

During the four years that my father taught and coached this class of 1959, his entire world was shattered. His infant daughter (Doreen) was diagnosed with uncontrolled seizures and irreversible brain damage—his third child (Dolores) was born with Down syndrome—and we buried Doreen six months before her fourth birthday. My parents spoke very little of that time in their lives, and so it really wasn't until I had children of my own that I began to understand the magnitude of their struggles and their suffering.

Even in the best of circumstances, parenting three children under the age of five is exhausting and all-consuming. I've been there—and I am sure that many of you have also—and you know how much work and attention it takes. Most people in that situation who are faced with even one of the tragedies that my parents lived through would be lucky to simply survive emotionally. But somehow my father managed to remain the strength and the sunshine for his family during these four difficult years, while coaching three teams, teaching his classes, and mentoring a group of students who still remember his influence on their lives fifty years later.

Several years after coming to Tulane my father gave a commencement speech in which he described the core element of a great teacher or leader. "Moral courage," he said, "is standing still and saying—this is what I believe, that I will do and that I will not do, this is my code of behavior and that is outside it." I believe that the man I loved and admired my entire life found his moral courage during those four years with the Class of 1959. Perhaps that is the reason you still remember him fifty years later. Hopefully it was the core lesson that you took with you when you graduated.

My father's years of teaching and coaching were guided by the belief that the true mark of greatness for any coach or teacher is not found in his record of games won, or his list of publications—but rather is measured in the accomplishments of his students, or the athletes he coached. For that reason, I am certain that his greatest pleasure in this evening's award ceremony would be hearing the life stories of his former students. Your lives and your accomplishments are truly his Hall of Fame.

I know that my dad would have been particularly thrilled that he is being honored along side his student and athlete and lifetime friend, Teddy Smigala. I extend my congratulations to Teddy and to all the other awardees here tonight. And I thank all of you—not only for this honor that you have given my father, but especially for the insights and memories you have shared with our family.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, in adherence to the Republican Earmark Standards for the Coast Guard Authorization, H.R. 3619, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman DON YOUNG

Bill Number: H.R. 3619

Provision: Section 1307

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: USCG Cutter Storis Museum & Maritime Education Center, LLC

Address of Requesting Entity: 229 4th Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801

Description of Request: The Storis Museum is organized and established for the purpose of obtaining the USCG Cutter Storis from the government of the United States of America and establishing a non-profit museum in Alaska that will maintain the Storis in Alaska when the vessel is declared surplus. It is the intent of the Storis Museum to make the USCG Cutter Storis available to the public as a museum and to work cooperatively with other museums to provide education and memorialize the maritime heritage of the Storis and other maritime activities in Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, the Arctic Ocean and adjacent oceans and seas and such other lawful affairs allowed in Alaska.

Requesting Member: Congressman DON YOUNG

Bill Number: H.R. 3619

Provision: Section 1302

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Stabbert Maritime

Address of Requesting Entity: 2629 NW 54th Street, #W-201, Seattle, WA 98107

Description of Request: This provision would restore the coastwise privileges to the U.S.-built research ship, the Ocean Veritas, that was sold foreign in 1997 but now is in the process of being reflagged to the U.S. flag. The ship was built in 1974 by Halter Marine Fabricators, Gulfport, MS, which is also its homeport. However, unless this provision is enacted the vessel would be without coastwise privileges as a result of that prior sale to a foreign owner.

Requesting Member: Congressman DON YOUNG

Bill Number: H.R. 3619

Provision: 1302

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alaska Industrial Develop. and Export Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 813 West Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99503

Description of Request: This provision would restore the coastwise privileges to AK Ship and Drydock #2.

RECOGNIZING SANDRA BECKLEY

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant, Sarasota National Cemetery Director Sandra Beckley, who will retire from 37 years of public service at the end of this year.

Ms. Beckley began her career with the U.S. Veterans' Administration in 1972 and has served as the Director of national cemeteries in Sarasota, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; Pensacola, Florida; Mobile, Alabama; and Florence, South Carolina.

The veterans of Florida's Sun Coast, and their families, were fortunate that the VA appointed Sandra as Director of Sarasota National Cemetery on October 14, 2007. Since then, she has done an outstanding job overseeing the timely construction, dignified burial, and maintenance operations of this first-class facility.

She has worked extremely well with my office, the local veterans' community, and other stakeholders to ensure that veterans in the Sarasota-Bradenton area are memorialized

with the honor and respect that they deserve, close to home.

Madam Speaker, I have very much enjoyed having had the opportunity to work with Sandra and will miss her strong, candid, and caring leadership. While we will miss her in Sarasota-Bradenton, we wish her all of the very best in her retirement, which she has richly earned.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on October 29, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 831. Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall No. 831: "yea"—Expressing support for designation of a "National Firefighters Memorial Day" to honor and celebrate the firefighters of the United States.

VARIABLE RATE MORTGAGE INSURANCE PREMIUMS: ARE THEY HOLDING BACK POTENTIAL HOMEOWNERS?

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, although unemployment, now at 9.8 percent, is expected to keep rising, and consumer confidence is down, the latest Federal Reserve report on economic activity shows some small signs that the recession may finally be starting to bottom out.

In particular, I am encouraged that we are starting to see indications that a rebound in the housing sector may be developing. A few weeks ago, for example, the Commerce Department said new-home building rose for the third time in four months during September, and, the National Association of Realtors announced that demand for previously-owned homes surged in September.

In late October, the Case-Shiller home-price indexes showed that U.S. home prices logged their third monthly increase in August. The indexes showed prices in 10 major metropolitan areas rose 1.3 percent from July. In 20 major metropolitan areas, home prices were up 1.2 percent from the previous month.

However, if a housing rebound is starting, it is still very fragile. For example, applications for home building permits—a key gauge of future construction—fell in September by the largest amount in five months. And, according to figures recently released by the Commerce Department, sales of new homes dropped unexpectedly in September; the first such decline since March.

The foreclosure crisis all but erased the gains we have made in increasing homeownership rates in the last 20 years. The financial gains families thought they had achieved through increases in home equity also disappeared, as now roughly 20 percent of homeowners owe more on their homes than they are worth.