

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORT THE APPLE CRUNCH

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to support House Resolution 1143. This resolution is intended to help increase awareness of our nation's domestic apple supply and promote healthy food choices for students and communities.

The United States is the second largest producer of apples in the world, after China. I am fortunate to have a very large apple industry in my District, with many growers and processors. Growers in the states of Washington, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and California are the largest domestic producers.

To promote domestic apple production, the U.S. Apple Association recognizes October as National Apple Month, which focuses on educating consumers about the positive health outcomes associated with apple consumption. The Apple Crunch was created to encourage children to participate in National Apple Month activities.

The Apple Crunch was started in my home state of Pennsylvania and incentivizes schools to serve apples on their school lunch menus, as snacks in the classroom, and for use in classroom activities. Schools that create the most original activities integrating apples into the class day win monetary prizes to be put toward the school's food service operation.

Communities are also encouraged to participate in the Apple Crunch to support their local participating schools. Many local businesses voluntarily serve apples and apple products to their employees and to customers.

Madam Speaker, this October will mark the second year in which the Apple Crunch has been celebrated nationally. I think that we can all agree that supporting our nation's domestic agriculture production is not only important to our economy, but also the health of our citizens. I urge your support of this resolution, which promotes the goals and ideals of National Apple Week, and specifically the Apple Crunch.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, in compliance with new "earmark" disclosure procedures adopted by the House Republican Conference, I hereby provide the following information regarding a request for funding I made of the House Appropriations Committee for inclusion in H.R. 6599, the Military Construction—VA Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Specifically, the project will be included in Title 1, Military Construction—Army.

H.R. 6599 includes \$9.9 million for Phase 1 of the Ballistic Evaluation Facility (66725) in the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. The entity to receive the funding for this project is the United States Army, specifically the Armament Research Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) located at Picatinny Arsenal, Picatinny, New Jersey, 07806-5000.

The actual design and construction will be executed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The funding will be used for planning, design and construction of a state-of-the-art Ballistic Experimentation Facility (BEF) for Large Caliber Armaments at Picatinny Arsenal. This process will produce a one-of-kind research and testing facility which will reduce Army's operational overhead and maintenance costs and improve safety for Army employees. The use of U.S. taxpayer funding is justified because this construction will provide near-term and long-range benefits to the joint warfighter—Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force.

As this funding will be provided to the United States Army, the requirement of matching funds is not applicable.

IN HONOR OF ALEX MISTRÌ

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Alex Mistri, a former U.S. House of Representatives staffer who left the legislative branch to serve with honor and distinction as President Bush's Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

I have known many White House legislative liaisons in my 22 years as a U.S. Representative. Of all those who have served the four presidents I have worked with, Alex Mistri stands out as the most professional, dedicated and skilled.

Alex recently left the White House to work for the State Department at our embassy in Baghdad. He is joined there by his wife, Amy McKennis Mistri. I have no doubt Alex will be an asset to both our government and the Iraqi people.

Alex began his service as Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs to the President in February 2005. As one of the President's principal liaisons to the House, Alex's primary responsibility was to develop, coordinate and execute White House strategy on legislative issues. Alex specialized in issues related to national security, homeland security, international affairs and tax policy. As a senior member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and Foreign Affairs, I developed a very strong and productive working relationship with Alex.

Part of Alex's effectiveness, no doubt, arose from his familiarity with congressional proce-

dures. Prior to his service in the White House, Alex served as chief of staff for Congressman BILL SHUSTER. In that role, Alex was the congressman's chief political and legislative advisor with daily responsibility for the management of the office.

From the mid-'90s until taking his position as Congressman SHUSTER's chief of staff, Alex worked as legislative director to Congressman ROBIN HAYES, legislative assistant to Senator Lauch Faircloth, and press aide to Senator Alfonse D'Amato.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Alex for many years of laudable service to the House, Senate and administration, and in wishing him great success in Iraq.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOAN LEE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Joan Lee, a dear friend, tireless volunteer and community leader who recently passed away. Joan served as the Convener for the Sacramento Gray Panthers and was an admired advocate for seniors and people with disabilities. As her family and friends gather to honor and remember her wonderful life, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most well-respected figures.

Joan was a prominent leader in the Sacramento Region, and her death leaves a tremendous void in leadership in the fight for the rights of seniors, people with disabilities and those with mental health needs. Joan's determined and effective advocacy was evident through her early work with the Gray Panthers of California, where she was widely recognized as a thoughtful policy advocate. Later, along with other leaders, Joan helped form and convene the local Sacramento Gray Panthers chapter, which now meets regularly at the Hart Senior Center.

Through her advocacy at the local, State and national levels, Joan became an important ambassador between diverse groups and helped devise strategies for healthcare reform. Joan was a stalwart for progressive causes, and her passion and commitment to these issues resonated in her advocacy. While in her mid-50's, Joan returned to college and earned a degree in Gerontology. She then used her knowledge to fight for the rights of older adults on many fronts, including creating an innovative long term care program in Northern California and successfully advocating for medical schools to have required courses in gerontology.

At the Federal level, Joan often stood next to me and my late husband Congressman Bob Matsui in the fight against cuts to Medicare. She also was an articulate voice during the implementation of the Medicare Part D prescription drug program, offering insights on

• 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.

how to improve the program. Joan was an active member of the OuRx coalition, which links low income seniors with prescription drug discount plans. Furthermore, she never wavered in the fight to preserve the integrity of the Social Security program.

