ARTHUR WINSTON ''EMPLOYEE OF THE CENTURY''

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and my constituent, Mr. Arthur Winston. This year Mr. Winston will mark over three quarters of a century as an employee of the transportation agencies that have made Los Angeles County's buses and trains move millions of people a year. In fact, since Mr. Winston began his employment with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency's (Metro) predecessor agencies in 1924, millions of people have been safely delivered on billions of trips across Los Angeles County. Arthur can and should be proud to have been an important part of the historic growth of mass transit in California's 22nd Congressional District, which I proudly represent, and throughout the rest of Los Angeles County.

Arthur Winston was born in Okemie, Oklahoma on March 22, 1906 before Oklahoma was officially recognized as a state. He and his family moved to Los Angeles in 1918, when Arthur was 12. His father found work in the maintenance department for one of Metro's predecessors, the Pacific Electric Railway Company. Arthur attended Jefferson High School in Southern California, graduating in 1922.

Arthur Winston was 28 years old when he started his remarkable 72 years of continuous work at Metro. If you account for the years he spent, beginning at age 15, helping his father at the Pacific Electric Railway Company, Arthur has worked a remarkable 76 years for Los Angeles transit agencies. Mr. Winston was first employed by Metro's predecessor agency in December 1924 and worked until mid-1928. He resumed his employment with the agency in January of 1934. Amazingly, Arthur has missed only one day of work in 76 years, having taken a day off on the day of his wife's death in 1988.

In 1996, Arthur Winston received a Congressional Citation from President Clinton as ''Employee of the Century.'' In his more than seven decades of Metro employment, Arthur has received many honors for his work ethic and longevity on the job. In 1997 Metro's Board of Directors named the agency's bus operating division in South Central Los Angeles (Chesterfield Square) after him. He has also appeared on the Oprah Winfrey television show and has appropriately been honored by a large number of community and civic organizations in Los Angeles County.

At the Arthur Winston Division, Arthur is a service attendant leader, directing a crew of 11 employees who clean, maintain, and refuel 240 Metro buses before they go out onto city streets. Remarking about his longevity at Metro, Arthur had this to say, ''I stayed with Metro through all these years because I felt comfortable here. After a certain age I decided to stay on the job until I'm 100 years old.''

Arthur Winston turns 100 on March 22, 2006 and has announced his retirement from Metro, quite fittingly, on his birthday. In the meantime, Arthur will spend his remaining days on the job waking up at his usual time, 4 a.m., and driving his 1994 Toyota sedan to work.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Los Angeles Metro in saluting Arthur Winston and his unparalleled work ethic. May Arthur Winston's long record of public service serve to inspire Americans, young and old, to dedicate their energy and intellect for the benefit of the general public.

TRIBUTE TO JASON McELWAIN

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an outstanding young man, his supportive teammates, and an inspirational performance on the basketball court. In a matter of just 4 minutes, Jason McElwain and the Greece Athena High School Trojans showed us all the power of dedication, teamwork, and perseverance.

Jason has always been a steadfast and energetic contributor to the Greece Athena Varsity Basketball team in his role as team manager. Although never getting a chance to play, Jason placed his heart and soul into helping the team and became an indispensable teammate, day in and day out.

Jason also has been challenged everyday by autism, a disability that, while difficult, has not undercut Jason's goals or his involvement with the team. In turn, Jason's teammates, led by Coach Jim Johnson, have embraced him and believed in him. To them, Jason is not an autistic team manager; rather he is simply, emphatically a teammate. And a passionate teammate—Jason never misses practice and is always a helpful supporter at games, dispensing water bottles and advice from the team bench dressed in his trademark shirt and tie.

That was until February 15, when Coach Johnson told Jason to suit up in the Trojan uniform for the first time for the last game of the regular season. Jason's dedication, his teammates' support, his coach's trust, all were set to pay off in a most dramatic way.

With only 4 minutes remaining in the game, Jason got the call off the bench. He took the floor, and his fellow students went wild. They held up signs. They chanted his nickname, ''J-Mac.'' The cheers and chants would only grow louder as Jason put on a performance that the town of Greece will never forget. In his short but remarkable debut for Greece Athena, Jason made not one, not two, but six 3 pointers, and finished the game with 20 points. As his final shot swished clean through the net with 2 seconds to play, the raucous fans rushed the court. Coach Johnson, along with most, was brought to tears. Jason's teammates hoisted him upon their shoulders. A true hero and the true meaning of teamwork were discovered that night on the hardwood in Greece.

And the Trojans weren't finished. Two weeks later, that teamwork propelled the Spartans to the very top, as they won their sectional championship. Jason, back in his shirt and tie, yet never more important a teammate, cheered and assisted from the bench. When the championship trophy was presented, Jason was the first to lift it over his head.

Jason's perseverance and his teammates' support serve as a great example to us all. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their remarkable achievement, I ask that this honorable body join me in honoring Jason McElwain and the Greece Athena High School Basketball Trojans.

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS DAY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am a member of the Brain Injury Task Force—a group dedicated to drawing attention to this tragic and life-altering impairment. I am also proud to represent Nazareth Hospital, a facility that has provided healthcare services to the Philadelphia region for over 60 years and a national leader in the acute and chronic care of stroke.

Today, representatives of Nazareth Hospital are on Capitol Hill for Brain Injury Awareness Day. This important event helps to increase awareness for Traumatic Brain Injury, TBI, and the specific challenges facing individuals who have suffered brain injury and their families.

As many know, brain injury comes in many forms. The two most prevalent brain injuries—stroke and trauma—affect more than 2.2 million Americans, and these numbers are expected to grow. TBI has been called ''the signature injury of modem American warfare'' due to the unprecedented number of service men and women who have suffered from head trauma while deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. This reality, coupled with the growing number of seniors in the U.S., means that our healthcare system will have to provide for more and more brain injury patients in the coming years.

There is currently no cure for individuals with brain injuries. So they must vigilantly manage their chronic symptoms, often relying on the care and assistance of their families, friends and facilities like Nazareth Hospital.

Nazareth is ahead of the curve—providing high-quality education and case management system for brain injury patients based on years of experience of working with patients, primary care physicians, nurses, family members, and other care givers.

Because of their experience, the Department of Defense is considering a partnership with Nazareth. The DOD recognizes that Nazareth has a proven education and brain injury management plan, and believes it might be a system worth applying to military hospitals and clinics. As a strong supporter of public-private sector cooperation, I will be working to advance this shared effort.

Together, I know we can reduce the emotional and financial effects of brain injury, and I am honored to represent an organization at the forefront of developing new treatments and discoveries. And, I am confident that Nazareth Hospital's first-rate care, which has benefited so many in my district, will be an asset for DOD as it expands continuing care services for the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our Nation.