

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for decades the United States has worked closely with Australia on issues of great importance to our two nations. Australia has stood out among the international community as a friend of the United States and remains one of our closest cultural, economic and security partners. It is in this spirit that a program was launched 10 years ago to further foster those close ties. Since that time, the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program has delivered to the United States approximately 100 of Australia's best and brightest to serve as interns in a variety of Federal agencies and congressional offices.

During my first term in Congress, I was privileged to welcome Anthony "A.J." Bremmer to my office. Anthony was a welcome addition to my congressional staff and he quickly became an integral part of the team. When the opportunity arose again this winter to participate in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, I immediately agreed to welcome another Australian "ambassador." Jehane Sharah, much like A.J., has quickly become a valued part of our staff. Jehane has demonstrated a maturity and a curiosity beyond her college years. Prior to coming to the United States, Jehane worked for two members of the Australian parliament. This experience has helped her flourish during her short time in Washington. She has attended briefings, assisted constituents, and worked with my staff on a variety of research initiatives. Jehane also has an extensive background in communications, serving as a senior reporter for a newspaper in Canberra. As a result, she has assisted my communications director on a number of important projects. Jehane truly is an exceptional ambassador for the people of Australia.

Many of my colleagues have also been privileged to welcome students like Jehane to their offices. This year, 12 students from all across Australia are serving in offices here in Washington. They were drawn from seven Australian universities in four different states and the Australian Capital Territory. From my experience, it is clear that this program will help foster a new generation of understanding and shared experiences between our two countries. One example of this can be seen in a recent feature piece written by Jehane for the Sunday Canberra Times. The article details her experience at the inauguration of President Obama, an event that united not only the people of our country, but those around the world as well.

We in the United States and Australia owe a debt of gratitude to the program's founder,

Eric Federer. Eric is a former senior House and Senate Congressional staffer who has worked tirelessly to bring students from Australia to the halls of Washington through his efforts at the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Madam Speaker, as Members of Congress we have a responsibility to our constituents back home and an opportunity to reach out to people across the globe. It is with that in mind that I would encourage all of my colleagues to open their doors to students from around the world so that they can share in our great democracy. Similarly, I would encourage American university students to travel abroad to learn about other cultures and governments and share their knowledge of our country. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to once more thank Jehane Sharah for her dedication and hard work.

HONORING DIANE GLASSER AND PAMELA BUSHNELL

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Diane Glasser and Pamela Bushnell, both of whom were sworn in on November 10, 2008 as new commissioners of the city of Tamarac, Florida. As outstanding public servants and great friends of mine, I wish to recognize their accomplishments and congratulate them on their election as commissioners.

Diane Glasser, who was elected as commissioner of District 3, has been a leader in our community for many years. A resident of Kings Point in Tamarac, Diane has been a member of many important committees and task forces, including the Senior Citizens Involvement Task Force for the Broward County School Board, the Charter Board of Tamarac, the Tamarac Redistricting Committee, and the Broward County Human Rights Board. She was chairwoman of Tamarac's 25th anniversary celebration and has served as a four-time delegate to the Democratic National Convention, has been chosen a Democratic National Committeewoman since 1992, and has been First Vice Chair of the Florida Democratic Party since 2001. Her commitment to service and to the issues that matter to our constituency makes her a wonderful choice for commissioner, and I look forward to working with her in the years to come.

Pamela Bushnell, recently elected as commissioner of District 1, has also been a member of many local boards and is an active leader in our community. A resident and current president of Mainlands 1 & 2, Pamela has served on the boards of the City of Margate Committee for the Disabled; the Zoning Board of the town of Sutton, New Hampshire; and

Schenectady County Community College; among many others. A volunteer at Calvary Chapel in Fort Lauderdale and a participant in the Broward Sheriff's Office Citizens Observer Patrol Program, Pamela will make a fine addition to Tamarac's government and will serve her district with the utmost distinction.

I look forward to working with Diane, Pamela, Mayor Beth Talabisco, and the rest of the Commission of the City of Tamarac, and wish Diane and Pamela only the best as they begin their service on the City Commission.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MICHAEL DUNN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Michael Dunn who retired from the Pleasanton Police Department on January 16, 2009 after 25 years of dedicated public service. Michael began his career as a Military Police Officer with the United States Marine Corps, where he served for over eight years. He was a member of the Los Angeles Police Department from 1982 until he was hired by the City of Pleasanton in 1985 and was promoted to the Rank of Sergeant in 1997.

During his career in police service, Michael was recognized on numerous occasions for his tenacity, professionalism and dedication to his work. He was an exemplary police officer and consistently gave more to the community than was asked of him. For example, he was instrumental in introducing a variety of programs to the community, including bicycle rodeos and a minor offense court to provide rehabilitation alternatives for juvenile offenders.

Michael worked a variety of assignments during his career, including Field Training Officer, DARE Officer, SWAT Officer, Traffic Motor Officer, Juvenile Detective, Rangemaster, Patrol Field Supervisor and Traffic Division Supervisor.

During his career, Michael experienced all that law enforcement offers, including capturing kidnapping and homicide suspects within hours of the crime, handling high profile child molestation investigations, assisting in controlling large scale public demonstrations, providing critical assistance during the Oakland Hills Firestorm, and saving the life of a young girl at a local restaurant. Michael always put the community and people first.

He possesses the critical qualities of an exemplary police officer and has been a positive influence to his colleagues in law enforcement. I commend Michael Dunn for his legacy of leadership and attention to detail, while always caring for those with whom he worked as well as the community at large.

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