EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE’S SOVEREIGNTY DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago, on June 16th 1990, the Supreme Soviet (parliament) of the Ukrainian S.S.R. adopted a far-reaching Declaration on State Sovereignty of Ukraine. The overwhelming vote of 355 for and four against was a critical and demonstrative step towards independence, as Ukraine was at that time a republic of the Soviet Union.

The Declaration, inspired by the democratic movement Rukh whose key members were veterans of the Helsinki movement seeking greater rights and freedoms, proclaimed Ukraine’s state sovereignty and stressed the Republic’s intention of controlling its own affairs. Ukraine and its people were identified as the sole source of state authority in the republic, and they alone were to determine their own destiny. The Declaration asserted the primary of Ukraine’s legislation over Soviet laws and established the right of Ukraine to create its own currency and national bank, raise its own army, maintain relations with foreign countries, collect tariffs, and erect borders. Through this Declaration, Ukraine announced its intention not to use, possess, or acquire nuclear weapons. Going beyond Soviet leader Gorbachev’s vision of a “renewed” Soviet federation, the Declaration asserted Ukraine’s sovereignty vis-à-vis Moscow, a move that only a few years earlier would have been met with the harshest of sanctions.

The Declaration’s assurances on the protection of individual rights and freedoms for all the people of Ukraine, including national and religious minorities, were extremely important and viewed as an integral aspect of the building of a sovereign Ukraine. The Declaration itself was the outcome of emerging democratic processes in Ukraine. Elections to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet—the first in which non-communists were permitted on the ballot—had been held only a few months earlier, in March 1990; one-third of the new members elected were representatives of the democratic opposition. Even the Communist majority voted for the Declaration, reflecting the reality that the Soviet Empire was steadily unraveling. A year later, on August 24, 1991, the same Ukrainian parliament declared Ukraine’s independence, and in December of that year, on the heels of a referendum in Ukraine in which over 90 percent voted for independence, the Soviet Union ceased to exist.

Mr. Speaker, since the adoption of the Declaration ten years ago Ukraine has witnessed momentous transformations. Independent Ukraine has developed from what was, for all practical purposes, a colony of the Soviet empire into a viable peaceful state with a commitment to ensuring democracy and prosperity for its citizens. It has emerged as a responsible and constructive actor in the international arena which enjoys good relations with all its neighbors and a strategic partnership with the United States. Obviously, the heavy legacy of communism and Soviet misrule has not yet disappeared, as illustrated by stifling corruption, and inadequate progress in rule of law and economic reforms. However, the defeat of the communists in last November’s presidential elections, and the appointment of genuinely reformist Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko have given grounds for renewed optimism, which is supported by evidence of growth in some sectors of the economy.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for the Ukrainian people to strengthen independence by redoubling their efforts to build democracy and a market economy, thereby keeping faith with the ideals and goals of the historic 1990 Declaration on Sovereignty.

A SALUTATION TO COL. ALTHEA WILLIAMS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Althea Williams for her outstanding service to our country as an accomplished nurse for the US Army.

Her dedication to the Nurse Corps spanned three major wars following her graduation in 1941 from the Beth-11 School of Nursing in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In World War II, she primarily served in the Southwest Pacific area, in addition to Australia, New Guinea, Netherlands, East Indies and the Philippines.

Later in the Korean War, Williams served in Japan with the 279th General Hospital. Finally, during the Vietnam War, she served with the 44th Medical Brigade. As a result of her dedication and outstanding abilities, she was awarded with the Legion of Merit with an Oak Leaf Cluster.

Col. Williams exemplified outstanding service in other assignments including Chief Nurse at Valley Forge General Hospital, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania; Chief Nurse of First US Army, Governor’s Island, New York; Chief Nurse at Madigan General Hospital, Tacoma, Washington and the 44th Medical Brigade. Furthermore, Williams served as Chief Nurse at the Headquarters of the Sixth US Army at the Presidio of San Francisco.

Throughout her years of patriotic devotion, this Platteville, Colorado native also achieved several other degrees. Initially, from the Colorado State University she graduated with a Bachelors degree in Home Economics in 1948 and soon thereafter another Bachelors in Occupational Therapy. Notably, in 1970 she received the “Honor Alumni” award from CSU. Finally, in 1960 she graduated from Baylor University with a Masters in Hospital Administration.
Since Retirement in 1970, working as a representative of the USDA and volunteering around Ft. Collins, Colorado has occupied Col. Williams, which further exemplifies her commitment to service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress I hereby thank and salute Col. Althea Williams for her steadfast dedication to the US Army Nurse Corps and for her leadership for our beloved country. On her 80th birthday, may she enjoy the bountiful Liberty with which God has so richly blessed the United States of America, and which Col. Williams has herself so completely and patriotically preserved for all posterity.

