

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 229—"yes"; Rollcall No. 230—"yes"; and Rollcall No. 231—"yes".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on June 8th and 9th, 2004, I was unavoidably detained while part of an official Congressional delegation. If I had been present, on rollcall vote Nos. 229, 230 & 231, I would have voted "aye".

80TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. RHYS LEWIS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor and acknowledge an important milestone as Mr. Rhys Lewis celebrated his 80th Birthday on Thursday, May 13, 2004.

Rhys honorably served in the South Pacific during World War II as a United States Marine Corp Sergeant, fighting against tyranny and defending America's freedom and security. Following his invaluable service to our country, Rhys returned safely home to marry Ruth M. Lewis in 1947. After successfully building and managing two small businesses, Rhys was elected a Trustee of the Charter Township of Redford. His personal commitment and ongoing efforts to better the community have made Rhys indispensable and the people of Redford have benefited from his character, dedication, leadership, and tireless motivation. His wife Ruth, and their two children, Arthur Lewis and Judge Charlotte Wirth, should be extremely proud of the indelible mark he has made.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my appreciation to Mr. Rhys Lewis, upon his 80th birthday, for his fine service to our community and country.

HONORING THE SANTA BARBARA JEWISH FEDERATION IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Santa Barbara Jewish Federation as they celebrate their 30th anniversary of service to our community. The Santa Barbara Jewish Federation contributes to the entire Santa Barbara community through their educational programs, art exhibits, festivals, and other programs.

The mission of the Santa Barbara Jewish Federation is to create and advance a cohesive Santa Barbara Jewish community by promoting identification and connectedness to the Jewish community, generating mutual respect amongst Jews of different practice, promoting cooperative relationships among the Jewish organizations and promoting positive relationships between the Jewish community and the community at large. The Santa Barbara Jewish Federation promotes charity and justice in all that they do.

The Santa Barbara Jewish Federation contributes to the community by helping to care for those in need, helping elders live in dignity and they work to build respect and trust among religious and ethnic groups. In their mission statement, the Jewish Federation stresses the Hebrew Phrase Tikkun Olam, meaning "healing the world." The work that is done here in Santa Barbara helps not only our local community, but sets a positive example for all. Their work truly goes a long way in helping to heal the world.

I have been honored and privileged to attend the Federation's "Super Sunday" telethon to raise funds for all of the critical programs they provide to our community throughout the year. I am pleased to help commemorate the Santa Barbara Jewish Federation for all the wonderful, positive ways they contribute to the community as they celebrate their 30th anniversary.

ABU GHRAIB PRISON

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, last week the Bethany United Church of Christ in Mendon, IL, sent me this letter regarding Major General Antonio Taguba's report on the incidents at Abu Ghraib prison. I respectfully request that this letter be entered into the RECORD.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN EVANS: On pages 49 and 50 of the Executive Summary of his report, Article 15-6 Investigation of the 800th Military Police Brigade Major General Antonio M. Taguba writes:

3. (U) Throughout the investigation, we observed many individual soldiers and some subordinate units under the 800th Military Police Brigade that overcame significant obstacles, persevered in extremely poor conditions, and upheld Army Values. We discovered numerous examples of soldiers and sailors taking the initiative in the absence of leadership and accomplishing their assigned tasks.

a. (U) The 744th Military Police (MP) Battalion, commanded by LTC Dennis McGlone, efficiently operated the HVD Detention Facility at Camp Cropper and met mission requirements with little to no guidance from the 800th, Military Police Brigade. The unit was disciplined, proficient, and appeared to understand their basic tasks.

b. (U) The 530th MP Battalion, commanded by LTC Stephen J. Novotny, effectively maintained the MEK Detention Facility at Camp Ashraf. His soldiers were proficient in their individual tasks and adapted well to this highly unique and non-doctrinal operation.

c. (U) The 165th Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion excelled in providing perimeter security and force protection at Abu Ghraib (BCCF). LTC Robert P. Walters, Jr., demanded standards be enforced and worked endlessly to improve discipline throughout the FOB.

