

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 67-71 yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" or "aye" on rollcall votes 68 and 71; I would have voted "nay" or "no" on rollcall votes 67, 69 and 70.

WELCOMING THE CLASS OF
DODSON MIDDLE SCHOOL**HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome fifty exceptional students from the Dodson Middle School's Gifted High Ability Magnet Program. These students are visiting the nation's capital to see first-hand how their government works. It is an interesting time to watch a democracy, as we struggle to decide how to strike the financial balance among many worthwhile government programs, and as we deploy American soldiers as part of ongoing NATO peacekeeping forces. I hope all of these students some day will appreciate the enormity of the decisions we make, and, at the same time, enjoy the experience.

I especially praise Stephanie Spychaj, who has been selected from her class to place the wreath on the Unknown Soldier's gravesite. The other students are:

Craig Ackerman	Roy Lewis
Elizabeth Avila	Nicole Oberfoell
Ruben Becerra	Heather Peg
Beth Boechert	Aileen Phillips
Kyle Brennan	Louis Pitre
Hazel Butler	Andrea Pynn
Jason Chaing	Daniel Sandri
Jeff Champion	Devin Schopp
Christina Cho	Elliott Shahan
Jake Cummings	Stephanie Spychaj
Daphne Detrano	Zia Suzuki
Francesca Dolce	Akane Takei
Jesse Flaunta	Paola Terzoli
Alex Gellerman	Jessica Thill
Sarah Hargis	Brent Weber
Rebecca Holtz	Eric Williams
Marc Hull	Jason Wilson
Emily Ingram	Ryan Zivalic
Mathew Jackson	
Cameron Jeans-Shaw	Chaperones:
Zarina Jurlin	Tom Schroeter
Tracy Kvanaugh	Claudia Dunn
Jane Kim	Joyce Kimura
Tiffany Kim	John Reynolds
Kay Lalwani	
Robin Lee	
Patti Lester	
Kathryn Mecija	
Nicole Miller	
Teri Miyahira	
Jania Moretti	

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY VALOR AWARD WINNERS**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1999 Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Prince William County Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce Valor Award Winners. The Valor Awards honor public service officers who have demonstrated extreme self-sacrifice, personal bravery, and ingenuity in the performance of their duty. Significantly, this year marks the thirteenth anniversary of the event honoring members of law enforcement and fire and rescue agencies historically servicing Prince William County, Dumfries, Haymarket, Manassas, Manassas Park, Occoquan, and Quantico. There are five categories: The Gold Medal of Valor, the Silver Medal of Valor, the Bronze Medal of Valor, the Certificate of Valor, and the Lifesaving Award.

The Silver Medal of Valor is the second highest award for bravery and heroism. Awarded in situations when a public safety official knowingly exposes himself/herself to great personal risk in the performance of an official act.

The Silver Medal of Valor Award Winners for 1999 are: Sergeant Barry D. Childress, Jr., USMC; Hospital Corpsman Third Class Eric Scott Parillo, USN.

The Bronze Medal of Valor is awarded in situations where during the course of an emergency, a public safety official demonstrates judgment, ingenuity, or performance at a level that clearly exceeds that required and expected in the performance of his/her duties. May include the saving of a life that is threatened by medical or physical reasons.

The Bronze Medal of Valor Award Winners for 1999 are: Gunnery Sergeant Michael W. Todd, USMC; Captain Mark L. Doyle; Driver Operator David W. Luckett; Firefighter Roger D. Pinkston, USMC; Technicians II Shawn Crispin and John Sims, Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue; Sergeant Darrell G. Steepleton and Firefighter Michael L. Skeele, Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department; Officer James E. Buchanan, Prince William County Police Department.

The Certificate of Valor is awarded for acts that involve personal risk and/or demonstration of judgment, zeal, or ingenuity above what is normally expected in the performance of duties.

The Certificate of Valor Award Winners for 1999 are: Corporal Roberto Armendariz, USMC; Gunnery Sergeant Suzanne R. How, USMC; Troopers Douglas G. Brooks and Darrell D. Estess, and Special Agent Ron Paschal, Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of State Police; Sergeant Jesse A. Noriega, USMC; Sergeant David May, Corporal Douglas Songer, Officers Carl Larry and John Murray, Prince William-Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center.

