

CONGRATULATING MS. ELIZABETH
ARNOLD

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents Ms. Elizabeth Arnold of Castle Rock, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. Her outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young woman.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Ms. Arnold to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Arnold and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 849, the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

REMEMBERING JOHN JAY GEDDIE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House the recent passing of a former Senate staffer and reporter, John Jay Geddie, of Sterling, Virginia, in my congressional district. I knew John for more than 15 years and always enjoyed reading his weekly columns. He died August 22, 2007, at Inova Fairfax Hospital of kidney failure and pneumonia related to the treatment of cancer. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Shannon LaNelle Geddie of Sterling; a son, John L. Geddie of Reston, and a brother Michael Geddie of Kilgore, Texas.

Below is an excerpt of remarks read at his funeral last week in Leesburg. Written by his son, these words truly capture who John was and what was important to him.

Certainly, most of the people here are most familiar with dad through his work here at

the Loudoun Independent. The man could write well and he was always quick with a story or a good one-liner. He never felt that professionalism could be glossed over simply because it was a local paper covering mostly local news.

My grandmother told a story about dad that I think says a lot. The boys were obliged to work during summers. One summer, my grandfather had gotten him a job hauling pulp wood. Apparently, the heavy labor under the summer Texas sun did not sit well with him. Dad came home exhausted and covered in sweat and told his mother that it was his intention to get a job where "I have to wear a suit every day." Apparently, no one expects you to sweat when you're in a suit.

That reporters wear suits must have played some part in his calculations. While his mother wanted him to be a preacher, he managed to avoid this while still maintaining her love and support. Dad graduated from Marshall High School and went on to earn his journalism degree at East Texas State University. ETSU is now affiliated with Texas A&M University and known as Texas A&M-Commerce. That my dad retroactively became an Aggie is an irony that only Texans will understand.

After graduation, he went off to work at the San Angelo Standard-Times as a reporter. During this period, dad was drafted into the army. His active duty lasted for 18 months, where he served as a specialist at Fort Knox, Fort Hood, and Fort Carson. As a 'soldier-of my acquaintance' recalled it, the closest he ever came to combat was throwing a stick at a passing helicopter.

Dad stayed at the San Angelo Standard-Times for several years. During this time, he started dating another reporter at the paper—Shannon LaNelle Harris. The pair married and the marriage lasted for 44 years. Not long after they were married, the young couple adopted their first needlenose dog. As regular readers know, it was the first of many.

From 1962–1972, dad worked for the Dallas Morning News. He was among the reporters to cover the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald. Later, he covered the appeals process of Jack Ruby. Originally a believer in the Warren Report and the single bullet theory, he was less certain as time went on. When asked about a conspiracy, he said 'I just don't know.'

In 1972, he became the Washington Bureau Chief for the Dallas Morning News, covering both state and national news until 1981. During this period, Dad covered the political scene in depth, being among the very first to break the story of President Richard Nixon's resignation. He covered both the Democratic and Republican conventions of 1976 and 1980, as well as the campaign trips of President George H.W. Bush and Howard Baker.

After leaving the Dallas Morning News, he became administrative assistant to Congressman Abraham 'Chick' Kazen (D-TX) and later served as a speechwriter for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, serving closely with Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX). During this time, dad also began working as the Editor of the Loudoun Easterner, a small direct-mail newspaper in Loudoun County. He eventually retired from Washington to pursue this full-time. Very few people are able to do what they love for so long.

Under his stewardship, the Loudoun Easterner gained a loyal following in Sterling and the surrounding areas. His unique perspective and humor made him a fixture in the county. Working with Publisher Beth Miller was a great experience for dad. The pair of them could be seen lunching every

day and it is difficult to imagine closer friends. Her death was hard on everyone, but dad took it especially hard. Wounds heal though, and his relationship with Beth's daughters Amy and Allyson grew even stronger.

In 2005, he and Amy Burns started up a new paper, the Loudoun Independent. Dad proved that he still had the skill to produce a first rate paper.

My dad was diagnosed with skin cancer in March. By the time of the diagnosis, the cancer had already spread in the area of his neck and lymph nodes. While not immediately life threatening, treatment required a combination of radiation and chemotherapy. At no time was he in pain and dad went into work at the paper every day until almost the very end. Eventually the treatment weakened him enough so that his kidneys failed and the extra stress on his body made it impossible for him to recover from pneumonia and septic shock.

Ever since I was a boy and my dad started working at the Easterner—and later the Loudoun Independent, we knew that he was not to be bothered on Mondays and Tuesdays. The paper goes to the printer on Wednesday morning, so you have to work until everything is done. My dad died on a Wednesday morning. I don't go much for symbolism in life, but I wonder at it. Tuesday is over and your labors are complete. On Wednesday, you can sleep in and rest—then get ready to start all over again.

In retrospect I do feel blessed to have had John Geddie in my life for so long. More than that, I'm thankful for those last months we had together. Having been designated as his driver/companion for all medical trips, I was able to spend almost every day with him for the last three months. As people get older, sometimes they forget why they love their parents. Those last three months reminded me.