4. (U) The individual soldiers and sailors that we observed and believe should be favorably noted include:

a. (U) Master-at-Arms First Class William J. Kimbro, US Navy Dog Handler, knew his duties and refused to participate in improper interrogations despite significant pressure from the MI personnel at Abu Ghraib.

b. (U) SPC Joseph M. Darby, 372nd MP Company discovered evidence of abuse and turned it over to military law enforcement.

c. (U) 1LT David O. Sutton, 229th MP Company, took immediate action and stopped an abuse, then reported the incident to the chain of command.

By this letter we express our admiration and appreciation for the courageous and decent execution of military duties by these individuals and units, as we admire and appreciate the work of MG Taguba and his staff and assistants.

It is painfully and visibly evident that there have been abuses and violations of legal, Christian, and humane standards of conduct. We are shamed by the facts, and we know only too well how long the world's memory is likely to be. In the midst of the darkness, however, we take particular comfort from knowing that in spite of the pressures and in spite of the many bad examples, and perhaps even bad orders, there were men and women whose deeds may inspire us all to live up to all that is noble and right.

We share with all people of faith, and especially with other Christians, Jews, and Muslims, many understandings of what divine direction and purpose call us to do and be. In our own language, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:4, NRSV)" We are grateful that God has called men and women in even the most difficult of circumstances to respect the dignity and intrinsic worth of others.

We ask you to reflect our tribute in an official way, by reference or quotation in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD perhaps. If there is a way for Congress to honor the units and individuals who have distinguished themselves

• 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.

and preserved honor for all of us, we ask you to support it or lead it energetically.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. NANCY HOLMES
NYBERG,

Pastor.

CHRISTINE ROSKAMP,
President.

TERESA BEELER,
Treasurer.

STEPHEN R. MULCH,
Vice-President.

SHIRLEY M. ROSKAMP,
Secretary.

ANNA MACARTHUR,
Memorial Fund.

HONORING JANE GYER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jane Gyer posthumously for her years of service to her community. Jane recently passed away on Tuesday, June 1, 2004.

Jane was known for her extraordinary work in the arts. Considered by many art critics as the first lady among contemporary painters of Yosemite, she was renowned for her elaborate paintings of Yosemite National Park.

A San Francisco native, Jane grew up in Los Angeles and received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from the University of California at Los Angeles. She lived in the Oakhurst area for nearly 50 years.

Jane's accomplishments are numerous and distinguished. She was a founding member of the Guild of Mountain Artists and active in the Educational Enhancement Foundation. She is listed in "Who's Who of American Women," and was a recipient of the first National Park Service Director's Award for her illustrations in the book, "Discovering Sierra Trees." Jane collected a second Director's Award for her poster design created for the Yosemite Fund.

She is survived by her husband Jack Gyer and her five children.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jane Gyer for her remarkable effort and service to her community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring her posthumously for her accomplishments and commitment to bettering this world through various charitable organizations, touching lives both in the Central Valley of California and worldwide.

HONORING SERGEANT ALLEN
O'REILLY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sergeant Allen O'Reilly, UMC.

Allen O'Reilly was born November 7, 1980 near Chicago, IL. At the age of 18, he dedicated his life to the service of his country by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Due to Allen's intelligence and potential, the Marine Corps selected him to be an avionics technician. After boot camp at Parris Island,

SC, Allen went on to complete the academically challenging training required for this specialty at Pensacola Naval Air Station and the Marine Corps Air Station at Camp Pendleton, CA.

As is so common with Marines, Allen spent a great deal of time participating in numerous training exercises around the globe. He was also called to duty against a hostile enemy, participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom, spending long months away from family, friends, and the comforts of home.

Mr. Speaker, Allen was sadly taken from us last month. However, the memory of his service and dedication lives on. The medals he was awarded are a testament to his abilities and his accomplishments as a faithful Marine. I rise before my colleagues today to commend Sergeant O'Reilly—one willing to sacrifice so much of himself to protect the life of freedom and liberty all Americans enjoy.

