

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELEASE OF "FIELD OF DREAMS"

**HON. ROD BLUM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the motion picture, "Field of Dreams," which is set in the First District of Iowa. 26 years ago today, movie-goers were introduced to the wonderful pastoral landscapes that dot my district and first heard "If you build it, he will come." Since then, the movie, adapted from the novel "Shoeless Joe" by W.P. Kinsella, has become recognized as a representation of classic American cinema.

Directed by Phil Alden Robinson and starring Kevin Costner, Amy Madigan, James Earl Jones, Ray Liotta, and Burt Lancaster, "Field of Dreams" uniquely blends the importance of family, dreams deferred, and America's pastime—baseball. Released on April 21, 1989, "Field of Dreams" received three Academy Award nominations: Best Original Score, Best Adapted Screenplay, and Best Picture.

The original farmhouse and baseball diamond from the movie, in Dyersville, Iowa, is open daily to the public for the 2015 season through October free of charge. On July 5, 2015, the ghost players will return to the field for their first "Ghost Sunday" game of the year. Visitors enjoy a ball game played by the baseball legends appearing in the movie. I encourage all fans to visit the Field of Dreams site website at [www.fodmoviesite.com](http://www.fodmoviesite.com) for more information.

On the anniversary of the release of "Field of Dreams," I encourage all baseball lovers, movie-buffs, and Americans to visit this timeless piece of Americana where they may ask themselves: "Is this heaven?—No, it's Iowa."

MELISSA PEREZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Melissa Perez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Melissa Perez is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Melissa Perez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Melissa Perez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MS. DEE RASCO

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dee Rasco, an exemplary teacher, on the day of her eighth grade class' trip to our nation's Capitol. Ms. Rasco has taught at Junipero Serra School in Carmel, CA for 25 years and has led her class on the Washington, DC trip for the last 15 years. A day has not gone by without her inspiring her students to learn, flourish, and thrive.

Ms. Rasco embodies the qualities of an extraordinary educator. An expert on U.S. history, she instills a love for our nation's heritage and tradition in her students. She encourages an unending curiosity and love of learning that will endure over a lifetime. She patiently works with all students regardless of individual difficulties; her passion to help them succeed overcomes all barriers.

Mr. Speaker, a great teacher is a treasure to her school, community, and country. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing and thanking Ms. Dee Rasco for her dedication.

WISHING SSGT HOWARD LEE  
PAYNE A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, in February, 1942, Howard Payne was a 27-year old employee of the Bank of Benton when he received his induction notice. He reported to the Scott Field, IL, Induction Center and was assigned an Army serial number. Payne completed his basic training at Camp McCoy, WI, the site of the Second Army Maneuvers where 65,000 Soldiers from seven states formed the largest troop concentration in the Midwest. Payne was sent to Fort Sheridan, IL and then to Camp Ellis near Macomb, IL where he was assigned to the 368th Engineer Battalion. In October 1943, Payne's battalion was alerted that it would be shipping out from Camp Shanks, NY.

Payne remembers leaving the New York Harbor and viewing the Statue of Liberty. "Our Captain told us to take a good look at the Statue because some of you will never see her again." Payne recounts, "He was right. I saw an unbelievable loss of life. We did not outgun the German's. We just outnumbered them."

Payne was with the first military convoy to travel overseas. Passage of the Atlantic Ocean was dangerous because the German's controlled the air and sea with submarines below and with airplanes above. It took his ship 14 days to cross the Atlantic Ocean due to the strength of the enemy. "Our ship had to zigzag in the ocean to keep out of harm's way." Most American troop ships were accompanied by battleships.

Payne's ship landed in Bristol, England, amid a furious battle. German airplanes were strafing Bristol's railroad tracks, city streets, and local citizens. To help ward off the low fly-

ing airplanes, the residents of Bristol had erected huge balloons to keep the planes from flying at a low altitude. "We were introduced to war shortly after we landed." Members of the 368th were boarded on trains and transported to Liverpool, England. "We began building airports and housing for the troops," noted Payne. While they were constructing airfields and barracks, the United States declared war on Germany.

In May, 1944, the 368th were told that they would be a part of an invasion. "We loaded our ships with equipment and troops and waited. Multiple times we were told to "ship-out," but on two occasions, we were ordered to "stand-down." Weather played a role in the timeline for the invasion. "Finally, we got orders to ship out" Payne remembers. On June 6, 1944, U.S. Army Private Payne was in the second wave at Utah Beach in the Normandy Peninsula Invasion. Payne joined thousands of Americans in Operation Overlord.

