

HONORING ASTRONAUT WALTER MARTY SCHIRRA, AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON HIS PASSING

SPEECH OF
HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 446, to honor and recognize the life of astronaut Walter Marty Schirra, and to express condolences on his passing. Walter Marty Schirra passed away in La Jolla, CA, at the age of 84.

The American community is sad to have lost one of its original space trailblazer—a true pioneer in both innovation and discovery. In attempting to place men in space, Schirra was chosen to serve as one of the original Mercury 7 astronauts for Project Mercury. Serving as an astronaut and naval officer, Schirra became the first man to fly on all three of our Nation's space programs—Apollo 7, Gemini VI-A, and Mercury 8 (Sigma 7). Prior to his passing, "Astronaut Wally Schirra" logged a total of 4577 hours of flight time, with 295 of those being in space. Additionally, he performed 267 landings in an aircraft carrier.

His lifetime of achievement also included a decorated record of service in the United States Military. He flew 90 combat missions in F-84E jets, as well as downing at least one MIG fighter, while serving as an exchange pilot with the 154th Fighter Bomber Squadron during the Korean War. His courage and valor was eventually recognized with three distinguishing flying crosses, two air medals, two NASA Distinguished Services Medals, and induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Wally Schirra serves as a positive role model and an asset to the space community. Schirra was an accomplished astronaut whose personal and professional career was filled with positive milestones and accomplishments. Schirra always rejected mediocrity by rejecting to conform to commonplace expectations. Schirra pushed the limits of 2 discovery and was determined to work harder and go farther than anyone before him.

Despite his numerous accomplishments, which ranged from educational attainment, military awards, hall of fame inductions, activeness in diverse clubs and organizations, as well as experiences, his humility was one of his most endearing traits. Although he was a great asset to the space industry, he assumed a very modest character.

As one of the few and profound trailblazers ever known to the United States Naval Academy, NASA, and the space community, he has helped pave the way for much of our knowledge about the operations of the space system. As a Member who represents many NASA-employed constituents and as a strong supporter of the expansion of our space programs, I understand the important role that Schirra played in advancing our scientific explorations in space.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the enormous contributions that late astronaut Walter Marty Schirra has made in the space industry and beyond, while also expressing condolences for his passing.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF JOHNNY W. WELTON

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 11, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Johnny W. Welton, as he retires as the director of Contra Costa Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), after 40 years of serving students in special education.

Johnny W. Welton's career in special education encompasses 12 years as a classroom teacher, 3 years as a resource teacher, 8 years as a site and central office administrator and 16 years as the Director of the Contra Costa SELPA.

In his role as director of SELPA, Welton established a Resource Parent Program, initiated Facilitation Skills training for staff IEP teams, and introduced Solutions Panel mediation training. Throughout his career, Johnny W. Welton has worked for equity, quality, reforms, and results in special education and conflict resolution.

On many occasions during his illustrious career, Johnny W. Welton received national, State and local awards and recognition for his service to the children of Contra Costa County.

Among these are: the first "Peacemaker of the Year Award" from the California Department of Education; the "Outstanding Administrator of the Year Award" presented by the Association of California School Administrators; a certificate of Appreciation awarded by Contra Costa Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; and the first Alternative Dispute Resolution grant from the California Department of Education in 1993, and in each year to follow.

Johnny W. Welton's outstanding service to special education and dispute resolution more than validates his awards. He assisted in the reorganization and establishment of the California Department of Education Procedural Safeguards Unit, Compliance Monitoring Unit; he built partnerships between Education and other local agencies serving children with special needs; and he chaired the state of California Alternative Dispute Resolution Steering Committee.

As Johnny W. Welton retires, I would like to thank him for his dedication to the quality of education of the children of Contra Costa County, and his leadership in the field of special education as an exceptional educator and SELPA Director. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MINQUAS FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 OF NEWPORT, DE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to commemorate an important anniversary of service to the Town of Newport and the entire State of Delaware.

On May 21, 1907, concerned citizens met in the historic town of Newport to discuss the for-

mation of a fire company. At the time, there had been numerous fires which destroyed properties before the already established fire companies in Wilmington, New Castle and Newark could arrive and fight the blazes. After much discussion and debate, Lt. Governor John M. Mendinhall suggested to the 68 founders that the company should be named the Minquas Fire Company No. 1 commemorating a tribe of Native American Indians who traded with early settlers along the Christiania River.

From its genesis, the Minquas Fire Company has taken great pride in providing volunteer fire rescue and emergency medical services to the citizens of greater Newport. They began by purchasing property in the unit block of North James Street. Several extensions and expansions have taken place over the years the most recent being the erection of an ultra modern facility in 2005.