At the State Capitol, Joan became someone who was known in the corridors of power. She served on many policymaking groups, including the Olmstead Advisory Committee. The Committee was in charge of implementing the landmark 1999 U.S. Supreme Court "Olmstead Decision" which requires States to take steps to avoid the unnecessary institutionalization of seniors and people with disabilities. From advocating for an accessible and affordable health care system to ensuring Medicare is responsive to our Nation's seniors needs, Joan always stood up for what is right.

Madam Speaker, as Joan Lee's husband Arnie Godmintz, her children John, David and Cleo and her friends gather to honor her wonderful legacy and countless contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to her. I ask all my colleagues to pause and join me in paying respect to an extraordinary loving woman, Joan Lee.

IN HONOR OF THE DEPLOYMENT
OF THE WASHINGTON ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD 161ST INFANTRY
BATTALION, 81ST BRIGADE COM-
BAT TEAM

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the citizens of the Fifth Congressional District, State of Washington in recognition of the 161st Infantry Battalion, 81st Brigade Combat Team, Washington Army National Guard as it prepares for its second one-year tour of duty in Iraq since its mobilization in 2003. Soldiers of the 81st Brigade Combat Team will be responsible for convoy security and force protection missions throughout Iraq, where they previously deployed in 2004 and 2005.

From its inception, the mission of the National Guard has been the defense of our Nation's borders. However, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 the defense of our borders has become an "away game" as our military has taken the fight to the enemy. No less involved has been the Army National Guard.

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Army Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum reported that at one point in the war on terror, National Guard members made up almost half of the ground forces in Iraq and since 9/11, more than 400,000 Guardsmen have been mobilized in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Every aspect of a military mission is critical to its success and each one of these Guardsmen has committed time for pre-deployment training, leaving family and business behind to prepare themselves for a mission of historic and global significance.

We are grateful to these citizen soldiers and we thank them for their selfless-service in peacetime and war, here in this Nation and throughout the world. Their simple love of

country and dedication to liberty compels them to serve this great nation and so today we recognize their commitment, sacrifice and courage in their willingness to protect and defend our Nation in the Global War on Terrorism.

We are also grateful for the sacrifice of family members who also pay a price for freedom. We may never be able to adequately thank our soldiers and their families but we must always support them. It is with a deep sense of pride, Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking the members of the 161st Infantry Battalion, 81st Brigade Combat Team for their service.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS INTRODUCE
ENERGY LEGISLATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last week House Republicans introduced the American Energy Act—an all-of-the-above approach to reduce energy prices for hard-working Americans and their families.

Our Nation is increasingly dependent on foreign oil. This endangers our economy and our national security. The billions we send overseas to buy foreign oil should be spent investing in American-made energy by exploring for our own resources in an environmentally sound way.

We also need to expand our research into alternative, renewable energy sources like biomass, hydrogen, wind, solar, and nuclear power while encouraging American consumers to conserve. Our bill does all of this.

I urge the House Democrat leadership to join with us before adjournment to promote an American energy program. The American people deserve this opportunity to have their voices heard.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

MR. ALVIN G. RANDOLPH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor the life of Mr. Alvin G. Randolph who passed away June 23, 2008. Mr. Randolph was a businessperson, a fine father, and served his community. He also played a role in desegregating the Lamar State College of Technology in 1956, giving a countless number of youth an equal opportunity for education no matter their race.

Alvin was born in Orange, Texas, as the third of eleven children. He graduated from high school in 1943 and enrolled in Prairie View College shortly afterwards, where he worked as a repair person for room and board. He put his education on hold to serve his country when he was drafted into World War II as an officer candidate. After his service to his country, he returned home and attended Jefferson Junior College where he earned his real estate broker's license.

At the same time, there was a tremendous social revolution happening in the United

States. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the landmark case *Brown vs. Board of Education*, naming separate educational facilities inherently unequal and setting the stage for integration and the Civil Rights Movement. This opened the doors to schools and universities across the nation but there was still a segment of the population that was set on keeping them closed.

As African-American students walked up to the doors of their new universities, they were often greeted with protests and picket lines and Lamar State College of Technology was no different. Nevertheless, Alvin and 25 other black students enrolled and were accepted to Lamar's campus of 5,455 students. They battled the almost riotous conditions and paved the way to an equal education for a student of any race.

Randolph earned his business degree in 1958 and went on to study property law at Texas Southern University. He worked as a real estate broker, homebuilder, and life insurance underwriter. With his wife Jerodine, they had five children. He was active in both the Northside and Eleventh Street Churches of Christ and served on the Board of Directors at the L.L. Melton YMCA. He passed away at the age of 80.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I honor Mr. Alvin Randolph for his courage in the face of tremendous adversity. He helped make our world a better place to live, and I applaud his unwavering service and dedication to the community. Alvin Randolph is a true American hero.

HONORING MIKE RAMBO

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Dean Rambo of Colleyville, Texas. Michael was an outstanding husband, father, and Scout Master for Troop 28. He educated and guided the youth of his community for a number of years. Michael was always looking for the opportunity to give back to the community in which he lived. He loved his family and friends and they loved him.

Michael was a remarkable friend, neighbor, and public servant with infinite talents and gifts which he shared with all who had the honor to know him. He was an expert in ornithology, astronomy, computer architecture, math, and photography.

Michael always had a childlike wonder and awe of the world around him, an insatiable thirst for knowledge, and a relentless desire for understanding. He was constantly observing everything that the world had to offer. His example and enthusiasm made those around him want to learn more, to do more, and be more.

Michael was always up for a challenge and was always willing to lend a hand. He volunteered on the Longhorn Council for over fifteen years. He was the Cubmaster for Pack 254 before taking the lead roll for Troop 28. Michael was the guiding light for Troop 28 for twelve years, and under Rambo's leadership, Troop 28 earned Colleyville's first Service Award. Michael once said, "When I took over