

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE PARISHIONERS OF WESTWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of Westwood United Methodist Church and to pay tribute to the legacy of community service that has marked that parish since its inception.

On February 10, 1908, twenty people first organized the parish as the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Westwood. The first services were held almost two weeks later in Odd Fellows Hall in Westwood. As the church grew, a sanctuary and parish building were built. The original sanctuary, which is now a part of the education wing, was built in 1913. The sanctuary now in use was dedicated in 1960.

Community service has always been a cornerstone of Westwood United Methodist Church's mission. Longtime member Ada Hampton helped to organize the Westwood Area Clergy Council and Westwood United Methodist Church has been an active participant since its inception. The parish worked with other community congregations to establish the Westwood House for Senior Citizens. They established the Family Food Cupboard and actively support the Helping Hand Food Pantry in Hillsdale, including through their September Food Drive. The Church regularly opens its doors to area self-help groups, like Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, and Alanon. And the Church has offered its facilities to the community as a crisis center in the event of a catastrophic emergency.

The Church has recently opened up a not-for-profit thrift shop to support charitable work. Westwood United Methodist Church has also been a longstanding, strong supporter of scouting, having been home to Troop 47 for over 80 years. The Twin Valleys District of the Northern New Jersey Council often looks to the Church for a meeting and event location. During the holidays, Westwood United Methodist works with the Bergen County Division of Youth and Family Services to brighten Christmas for less fortunate children through Operation Santa Claus. They work with the Inter-Religious Fellowship to provide meals for the homeless as well.

This parish provides a tremendous public service beyond its own church community and I commend them for their good works as they rededicate themselves to another century of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROTHER ROBERT E. LAVELLE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Brother Robert E. Lavelle. Born in Cleveland, Brother Robert has a philosophy to preserve the past while being a catalyst for initiating change that is needed for the future. He has one of the longest tenures of any independent school headmaster in this country. In his more than 27 years of dedicated work as Headmaster of Gilmour Academy, student enrollment has increased, the school's endowment has climbed, and the school has completed cutting-edge technologies that have been incorporated into a 21st century curriculum.

Under his skillful guidance, Gilmour Academy has developed a challenging curriculum with classes that are designed to help students learn to think critically and solve problems in a project-oriented world. The school has grown as a result of the brilliant insight of Brother Robert.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Brother Robert E. Levelle for his long tenure of servitude to Gilmour Academy. May his commitment to education serve as an example for us all and inspire future educators.

COMMENDING CIVIC WORKS FOR RECEIVING THE CORPS NETWORK'S EXCELLENCE IN CORPS OPERATIONS STATUS

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Civic Works' service to Baltimore and to congratulate the organization for earning the Corps Network's Excellence in Corps Operations (ECO) Status.

Civic Works' strong commitment to the local community is defined in its mission to assist Baltimore residents in creating a better future for their city. With the help of approximately 200 AmeriCorps volunteers each year, Civic Works serves Baltimore by performing a variety of tasks such as tutoring and mentoring children, building community parks and gardens, and rehabilitating abandoned houses for low-income families. The volunteers participate in team-based projects and weekly academic enrichment to effect positive change in their lives and their community. Each year, Civic Works also trains and helps 200 Baltimore residents find employment through its Health Care Careers Alliance partnership with five of Baltimore's hospitals and the B'more Green environmental technician training and certifi-

cation program. Since its creation in 1993, Civic Works has trained and assisted more than 2,500 Baltimore area participants.

The ECO Status is bestowed upon various Service and Conservation Corps that make a commitment to high-quality standards and continuous improvements. Each organization's performance is reviewed in several areas through self-assessment and peer reviews. This year's evaluation revealed that Civic Works "exhibits a strong commitment to its local community which can be seen throughout all its programs and projects. Community partners and residents clearly benefit from the work Civic Works completes."