Minquas' first President Howard P. Weldin and Chief Thomas Bullen oversaw the original building project and the construction of the first fire house. In 1908, a horse drawn chemical engine was purchased from Radnor Fire Company of Pennsylvania for \$1,000 and put in service at the brand new station.

Today President Curtis Clifton and Chief Michael Saggione command the Fire Company. Through their leadership, Minquas has continued to acquire the latest fire, rescue, ambulance apparatus and equipment to respond to the emergency service needs of their community. The Company's Motto "We go where duty calls" exemplifies the volunteer spirit of the men and women of the Minquas Fire Company No. 1.

I am proud of the contributions the volunteers of Minquas have made to Delaware over all these years and I congratulate them on this important milestone of 100 years of service.

IN TRIBUTE TO SAM CARMEN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 11, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader and volunteer from the Fourth Congressional District, Sam Carmen. Mr. Carmen is a recognized leader at the national and local level for his work in the area of educational innovation and reform. Mr. Carmen is retiring from the Milwaukee Teacher's Education Association (MTEA) after 28 years of faithful service.

Sam Carmen graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in Industrial and Labor Relations. Following graduation, he worked for both public sector and private sector unions in various capacities.

Mr. Carmen joined the staff of MTEA in 1979. In 1986, he became MTEA's chief spokesperson in contract negotiations with the Milwaukee Public School (MPS) Board. While he was serving as chief negotiator, MTEA developed a portfolio of educational reforms that were incorporated into the collective bargaining agreement and became national models. For example, Mr. Carmen negotiated an interview process for filling teacher vacancies replacing the traditional seniority model. MPS utilizes this process to select teachers who best fit their needs with the input of teachers, administration, and parent representatives.

In 1994, Sam Carmen was selected as the MTEA Executive Director while continuing as the chief negotiator. As Executive Director, he was a leader in the successful establishment of the MPS/MTEA Teacher Mentor Program, the Joint Teacher Evaluation and Mentoring Program, the Milwaukee Teacher Education Center (MTEC), and the Milwaukee Partnership Academy. Most recently, Mr. Carmen was instrumental in the development and implementation of a collaborative strategic planning process with MPS and the Greater Milwaukee Committee entitled "Working Together, Achieving More."

Sam Carmen has been active in organizations including: Citizen Action of Wisconsin; the Urban Directors' Association, a national network of urban union executives; the UWM School of Education Dean's Community Advisory Committee; and the Holmes Partnership, a network of professional organizations working to improve teaching and learning for all children.

During Mr. Carmen's tenure, the MTEA established annual community outreach activities including: an art show and awards program for MPS students; a scholarship program for MPS graduates, particularly those pursuing teaching careers; and the Food for Our Future partnership with Hunger Task Force, a food drive and advocacy program.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to rise and pay tribute today to Sam Carmen's contributions to educational reform in the Fourth Congressional District.

HONORING THE 46TH ANNUAL
YMCA YOUTH GOVERNOR'S CON-
FERENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 46th annual YMCA Youth Governor's Conference that began in Washington, DC, this past weekend and continues throughout this week. I am pleased to have the distinct honor of being one of the congressional hosts for the YMCA Youth Governor's breakfast with my House colleagues this Wednesday morning.

The YMCA Youth Governor's Conference brings together some of the most outstanding youth leaders in America. YMCA Youth and Government is a nationwide program that allows thousands of teenagers to simulate State and national government.

Madam Speaker, I would like to personally recognize each of this year's YMCA Youth Governors for their dedication and service to America's youth:

Lillian Wilson of Alabama, Emile Gordon of Arizona, David Murdter of California, Alex Chandler of Colorado, Samantha Free of Connecticut, Anna Galati of Delaware, Bradley Pough of Florida, Kristin Graham of Georgia, Tiana Maruyama of Hawaii, Elise Marchant of Idaho, Sean Tompkins of Illinois, Martin Turman of Indiana, Will Webb of Louisiana, Jay Gobeil of Maine, Arnell Limberry of Maryland, Alexis Morin of Massachusetts, Trenton Swank of Michigan, Dilara Uskup of Michigan, Eric Kunkel of Minnesota, Josh Travis of Missouri, Olaniyi Solebo of the Model United Na-

tions Program, David Colaco of New Jersey, Matthew Scarvie of New Mexico, Matthew Vigliotta of New York, Tucker Piner of North Carolina, Stuart Downey of Oklahoma, Gregory Murray of Oregon, Jeff Mitch of Pennsylvania, Neel Mehta of South Carolina, Matt Robinson of Tennessee, Tyler Thomason of Tennessee, Dave Harris of Texas, Marco Leung of Virginia, Erik Ashida of Washington, Damien White of the District of Columbia, Caroline Kitchens of Wisconsin.

