

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF GEORGE H. MCCOY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride as we commemorate the 65th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy, I rise to celebrate the extraordinary service of World War II veteran George H. McCoy.

On June 6, 1944 George, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, and countless other veterans of the Normandy campaign, demonstrated their remarkable courage and devotion to the great cause of freedom.

In recognition of his selfless service, the President of the French Republic awarded George McCoy the "Chevalier" rank of the Legion of Honor, equivalent to knighthood, the highest decoration assigned by the Legion.

The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by person of "eminent merit" in military or civil life.

To this day George continues his camaraderie with America's bravest through his membership in the West Seneca American Legion Post #735, Amvets Post #8113, and the Harvey D. Morin VFW Post #2940.

Just as France has recognized Mr. McCoy's exceptional service, acknowledgement it is fitting and appropriate from this good and grateful nation.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to honor George McCoy, a man who with courage and humility has contributed to the liberties we are so fortunate to enjoy. George's bravery is admirable and inspiring and I am pleased to acknowledge his service on this, the 65th Anniversary of Normandy's invasion.

RECOGNITION OF LA CHATELAINES VETERAN'S DAY SALUTE ON D-DAY

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stan and Gigi Wielezynski on the 65th anniversary of D-Day. Stan, a native of Normandy, France, and his wife Gigi have never forgotten the courage and sacrifice of the Americans who liberated France from Nazi occupation during World War II. They are the owners of several Columbus area restaurants named La Chatelaine. For fifteen years, in order to express their gratitude and to recognize the U.S. Allied Forces involved in the invasion on the shores of Normandy, Stan and Gigi Wielezynski have opened their doors to World War II veterans and offered them a complimentary French meal.

The Wielezynskis take great pride in this event by having their employees come to work dressed in military apparel, carrying authentic World War II helmets, and celebrating with flag-shaped cakes and music of the 1940s. Additionally, they decorate the restaurant with jeeps, parachutes, and other World War II memorabilia.

Recently, the couple received a letter from Marion Gray, an 83-year-old veteran from the 29th Infantry, stating that his one dream was to say a final goodbye to the friends he lost in Normandy. Marion had been working as a bagger at the local store to save money for his trip. However, upon receipt of the letter, the Wielezynskis generously donated an entire weeklong all-expense paid trip to Normandy for Marion and his wife Ruth.

Madam Speaker, on this 65th anniversary of D-Day, I would like to commend Stan and Gigi Wielezynski for their enormous generosity to the Grays as well as the hundreds of other World War II veterans and for their love of their adopted country.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES PROGRAM AND THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT (LSTA)

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of an issue which affects the educational well-being of each of us, and in particular, our children — funding for federal library programs, particularly the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

As you may know, research has shown that students in schools with well-stocked libraries and highly qualified, state-certified school librarians have higher levels of academic achievement than students who do not have the same benefits. Furthermore, many school libraries have become sophisticated 21st century learning environments, offering a full range of print and electronic resources, but today only 60 percent of school libraries have full-time, state-certified school library media specialists on staff. Unfortunately, due to the constraints that school administrators must confront when faced with limited resources, library resource budgets are often utilized to make up for shortfalls in other areas.

To remedy this situation, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) authorized funding for libraries through the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program. While the purpose of the program was primarily to encourage reading and improve literacy, it also allocated funding for acquiring up-to-date school library media resources, acquiring and using advanced technology, facilitating Internet

links and other resource sharing networks among schools and libraries, providing professional development for school library media specialists, and providing students with access to school libraries during nonschool hours. In recognizing the tremendous benefits of library and research technology, the inclusion of this important provision in NCLB represented a significant step towards the creation of a truly 21st century education system. Unfortunately, like many provisions of NCLB, this initiative has been underfunded.

As you may also be aware, state libraries rely greatly on the funds provided through LSTA, which is the only federal program devoted exclusively to libraries, to support statewide initiatives and provide funds to public, school, academic, research, and special libraries through subgrants. The requirement of a state match also helps stimulate additional investment in the program, as approximately three to four state and local dollars are invested for every one federal dollar.

I have long been a strong supporter of funding for library programs, particularly the LSTA state program and the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program, because of the educational opportunities that these programs help provide and the important role that they play in expanding access to information resources and services for learning in all types of libraries for individuals of all ages. I would respectfully encourage my colleagues in the House to work together in a bipartisan manner to see that, as the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations process moves forward, federal library programs receive the support they need to continue helping state and local library programs maintain a high level of quality and service.

RECOGNIZING OF THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK OF THE USS "LIBERTY"

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on June 8, 1967, the USS *Liberty* was patrolling the waters of the Mediterranean when Israeli planes and torpedo boats attacked the ship. I rise today to pay a special tribute to those who lost their lives and the survivors of this attack on the 42nd Anniversary.

Shortly before the Six-Day War began, the USS *Liberty* was ordered to proceed to the eastern Mediterranean to perform an electronic intelligence collection mission. On June 8th, air and naval forces of Israel attacked the ship without warning.

Of a crew of 294 officers and men the ship suffered 34 killed in action and 173 wounded in action. The ship itself, a \$40 million state-of-the-art signals intelligence platform, was so badly damaged that it never sailed on an operational mission again and was sold in

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

1970 as scrap for a mere \$100,000. No ship in our history has ever received such damage and casualties by accident.

After 34 years, the voices of *Liberty's* dead and wounded seamen must finally be heard. Despite the continuing efforts to uncover the real truths about the attack, Martin Luther King Jr., said it best—"History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people."