ECO also recognized Civic Works for their "consistently clean financial record and for Board members and staff that are extremely engaged." One reason for such glowing reviews is the leadership of its president and executive director, Delegate Dana Stein. Mr. Stein is one of the original co-founders of Civic Works. He has served as a leader in the Baltimore community in several capacities, most recently being elected to the Maryland House of Delegates from the 11th District. Dana is committed to improving the lives of those who live and work in the Baltimore community and that commitment is replicated by those who have worked with him to help Civic Works achieve this status.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of all those who have benefited directly and indirectly from this commitment, I want to once again congratulate Civic Works on achieving the Excellence in Corps Operations Status.

RUSSELL J. "RUSTY" HAMMER: HONORING A LIFETIME OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, my many years of public service have been enhanced by contact with talented community leaders representing numerous organizations and every part of the political spectrum. Among them, Russell J. "Rusty" Hammer—former President and CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce—stood out.

Rusty died in late January at the young age of 54, succumbing to a rare form of leukemia that he had been fighting with characteristic courage and grace since 2003. He is survived by his wife Pamela and children Gerald and Jennifer.

Rusty Hammer's career was marked by early political success with his election, at age 18, to the Campbell, California City Council—making him the youngest elected official in U.S. history at that time. Three years later, he was selected as mayor, making him one of the youngest American mayors ever. In 1982, he retired from politics, began a distinguished career in the private sector, and never looked back.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

In 2001, following 7 years as CEO of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Rusty grabbed the reins of the Los Angeles Chamber. Under his skilled leadership, the LA Chamber was transformed into a thriving and profitable organization—the “go-to” group for area entrepreneurs and businesses of all sizes.

Rusty was also a passionate advocate for the least fortunate, and understood that good schools and a healthy environment are fundamental to the Los Angeles area’s appeal.

Rusty’s insatiable spirit was evident during his battle with cancer. He published a book—“When Cancer Calls Say Yes to Life”—which he said he wrote to help others struggling with the disease.

Madam Speaker, Rusty Hammer touched many lives. He will be missed.

HONORING TIAN-LI YUE FOR RECEIVING THE 20TH ANNUAL PHRMA DISCOVERERS’ AWARD

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, each year, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) presents awards to researchers who have made incredible contributions to the development of a revolutionary medicine that helps patients live longer, healthier lives.

Today, Tian-Li Yue received the 20th Annual PhRMA Discoverers Award from PhRMA. The Discoverers Award is PhRMA’s highest honor and is presented to the biopharmaceutical scientists whose research and development of medicines have greatly benefited mankind, and whose dedication and interest in improving the quality of life of patients exemplifies the best in the research.

This year’s award has justly been presented to a cutting-edge researcher, and my constituent, Tian-Li Yue, who works for GlaxoSmithKline located in my home state of Pennsylvania.

Therefore, on behalf of the U.S. Congress I would like to recognize Tian-Li Yue, Ph.D. for developing Coreg(r), which is used as a treatment for congestive heart failure.

His unwavering dedication and life’s work to improve the health and well being of mankind are to be commended. Patients suffering from heart failure and hypertension are forever in his debt.

IN RECOGNITION OF SISTER JOAN GALLAGHER, CSA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sister Joan Gallagher, in celebration of her years of kindhearted service to the less fortunate within the Northeast Ohio community.

Sister Joan is credited for her vigorous involvement in major projects that have touched the lives of so many people. Joan has been

credited for converting a former Academy into affordable housing for the less fortunate, developing a portion of a campus for the elderly seeking a God-centered environment and creating Joseph’s Home, a home for homeless men with medical problems.

For many years she has helped guide the Famicos Foundation, a community development corporation that provides housing for low-income families and seniors.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Sister Joan Gallagher. May her years of service to the most vulnerable among us be an inspiration to us all in the world today.

HONORING THE MIAMI NORTHWESTERN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute and congratulate the Miami Northwestern Senior High School varsity football team on being crowned the 2007 National Champions voted by ESPN’s High School Football Super 25 and winning the 2008 Florida Class 6A State title.