I wish all of the 2007 YMCA Youth Governors a very successful conference here in Washington, and encourage them to continue their sincere devotion to leadership and public service in this and their future endeavors.

ON THE PASSING OF THE HONOR-
ABLE JUDGE RALPH M. BUR-
NETT

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of a great constituent of the 6th District of Maryland—The Honorable Ralph M. Burnett, Jr. Ralph M. Burnett was a Maryland district court judge and pioneer in the fight against prostate cancer. Judge Burnett died from the disease on May 9, 2007 at the age of 64.

Judge Burnett was born in 1943 in Seneca Falls, N.Y., to the late Ralph M. Burnett, Sr., and Betty Burnett. He graduated from St. Paul's High School in 1961 and earned a BA from Dickinson College, in 1965. A Vietnam Veteran, Judge Burnett was sent to Korea and served as First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army until 1969. He then enrolled in the Baltimore School of Law and received a degree in 1972.

Judge Burnett began practicing law in Oakland, MD, and served as Garrett County's State Attorney from 1974–1978. In December of 1993, he was appointed an associate district court judge. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Maryland Judicial Conference, and served on the Editorial Board of Justice Matters until his passing.

Diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1996, Judge Burnett became a devoted advocate for the prostate cancer community. He served as chairman of the National Prostate Cancer Coalition, NPCC, from 1999–2001. Under his leadership, federal funding for prostate cancer research doubled and the NPCC tripled in size.

After stepping down as chairman, Judge Burnett stayed on as a board member and doggedly pursued more prostate cancer treatment options for patients. He was also an advocate for the Johns Hopkins University's Specialized Program of Research Excellence and served on several panels within the Department of Defense where he worked to leverage the DOD's investment in prostate cancer research and participated in discovering the lethal phenotype that causes the disease.

Judge Burnett is survived by his former wife, Lucy Burnett, a son, P. Chase Burnett and his wife Jaime, three grandchildren, Ian, Eli, and Sophie Burnett, a daughter, Catherine Burnett, and one sister, Clara Tordella.

Ralph M. Burnett's funeral was held on Saturday, May 12, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Oakland.

On behalf of the residents of the Sixth District, I am honored but humbled to offer this token of appreciation for the distinguished service of Ralph M. Burnett to others and his many accomplishments. I hope that this simple testament provides some comfort to ease the grief of his family, neighbors and friends over his loss.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE DAVID F.
LEVI

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Judge David Levi, one of our Nation's respected judges and a true friend. After 17 years of service on the Federal bench Judge Levi is retiring to become the next dean of Duke University's Law School. As his colleagues, friends and family gather to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant.

The son of Edward and Kate Levi, Judge Levi was born into a distinguished family that valued public service and the pursuit of knowledge to serve others. His father was the President of the University of Chicago and served as the United States Attorney General under President Gerald Ford, while his mother was equally committed to a variety of worthy pursuits. In 1972, Judge Levi graduated from Harvard, magna cum laude, with a degree in history and literature. Upon graduating from Stanford Law School in 1980, he clerked for Judge Ben Duniway of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and followed that by clerking for Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell.

After his tenure with Justice Powell ended, Judge Levi returned to California and began a renowned career with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Sacramento. From 1983 to 1986 he served as Assistant United States Attorney and worked in the office's criminal division. In 1986 Judge Levi was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California. As the U.S. Attorney, Judge Levi led one of the most successful public corruption prosecutions in the state's history.

In 1990 Judge Levi was nominated by President George H.W. Bush to become a U.S. District Judge of the Eastern District of California. Since 2003, he has served as the Chief Judge of the District. After over a decade and half on the federal bench he has earned a reputation as one who still approaches each case, large and small, with a commitment to tirelessly examine all of the facts and treat each case with the utmost of importance.

Judge Levi also is a national leader on legal reform. Recognizing his keen intellect, former Chief Justice William Rehnquist appointed him to the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in 1994, which Judge Levi chaired from 2000–2003. Four years ago, Justice Rehnquist named Judge Levi as Chairman of the Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure. In these roles he has revised and brought a much needed dose of reform to the rules of procedure in federal courts, making the courts more efficient, accurate and fair.