

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING TRACE ADKINS

### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Trace Adkins on receiving the Daughters of the American Revolution prestigious Medal of Honor award. In accepting, Trace will add his name next to previous Medal of Honor recipients; including former New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, Charlton Heston, former U.S. Senator Robert Dole, and fellow recording artist Miss Patti Page.

One of the most unique aspects of my service in the United States Congress is the opportunity to meet talented and dedicated professionals from across the great State of Tennessee. I have long believed the true greatness of our State and country does not lie in its government or institutions, but solely in the creativity, integrity, and passion of its people. We in Tennessee are fortunate to have one of these individuals who exemplify the volunteer spirit and strive to make our community and our country better every day.

Over the years, I have come to know Trace not just as an exceptional artist and performer, but to consider him both a friend and a valued resource. In talking with Trace, his undying love for our country and his genuine support of the brave men and women who currently serve or previously served in the military always stand out.

Earlier this year, Trace went to the Pentagon and received special permission for his heartfelt request to perform his song "Til the Last Shot's Fired" with the West Point Glee Club. At the 44th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards, this performance was not just the highlight of the night, but it allowed Trace to shine a spotlight on the Wounded Warrior Project which provides programs and services for severely injured service members as they transition back to civilian life.

President Ronald Reagan said that if we love our country we should also love our countrymen. One of the clearest examples of living daily these words is Trace Adkins. Whether it's through his successful musical career, his faith community, or other ventures, Trace carries in his heart the spirit of what makes America great. I join with his wife Rhonda and their five daughters in offering praise and thanks to Trace on this wonderful occasion. Please join me in congratulating Trace Adkins and his family on this well-deserved award.

HONORING DAVID ASHLEIGH

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Ashleigh upon the

dedication of the Modesto Junior College Swimming Center to be named in his honor. The dedication and naming ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2010, at the Dave Ashleigh Aquatic Center.

Mr. David Ashleigh attended Whittier High School in southern California, where he participated in water polo from 1957 through 1961. During his high school water polo career the team won the California Interscholastic Federation, CIF, championship in 1957, 1958 and 1959. In 1960, he was selected for the Helm's Hall of Fame second team (equivalent to the High School All-American teams today). During his senior year, Whittier High School took second place in CIF. He served as the team captain, was the leading scorer, named Most Valuable Player and was selected for the Helm's Hall of Fame first team. Upon graduating from high school, Mr. Ashleigh attended Cerritos Junior College.

While attending Cerritos Junior College, Mr. Ashleigh participated on both the water polo and swim teams. He was named team captain of the water polo team and the swim team both years he participated. He was the leading scorer and was awarded Most Valuable Player of the water polo team both years. Mr. Ashleigh was named the Junior College All-American Player of the Year in 1962 and 1963. On the swim team he participated in the 100 and 200 breaststroke as well as the 200 and 400 individual medleys. He set school records in all four events and set junior college national records in the 200 breaststroke and the 400 individual medley. In 1963 Mr. Ashleigh was voted the Cerritos College Athlete of the Year.

In 1963 Mr. Ashleigh played water polo and participated on the swim team while attending the University of California, Los Angeles, UCLA. During his first season he was the leading scorer, named Most Valuable Player and was selected as a first team All-American. Mr. Ashleigh red-shifted the 1964 season so that he was able to be a member of the USA Olympic water polo team in Tokyo, Japan. For the U.S. team he played the defensive hole guard and played every minute of every game from the preliminary through the final games. The team placed ninth.

Returning to the UCLA team in 1965, Mr. Ashleigh was named team captain and led the team to be the first undefeated sports team in UCLA history. He was named Most Valuable Player and was selected as a first team All-American. Mr. Ashleigh also swam in 1964 and 1965 for UCLA, where he became the first All-American at UCLA in swimming and was the first swimmer in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, history to flip-turn all turns in the 1650 meter freestyle. Mr. Ashleigh set UCLA school records in the 1650 and 500 freestyle, the 200 breaststroke and the 400 individual medley.

Mr. Ashleigh was a member of the 1964 through 1968 U.S. National Water Polo team and was the 1968 U.S. Olympic water polo team co-captain. In 1967 he was the team captain of the Pan-American Team, which was

the first U.S. team to win gold in International Competition outside of the United States. For his amazing accomplishments, Mr. Ashleigh was awarded the James Lee Award for the Most Outstanding Player at U.S. Nationals in 1965 and from 1963 through 1968 was named All-American in U.S. water polo, AAU.

In 1968 Mr. Ashleigh began coaching water polo and swimming at Modesto Swim and Racquet Club in Modesto, California. During the 3 years that he coached there, he had an overall record of 235 wins and only 43 losses. He coached the boys 14 and under 1971 Junior Olympics National Champion water polo team. Later he coached the boys 12 and under and boys 14 and under swim teams that set national records in the 200 freestyle relay and the 200 medley relay.

Mr. Ashleigh began coaching swimming and water polo at Modesto Junior College in 1971. In his 27-year career at the college he compiled an overall record of 827 wins and 272 losses. He had 51 winning seasons out of 54 total seasons and has 27 Conference Championships, between the two sports. Under his direction, the water polo team has an overall record of 487–178. Eighteen of his water polo teams made it to the California State Championship Tournament, 81 athletes were selected as All-Americans, 13 conference championships and 5 NorCal championships. From 1984 to 1990 his swim team was 73–0 in dual meets; from 1977 to 1992 the team was 158–11–1 in dual meets. He coached 78 All-American swimmers. The swim team won 14 conference championships and 4 state championships.

In 1991, Mr. Ashleigh began participating in Masters water polo. He played on various teams and won three world championships and placed second three times. While playing Masters, he had the opportunity to play water polo in Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Great Britain, Croatia, Hungary, Italy and India. He was inducted into the California Community College Athletic Hall of Fame in two divisions (coach and player) and was named the 2008 S.O.S. Athlete of the Year. In 1978, Mr. Ashleigh was elected into the U.S. Water Polo Hall of Fame and will be inducted into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate David Ashleigh upon his many achievements being honored at the new Dave Ashleigh Aquatic Center. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Ashleigh congratulations on his many accomplishments and many years of continued success.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY WORLD WAR  
II VETERAN'S PROJECT

### HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Snohomish

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