

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING NAPA VALLEY GRAPEGROWERS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers organization as it celebrates its 30th anniversary.

The Napa grapegrowers, or NVG as they are commonly referred to, started in 1975 as a group of 7 local farmers and now boasts over 400 members. Since that time the NVG has worked passionately with one goal in mind: to serve and protect the grapegrowers of the Napa Valley. The members of the NVG are dedicated, hard working individuals who care very deeply about the Napa Valley and the communities in which they live and work. They truly understand what it is that makes the Napa Valley so unique and special.

Mr. Speaker, the NVG has contributed to numerous efforts across the Napa valley and beyond, providing a powerful voice for grapegrowers in Sacramento and Washington, DC. In 1976, just one year after its foundation, the NVG played a crucial role in writing the rules that brought about the recognition of truly unique grapegrowing regions through the creation of the American Viticultural Area designation. As a result, these standards have enhanced the quality and reputation of Napa Valley Wines.

When not fighting for grapegrowers' rights, the NVG is busy on the home front conducting monthly forums, seminars, and outreach programs in order to educate the public on wine related issues. The NVG has always believed that educating its membership and the public is the best way to grow and protect their wonderful industry.

Most recently, the NVG has been an integral part of the Federal, State and local partnership that is fighting to stop the spread of the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter and Pierce's Disease. If it is not contained, Pierce's Disease, which is spread by the Sharpshooter, could threaten the life-blood of the Napa Valley's economy and California's \$45 billion a year wine industry.

Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of many outstanding individuals, the NVG has become a vital part of our local community. As a life long resident of the Napa Valley, I understand the many challenges of being a successful grapegrower and a responsible steward of our land. I speak for grapegrowers and citizens throughout the Napa Valley when I say that we are truly grateful to have the NVG looking out for our best interest. It is certainly appropriate that we take this time to recognize and honor the success of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers as they celebrate 30 years of service to the community.

REGARDING THE RECENT RUNNING OF THE HONOLULU MARATHON AND GREAT ALOHA RUN BY OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide some good news out of Afghanistan.

On December 11, 2004, members of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army organized and completed an Afghanistan adjunct to the Honolulu Marathon in the Tarin Kowt area of the country. Subsequently, on January 30, 2005, the 25th Infantry Division (Light) Headquarters Company personnel organized the running of Honolulu's Great Aloha Run in-country.

Both races were resounding successes. On February 15, 2005, I wrote to the President to ensure that he was aware that these events had occurred. I am including a copy of my letter to follow these remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and our colleagues are as impressed as me that members of our Armed Forces were able to organize and conduct such multi-faceted events, given the perilous security situation throughout most of the country and these soldiers' many other duties. I urge all other members to join me in lauding these troops for their accomplishments and spirit.

WASHINGTON, DC, February 15, 2005.

The Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States of America, The White House, Washington, DC

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: This is to ensure your awareness of two recent events in Hawaii and Afghanistan that I am sure you will agree represent the best of our country.

As you know, my Hawaii is ideally suited and dedicated to physical fitness. It is also home to a larger component of our country's armed forces, over 10,000 of whom are now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Two major events on Hawaii's outdoor calendar are the Honolulu Marathon, reportedly the third largest marathon event worldwide, and the Great Aloha Run, an event attracting thousands of residents and visitors. This year, the organizers of both events teamed with our military to recognize our troops serving overseas, many of whom participate in these and other events when they are home in Hawaii, in organizing and conducting these events in Afghanistan as well. Specifically, on December 11, 2004, Honolulu Marathon day, members of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, USA organized and completed the Honolulu Marathon—Afghanistan in the Tarin Kowt area of the country. And on January 30, 2005, Great Aloha Run day, the 25th Infantry Division (Light) Headquarters Company personnel organized the running of the Great Aloha Run—Afghanistan.

All 153 participants in the Honolulu Marathon—Afghanistan were treated like every finisher of the Marathon: each received the same medals, certificates and tee-shirts. An

official timing system was flown in and the finishing times were placed on the Marathon's website along with all other finishers from the race in Honolulu. I would like to highlight the reaction of the winner of the Marathon, First Lieutenant Mike Baskin; he burst into tears as he remembered his four fellow soldiers who had recently been killed.

While only military personnel ran in each race, those who ran in the Great Aloha Run—Afghanistan endured sub-freezing temperatures and, more importantly, raised money for local Afghan charities, including an orphanage in downtown Khowst. Because of its shorter distance, the race was conducted in four separate locations throughout the country, including Bagram Airfield and Forward Operating Base Salerno.

I wanted you not only to know of these heartwarming efforts, but also have the opportunity to provide whatever recognition you may wish to the organizers of both events in both Hawaii and Afghanistan and, more important, to our great troops, who demonstrated the finest spirit of our armed services under difficult circumstances. Mahalo nui loa!

With Aloha,

ED CASE,
*U.S. Congressman,
Hawaii's, Second District.*

IN RECOGNITION OF STAFF SERGEANT EUGENE WELSH

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2005

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Eugene Welsh. During World War II, Eugene Welsh served for 19 months in the Asia-Pacific Theater with the U.S. Army's 19th Infantry Regiment. In one single battle, he rose from the rank of private to staff sergeant and went on to fight in four more major combat actions. As a squad leader, he directed 12 men in combat. During his service, he received numerous wounds and each time was patched up and returned to duty.

Staff Sergeant Welsh's commitment to the United States Army and his fellow soldiers is truly commendable. Among the awards he received are the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry Badge. His actions during the Second World War exemplify the spirit of the infantry soldier go well beyond the call of duty and deserve nothing less than the highest recognition and honors.

Helping ease the burden of combat was a friend back home, Bettye Cavazos. The two wrote to each other as often as possible. Following the war, on June 14, 1946 the two were married and settled in Ceres, California where they raised two sons, Michael and Ronald. Ronald is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Welsh have eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

After the war, Mr. Welsh committed his life to his family and community. He was the owner of Ceres Body Shop and Towing for many years. During the 1950s he served as

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