The Lifesaving Award is awarded in recognition of acts taken in a life-threatening situation where an individual's life is in jeopardy, either medically or physically.

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The Lifesaving Award Winners for 1999 are: Captain Matthew J. Noble, USMC; Emergency Medical Technician Michelle Dickson, Dumfries-Triangle Rescue Squad; Lance Corporal Matthew D. Hammond and Private First Class Jeremy A. Schenck, USMC; Officers Andrew Arnold and Pierre Costello, Prince William-Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center; Senior Police Officer Nathan S. Hill, Jr., Prince William County Police Department; Trooper Eric W. Berge, Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of State Police.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to send my sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to these distinguished public servants, who put their lives on the line everyday on behalf of their fellow Virginians.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CELEBRATES
75TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Joseph School in St. Johns, Mich., on 75 years of serving the community. It is an honor to have this extraordinary school in the 4th Congressional District of Michigan.

This remarkable school opened Sept. 8, 1924, with 61 students. Currently it draws 302 students from more than 200 area families, and serves kindergarten-6th students.

Much of the success of today's education system depends on strong leadership from school teachers, administrators and parents, and St. Joseph School serves as an outstanding example. Its parents have devoted their precious time to ensure a quality education for their children. The teachers and administration of St. Joseph have had a tremendous impact on the lives of many students. They have promoted and maintained a solid system of education for countless young people over the past 75 years.

I commend the staff, students and parents of St. Joseph School for their hard work in building an effective community for learning. Principal Tomi Ann Schultheiss' selfless commitment for the past seven years has helped prepare St. Joseph School for the 21st century. The focus on literacy and assurance that students obtain the essential skills needed for life are exemplary, and I am glad we have St. Joseph as an example for how we need to work to educate our children.

I am confident that future generations of families will be able to count on St. Joseph School for a healthy start and a head start for their children. I wish the St. Joseph School the best for the future.

PAUL CALLENS PROMOTES
RACIAL UNITY WITH EVERY STEP**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues the endeavor of my good friend Paul Callens.

Paul has gathered several of his friends to join him on a seven-month walk for national unity—an 11-state, 3,200-mile journey from Maryland's Eastern Shore to the city of San Francisco, to promote racial unity throughout the United States.

Along the way, the Unity Walkers will pass the birth place of abolitionist and former slave Harriet Tubman, stop at the site of last year's Middle East Peace Talks, and arrive in Washington, D.C. for a weekend celebration on the National Mall on Sunday, April 4 to commemorate the anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We would like to think that blatant racism is a thing of the past, but daily reports of police brutality, church burnings, hate crimes and acts of racially-motivated violence shatter the illusion that bigotry no longer exists in our country.

The goal of the walkers and their supporters is to build a national unity movement that celebrates the differences among Americans and promotes appreciation of the racial and cultural blend that makes up the population of the United States. They hope to interest community leaders and local government officials in celebrating a National Unity Day, to be observed on October 10.

In these next few months, Paul Callens will ask our communities to examine the attitudes we've inherited about race and to reevaluate our treatment of racial differences. Some who would promote intolerance and irrational prejudice have made an attempt to turn back the clock on the progress we've made in the fight for civil rights. Paul and his friends will spread the word that hostility based on racial or ethnic identity has no place in America.

Please join me in congratulating Paul and the Unity Walkers and wish them success in their effort to heal the wounds of racial intolerance in our country. We make progress one step at a time.

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to protect one of the crown jewels of our national wildlife refuge system, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. On Wednesday, February 3, 1999 I chaired a hearing of the Committee on Resources on the impacts of the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota airport expansion on this premier national wildlife refuge.

This refuge is home to a broad range of wildlife species which deserve every bit as much protection as do the species that live in other national refuges. Species living in this refuge include threatened bald eagles, 35 mammal species, 23 reptile and amphibian species, and 97 species of birds including Tundra Swans migrating all the way from Alaska. The displacement of these species could throw nature's delicate balance into a tail spin. If we allow the destruction of this ref-

uge and these species, it could send a shockwave through the entire ecosystem and impact every species in its footprint—a devastating biological echo.