HONORING KRYSTYNA
BAUMGARTNER, NEW YORK
STATE WINNER OF THE VFW'S
2004 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
ESSAY COMPETITION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Krystyna Baumgartner, a constituent of mine, who is the New York State winner of the 2004 Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) audio/essay competition. Ms. Baumgartner has done an excellent job of conveying the necessity of voter participation and showing respect for veterans and current members of our armed forces. It is my distinct honor to submit the text of her work into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

2003-2004 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

"MY COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE"

(New York State Winner, Krystyna
Baumgartner)

In the movie "The American President," the fictional President Andrew Shepard utters that "America isn't easy. America is advanced citizenship." With those seven words, he correctly points out that in order for America to work the way the Founding Fathers intended it to, its citizens must actively participate.

Since I was about eleven, I have told anyone that would listen that I was going to be the first woman President of the United States. That year, I religiously watched the presidential debates between Clinton, Dole, and Perot, conjuring up my own answers to the questions asked and drilling my dad on events I didn't know about. Now that I am seventeen, I pay even more attention to the world and its happenings than I did at eleven. And I am even more convinced that I want to be on that stage, answering questions about the topics of the day and making plans to move America forward.

In order to move America forward, however, you must first learn her framework and the history of the struggles that she has gone through to be what she is today. Without this basic knowledge of how the political system in America works, one cannot expect to be able to fully participate in America. As I apply to colleges, I do not hesitate to check off that I am a political science major. In

this field rests the knowledge that I need to help my generation guide America to the next level.

I look forward to my eighteenth birthday for a reason most of my peers never think about—I cannot wait to be able to vote. Until am old enough to run for office myself, I can vote for people that share my views of where America is heading and how to get her to that point. I do not understand why many people that are of age to vote do not. We are lucky to live in a country that allows us the right to choose our government officials. In my opinion, giving up this right that so many in this world don't have is equivalent to spitting on everything that America stands for. It is my sincere hope that more people from my generation will take advantage of their right to vote and I plan to do everything that I can to advocate voting to my peers.

Knowing the basic principles upon which America was founded, how the government works, and partaking of your right to vote are a very important part of the advanced citizenship I mentioned earlier. However, in order to truly be an active participant in America, one must be willing to defend her against threats, both domestic and foreign. Serving in a branch of America's military is a way to give back to America what America has given to you. By voluntarily enlisting in the Army or the Air Force or the Navy, you are showing the world that you love your country and that you want to make sure that it will still be around two hundred years from now.

To volunteer to risk your life for your country shows an immense dedication to the principles that your country stands for and to the preservation of your country. In the past few days I have been communicating with veterans of the Battle for Bataan and the Bataan Death March for a school report. Most of these men enlisted before Pearl Harbor, even though they knew that the United States would most likely enter the war in Europe. I asked one of the men, who was a POW of the Japanese for 1028 days, if he remained in the Army after World War Two. He said that although he did not, he wishes he had because he really liked being in the Army. Can you imagine spending over two years in captivity, being beaten, starved, and made to work in the blistering sun, and still enjoying the Army?

America is at a crucial point in its history. It's citizens are now beginning to question parts of everyday American life, such as the Pledge of Allegiance, the motto on our printed currency, and our right to defend ourselves from terrorism, that were never given a second thought before. The solutions to these questions will ultimately rest in my generation. It will be up to us to decide whether or not our pledge should be re-written or if we are allowed to mention God in public life. But we cannot decide these things until we have truly experienced America, and in order to do that we have to want to learn why America is the country it is today and we also have to be willing to defend her against any and all enemies. We are the future of America. Shrinking away from this is not an option. We have to stand up and accept it. We have to be advanced active citizens.

Mr. Speaker I again congratulate Ms. Baumgartner on her accomplishment and wish her the best of luck in what I am sure will be a productive future.