The Bulls have concluded the 2007–2008 season with a 15–0 season record and a second consecutive Florida Class 6A State title. The Bulls won back-to-back State championships for the first time in the School’s 50-year history. They are only the fourth team from Miami-Dade County to achieve the feat since 1963.

Since opening in the fall of 1955, Miami Northwestern Senior High School students and faculty have had a sense of pride unlike any other school in South Florida. The School opened its doors as a learning institution, and nearly 1,050 Black students who attended the School during its opening year were bused daily from Black communities throughout Dade County. Indeed, during this time period segregated schools were still existent and subsisting; thus, Northwestern became the first new high school for Miami African-Americans in a generation.

Despite the trials and tribulations the School often fought long and hard to get past, the School won its first State title before integration in 1963. After court ordered desegregation of 1970, Northwestern continued to strive within its football program. In 1995 and 1998 the School won two more State titles.

Northwestern, which has the best record of any Dade team (68–13) since 2001, boasts at least seven major Division I recruits on its roster with several others who could go to mid-major programs. Five of those seven have committed to the University of Miami. Among those is senior quarterback Jacory Harris (6–4, 170). He led an offense that scored no fewer than 28 points during the team’s winning streak. It is a known fact that the State of Florida produces one National Football League player for every three of its high schools. Northwestern has played a major part in this contribution with 20 notable graduates including: OT Vernon Carey (Miami Dolphins), DB Torrie Cox (Tampa Bay Buccaneers), WR Antonio Bryant (San Francisco 49ers), RB

Vernand Morency (Green Bay Packers) and LB Nate Webster (Denver Broncos).

William “Billy” Rolle, teacher and head football coach, graduated from Coral Gables Senior High School and later Florida A&M University. He began his teaching career in 1985 at Miami Edison Senior High School where he also began coaching football. Rolle guided Northwestern to its 1998 State title, and also led Miami Killian Senior High School to a State title in 2004. Rolle is the only coach in Miami-Dade County history to lead two schools to State championships.

Coach Rolle returned to coach the Bulls in 2007 and achieved compiling two of the three State titles the School held. He has been recognized as the 2007 Coach of the Year by American Football Monthly. Rolle is committed to preparing his team for post-secondary educational opportunities, and the world of work. The 2006 State Championship team featured seven stars that could sign with the University of Miami in 2008, as well as infamous star running back Antwan Easterling (Southern Miss).

To this day, there are still just as many devoted fans as there were when the School opened in 1955. Not only has the School’s academic arena earned noteworthy and positive outcomes throughout the past 53 years, but the School’s football program has demonstrated and become the highlight in Miami-Dade County that has continuously produced the best crop of talent in the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL EVANS WILSON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Michael Evans Wilson, who was a longtime advocate for advancement of education and a veteran who honorably served our country. His passion for improving the lives of Arkansans will be missed, as well as his unwavering friendship. He delighted in asking penetrating questions, and his friendship was a treasure.

Mike was a compassionate and caring family man who loved his wife and children more than anything else in the world. He had a never-ending and burning desire to help people, and he made a lasting impression on each and every individual who knew him.

Mike was the son of the late Robert Edward Lee Wilson III and Patte Evans Wilson. He was the great-great-grandson of Robert Edward Lee Wilson, who founded Lee Wilson and Co. of Wilson in 1886.

He attended high school at the Baylor School in Chattanooga, TN, and graduated from The Citadel at Charleston, SC, in 1965. He served in the United States Army in Korea, and he achieved the rank of captain in air defense artillery prior to his honorable discharge in 1967.

Following his tour of duty in the Army, Mike returned to Wilson to work at Lee Wilson and Co. He served as chairman and chief executive officer of Lee Wilson and Co. from 1987 to the present.

Mike loved the State of Arkansas. Throughout his life, he became well known and highly