

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING BOY SCOUT TROOP 733

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Boy Scout Troop 733 of New Wilmington, Pennsylvania on its 75th anniversary. For the last 75 years, Troop 733 has provided invaluable direction for boys of all ages, turning them into fine young men and leaders within their communities.

To honor this special occasion, a dinner will be held at 6 p.m. on February 12, 2005, at the New Wilmington Presbyterian Church in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. Following the dinner will be a presentation on the history of Troop 733, presided over by former Scoutmaster Dr. Jack Reed, Troop Committee Chairman Steve Kulik and current Scoutmaster Michael Banko.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Boy Scout Troop 733 of New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, as they celebrate their 75th year. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute organizations such as Troop 733 who provides such valuable services to the community.

RECOGNIZING LOREN BEWICK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Loren Bewick of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 271, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Loren will attain the rank of Eagle Scout on Saturday, January 29, 2005 at Gashland United Methodist Church in Kansas City.

Loren has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Loren has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Loren Bewick for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce legislation which would amend the Constitution to prevent desecration of the American flag. This measure is identical to H.J. Res. 4, which I sponsored in the last session of Congress, and language adopted by the House five times. This amendment is necessary to restore protections for the symbol of our Nation that the Supreme Court wiped away in its 1989 ruling on *Texas v. Johnson*.

In that fateful 5–4 ruling, the Court cast aside longstanding national laws and 48 State laws recognizing the flag's special status and honoring its place in American society—ruling that its desecration is protected under the First Amendment. For those who see our flag as a revered symbol of freedom and the great sacrifices that were made to sustain it at home and abroad, that decision was a horrible affront—and the call to action was immediate.

Inspired to preserve our national trademark and unalloyed symbol of unity, Congress quickly moved to pass a law restoring flag protections. But in its 5–4 ruling on *United States v. Eichman* in 1990, the Supreme Court once again found that flag protections were inconsistent with free expression rights accorded under the First Amendment. That ruling made it clear that restoration of flag protections would require a Constitutional Amendment.

Since that ruling, the House has five times passed a Flag Protection Constitutional Amendment with well over the two-thirds majority required. The Senate has also acted, failing to achieve the two-thirds votes necessary to move the amendment forward to the States for ratification by a mere handful of votes. Since that time, our Nation has endured some of its most difficult challenges and we have been reminded once again how important the flag is in unifying our Nation, demonstrating our resolve and honoring those who have sacrificed to protect the lives and liberties of the American people.

Each color on the flag, each star and each stripe evokes emotion in me, and together they stand as a symbol of everything I believed in about this country when I fought to defend it. When I heard that some in my country were opposing my military's involvement in Vietnam, that flag reminded me of our tolerance for differences and our endurance through unity. It was a steady symbol of the liberties we enjoy—a way of life that should be protected for future generations and defended for others who aspire to it. From the soldier deployed or detained abroad to the policeman and firefighters protecting citizens in communities, it has stood as a symbol of the country we love, the reason we serve and most important, the sacrifices that have been made.

There have been several major incidents of flag burning since the Court ruling in 1990. These incidents tear at me, and represent a direct attack on all I hold dear about this country. The Constitution was not designed to protect actions which jeopardize others' rights, and the government has long acted to restrict speech and conduct that could cause harm to others. Those who want to express their anger against this country have options that don't involve destroying the sacred symbol that belongs to all citizens.

At a time when we are faced with increasing youth violence and cultural breakdown, restoring our most recognized sign of unity would be a positive step in the right direction—providing a steady reminder that living free comes with responsibility to respect others. Since 9–11, the flag has come to represent even more for all Americans and a reminder of those who were lost protecting us. Allowing its desecration is an insult to all those who perished.

Over 75 percent of Americans consistently agree: The time to restore protections for our flag is long overdue. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this Constitutional Amendment, and to move it back to the American people for speedy ratification.

HONORING WILLIAM C. PORTMAN II AS A GREAT LIVING CIN- CINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William C. Portman II, my father, who will be formally honored on February 24, 2005 as a Great Living Cincinnatian by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. Recipients of this prestigious annual honor are chosen on the basis of professional achievement; leadership; vision; and community service. Past honorees include such Greater Cincinnati leaders as Neil Armstrong, Albert Sabin and Charles Scripps.

Although my father has always been an extraordinary role model for me, he has also been a role model for so many others in our community. Throughout his lifetime, he has led, trained and motivated people with integrity and by example.

Dad was born in the Pleasant Ridge neighborhood of Cincinnati, and graduated from Walnut Hills High School in 1941. He received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Dartmouth College in 1946, after interrupting his studies to serve as a lieutenant in World War II. After the war, he went on to earn an M.B.A. from Dartmouth's Amos Tuck School of Business Administration in 1947.

He began his career in Cincinnati with Procter & Gamble's chemical division, and then joined the Clark Equipment Company as sales manager. He enjoyed the material handling business, and in 1960, he decided to strike

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