

August 2, 1999

that time he has exhibited all the qualities: intellect, wit and a certain style that make him truly the son of a Diplomat's Diplomat. In fact, Cormac was an inspiration to those who loved the game of golf, for there was never too dull an assignment or too onerous a task that Cormac did not shirk for the sake of eighteen holes. I am confident that in the care of two truly wonderful people, Pat and Pauline Hennessy, Cormac will amount to something more than the self-proclaimed title of "King of all Interns." Indeed I am certain that his unsurpassed sarcasm, his indecipherable "Southern" dialect and his unique charm will cause him to rise to the highest levels of leadership and success. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and I thank him for all that he has done and meant to me.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 30, 1999, I was inadvertently detained and did not vote on rollcall No. 354 or 355. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both.

HONORING JAN DUKE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jan Duke for receiving the prestigious Milken Educator Award. Duke teaches fourth grade at John Adam's Elementary School in the Madera Unified School District.

Jan Duke was one of four teachers in California to receive this honor, and one of 160 to be honored nationwide. She is the first from Madera Unified School District to be given this award.

Beyond her role as an exemplary teacher, Jan is a skilled writer and presenter. Duke has written two books on teaching fourth-graders and co-authored, with her husband, a book on teaching individuals to read. She also advises national scholastic book clubs on what literature would be best for children. In addition, she conducts 5 to 20 seminars annually for fourth-grade teachers nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jan Duke for her achievements and service to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Jan many more years of continued success and happiness.

CONCERN FOR RESIDENTS OF
VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the forefront a very important issue

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

that has not been given the attention it deserves by this Congress. More than 9,000 American citizens, living on the island of Vieques, live in fear. But, it isn't a fear of drug trafficking. It isn't a fear of violent gangs or terrorism either. Our fellow citizens live in fear of our own military, and I would like to explain why.

For more than 50 years, the residents of Vieques, Puerto Rico, an island encompassing fewer than 52 square miles of which the Navy occupies 35 square miles, have had to endure live military ammunition and bombing exercises. Vieques is the largest area in the Western hemisphere used for military exercises with live ammunition, and the only place where bombing still occurs near a substantial civilian population. For years, the residents of Vieques have expressed their concerns about the negative impact that the bombing and live ammunition exercises are having on their health and safety. Unfortunately, their voices have not been heard and that concerns me. On April 19, 1999, the people of Vieques raised their voices once again, this time in despair. It was on that date, during routine military practices conducted by two Navy F/A-18 Hornet jets, that two bombs were accidentally dropped near an observation post manned by civilian security guards. As a result, a security guard was killed and four others were wounded. I believe that if the citizens of Puerto Rico had equal representation in Congress, legitimate concerns for their safety and health would have been better safeguarded.

Since that accident, the Navy has temporarily ceased military maneuvers while an investigation is carried out, and Puerto Rico's Governor, the Honorable Pedro Rossello, appointed a Commission that investigated the incident and reported its findings to the President's Special Panel on Military Operations on Vieques on July 9, 1999. The Governor's Commission unanimously concluded that it is not possible to protect the people of Vieques, or the environment, from the extreme danger posed by live ammunition testing. The Navy argues that Vieques is a unique site for training exercises with live ammunition, making it essential to our National security. I've always worked to protect our National security, however, it should never be achieved at the expense of the personal rights or safety of our own citizens. The only solution may be to end permanently the military's live ammunition testing on Vieques.

No one in this House would tolerate what the military is doing on Vieques if it were taking place in our Congressional district, and neither would our constituents. Imagine trying to explain to the voters why they should welcome the bombardment of their communities with live ammunition. Try convincing your constituents to accept, and in return thank you, for having uranium-coated bombs dropped within a few miles of their homes, schools, hospitals, and public parks. Imagine asking your constituents to accept having their children attend classrooms which reverberate during the school day as live shells explode nearby. No one in this chamber would permit the continuation of a practice by our own military that endangers the lives of the very people we have been elected to represent.

There's a reality about Puerto Rico, one that is wonderful and abhorrent at the same time.

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The people of Puerto Rico are truly American citizens, part of America's great democracy, and that is wonderful. However, the people of Puerto Rico currently lack the single most important tool that our democracy provides, two Senators and a voting delegation in the House of Representatives, and that is abhorrent. It is precisely because the people of Puerto Rico don't have equal representation in Congress that they need our help now. If they had real representation here, the military would have the proper incentive to solve the problem of live ammunition testing on Vieques. I trust that my colleagues in the House of Representatives would agree with me. If this practice were occurring in any one of the fifty States, I know we would all stand together to oppose it. We owe our fellow American citizens in Puerto Rico the same level of respect. They deserve nothing less. In fact, their safety and their lives may depend on it.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to take a hard look at this issue.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF
LOMITA

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Lomita, California. Lomita is celebrating its 35th year as an incorporated city. The City of Lomita is widely recognized for its rustic, small-town atmosphere amongst the larger cities of the South Bay.

Lomita was first established as a German farming community in 1907. The farming community continued to grow throughout the years, and in June of 1964, after several unsuccessful attempts, Lomita was finally incorporated as a city.

While surrounding communities have experienced tremendous growth, Lomita has remained relatively unchanged since incorporation. Lomita's small town attributes attract young families in search of a safe, close knit community. Lomita is a culturally diverse community and it also boasts one of the lowest crime rates in the South Bay region. It is an ideal place to raise a family and live the American Dream, and many of its residents are homeowners and small business entrepreneurs.

The future looks bright for the city of Lomita. Preparations are currently underway for an ambitious revitalization of Lomita's downtown area to ensure that Lomita maintains its small-town atmosphere.

Lomita has thrived over the last 35 years, and as we enter the 21st century, Lomita will continue to stand out as a small, unique town of the South Bay. I congratulate the City of Lomita and its 20,000 residents on this milestone.