The new runway expansion will cause so much noise and disturbance to visitors that most of the facilities under the path of the runway will have to be relocated. In fact, the refuge will be so impacted by the noise, that the FAA has agreed to pay the Fish and Wildlife Service over \$26 million to compensate them for the "taking" of their property by virtue of the noise and the impact on visitors to the refuge. This payment, however, will not mitigate or reduce the harm to endangered species, migratory birds, or fish living in the refuge. This payment is intended to allow the refuge to build additional buildings, relocate visitors facilities, build a new parking lot, and additional roads.

Yet, even with this level of disturbance, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the FAA found that the wildlife would not be disturbed so much that the airport expansion should be stopped. They also found no impact on the threatened bald eagle and no need for the protections of the Endangered Species Act in this case. They found that the wildlife in the refuge would adjust to the noise. They found that there is a little scientific evidence that wildlife will be seriously harmed by over 5,000 takeoffs and landings per month at less than 2,000 feet above these important migratory bird breeding, feeding and resting areas. In fact, over 2,000 flights will be at less than 500 feet above ground level. Yet the Fish and Wildlife Service has not required one dollar to be spent to protect the wildlife living in this refuge.

An environmental impact statement was prepared by the Federal Aviation Administration, in consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service. However, this environmental impact statement makes little effort to address the impacts on endangered and threatened species in the refuge. Therefore, my view is that the EIS should be redone before this project is allowed to proceed.

I know that wildlife and humans can coexist. In the coastal plain of Alaska, oil production and caribou have coexisted and the caribou population has increased. I have a picture in my office that illustrates that point beautifully. It shows a large herd of caribou peacefully resting and grazing in the shadow of a large oil drilling rig right on Alaska's north slope.

Yet some Members of Congress, including some who have agreed to allow this airport expansion in Minnesota, have introduced legislation that would preclude most human activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by designating that area as a permanent wilderness. I guess they believe that wildlife in Alaska can't adjust to human activities . . . but wildlife in Minnesota can.

I want to make it clear that I support our refuges. I sponsored the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act in 1997, which is now the law of the land. I want refuges to be places where wildlife can thrive and I want them accessible to the public. I support adequate funding so that our refuges can be open to the public. I agree that refuges and wildlife should not be used to stop needed projects and development in nearby communities.

Let's protect the very little habitat for wildlife in these highly developed areas of the east. This is truly a last refuge for many of these species. Unlike Alaska, which has preserved over 130 million acres for protecting the environment, the highly congested and developed areas around Minneapolis-St. Paul simply cannot afford to lose the little amount of wild spaces left. The United States, as a world leader in preserving lands of significant and symbolic value, cannot let this sort of degradation occur to its land or wildlife. We have only one chance to save the beauty of this natural landscape, the crown jewel of America's wildlife refuges, for generations of younger Americans. Once it is gone, it is gone forever, nature can never truly recover from such adverse actions visited upon its fabric, an attack upon the scope and breadth of life that, for now, call this place—home.

For this reason, I am introducing this legislation to protect the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

TRIBUTE TO ADRIENNE GIORDANO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention, Ms. Adrienne Giordano of Belleville, New Jersey.

Adrienne Giordano wrote this letter for a school project reflecting the impact that Cancer has had on the families of its victims, and how it has had an impact on virtually every family in America. Adrienne's expressions are viewed through the eyes of a young girl as she watched the devastation of Cancer on her family members. This essay was written out of pure emotion and it is her insights that have made an impression on me.

Her essay reads as follows:

When I was young I had two sets of healthy and out-going grandparents, or so I thought. I grew up thinking that way until I was about six years old. At that time, my dad told me that my grandma, his mom, had cancer since he was a young boy. However, she was now in remission and was supposedly doing quite well. By the time I was nine, I found out that my grandma's cancer had returned, but she hadn't told anyone for five years or so.

From that point on, my family and I saw her go in and out of hospitals for a few years. Each time she was out, she would make the best of it even though she was suffering inside. She became very ill at one point and the doctors said that she would die within a couple of months. To make matters worse, my other grandfather went into the hospital for cancer too.

He became very sick, in fact to the point that he could hardly speak, or even breathe. The thought of living without my grandpa as a part of my life was very difficult for me. In words I cannot express the pain inside of me, although it couldn't possibly amount to the pain that he was going through. He was suffering but showed it rarely, but then again how could he not, he was in a hospital, on a floor with dying cancer patients who were waiting to die. He had to deal with what he had and how it was going to be. There was no