

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I mistakenly missed the vote on rollcall No. 162: On passage of H.R. 1404, the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 125, On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 987. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 126: On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1217. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 127: On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1284. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO STUDENT ATHLETES

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about some great achievements by student athletes in my district.

This past weekend Jamesville-DeWitt boys' varsity basketball team, which is my hometown, defeated Peekskill 77-75 in Overtime to win the Class A Boys' High School basketball championship.

The 25th congressional district winning ways continue at the New York Public schools championship with Bishop Kearney boys' varsity basketball team defeating Seton Catholic 65-48 to bring home the Class B Boy's High School basketball championship.

And the women of the 25th district got into the act when Newark girls varsity basketball team defeated Albertus Magnus 75-68 to take the Girls' Class A basketball championship.

Coach McKenney at Jamesville-Dewitt, Coach Boon at Bishop Kerney, Coach Kirnie at Newark and all of the student athletes are to be congratulated on these great achievements. I wish them all the best of luck as they move on to the New York State Federation Championships this weekend in Glens Falls.

Last, but certainly not least, I am proud to say that the Syracuse Orange men's basketball team won both of their NCAA tournament games this past weekend and have advanced to the sweet 16 this weekend. To coach Boenheim, and all of the players, I can't tell you how many people come up to me in halls of Congress to talk about how great you are. I will be cheering for you as you compete for a berth in the Final Four.

All of the student athletes that compete bring my district and the whole United States great pride and I applaud you on your efforts. Keep up the good work, and Go Orange!

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK RAFFLO

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues today the recent passing of Frank Rafflo of Leesburg, Virginia. He died on March 15, 2009, at the age of 89.

A long-time resident of Leesburg, Frank was a giant in his community who made public service a priority. He was a member of the town council for several years, as well as serving as mayor for two years. During his tenure as mayor, Frank oversaw the effort to build an airport in Leesburg. He was also a member of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors for 14 years, including a year as chairman in 1985.

Frank served his community in unelected positions as well. He was one of the charter members of the Leesburg Kiwanis Club in 1957. The club holds the annual Kiwanis Halloween Parade that local children look forward to year after year. With his wife Frances, Frank championed parks and outdoor spaces in Loudoun County. They were influential in the creation of the W&OD Trail in Leesburg, and a park along the trail was subsequently dedicated for them. In more recent years, Frank wrote a column in the local paper, the Leesburg Today.

The town of Leesburg and the Commonwealth of Virginia will greatly miss the service of their friend, Frank Rafflo. His legacy will not soon be forgotten.

I would like to share an in memoriam of Frank Rafflo that ran in the Leesburg Today on March 18, 2009:

[From the Leesburg Today, Mar. 18, 2009]

FRANK RAFFLO: IN MEMORIAM, 1919-2009

(By Margaret Morton)

Small in physical stature, but towering in intelligence, integrity and love of community, Frank Rafflo, who died Sunday at age 89, was one of the pantheon of legendary Loudoun leaders during the second half of the 20th century.

All this week, tributes poured in for a man whose breadth of interests was phenomenal. A generous dispenser of advice for others making their way in the world, Rafflo retained all his long life a curiosity into what made people and institutions tick.

Blessed with a sharp brain, with a penetrating eye for fiscal detail and a consuming interest in all that went on around him, Rafflo lived an extraordinary life in which he had a number of careers-businessman, journalist and columnist, author, radio commentator and local elected government representative.

In his later years, Rafflo's column, Just Being Frank, in Leesburg Today, in which he dispensed his particular brand of down-home wisdom, had a loyal following. Readers were drawn to his often whimsical but always knowledgeable observations on a variety of subjects, ranging from the quirks of human beings, government malfeasance, the price of coffee, hemlines going up or down, how to find good tomatoes or a good shovel, whether a sale price was a true sale or not, and so on. In addition, Rafflo wrote a number of books detailing Leesburg's and Loudoun's history, among the best known being Within The Iron Gate.

Serving on both the Leesburg Town Council and the Board of Supervisors, Rafflo's love

of both was remarkable. Director of the Loudoun Office of Transportation Services Terrie Laycock, who started work with county government in 1977 as an aide to board members, worked closely with Rafflo, who served on the county board from 1972 to 1986, including as chairman in 1985. "You never questioned that his motives were anything other than for the good of Loudoun County: No politics, no personal advancement, it was always from his perspective for what he felt was best for the county," she said.

He was a dedicated Democrat and an equally dedicated Kiwanian, a charter member of the Leesburg Kiwanis Club, and founder of the Kiwanis Halloween Parade in Leesburg.

Growing up in Leesburg, Rafflo attended Leesburg High School where he always was at, or near, the top of his class. That keen intellect led to his being accepted into the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, from which he graduated as a Phi Beta Kappa student.

As a businessman, Rafflo and his wife, Frances, operated a women's dress shop on South King Street, a characteristic partnership in all his endeavors that that lasted until Rafflo's death. Loudoun Museum Executive Director Karen Quanbeck remembered her days on The Fashion Board at Loudoun County High School.

Rafflo created the group, comprised of junior and senior girls who would model fashions from his store at charity fashion shows, typically on weekends, Quanbeck recalled. "It takes a lot to get teenage girls out of bed at 6 a.m. on weekends, and make it fun." She recalled Rafflo as "very jolly and very supportive of the girls on the board. He was always interested in us and what we were going to do with our lives."

A strong believer that local government was the most effective form of public service to be found, Rafflo served two terms on the Leesburg Town Council from 1949-1951 and 1953-1955, as well as serving as mayor from 1961-1963.

Whether or not people agreed with him, "they always knew where he stood," his son Alan said this week, recalling the tales of many battles that came home with his father during his years of public service.

Rafflo enjoyed a long working partnership with the late B. Powell Harrison, who, while never an elected official, shared many similar ideas about the future of Leesburg and the county. Harrison's widow, Agnes Harrison, recalled the long partnership between the two men, who worked together on many projects to better both the town and the county. Their offices were next door to each other, and, both being notable talkers, "they would meet on the street on the corner and discuss many, many things," she said. "If everyone who lived in Leesburg were as public minded as Frank Rafflo it would be an even better place than it is," she said.

Alan Rafflo similarly recalled his father talking to everybody he met on the street in his retirement. When once he asked him whom he was waving to, his father replied, "Oh, I wave to everybody."

Both Agnes Harrison and longtime friend Mac Brownell recalled the courage shown by both Rafflos in the face of family tragedy, having lost two of their children in car accidents. "They suffered serious sadness and disappointment, but they kept going. They were a brave couple," Harrison said.

"I always had great respect for Frank. I saw a side of him that so touching, that people didn't often see, particularly the way he spoke about children. He had a very tender heart," Brownell said.

Laycock also spoke of Rafflo's interest in those who were less fortunate, whether from a financial standpoint, or if they had physical or mental disabilities. "He was always