation that our country would be a much better place today if there were more people here like Ken Russell.

As we approach the 60th anniversary of D-Day, I hope all Americans will remember the sacrifices made by so many soldiers like Ken and will take time to thank them for their service.

100TH BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR  
ANNA CHARLOTTE JILG  
KOSLOWSKE

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2003*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anna Charlotte Jilg Koslowski who will turn 100 years old on September 29. She was born near Florissant, MS, to the family of Adolf and Caroline Jilg. Her father had immigrated as a child to America from Austria in 1859. The family had a vegetable farm outside of St. Louis, and the eleven children all learned the meaning of hard work and its rewards. They were all expected to help in the fields and in preparing the produce for market. Anna's father would drive the mule-drawn wagon into St. Louis to deliver the fresh produce. This way of life supported the family for many years.

Like many people from those days, Anna is pretty much self-taught, as children were needed to help at home or find work at an early age. Her teacher arranged for Anna to complete grades seven and eight in 1 year so the teacher could claim an eighth-grade graduate. After her graduation, Anna was hired by a family in St. Louis to care for the gentleman's terminally ill wife. Her compassionate and caring nature, in addition to her experience of living and working within a large family, made her an excellent candidate.

As a young woman Anna journeyed to Zap, ND, to visit her sister and while there, met the Rev. George Koslowski, a pastor in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. They were married on May 17, 1925, and to this union came seven children, all of whom are still living.

Anna moved with her husband from North Dakota to Waco, NE, where they served a rural parish, St. Johns, for 20 years. In 1950 they moved their family to Big Springs, NE, answering God's call to Zion Lutheran Church. During his ministry there, George was called home by the Lord in 1958, leaving Anna to provide for the two youngest children, ages 13 and 15. Anna worked then as a cook in the local Dairy King. Once the children were on their own, she served as a nanny for several families until 1974, when she moved to Holyoke, CO where she still resides.

Anna has been blessed with 15 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She also has one living sister, Lillian Dueker, who recently celebrated her 102nd birthday.

Anna and her children are grateful for the Lord's blessings during her 100 years. She has led a quiet, prayerful life. She was an excellent mother and mentor to her children, always stressing a Christian attitude. Her favorite reprimand was "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." She continues to be an example and joy to those around her.

I am proud to honor Anna on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Anna is a self taught,

hard working compassionate Christian mother and grandmother who is the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into the great nation it is today.

ELSAH SESQUICENTENNIAL

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the village of Elsah, Illinois and honor its sesquicentennial this year.

Elsah was founded in 1853, and named by one of its founding fathers, General James Semple. General Semple's ancestors were from Scotland, and, according to town tradition, the village's prominent limestone bluffs reminded him of an island just off the Firth of Clyde, "Ailsa Craig." Named after this Scottish island, the Mississippi River village slightly resembles a typical small, English town, with clusters of stone cottages mixed together with small yards and private gardens.

Recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, the village stands as a reminder of nineteenth century living along the Mississippi River. Its buildings represent a midwestern interpretation of nineteenth century styles, and many original buildings remain in place today. The newer buildings were built in the old styles as well, as the village wants to retain its historic feel.

However, in 1993, Elsah was greatly affected by the floods on the Mississippi River. Some nearby cities decided to take state and Federal aid and leave their waterlogged homes and businesses behind, deciding to rebuild elsewhere. The people of Elsah, however, recognized their city's historic foundation, and rebuilt their town. Damaged public buildings were refurbished, and residents worked together to rebuild their homes and lives; and they did so, successfully.

Elsah is quieter now than it was in the past, as mills, warehouses, river shipping, two railroads, local businesses, and farmers have gradually disappeared. But, the village remains strong. Inviting tourists to "leave the fast pace of everyday life" behind, Elsah represents a remnant of Midwestern, small-town life from the late 1800s. Its sesquicentennial this year is a significant milestone, and I wish the village and its people the best.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOSEPH  
JOHNSON

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2003*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man of character and grace, Bishop Joseph Johnson. Bishop Johnson serves as the Presiding Bishop of the South Atlantic District of

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