

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF BRIAN O'NEILL

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of one of the grand pioneers of the National Park Service, Brian O'Neill.

Brian was a passionate and dedicated advocate for our National Parks. He served as a magnificent steward of our beloved treasure, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) encompasses 76,000 acres of land and 50 miles of shoreline within Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, and includes world-famous sites such as Alcatraz Island, Muir Woods and the Presidio of San Francisco. It is the most visited unit of our National Park System, receiving more than 20 million visitors annually, and is one of the largest urban National Parks in the world.

Brian O'Neill's leadership in our National Parks spanned more than 28 years. As General Superintendent of the GGNRA, Brian met the challenge of leadership in every measure. His enthusiasm soared to the heights of the giant redwoods of Muir Woods, his spirit of partnership spanned the Golden Gateway from Fort Point to Fort Baker, and his vision saw to the Farallone Islands and beyond.

On a daily basis, Brian inspired a staff of 425 employees, a volunteer force of over 20,000 and more than 30 major facility and program partners. Under his leadership, GGNRA has developed park operational partnerships that have served as national and international models.

Brian was a prominent figure in the transitioning of the Presidio of San Francisco from a military installation to a National Park. For more than two centuries, the Presidio stood as the Sentinel of the Golden Gate. Today, thanks to a strong public-private partnership, the Presidio has been transformed into a National Park like no other, and as a place of peaceful reflection and recreation for all people. The transformation of the Presidio from Post to Park has been exciting in its innovation, and is due in large part to Brian's leadership.

For more than a century, Fort Baker played a key role in the defense of San Francisco Bay. Today, thanks to the leadership and commitment of Brian, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY and many others, Fort Baker offers a world-class retreat and conference center, a hands-on children's museum and learning center, and the Institute at the Golden Gate dedicated to dialog and action on global environmental issues. Ft. Baker's post-to-park transition was truly a collaborative effort that brought together the entire community—a hallmark of Brian O'Neill's leadership. Moving forward, Ft. Baker will play a key role in advancing the cause of both local and global environmental stewardship and preserving our planet for our children and the future.

Another highlight of Brian's lifetime of accomplishment was returning Crissy Field from the barren, broken asphalt of a former World War II airstrip to the historic wetlands and verdant marsh along the Presidio's window to the Bay. Crissy Field was one of the first attempts to restore historic wetlands along San Francisco Bay, and the first effort ever in San Francisco. Brian worked with Toby Rosenblatt, the Haas family and many others to bring the resources, talent and energy together in a great success that provides public recreation and environmental restoration. Today, Crissy Field serves as an example of the important alliance that can be developed between local and federal partners for the benefit of the community and for the entire National Parks system.

Brian provided leadership for the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, the Bay Area Open Space Council, the Association for the Central California Biosphere Reserve, the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association, the Headlands Institute, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's California Advisory Council, the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and the Save-the-Bay Association Advisory Council. He was a key advisor to the Department of the Interior on partnership matters.

As Phillip Burton, a goliath of our National Parks, stated when he created the law preserving GGNRA and the Presidio, "Even in a remote setting, the features of this park would be outstanding." In furtherance of Phillip Burton's vision, Brian O'Neill's enduring legacy is an outstanding National Park that is sustainable, and accessible for all to enjoy, and is a great source of pride to all of us.

My colleagues in Congress and I are deeply saddened by his passing, and are grateful for the legacy of natural beauty and cultural heritage he has left for future generations to enjoy. We will miss his enthusiasm, his spirit and his vision. I hope it is of comfort to his wife Marti, and his children Kim and Brent, that so many of us share in their loss.

### JOB CREATION THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KLEIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2352) to amend the Small Business Act, and for other purposes:

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2352, the Job Creation through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009. This legislation comes at a critical time, as small businesses across the country are struggling to access credit and make payroll.

This legislation will create new small business development programs to increase ac-

cess to credit, provide training on contract procurement and green entrepreneurship and offer additional guidance to veteran-owned small businesses veterans looking to start their own businesses upon returning home from service. This legislation will play a critical role in putting Americans back to work and helping established small businesses grow during these tough economic times.

I represent South Florida, which has 1.1 million small businesses—one of the highest concentrations of small businesses in the country. Unfortunately, in 2008, SBA loans in South Florida fell approximately 40 percent—10 percent higher the national average. I've met with countless small business owners in my district who, despite strong credit and responsible lending histories cannot access credit at a reasonable rate. These new and enhanced entrepreneurial development programs will serve as a lifeline for small business owners in my home state of Florida, and throughout the country. By providing one-on-one counseling, continued guidance and support for potential entrepreneurs and struggling small business owners, we can help our small business community weather these tough economic times, increase sales and get our economy back on track.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation,

TRIBUTE TO SAINT JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the St. John's Baptist Church of Scotch Plains, New Jersey on the celebration of its centennial anniversary. Established in 1909, St. John's has continuously served the needs of its congregation and the community.

Throughout the illustrious history of St. John's Baptist Church, effective leadership has been at the core of all the accomplishments the church has had. Beginning with Pastor Parson and continuing with Pastors Gatewell, Hamlett, Sweeney, Glover and the current pastor, Rev. Dr. Kelmo Curtis Porter, Jr. St. John's has made many physical enhancements over the years. In addition to its leadership, the success of all of St. John's initiatives can be attributed to the faith, hope, commitment and prayers of the loving membership that fill the pews of this landmark facility. In fact, many of St. John's congregants have been members of the church all of their lives and some are second or third generation members. Clearly, this degree of devotion is representative of the marvelous ministries taking place within the church.

A Gala being held on May 17, 2009 at Pines Manor in Edison, New Jersey in honor

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