Dad had something of a mantra when the conversation turned to his health or potential dangers. He'd raise his hand, tilt his head and say, "Don't worry about me. I've had a good life." He said it in a light way, but something in his tone inevitably ended the conversation. While incredibly frustrating at the time, it's a comfort to us now.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIRST
LIEUTENANT JONATHAN W. EDDS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, 1Lt. Jonathan W. Edds of White Pigeon, MI, was killed during an IED attack in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 17, 2007. Jonathan was assigned to the Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division based in Fort Benning, GA. First Lieutenant Edds and his wife Laura resided in Phenix City, AL.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family and the gratitude our country feels for his service. First Lieutenant Edds, like other brave men and women who have served in uniform, died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty. Indeed, like those who have served before him, he was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve our Nation. Thank

you, Madam Speaker, for the House's remembrance at this mournful occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to reasons beyond my control.

On Monday, September 4, 2007, I was tending to personal matters and thus missed rollcall votes 847, 848, 849. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all votes.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MYRON K.
KUNKA

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mr. Myron K. Kunka. Having served his country for 32 years, he retired from the Federal service on September 1, 2007. His record of achievement during this period reflects great credit upon himself and upon the organizations with which he has served.

Mr. Kunka began his Federal career as a budget analyst at Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, PA, on August 1975 after receiving a master's degree in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh. He has served in successive financial management positions within the Department of Defense. These assignments include: 7th Signal Command, Ft. Richie, MD; Headquarters United States Army, Telecommunications Center, The Pentagon; Headquarters Army Material Command, Alexandria, VA; On-Site Inspection Agency Dulles, VA; and Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Mr. Kunka joined the ranks of the Senior Executive Service on November 7, 1999, when he was appointed to serve as the Comptroller, Director of Resource Management, and finally the Associate Director of the Business Enterprise for DTRA.

Mr. Kunka received numerous awards and decorations for his outstanding public service. The significant awards include: the Director's Award for Achievement in Equal Employment Opportunity, 1997; On-Site Inspection Agency Exceptional Civilian Service Medal, 1998; the Department of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, 2000; and the Presidential Rank Award—Meritorious Executive, 2003.

As Mr. Kunka brings closure to this chapter of his Federal career as a public servant, he begins a new chapter serving the public as the associate dean of the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Myron K. Kunka on his retirement from Federal service. He epitomizes the dedication and professionalism that makes our Federal Government a model all over the world.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN BOETHING

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend John Boething, who died August 11 at 89 years young.

It would be easier to list what J.B. didn't accomplish in his life than to list what he did. A college student at age 16, J.B. bicycled across Europe and explored South America as part of his master's thesis; was a U.S. Army captain during World War II, serving in the Pacific Theater; wrote a sports column; and was a freelance cartoonist for the New Yorker and other publications.

But it was as one of the founding fathers of the wholesale horticulture industry that J.B. made his public mark. He founded Boething Treeland Farms as a retail operation on 35 acres in Woodland Hills, CA, in 1952, and grew it into one of the largest and most successful wholesale nurseries in California. Today, Boething Treeland Farms grows trees and shrubs on about 800 acres across the State.

Not bad, considering J.B. knew little about the tree business when he started on money he borrowed from his father.

J.B.'s success can be ascribed to him being the epitome of a people person. He had a wonderful sense of humor and, for all his successes, still lived in the house he built in Woodland Hills and added onto as his family grew. Having sought the advice of other nurserymen when starting Boething Treeland Farms, he freely gave advice later to others in the business—including those who started with him and went on to be competitors.

While personable and fair, J.B. also maintained high standards and expected the best from his employees. With his motivation and example, they rarely disappointed.

J.B. also supported the American Red Cross, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Doctors Without Borders, and Pepperdine University. He served on the Board of Directors of Sunset Magazine and for many years sponsored a lecture through the Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford University.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering J.B. and his contributions to horticulture and to all who knew him, and in offering our condolences to his wife of 54 years, Susan; their daughters, Sally Painter, Haydi Danielson, Cathy Pherson, and Marji Boething; their six grandchildren; and his extended family and wealth of friends.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act.

This legislation provides a balanced, responsible and long-term approach to address-

ing the critical issue of energy security in this country. It provides long-term incentives for renewable energy that will give the solar, wind, and biomass industries the stability they need to increase production capacity. There are also significant incentives for making our Nation and economy more energy efficient.

The bill provides resources to States and localities to help their residents improve the efficiency of their homes, as well as make public investments in energy-efficiency, transportation and research.

The bill works across sectors and technologies, across governmental and private sector lines, and in both residential and commercial settings to reduce our Nation's dependence on fossil fuels. In a word, Mr. Speaker, the approach taken by this bill is comprehensive. I want to highlight two provisions in the bill that I think are particularly important.

First, this legislation will increase the tax credit for alternative refueling property from 30 percent to 50 percent, and extend the credit through 2010. Nearly everyone agrees that biofuels such as E85 are an increasingly important component of our Nation's evolving energy strategy. Real progress has been made in recent years to spur use of alternative transportation fuels, and U.S. automakers have made significant investments to bring flex-fuel vehicles to market. But we need to speed the deployment of E85 pumps. This bill does just that.

Next, this legislation provides incentives for manufacturers to produce washing machines, refrigerators and dishwashers that push the boundaries of energy and water efficiency, and to build them in the United States. Reducing the energy or water usage of a washing machine may seem like a small thing, but over time and across millions of households, these incentives will produce remarkable reductions in energy and water usage, and consumers will save money on their utility bills.

Finally, I think it is unfortunate that so many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are opposing this package because it takes back just a few of the most outrageous tax breaks for the oil and gas industry. Our work in this House is about priorities, and the difference in priorities on this bill could not be more clear. I urge all of my colleagues to support this responsible legislation.

CONGRATULATING MR. EVAN BALOGH

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents Mr. Evan Balogh of Morrison, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. His outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young man.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more