GIs from the 368th were transferred from ships to Landing Ships, Tanks (LST). The LSTs were filled with caterpillars, tractors, and heavy construction equipment. The weight of the equipment caused the LST to sit deep in the water. "Our LST hit the ocean's floor early and we had to jump out and wade ashore."

Utah Beach was one of the five sectors of the Allied invasion of German-occupied France in the Normandy landings. The westernmost of the five landing beaches, Utah is on the Cotentin Peninsula. Amphibious landings at Utah were undertaken by U.S. Army troops, with sea transport and naval artillery support provided by the U.S. Navy, with elements from the British Royal Navy.

The objective at Utah Beach was to secure a beachhead, the location of important port facilities at Cherbourg. The amphibious assault by the U.S. 4th Infantry Division and 70th Tank Battalion was supported by airborne landings of the 82nd and the 101st. Their mission was to seal off the Cotentin Peninsula to prevent the Germans from reinforcing Cherbourg. The Allies faced two battalions of the 919th Grenadier Regiment, part of the 709th Static Infantry Division. German fortifications were under the leadership of "The Desert Fox," Field Marshal Erwin Rommel.

Payne remembers that the beaches were strewn with men who were dead, dying and wounded. The Germans were high over the cliffs. The first goal was to get ashore and scale the cliffs. "When we got to the top of the cliffs, I thought the rough part was over, but I discovered the bad stuff was just beginning" Payne recalls.

Members of the 386th immediately began clearing the area of obstacles and mines. Additional American reinforcements continued to arrive. At the close of D-Day, Allied forces had captured about half of the planned area. Contingents of German defenders remained, but the beachhead was secure. Payne's unit pushed the Germans back to Le Mans, France. The 368th constructed a pontoon bridge to facilitate the European Theater of Operations and allowed Lieutenant Colonel Christian Clarke, Jr. to move his 358th Infantry, 90th Infantry Division across the river. Clarke proceeded on into Western France.

Payne was with the forces that helped liberate Paris, fought the enemy to Luxemburg, and was caught in the Ardennes region of Wallonia in Belgium. It was the winter of 1944 when the Allied Forces had to defend the important harbor of Antwerp from the Germans

in a 40-day surprise attack that came to be known as the "Battle of the Bulge." Between December 16, 1944, and January 25, 1945, the U.S. forces fought back the German attack, and in doing so, incurred their highest casualties for any operation of the war. America's fighting spirit prevailed and, late in January, the Allied forces scored a decisive victory over Germany.

The Allied forces fought the enemy up the Ryan River and forced the German's back to Berlin. Payne's battalion was stopped from attacking Berlin due to terms of the Yalta Agreement. The United States and England capitulated to Russia, and agreed that the only invading forces would be the Red Army. "We had the fight and we had the spirit to battle the enemy all the way to Berlin, but Russian dictator Joseph Stalin had convinced the Allied forces to stop our progress."

On May 8, 1945, Payne was near Dusseldorf, Germany when the Allied forces announced Victory in Europe. The six-year-old War had concluded in Europe, but the Japanese were still fighting in the Pacific Theatre. Payne and others were told that GIs involved in the Normandy Invasion were exempt from the war in the Pacific. The Pacific conflict ended only after the August 6, 1945, detonation of the Atomic Bomb. President Harry S. Truman ordered the deployment of the new weapon that caused the Japanese to capitulate to Allied demands. Payne waited from June until November to be shipped back to the states.

On Dec. 5, 1945, Payne was discharged from the U.S. Army with the rank of Staff Sergeant. Ten days after his discharge, he married Helene Takie in his hometown of Benton, IL. Their marriage lasted almost 65 years, until her passing in July, 2010. Payne returned to his position at the Bank of Benton and eventually became its president. He remains active as a community leader, a champion of education projects and a philanthropist.

Mr. Speaker, today Payne will celebrate his 100th birthday at his rural Benton, Illinois, home. We extend our deepest appreciation to Howard Lee Payne for his service to his country, both in battle during WWII, and for his post-war contributions.

PATRICIA JOAN HOFSTETTER

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of former Judge Patricia "Pat" Joan Hofstetter, who passed away on March 25, 2015, at her home in Ferndale, California. Ms. Hofstetter was a pioneer for women on the California bench, and her commitment to the communities in which she lived was well known to everyone acquainted with her. A longtime fisherwoman, Ms. Hofstetter grew to know and love Northern California rivers, for which she was a staunch advocate.

