

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MOUNT VERNON OPTIC HERALD

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Mount Vernon Optic Herald, a valuable resource to the constituents of the 4th District of Texas that was recently and fittingly named a "Texas Treasure Business" by the Texas Historical Commission.

The Mount Vernon Optic Herald, which celebrates its 140th year in 2014, is the oldest continuously operating business in Mount Vernon. Not only does the Herald hold a distinguished history within the community, but it is a family business. Members of the Bass family have owned the newspaper for more than 60 years, when Jim and Tish Bass purchased the newspaper in 1952. Their daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Bob Wright, ran the business from 1980 until 2005 when Susan Reeves, granddaughter to the Basses, and her husband John took up the mantle.

The Mount Vernon Optic Herald is the best representation of freedom of speech in service to its local citizens. But more than that, it is also a testament to family values and hard work that define the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate the Mount Vernon Optic Herald on 140 years of achievement that have culminated in attaining the "Texas Treasure Business Award." I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Herald, the readers in the Mount Vernon community, and the Bass family many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR ANDREW WOLDAR AND THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate math professor Dr. Andrew Woldar and Villanova University for winning a research grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Professor Woldar's project on algebraic graph theory was recognized by the NSF for its important contribution to the mathematical sciences. This grant will support a conference at Villanova University in June 2014, which will bring together experts, researchers and students to discuss recent advancements in mathematics. Professor Woldar and Villanova University's dedication to the field and leadership in teaching continue to prepare students with the technical background they will need for successful careers.

The NSF is a leading, independent national academy promoting the progress of science

through research programs and education projects. NSF grants help recognize individuals for their contributions to the mathematics and science communities. I commend the NSF for its continued support of innovative research.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Professor Woldar for his hard work and wish him the best of luck with the conference.

THE ARIZONA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arizona Trail Association and honor its celebration of the Arizona National Scenic Trail's 20th Anniversary.

In a short time, the Arizona National Scenic Trail has become one of the premier long distance trails in the country. The people that have worked to make this happen over the last 20 years are as diverse as the trail itself. The Arizona Trail demonstrates what trail users and land managers can accomplish when they share a common vision.

School teacher Dale Shewalter developed the concept of a cross-state trail in the 1970s and began traveling around Arizona giving presentations on his vision of a trail connecting communities, mountains, canyons, deserts, forests, public lands, historic sites, various trail systems, wilderness areas and other points of interest. The idea was embraced by all types of trail users throughout Arizona, Arizona State Parks, National Forests, the Bureau of Land Management and National Parks Service.

In 1994, the Arizona Trail Association incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and became an organized voice for the trail, bringing together passionate hikers, backpackers, equestrians, mountain bicyclists, runners, trail builders, nature enthusiasts, cross-country skiers and others from throughout the state. These committed individuals provided the necessary route identification, volunteers for building and maintaining the trail, logistical support, fundraising and awareness for the trail and ensured that it received National Scenic Trail status.

I am proud to have segments of the Arizona National Scenic Trail in my district, and congratulate the diverse supporters who made it a reality, including Matt Nelson, Arizona Trail Association's Executive Director, and Gary Hohner, the Association's Board President. And special thanks to all those in Southern Arizona who enjoy the trail now and work to preserve it for future generations.

HONORING JACKSONVILLE JOINT RESERVE INTELLIGENCE CENTER

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the fine men and women serving our nation at the Jacksonville Joint Reserve Intelligence Center (JRIC), located at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida.

The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) has selected the JRIC as the "small" JRIC of the Year. JRICs are designed to recognize the joint nature of the Defense Intelligence and at the same time to improve the Military Services' ability to meet emerging unit and tactical level intelligence requirements. This reachback capability has the added benefit of reducing travel and per diem costs associated with traditional annual training and minimizing forward deployed forces' footprint and sustainment; permitting the reservists to perform their mission at home station.

Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, USA, lauds the Jacksonville JRIC when he wrote, "the award is based on the following criteria: the ability to optimize JRIC management through effective space and systems utilization, while providing maximum flexible access based on mission requirements; the ability to facilitate joint access, joint training, innovation, and a collaborative work effort; and the ability to maximize reserve utilization in support of Defense Intelligence by fostering the integration of multiple intelligence disciplines."

It is a pleasure and honor to represent the great men and women who serve at the Jacksonville JRIC and to see them recognized for their selfless service and dedication. The hard work of the men and women who serve in and around Jacksonville illustrate the importance of the First Coast to national defense, and reiterate that our community's efforts to be an anchor of national security.

IN HONOR OF MASTER SERGEANT GEORGE A. BANNAR, JR.

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I was honored to attend the grand opening and dedication ceremony of the Military Free Fall School's new Master Sergeant George A. Bannar Jr. Vertical Wind Tunnel at Yuma Proving Ground. The new wind tunnel will be used in the Special Forces Qualification Course to teach proper free fall techniques.

Master Sergeant Bannar, the new wind tunnel's namesake, was a member of the Army's Special Forces and was stationed at Yuma Proving Ground as a Military Free Fall Instructor. He enlisted in the Army in October 1996

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