

IN RECOGNITION OF HAL SHELTON AND THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA SCORE FOR WINNING THE 2008 SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S AWARD

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, congratulations to Hal Shelton and the Board of the Washington Metropolitan Area SCORE for receiving the 2008 Small Business Administration District Director's Award for their contribution to the training, counseling and mentoring of small businesses.

Hal Shelton and the more than 50 Washington Metro Area SCORE volunteers were recognized for substantially assisting the SBA DC district office in providing business counseling to military service members at Walter Reed Hospital; organizing workshops for local 8(a) businesses; and for exceeding all goals for the number of DC-area clients who received business mentoring and advice.

Since 1964, SCORE "Counselors to America's Businesses," have helped 8 million aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners through counseling and business workshops. More than 10,500 volunteer business counselors in 389 chapters serve their communities through entrepreneur education dedicated to the formation, growth and success of small businesses.

For their commitment to preserving the reputation of American small businesses as among the most productive in the world and for their years of dedicated public service, I commend Hal Shelton and the members of Washington Metropolitan Area SCORE for receiving this important honor.

HONORING CONNOR WAYNE CHOICE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Connor Wayne Choice of Liberty, Missouri. Connor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Connor has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Connor has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Connor Wayne Choice for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is December 9, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 13,105 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

So Madam Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 13,105 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children

in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is December 9, 2008, 13,105 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

REMARKS ON INAUGURAL BILL

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER. Madame Speaker, on January 20, this Nation will lay witness to a Presidential Inauguration like no other in our country's history. As my fellow Americans travel to the District of Columbia, in some cases without a place to stay, just to be part of this historic occasion, we must bear in mind that this event stands as a symbol of democracy, and that tickets should not be bought and sold to the highest bidder. It is egregious that tickets that are given out freely would then be sold for thousands of dollars. Even worse, are false promises of tickets that are made to individuals and families, who are then left with empty pockets and tales of disillusion.

For these reasons, I have introduced a bill that will make it a crime to knowingly sell tickets to the Presidential Inaugural ceremony. This bill will also make it a criminal act to produce counterfeit tickets for the Inaugural ceremony. I am hopeful that this bill will work to stop the unscrupulous, yet devastating actions of the few, and preserve the dignity of this historic and celebratory occasion for the many.

HONORING RYAN RUSSELL DONALDSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Russell Donaldson of Liberty, Missouri. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest

qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan Russell Donaldson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT F. NOLAN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert F. Nolan, a man who has made service to our community his pride and his life's work. In his capacity as an advisor to three Bronx Borough presidents during some of the most turbulent times our city has ever witnessed, time and again Bob was confronted with singular challenges that would have reduced a lesser figure to despair and resignation. Instead Bob rose to the occasion, time and time again. He took part in some of the most momentous decisions that could confront a public official, and he did so with poise, clarity of purpose, and unusual dedication. Bob has been one of the truest and finest examples of a public servant who never gave up on the Bronx, but instead continued to serve through the hardest of times. He committed himself at a young age to improving his beloved community, and has had the endurance and strength of character to spend a lifetime in pursuit of this goal. While many have come and gone, Bob has never left the Bronx—and the Bronx cannot possibly forget that fact.

Born in Westchester Square Hospital, Bob Nolan was educated at Our Lady of Solace School in Morris Park and then Fordham University. A community and political activist since the early 1970s, he began his career as an instructor at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Later, he moved on to the mayor's office of economic development, where he was in charge of the business action center. In January 1979, Bob joined the office of the Bronx Borough president as director of economic development. He quickly set in motion the plan which led to the creation of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation in 1980.

The 1980s were a critical period for the Bronx. The previous two decades saw the quality of life in the Bronx dramatically diminish. A widespread deterioration was underway, as the city suffered the aftermath of a painful fiscal collapse. Some neighborhoods felt the hurt more than others, but few felt it worse than the South Bronx. This was the climate in which Bob began his journey to restore our borough's greatness.

This was no easy task. At the time, private and public disinvestment had taken a huge toll on many Bronx neighborhoods. But these circumstances neither deterred nor discouraged

Bob. Perhaps his work is best judged by the vitality we have witnessed in our borough in recent years. Across the board, the Bronx has undergone a remarkable transformation—and credit should rightly be given to the sound fiscal and public investment policies first championed by Bob and his colleagues at the very dawn of our borough's resurgence. His thoughtful planning and careful stewardship helped pave the way for innumerable capital projects and a wholesale restoration of confidence in the borough on the part of the city's business community. Bob helped demonstrate that the Bronx was once again a fertile place for investment.

In the 1990s, Bob was appointed budget director for the borough, a position he held until the day he retired—November 14, 2008. His role as budget director required Bob to recommend capital projects to the borough president and help shape budgets and establish spending priorities that furthered past efforts and blazed new paths toward economic revival. We will undoubtedly continue to see the fruits of Bob's labor for many years to come.

Looking back at this extraordinary life of service, what is unique about Bob Nolan's story is the completeness of it. Three decades ago, Bob set out to make the Bronx a better place, working tirelessly from within the halls of government. These many years later, he retires with that goal now very much in his sights. He has had many different responsibilities over the years, but the same motivating factor: a love for his borough and its people. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Robert F. Nolan, a man who loves his hometown fiercely and whose whole life is a unique testament to civic duty.

HONORING THE MILITARY
SERVICE OF FRED STERN

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the heroic and distinguished actions of Fred Stern of Aberdeen, South Dakota, who will be honored with several long-overdue medals, including the Bronze Star Medal, for his service during World War II.

Fred was born near Webster, South Dakota, on October 21, 1908. He was inducted into the U.S. Army at Ft. Snelling, Minnesota, on June 10, 1942, and received his basic training at Camp Rucker, Alabama. Fred served in World War II's Pacific Theater from 1942 to 1945. He was a member of the 322nd Regiment Combat Team of the 81st Infantry, Wildcats, Division in the battle for the Palau Islands.

The 322nd participated in the famed assault on the small island of Anguar—a hard-fought battle against the island's Japanese occupants. For his dedicated service, Fred received the Good Conduct Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Service Star, and the Combat Infantry Badge. After the war, he returned to South Dakota where he farmed, worked for the Brown County Implement, and as a painter before retiring.

Madam Speaker, I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my gratitude to Mr. Fred

Stern and congratulate his receipt of the Bronze Star Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars and one Bronze Arrowhead, and the Army of Occupation Medal with Japan Clasp.

We are all proud and thankful for all that he has done in the service of the United States of America. The lives of countless people have been enormously enhanced by his compassion and service. Fred represents the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the Army. He continues to inspire all those who know him and hear his story of sacrifice. Our Nation and the State of South Dakota are far better places because of his service, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his devotion to our country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my appreciation to Fred. His commitment to and sacrifice for our Nation will never be forgotten.

HONORING SPENCER JOSEPH FISH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Joseph Fish of Liberty, Missouri. Spencer is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Spencer Joseph Fish for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO RICK STAATS

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Rick Staats, a man whose passion and energy for conservative principles in northern California have made a great contribution to the region.

Rick was born on August 1, 1943, in Berkeley, CA, where he grew up. After graduating from Berkeley High School, Rick left California to attend the University of Oregon.

After college, Rick returned to California and became active in politics. While living in the Bay Area, Rick served as the Alameda County chairman for the U.S. Senate campaign of then-State Senator H.L. Richardson. Rick was also an alternate delegate for the 1976 Republican National Convention in Kansas City. Rick's political activism eventually led him to Sacramento in 1978. At that time, Rick and I served together on the staff of Senator Richardson, and 2 years later Rick was an integral