Born in Burbank, California, on August 25, 1927, to Helen Culbertson and Leonard Orin Hofstetter, Ms. Hofstetter grew up in the towns of Artesia and Whittier. She graduated from Whittier High School in 1943, Monmouth College in 1948, and Boalt Hall Law School at the University of California at Berkeley in 1951.

Ms. Hofstetter opened a law office with her sister Marilyn in 1953. She was appointed to judge at Whittier Municipal in 1963, and became the first woman to serve as President of the California Judges Association in 1976.

Ms. Hofstetter was a life member of Soroptimist International and the American Association of University Women. She served on the College Board at Monmouth College, where she was later inducted into the Hall of Fame. Ms. Hofstetter was an active member of the Democratic Party and a champion of democratic values on the North Coast.

Among her favorite hobbies was fishing the rivers and lakes of California and Oregon with her lifelong friend and partner, former California Assemblywoman Sally Tanner. In 2001 and 2002, Pat and Sally were winners in the California-Oregon Fishing Derby. Ms. Hofstetter was an avid poker and bridge player and had a great appreciation for music and movies. Pat is survived by her companion Sally Tanner; her sister Helen Raphael and niece Rose Anne of New Liberia, Louisiana; her sister Marilyn Hofstetter of Ferndale and nephew John Raphael and wife Christine, along with their children Melanie and Kathleen.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect that we pay tribute to Ms. Patricia Hofstetter and extend condolences to her partner, Sally Tanner, and surviving family. Her presence will be sorely missed and her legacy not soon forgotten.

H. RES. 208, THE EQUALITY FOR ALL RESOLUTION OF 2015

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 208, the Equality for All Resolution of 2015, which is being introduced by my good friend from Indiana Mr. CARSON.

As a founding member and Vice Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus and representative of a diverse and vibrant LGBT community in California's 13th Congressional district, I strongly support this legislation.

It is a shame and a disgrace that in 2015, after the LGBT community has made such enormous strides towards equal protections under the law, that we continue to see discriminatory legislation advanced in states like Indiana and Arkansas.

At a time when what we truly need is comprehensive legislation to ensure that LGBT individuals are treated and protected, intolerance is sadly being codified in law under the false flag of religious liberties.

I am glad that the national reaction to discriminatory RFRA laws was swift and disapproving, from businesses and individuals, to governments and communities. I was proud that the City of Oakland located in my district, banned city-funded travel to Indiana in the wake of the state's discriminatory statute.

Now, Congress must respond by sending a strong message that we will not stand for prejudice and small-mindedness.

This resolution is a step in the right direction. It outlines the need for LGBT people to receive full protections under the law and urges comprehensive legislation to prohibit

discrimination in areas where unequal treatment against LGBT people is still the law of the land.

I thank the gentleman from Indiana as well as my fellow colleagues in the LGBT Equality Caucus for introducing this important resolution and urge my colleagues to lend it their support.

HONORING DIANE JUERGENSMEYER FOR BEING NAMED TO THE MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Diane Juergensmeyer for being named to the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. Coach Juergensmeyer led the St. Elizabeth softball team to more than 400 wins in 31 seasons, including three state titles.

Coach Juergensmeyer's dedication to her players, both on and off the softball field, brought more than state champions to St. Elizabeth. Her mentorship throughout the years helped mold her players into respectful young women, and it was her leadership that united a school and a community.

I ask you to join me in congratulating Coach Diane Juergensmeyer for receiving this distinctive honor.

HONORING THE BELMONT UNIVERSITY BRUINS

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Belmont University and its men's basketball program, the Belmont Bruins, led by Coach Rick Byrd.

Under Coach Byrd's leadership, Belmont's basketball program has flourished. Belmont is consistently among the top Division I teams and has made it to seven NCAA tournaments. But its most prestigious accomplishments are not on the court. The USA Today said it best: "Belmont wins where it counts: In the classroom."

Thanks to its perfect score from Inside Higher Ed's rankings, Belmont won the national championship for academics for the second time in three years. Every single player graduates. The team's cumulative grade point average has been above 3.0 for fourteen consecutive seasons, and no Belmont player since 2003 has left the basketball team for any reason other than graduation.

Belmont's successes both on and off the court have separated the Bruins from the rest of the pack. Today, I join my fellow Tennesseans in honoring Coach Rick Byrd and the Belmont Bruins for their vigorous commitment to the highest standards in academics and athletics. They make our district and the state of Tennessee proud.