

April 20, 1999

RECOGNIZING THE ROCK AQUA JAYS PARTICIPATION IN THE "1999 ZEHENG CHANG CUP," AMERICAN WATER SKI STAR SHOW & SINO-AMERICAN WATER SKI COMPETITION IN JIANGSU PROVINCE, CHINA

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of the Rock Aqua Jays, a water ski show team from my hometown of Janesville, Wisconsin. The Rock Aqua Jays have been source of entertainment and pride for the people of Southern Wisconsin for several decades.

Their membership includes over 210 people ranging in ages from 1 to 70 years old. The Aqua Jays have won a record 11 U.S. National Show Championships titles, placed first or second in every National Show Tournament from 1979 through 1997, and hold a record of 5 Triple Crown Championships.

In view of their accomplishments, the Rock Aqua Jays have been invited to represent the United States at the "1999 Zheng Chang Cup," American Water Ski Star Show & Sino-American Water Ski Competition in Jiangsu Province, China.

The members of the team are scheduled to participate in the 6-day program which is scheduled from April 27 through May 2. Show Director Tim Cullen and Event Coordinator Gerry Luiting will also be joining them for this first ever competition.

The team will perform a number demanding water ski maneuvers through individual and group competitions. It is a credit to their hard work, training, and the community support the Rock Aqua Jays' have received, that they have been asked to perform at this competition.

With attendance estimated between 50,000 to 80,000, this will be the first American ski show team ever to visit and perform in China. The event is sponsored in conjunction with the Chinese Water Ski Association and serves as part of a celebration recognizing the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and the United States.

Considering the Aqua Jays past successes, I believe their Chinese counterparts will have some stiff competition. In the broader scope of things, however, I hope this trip to China will be the first of many for this talented team.

It is an honor for anyone to represent their nation abroad and I am confident the Aqua Jays will serve our country well. I wish them the best luck and hope that they develop many lasting friendships from their visit to China. They are a credit to their community and to the United States.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE STEWART

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the fine work and outstanding public service of my very dear friend, Maggie Stewart. Maggie will be recognized by a grateful community for her many years of volunteer service to the San Bernardino County Republican Federation of Republican Women with a tree planting ceremony in her honor on Friday, April 30.

Maggie Stewart has been actively involved in local Republican Party politics for over 40 years. During this time, she has successfully promoted candidates for every conceivable elective office including the school board, city council, well as many state and federal legislative offices. Over the years, she has shown enormous dedication and gained the enduring respect of many people within the Republican Party.

Maggie began her service as a member of the Republican State Central Committee in 1954. Since that time—for over 45 years—she has served in every conceivable capacity with the California Republican Party including chairman of the San Bernardino County Republican Party. In my mind, no one has done more to advance the goals of the Party at the local level. Maggie's work and commitment has also been particularly instrumental to the long-term success of the San Bernardino County Federation of Republican Women.

Over the years, Maggie has been widely recognized for her contributions to our local community. She has received numerous awards for her leadership roles by such varied groups as the Old Baldy Boy Scout Council, Ontario Lioness Club, Kiwanis Club of Upland, Soroptimist Club of Ontario, the West End Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Inland Empire Chapter of Public Relations Society of America, and the California State Assembly, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous contributions of this remarkable woman. Maggie Stewart has made a difference in the lives of so many people in our local community and I am grateful beyond words for her long and dedicated service. I want to wish Maggie and her husband of 52 years, Walter, much good health and happiness in the coming years. I remain confident that the tree planted in her honor will, like the Party she has guided for years, grow and prosper for many years to come.

THE PASSING OF ISADORE KARTEN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to inform my colleagues of the passing of a remarkable American, one I was honored to have as a close friend.

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As a youth, Izzy Karten was a freedom fighter in the forests near Lvov, in his beloved homeland of Poland. The brave stance the Jews and other oppressed minorities in Poland had taken against their Nazi oppressors, while the Red Army watched nearby, refusing to help, is one of the most heroic yet tragic episodes of the 20th Century. I am proud to have known and been a friend of one of these courageous heroes, Izzy Karten.

Izzy spent two years in the forests of Poland, fighting the Nazi oppressors. It was there that he met another freedom fighter, a young girl named Julie, who soon became his beloved wife of over 54 years.

Upon emigrating to America, Izzy Karten started what became a highly successful export-import business and subsequently became a banker. Despite his phenomenal success in business, Izzy never forgot his roots or his desire to help others. He was involved in a host of philanthropic activities, including Yad Vashen, the national organization of Holocaust Survivors. He was a trustee at the Park East Synagogue, and was especially generous in endowing its day school.

Julie and Izzy were the proud parents of three children: Marsha Toledano, Bernice Bookhammer, and Harry Karten. Izzy and Julie's three children presented them with seven grandchildren who were the light of their lives.

Georgia and I always cherished being with the Kartens, and their family. Our lives were deeply enriched by our friendship with Izzy and Julie. Sadly, I was with Izzy at a Holocaust Memorial Service in Rockland County just a few hours prior to his sudden death.

I will always remember Izzy Karten as a warm hearted, philanthropic humanitarian, with a bright view for the future, and a champion in the battle against bigotry and for human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the funeral for Isadore Karten will be held at his beloved Park East Synagogue on Wednesday of this week. I invite my colleagues to join me in paying homage to a truly remarkable human being, who will be sorely missed.

WILLIAM F. (BILL) CODY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, on April 1, 1999, William F. (Bill) Cody completed a distinguished career with the General Dynamics Corporation. His outstanding work played a major role in insuring the national security of the United States of America. He was a driving force in the development, fielding, and support for the Abrams M1A1 and M1A2 main battle tanks for the U.S. Army. These main battle tanks have been proven to be the world's finest in the recent Desert Storm war, and will be the cornerstone of our Nation's ground combat forces for many years to come. Mr. Cody's contributions to the Abrams tank program were marked with great wisdom, total dedication, and tenacious hard work to get the job done right despite the obstacles encountered.