

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE CORPS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps. Fifty years ago today, Congress passed legislation authorizing Peace Corps, and giving it the mandate to “promote world peace and friendship.” Since then, over 200,000 Americans—including myself—have served our great country in the name of peace and friendship.

I am so proud of the 18 Volunteers currently serving from my district. Among them are Tim and Chelsea Tibbs, a husband and wife from Santa Cruz who are serving in Guyana. Chelsea created a Youth Friendly Center at a local health clinic that has been highlighted by the Ministry of Health’s Adolescent Unit as one of the best models for successful and targeted programs in the region. And Tim has been working with Guyana’s Regional Education Office to develop and implement teacher training modules. But Tim and Chelsea are just a few examples of how the 8,655 current Peace Corps Volunteers serving in nearly 80 countries around the world are changing lives and creating hope.

But Peace Corps also has a strong presence right here in the United States. In 1987, Peace Corps established the Peace Corps Masters International program, an innovative opportunity that enables students to combine a graduate education with Peace Corps service. In my district, the Monterey Institute for International Studies (MIIS) has 76 PCMI students, making it the fourth largest PCMI program in the country! That’s an incredible 10% of the MIIS student body that has dedicated their brains and their hearts to realizing America’s commitment to peace.

In honor of Peace Corps’ 50th Anniversary, MIIS is hosting Monterey Institute and the Peace Corps: Celebrating 50 Years of Global Engagement on October 8th. I am honored to be a part of this inspiring day of panel discussion and movie showings that honor Peace Corps’ legacy of service at MIIS.

This is just one of many celebrations around the country and around the world in honor of Peace Corps’ first 50 years of service. For a complete list of events, please visit <http://events.peacecorps50.org>.

I urge my colleagues to honor the past and present Peace Corps Volunteers in their districts, and I hope you will join me in celebrating America’s 50-year legacy of service in the name of peace.

A TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPAL STEVE  
KWIKKEL

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa’s excellence in education, and to specifically congratulate Waverly-Shell Rock Junior High School Principal Steve Kwikkel of Waverly, Iowa for being named Iowa Middle School Principal of the year by the School Administrators of Iowa.

Mr. Kwikkel’s career began as a sixth grade classroom teacher in rural Iowa in 1986. In 1994 Steve earned his master’s degree in secondary school administration from the University of Northern Iowa. Steve has made a name for himself serving as an administrator for four schools, most recently joining the team at Waverly-Shell Rock Junior High School in 2002.

Since Steve became principal of Waverly-Shell Rock, the school has enjoyed much acclaim from Steve’s commitment to improvements in school transformation, systems thinking, school culture and student achievement. In addition to his achievements at Waverly-Shell Rock Junior High School, Mr. Kwikkel has also served as the Executive Director for the Iowa Association for Middle Level Education and currently leads the Cedar Valley Middle School principal’s cadre.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great honor to represent a state with such a proud academic tradition. Principal Kwikkel, the teachers, students, and parents of Waverly-Shell Rock should be very proud of what they have accomplished. Their future is certainly bright and I wish Mr. Kwikkel and all of Waverly-Shell Rock Junior High School continued academic excellence as they continue to have a positive impact on the future leaders of our state and country.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF  
OWENSVILLE ON ITS CENTEN-  
NIAL ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Owensville, located in Gasconade County in Missouri, as the community recently celebrated its centennial anniversary.

What is now the City of Owensville began as an early trail called the Potosi to Boonslick Trail. Spurs from this main trail went to the current city, creating a crossroads that later became the St. Louis to Springfield Road and the St. James to Hermann Road, called the “Iron Road.”

The city was originally laid out in 1886 by the Owensville Improvement Company, whose

owner, Frank Owens, is the town’s namesake. According to legend, businessman Frank Owens and blacksmith Edward Luster were both vying to be the town’s namesake and held a horseshoe pitching contest to determine who would win. Owens won, and Owensville residents believe their city is the only place named as a result of a horseshoe pitching contest. Owensville was incorporated as a fourth-class city on May 27, 1911.

Over the past century, industries such as a corn cob pipe factory, a tomato cannery, shoe factories and clay mining supported the town. Today, the RR Donnelly printing company and Emhart Glass Manufacturing are located there. Owensville is a thriving town and a proud community of more than 2,500 residents.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the residents of the City of Owensville congratulations on their centennial anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE DISASTER  
AT THE JIM WALTER RE-  
SOURCE #5 MINE

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago, on September 23, 2001, 13 brave miners lost their lives in two mine explosions in the depths of the Jim Walter Resources, JWR, #5 Mine, which is located approximately two miles from Brookwood, Alabama.

This mine is located in the deepest and most gas laden coal mine seam in the United States, some 2,100 feet below ground. The miners are represented by the United Mine Worker of America, who conducted a thorough investigation and report on this tragedy.

Four miners were building wooden cribs to fix a badly supported mine roof, when the roof collapsed nearby. Shortly thereafter, there was an explosion that injured these four miners. The roof fall occurred on top of a large six-ton, 64-volt scoop battery that was suspended from the mine roof in a track entry. The battery was connected to a battery charger, according to reports. The first explosion was likely caused by the scoop battery, which was damaged and short circuited, igniting methane that had become trapped due to the lack of adequate ventilation caused by the roof fall.

A chaotic emergency response followed and miners tried to assist those who were injured. About 55 minutes after the first explosion, a larger and more violent explosion rocked throughout the mine, and 13 miners were killed—12 rescuers and one miner who had been hurt and unable to move after the initial explosion. The second explosion was, according to reports, fueled by methane and float coal dust. This explosion took the lives of Gaston Adams, Jr., Raymond Ashworth, Nelson Banks, David Blevins, Clarence “Bit”

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