

A TRIBUTE TO CLAYTON F.
FREIHEIT

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and exceptional accomplishments of Clayton F. Freiheit. This remarkable gentleman merits both our recognition and esteem as his impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service has improved the lives of our people.

Many people have made contributions to our community, but few have left a legacy as has Mr. Freiheit. He was an extraordinary individual who made significant and lasting contributions to Colorado through his exemplary leadership and guidance of the Denver Zoo for nearly four decades. He commanded the respect of his peers through his singular dedication and was a mentor to practically every zoo and aquarium director in the United States. His was a life of enduring accomplishment and our community has truly been enriched by his presence among us.

Clayton Freiheit was born and raised in Buffalo, New York, and as a young boy his fascination with animals led him to draw pictures of the zoo he imagined operating one day. Mr. Freiheit worked as an animal caretaker while attending the University of Buffalo and at the age of twenty-two, he was appointed Curator of the Buffalo Zoological Gardens. To this day, he is the second youngest person ever to serve as the director of an American zoo and under his leadership, the Buffalo Zoo achieved national stature. In 1970, Mr. Freiheit relocated to Denver to become the Executive Director of the Denver Zoological Gardens. Mr. Freiheit is credited with enhancing the stature of the Denver Zoo and it is home to one of the most diverse animal collections of any zoo in the country. Under Mr. Freiheit's thirty-seven year tenure, the Denver Zoo came to be respected both nationally and internationally as a leader in animal care and exhibition, conservation programs, scientific study, environmental education and public service.

It comes as no surprise that Mr. Freiheit achieved unparalleled professional recognition. He served and unprecedented three terms on the board of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). He also served as its president and as a member of and emeritus advisor to its Accreditation Commission. One of Mr. Freiheit's colleagues noted that "He has spent his entire career advancing and promoting the quality and mission of zoos and aquariums (and) has no equal in knowledge of the North American Zoo profession." In 1996, The University of Denver awarded Mr. Freiheit an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in recognition of his many contributions to our community. In 2004, Mr. Freiheit became the 16th recipient of the Marlin Perkins Award for Professional Excellence which recognized his dedication to the AZA's mission of

HONORING THE SHACKLE ISLAND
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Shackle Island Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Shackle Island Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1992, with a donated fire engine by the Nashville Fire Department. The department has 30 members and a waiting list to join. The department purchased a new engine in 2001 and a new tanker in 2004.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Shackle Island, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Shackle Island Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Martin Bowers, Asst. Chief Barney Marshall, Captain Mike Elmore, Captain Row Wills, Lt. Brad Haynie, Lt. James Hendricks, Lt. Don Kemper, Lt. Ike Mills, Safety Officer Wynn Batson, Rick Lawson, Paul Christian, Paul Harter, Jeff Garrett, Kevin Douglas, David Frost, Mike Scudder, T.J. Taylor, Cody Steele, L.J. Millington, Jason Davis, Don Sizemore, Chris Parks, Jackie Vickers, Nick Traini, Dick Dickerson, Bill Mounts, Randy Roe, J.C. Russum, Nancy Reding, Mike Hackett, Jessie Devries, Jr., FF Scotty Sizemore and Jr. FF Mikey Taylor.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
165TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BISEL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the dedicated people of the Bisel United Methodist Church celebrates the 165th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us that love mixed with grace and trust will stand the test of time; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to present this work as a beacon for hope to the destitute and maintain your stand as a symbol to this generation that our strength lies in our gracious commitment in unity to each other in the bonds of brotherhood; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the congregation for your unwavering commitment, recognizing that all great achievements come from great dedication. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this congregation has had in the community and in the lives of those people you have touched.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL J. OCHS' 20
YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to pay tribute to Dr. Michael Ochs for his 20 years of untiring service to the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. Michael began his work as a member of the professional staff on October 1, 1987, during a period that was to usher in historic change as well as turmoil in the expansive territory once dominated by the Soviet Union.

After completing doctoral work in Russian history and driven by a deep commitment to aid the victims of Soviet oppression, Michael devoted himself to documenting wide-ranging human rights abuses in the U.S.S.R. He participated in the first international human rights conference to be convened in the U.S.S.R., a gathering eventually interrupted by the Soviet secret police, the KGB. Michael was also part of a delegation that visited the Baltic States shortly after the restoration of independence to those countries so brutally repressed during decades of Soviet domination.

Michael was among the earliest pioneers in the observation of elections in the countries that arose following the unraveling of the Soviet empire. Amid triumph and tragedy, Michael has been at the forefront of efforts to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan as well as the Central Asian counties of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. His depth of knowledge and understanding about each of these countries is only surpassed by his extensive network of contacts and friendships with many of the political leaders—some in government—many in the opposition. Dictators and democrats alike have come to appreciate his insights and analysis.

He has been a witness to the triumphs of Georgia's Rose Revolution and the toppling of the regime in Kyrgyzstan as well as the tragedy of the bloody massacre at Andijon in Uzbekistan. Some of his friends have risen to the highest ranks of political leadership while others have paid the ultimate price for their defense of democracy and human rights.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission I am pleased to recognize and commend Dr. Michael Ochs for his service to me and my colleagues.