Although no amount of time can ever erase the memories of that tragic event or bring back those who perished, it is my hope that the wounds of their loved ones have begun to heal.

AAPI HOSTS SUCCESSFUL
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin recently hosted a legislative conference on Capitol Hill, and I was honored to speak to this organization, consisting of proud American doctors who trace their heritage to India. AAPI's members play a critical role in delivering quality health care throughout the U.S. across a broad range of medical specialties.

I heard from AAPI members who discussed the need for health care reform but also shared their concerns about a single-payer system. These physicians told me that while we need reforms, we should never forget that we have the greatest health care system in the world. I agree. We need to find ways to reform health care delivery by cutting costs without compromising the quality of care provided to patients. A system that rations testing, cannot provide the latest pharmaceuticals to patients, and prevents patients from making decisions about their own health care, is a system that moves the power of healthcare from the hands of patients into the hands of government.

That's not what we need in America. I appreciate the advocacy of AAPI on this issue and the difference Indian American doctors make in providing the best health care to their patients every day in our great nation.

CONGRATULATING DARREL JACOBS ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS THE 2009 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR BY THE PHOENIX VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Vietnam veteran's service to his fellow veterans while battling his own chronic illness. This year, the Phoenix VA Health Care Systems awarded Darrel Jacobs the 2009 Volunteer of the Year award. This honor recognizes the remarkable way in which Darrel has given back to the same hospital

that has provided him with excellent care since 1972.

Darrell, a former postal clerk for the U.S. Army from 1967–1971, spends 24 hours a week volunteering at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix. Since he has had diabetes for 37 years and even underwent open-heart surgery at the Phoenix VA Medical Center about seven years ago, Jacobs is able to provide encouragement and assistance to his patients on a personal level.

Darrell provides support for patients in a multitude of ways, specializing in care for veterans with diabetes and heart disease. On days when the diabetes education class is held at the hospital, Darrell arrives at 6:30 a.m. to set everything up, assists veterans with their glucose tests, and is always the last one to leave once the class is over. He also coordinates lunches from the dietary department, works in the cardiology department, and even trains other volunteers.

I commend him for his energetic efforts in giving selflessly to other vets combating disease. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Darrel Jacobs for his service to our country and his continued dedication to America's veterans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Birchwood School of Cleveland's West Park neighborhood as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary. The school was founded in 1984 by a small group of dedicated parents who wanted to create a haven for learning, quality instruction and character development for their children.

The Birchwood School was first housed in rented space in a church building on Warren Road, beginning with twenty students and three teachers, grades one through eight. The name "Birchwood" was used because of the side street upon which it was located. The name soon took on deeper significance as it was discovered that the Chinese character for the birch tree meant blossoming and soaring upwards.

The school's first principal, Mr. Debelak, consulted with some of the most noteworthy experts in the educational field in his creation of a curriculum that would challenge, instruct and shape the character and intellect of every student. The educational mission and goals of Birchwood School have not wavered throughout the growth of the school: inspire children to set high goals in every endeavor; develop the character of each child to instill a sense of caring, compassion and community; and equip each child with a strong foundation of knowledge and the tools to think critically and creatively. Since 1984, the school has grown to nearly 20 staff members and 117 students, as diverse in background and culture as the City of Cleveland.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the founding members, dedicated staff and parent volunteers of the Birch-

wood School of Cleveland as they celebrate twenty-five years of fostering, enriching and uplifting the minds and hearts of every child who has walked through its doors. Since 1984, 175 students have graduated from Birchwood School, and 323 students have been a part of Birchwood for all or part of their elementary and middle school years. The vision of Birchwood School—providing each child with a quality education and character enrichment, continues to provide significant opportunity and a solid foundation for the future of every student.

TRIBUTE TO MARTY DAVIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marty Davis of Taylorville, Illinois who is celebrating his 50th anniversary as a member of the McDonald's family.

Marty Davis began his career in 1959 at age sixteen in one of the first McDonald's in the nation located in Des Moines, Iowa. Marty worked as a crew member making hamburgers and French fries just like any other teenager, but Marty continued his career in McDonald's. He worked as a manager in a local store and was eventually promoted to an area supervisor for the local operator in Des Moines. In 1977, Marty was offered the chance to own his own McDonald's franchise and moved to Taylorville. Marty has never looked back and now owns and operates McDonald's franchises in Pana, Vandalia, Shelbyville, and Taylorville, Illinois.

As a small business owner in my congressional district, Marty has not forgotten his community. His local stores are active in many local charitable organizations. His stores traditionally place at the top in the Nation during the local annual Ronald McDonald House Charities "Give a Little Love" heart campaign. This placement is a testament to Marty's willingness to put money back into our communities to help those most in need.

Marty was recently honored by McDonald's when he was able to throw out the first pitch during a game between my beloved St. Louis Cardinals and the Cincinnati Reds on Monday, June 1, 2009. As an avid Cardinal fan like me, this opportunity in honor of his 50 years in the McDonald's family was a wonderful surprise to Marty. While I do not blame him for the Cardinals loss that evening, I sure hope that in a few weeks, I throw much better pitches to the Democrats than Marty delivered that night!

Marty Davis has served Central Illinois as a small businessman, community leader, and my friend, and I wish him a very happy 50th anniversary as a member of the McDonald's Family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CATHERINE SUTTON-DAWSON

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay