

THE BELLS OF BALANGIGA: IT IS  
TIME TO GO HOME

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about my resolution, H. Res. 313, which urges the President to authorize the transfer of ownership to the Philippines of one of the bells taken in 1901 from the town of Balangiga in the Philippines. The bells are currently displayed at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In the 100 years since the taking of the bells occurred, the citizens of the United States and the Philippines have shared many historic and political ties. The Philippines was a staunch ally of the United States during World War II. Brave Filipino soldiers were drafted into service by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, fought side-by-side with American soldiers, and were instrumental in the successful outcome of World War II. Filipino soldiers also fought alongside our soldiers on the battlefields of Korea and Vietnam.

Since the independence of the Philippines in 1946, the U.S.-Philippine relationship has been largely one of friendship and cooperation. The Philippines is a republic patterned basically on our own system of government. The Philippines is a valuable trading partner of the U.S. and an ally in the war against terrorism. Approximately two million Americans are of Filipino descent and close to 130,000 United States citizens reside in the Philippines. The acts of conflict that surrounded the taking of the bells of Balangiga are not consistent with the friendship that is currently an integral part of the relationship between our two nations.

The Republic of the Philippines has repeatedly requested the return of the bells. They are an important symbol to the Filipino people, who wish to have them re-installed in the belfry of the Balangiga Church. I believe that it is time to resolve this situation in order to solidify the bonds between our two nations. My resolution would honor and promote the positive relationship our countries enjoy.

A compromise measure has been suggested to return one of the bells, as my resolution calls for, and to create two replica bells—one for each country. This compromise would satisfy most Filipino veterans.

As the years pass, I am confident that relations between our two nations will grow even stronger. To that end, the United States Government, which has final disposition over the Bells of Balangiga, should transfer ownership of one of the bells to the people of the Philippines as a measure of good will and cooperation. I urge the passage of my resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on June 7, 2005. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 228 and 229.

I also inadvertently missed rollcall vote 192 on May 19, 2005. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 192.

COMMENDING MS. ALMA OLIVAS

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House's attention to the important work of one of my constituents, Alma Olivas, and her recent selection for the nation's highest community health leadership distinction.

Ms. Olivas was one of the 10 outstanding individuals from across the country chosen to receive this year's Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award. The award also comes with a \$105,000 grant for Ms. Olivas to use to further her important efforts. Ms. Olivas works with the Coalition for Community Healthcare Access, which helps poor and uninsured people access health care in Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

A persistent and courageous advocate for the uninsured, Ms. Olivas has been working to increase access to health care from an early age. Since she was seven years old, when she moved from Mexico to Albuquerque, Ms. Olivas has served as an interpreter for extended family members and neighbors. But it was her grandmother's devastating encounter with the medical system that made it her life's work.

Her uninsured grandmother was repeatedly denied surgical treatment for a broken hip because she could not afford to pay half of the cost of the surgery upfront. Ms. Olivas became a fierce advocate, learning how to negotiate the health care system on her grandmother's behalf and eventually winning her the treatment she needed.

Since working with the Coalition for Community Healthcare Access, Ms. Olivas has increased the availability of interpreter services, improved financial assistance for low-income people, and raised community awareness of the health care problems of immigrants and the uninsured.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take the opportunity to commend Ms. Olivas for her tremendous work and to congratulate her as a recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROGER F. WICKER**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes Nos. 171–175, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On Nos. 171–174, "yea"; on No. 175, "aye."

CONGRATULATION TO THE TOWN  
OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, in the fall of 1996, a bill was proposed to the Broward County Legislative Delegation to annex all of the unincorporated area between Griffin Road to the north, Sheridan Street to the south, Flamingo Road to the east and SR 27 to the west, into the City of Pembroke Pines.

Hundreds of citizens from that unincorporated area, known as the Southwest Ranches, packed the Delegation hearing in November of 1996, to protest this attempted takeover and to call for the right to form their own city. As a result of this grassroots effort, the State Legislature passed a bill during the 1997 legislative session, calling for a vote of the citizens of Southwest Ranches in March of 2000.

In the summer of 1997, Southwest Ranches Homeowners Association members agreed to actively promote incorporation of a new city for the area and formed a political committee to explore this option. A feasibility committee was appointed to determine if a new city would be viable.

On July 3, 1999, the SWRHA sponsored a parade and picnic to declare the area's independence. The bill was passed by the Florida Legislature in 1997, authorizing the vote in 2000 to determine if residents wanted to annex or form their own city. On March 14, 2000, residents voted overwhelmingly to form a new Town. The election to approve the Town's charter was held on June 6, 2000, and Council Members were elected on July 25, 2000. On that day, Southwest Ranches was officially in business.

This year, we celebrate the Fifth Anniversary of the Town of Southwest Ranches and commemorate the preservation of the beautiful land and environment that its residents love so much.

HONORING AL VAN METRE, SR.,  
CEO AND FOUNDER OF VAN  
METRE COMPANIES

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Al Van Metre, the founder and CEO of Van Metre Company. This recognition is well deserved for his contributions to the communities of Northern Virginia.

Al Van Metre attended the U.S. Naval Academy from June 1944 to March 1945 before graduating from George Washington University with a degree in engineering. Mr. Van Metre established the Van Metre Company in 1955, since that time his company has built over 15,000 single family homes, town homes and manages 2,200 apartments throughout Northern Virginia. These dwellings proudly serve over 50,000 homeowners and residents throughout Northern Virginia.

