

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE MOSCONE FAMILY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Moscone family, as they receive the 2004 Donna Greco Issa "Family of the Year" Award from the March of Dimes. The Moscone Family continues the distinguished tradition of strong and passionate enthusiasm for family, friends, and community that has been a hallmark of this award.

Serafino Moscone was born in 1930; Iolanda Vitelli in 1934, both from the little town of Casalvieri, Italy. The two met as children and were married in 1949. Surrounded by family in Detroit, they began their new life together. Being blessed with two children; Antonio and Onorio, the young couple realized the value of family. Serafino worked three jobs to help provide a better life for his wife and sons. In the 1960s, he started a construction company that helped to instill a strong and devoted work ethic in their children. Today, due largely to the virtues of discipline and hard-work passed along to them by their parents, they have become one of Macomb County's leading developers and builders. Antonio and his wife Iolanda have three children. Sam, 25, graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor's degree in Finance. Michelle, 23, graduated from Wayne State with her Bachelor's degree in Science of Dance and Christina, 20, is on the Dean's List at Wayne State with plans of pursuing an Education degree. Onorio and his wife Carla have two children. Nino, 13, has started at De La Salle this fall and Michael, 10, is currently attending St. Lawrence School.

The families continually support numerous charities and foundations such as St. Joseph's Mercy of Macomb Hospital, Italian American Delegates, Children's Charities at Adios, and the Italian Chamber of Commerce. The Moscone's devotion to their community has a broad impact on individuals and organizations throughout the County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Moscone family for their extraordinary commitment to their family, their friends, and their community. They are well deserving of the Donna Greco Issa Family of the Year Award.

RECOGNIZING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF PELELIU

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of this resolution, of which I

am an original cosponsor. I too commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for introducing this measure to bring appropriate Congressional recognition to the 60h Anniversary of the Battle of Peleliu.

The Battle of Peleliu was one of the fiercest fought in the Pacific theater during the greatest war of the last century. The fall of Japan's first line of defense in New Guinea, the Marshalls and the Marianas in 1944 precipitated the Allied advance to the strongholds in Japan's second defense line. Located within this line was the Palau island chain. U.S. Army General Douglas MacArthur, wanting to free Palau from enemy control before beginning operations in the Philippines, convinced President Franklin Roosevelt to approve his strategy to win the war in the Pacific. What followed would be a ferocious battle on the island of Peleliu and Angaur in the Palau island chain lasting more than two months and costing thousands of lives.

Earlier this month, we marked the 60th Anniversary of D-Day on Peleliu, on September 15th. On that day in 1944, the Marines of the 1st Marine Division landed on the western beaches of Peleliu to free the Palauan people from control by the Axis powers and to advance the cause of freedom against tyranny. The costs of the battle were high, the conflict intense. The Army's 81st Infantry Division was later called upon to relieve the 1st Marine Division. Of the nineteen Medals of Honor awarded to Marines of the 1st Division in the Pacific, eight were won on Peleliu. U.S. Forces endured over 10,000 casualties; over 12,000 Japanese soldiers were killed in action; and many innocent Palauan lives were caught and lost in the conflict.

Today, the Battle of Peleliu is recognized as one of World War II's most important campaigns. The Republic of Palau today is an independent nation that maintains a special relationship with the United States, embodied in a Compact of Free Association that is a testament to the shared principles of freedom and peace. This resolution is a strong and timely tribute to the veterans of the Battle of Peleliu. Passage of this resolution will bring appropriate Congressional recognition to the friendship between the Republic of Palau and the United States, and serve as an expression of support for the Department of the Interior's cooperative work with the people of Palau to protect the historic sites of the Peleliu Battlefield.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATA BURKE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on Sept. 11, 2004, teens from around the Third District gathered the campus of Jacksonville State University to remember the events of

9/11, and to reflect on the impact of those events on their life today.

One of the speakers that day was Mata Burke, an eleventh grade student at the Donoho School in Anniston. In honor of Mata's words and in recognition of her gift for writing, I am placing her entire speech in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that others may have the opportunity to hear her thoughts about that fateful day.

The text of her speech is as follows. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's attention to this important matter on this important day.

"WHO DID THIS TO US?"

(By Mata Burke)

"Now, as we are looking back and remembering the events of that day, it's hard to believe that three years have already gone by since it happened. The memory is still fresh in our minds, and perhaps, that is due to the fact that it's changed our everyday lives even now; whether it be by new security measures, constant bomb threats, or rising terror alerts. However, there is one thing that many people do tend to forget when remembering that day . . . and that is, "why did it happen?" "What were the motives?" and "who exactly was involved?"

Most everyone knows that the September 11th attacks were directly linked to Al Qa'ida and Osama bin Laden. But many may not know what exactly Al Qa'ida is and who Osama bin Laden is.

There are many people who think that the terrorists who attacked on September 11th were simply evil people who hated everything America and freedom stand for. But this is a generalization that overlooks many of the true motives behind the attacks. To really understand why these attacks happened, we must look into the past at the beginnings of Al Qa'ida and at previous terrorist attacks across the world.

Al Qa'ida is an international terrorist network that was founded and led by Osama bin Laden. Al-Qa'ida first began to take shape after the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It was at that time that bin Laden and a Palestinian religious scholar, Abdullah Azzam, began recruiting, training, and financing thousands of mujahedeen, or holy warriors, from more than 50 different countries. Although they were originally fighting to rid Afghanistan of the Soviet invaders, bin Laden urged these holy warriors to continue their fight beyond Afghanistan. And thus, in 1988, he officially founded the terrorist group known as Al-Qa'ida, a name that is now familiar to people across the world.

Currently, there is not a specific place from which Al-Qa'ida operates. Previous headquarters, such as Sudan and Afghanistan were removed by force, and now, it is thought that leaders are trying to regroup inside Pakistan, near the Afghan border. Still, it is important to realize that Al-Qa'ida operatives are not just located in the Middle East. They are spread throughout many countries across the world; including Italy, France, Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States. Despite the distances that separate them, all of the members of this terrorist organization share one major thing in common: Sunni Muslim fundamentalist views. In essence, there are three main objectives of the Al-Qa'ida Jihad,

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