The developments created by Van Metre Company include Lansdowne On the Potomac, Broadlands and Stone Ridge. These planned communities have received numerous Finest for Family Living Awards including the developments of Lansdowne on the Potomac in 2001, The Lee at McNair Station in 1999 and a three time winner from 1998–2000 for The Fitzgerald at Broadlands. The company, based in Burke, Virginia, has received numerous "Major Achievements in Marketing Excellence" awards, including the Best Community Brochure, Best Print Advertising, Best Web Site and Multi-Media Campaign for Planned Communities. The success over the last half-century, growth of the company and award winning planned communities are due to the hard work and dedication of Mr. Van Metre.

Not only has Mr. Van Metre helped to create superb living communities, but he has been an active member in the community serving as a board member for the Navy Marine Coast Guard Resident Foundation and the Naval Academy foundation. He also served as the chairman of the Race Committee of the Northern Virginia Hospice Cup and as a board member of the St. Stephen's School In Alexandria, Virginia.

With his background and support for the Naval Academy and as Chairman of the Northern Virginia Hospice Cup, it is no surprise that Mr. Van Metre is an avid and accomplished sailor. He has guided his yacht, the *Running Tide*, to wins at virtually every major yachting event on the East Coast. He was a five-time overall annual champion in Chesapeake Bay racing and has earned over 200 trophies in his distinguished sailing career.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Al Van Metre for helping to create planned communities that benefit numerous residents and families in Northern Virginia. I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Al Van Metre on his accomplishments and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING LTC MICHAEL P.  
ANDERSON

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the dedication of the Michael P. Anderson Memorial Statue in Spokane, WA, and to posthumously honor LTC Michael P. Anderson for paying the ultimate sacrifice while serving his country, his community, and each one of us by challenging the constraints of this world. As not only an astronaut, but a man committed to his family and community, Anderson continues to inspire us even though he is gone.

Anderson died aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia* as it entered the Earth's atmosphere on February 1, 2003. He was the payload commander on this flight and a mission specialist, responsible for the science portion of the mission. Having a long and distinguished career with both the United States Air Force and NASA, Lieutenant Colonel Anderson exemplified hard work and a determination to reach his dreams.

As a native and resident of the Spokane region, Michael Anderson graduated from Cheney High School in 1977 and went on to pursue a Bachelor of Science in physics/astronomy from University of Washington, and a Master of Science in physics from Creighton University. Anderson leaves behind his two daughters, Kaycee and Sydney, and his wife, Sandra.

As an African-American, he was an inspiration and testament that men and women of every race, with the aid of hard work and determination, can rise to meet their goals. From a young age he dreamed of being an astronaut, and as a result he became a local hero and national inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor LTC Michael P. Anderson for his spirit and sacrifice. I invite my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring Lieutenant Colonel Anderson for his service to our country and the community of eastern Washington, and for the debt we owe him for never losing his sense of wonder.

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST  
DERRICK LUTTERS

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, SPC Derrick Lutters of Burlington, Colorado.

On May 1, 2005, Specialist Lutters died while serving south of Baghdad, Iraq, when attacked by a suicide bomber while his unit was inspecting a bridge for enemy tampering along a supply route.

As a member of the Kansas National Guard, Specialist Lutters was in Detachment 1 of the Guard's 170th Maintenance Company and assigned to the 891st Engineer Battalion.

In 1999, after Derrick graduated from Goodland High School in Goodland, Kansas, he moved to Burlington, Colorado, where his mother currently lives.

Coming from a military family, he joined the service in 1998 and followed in the footsteps of his brother and sister.

I am proud to honor SPC Derrick Lutters for his courage and sacrifice on behalf of all Americans. His courage has helped to protect our democracy and keep our homeland safe. I urge all of my fellow colleagues to applaud Specialist Lutters for his service to our great Nation.

IN MEMORY OF RUDY EASTMAN

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Rudy Eastman, from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his lifelong contributions to his community and to his fellow citizens. Eastman committed his life to the promotion of African-American theater through his service as a teacher for the Fort Worth Independent School District and later as the founder of the Jubilee Theater in Fort Worth. Eastman passed away on May 31, 2005.

I would like to recognize and celebrate Eastman's life today. Born in Oklahoma in 1944, he later moved to Texas where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1966. That same year he began teaching in Fort Worth while studying theater at the University of North Texas and Texas Christian University. In 1972, he helped form the Sojourner Truth Players. While still teaching students who routinely earned recognition in State competition, Eastman in 1981 founded the Jubilee Theater.

Through the perseverance of its founder, the Jubilee Theater would realize its goal of providing an outlet for African-American theater. Eastman produced innovative plays of his own, but also shared his knowledge with others, and helped many young talents realize their own dreams. Above all, he made African-American theater accessible to the people of Fort Worth and through this was able to positively impact race relations in the area.

It was my honor to represent Rudy Eastman. I extend my sympathies to his family and friends. May the example of this man, whose contributions made richer the fabric of our American culture, be inspiration to all who seek their dreams and serve their fellow man by them.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD  
EDMUND CLEMENT

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Richard Edmund Clement. He is survived by his seven children, 24 grandchildren and former wife, Joan.

The love that Mr. Clement displayed for his country was not only evident in his work, but also recognized by his family. A second generation American, Mr. Clement had served his country throughout his life by working in both the private and public sectors.

With his expertise in the area of counterterrorism, Mr. Clement was able to contribute to the capturing of terrorists in Central America during the 1970s. His accomplishments led to his appointment as Director of the Federal Protection Agency during the Reagan Administration. Working with many great American leaders throughout the 1970s and 1980s he was willing to stand in the shadows and continued to serve and protect his country. The resolve that Mr. Clement displayed for his work had a lasting impact on his family and many others.

His children and grandchildren are carrying on the tradition of service that Mr. Clement provided to our country. Mr. Clement's sons Craig and Christopher along with grandsons Christopher, Aaron and Andrew have either served or are currently serving in this Nation's armed forces.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to pay tribute to the life and work of Mr. Clement, and express my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved him.