TRIBUTE TO FABIUS-POMPEY HIGH SCHOOL’S MENS VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 24, 2000, the Fabius-Pompey Falcons defeated Haldane to win the New York State Class D Mens Varsity Baseball Championship, a terrific finish to an outstanding undefeated season. The Falcons, Section III Champions, entered the state Class D final with a 6-2 triumph over Section I’s Haldane to top off a 20-0 season and a dominant playoff run.

Previously, Fabius-Pompey, representing the Onondaga League, defeated the Oriskany Redskins of the Center State Conference in a 7-2 victory to retain the Section III, Class D Championship again this year, their third consecutive sectional title. In that game, the Falcons’ star pitcher, junior Bryan Porter, entered the state record book for most consecutive innings without giving up an earned run. To advance to the State Final game, Fabius-Pompey later defeated Section IV champions Schenevus (7-0) and Section II champs Hermon-Dekalb (25-0). This year’s title win against Haldane avenges a 1998 Class D State championship loss.

Talent emanates from the Fabius-Pompey dugout, with five players receiving Syracuse Newspapers’ All CNY Baseball Team recognition, including Player of the Year Bryan Porter, First Team’s Nate Bliss and Mike Shick, Third Team’s Bob Virgil, and Honorable Mention Tim Wilcox. The team was led by All CNY Coach of the Year Shawn May, completing his ninth season leading the Falcons, and Assistant Coach Josh Virgil, himself a former Falcons’ star.

Members of the 2000 Class D Championship team include: Nate Bliss, Matt Crossman, Brandt Ford, Rob Keeny, Matthew Morse, Mitch Morse, Bill Otty, Brian Porter, Mike Shick, Jed Smith, Corey Spicer, Robert Virgil, and Tim Wilcox. Coaching staff includes Head Coach Shawn May, and Assistant Coaches Josh Virgil, Evan Eaton, and Jim Keegan.

I wish to celebrate the outstanding athletic achievements of these fine young men and recognize their scholastic and civic accomplishments as well. I join with the entire Fabius-Pompey community—including Falcons fans, parents and other family members, and educators and administrators—in extending sincere congratulations for a job well done. This strong group of fine young athletes deserves special recognition.

NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA AND MONTELLA, ITALY CELEBRATE NINE YEARS OF SISTERHOOD

HON. JOSEPH M. Hoeffel
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. Hoeffel. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable relationship between two wonderful cities—one here in the United States and the other in Italy. Nine years ago, the borough of Norristown in my district in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania and Montella, Italy established a Sister Cities program that has grown stronger each year.

Sister Cities International is an organization that motivates and empowers municipal officials, volunteers and youth to conduct long-term programs of mutual benefit and interest between two cities. Norristown and Montella have certainly taken advantage of this program. Norristown is an active participant in the Sister Cities program and has been fortunate to develop a partnership with people of Montella in the Province of Avellino, Italy. Montella is the home for many first and second generation Italian Americans who now reside in Norristown.

Thanks to the continued efforts of Norristown officials including Mayor Ted LeBlanc and Councilperson Carmelina Chiaradonna, this relationship has been successful in creating an atmosphere in which economic, cultural and personal ties have been implemented and strengthened.

Later this month, Joseph Byrnes, President of the Norristown Borough Council, will travel to Montella to visit Norristown’s Sister City. I hope this experience, like the other personal, cultural and governmental contacts over the past nine years, will be enriching and enlightening, and I am pleased to have him represent Norristown on this exciting occasion.

A TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY COHEN

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Ms. Sanchez. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Orange County’s senior citizens it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to a great leader, my friend, Shirley Cohen. On June 30 of this year, Shirley retired from the Feedback Foundation at the age of 81. However, for anyone who knows Shirley retirement is not the accurate word. Shirley is merely transitioning from Feedback to become a full time political activist.

In the more than 23 years since Shirley founded Feedback it has served more than twenty million meals to frail elderly in their homes as well as to active elders who come daily to senior centers and community centers throughout the County. Shirley’s outstanding work in Orange County has been recognized at the state and national level. Shirley has served with distinction as the President of the California Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs.

Shirley Cohen is a unique individual. She is creative, committed and deeply compassionate about the needs of seniors. She is often called upon by policy makers at all levels to help develop measures that will provide home and community services for seniors.

In 1995 Shirley was invited to join the White House’s Conference on Aging staff. During her service to the White House Conference she made important, enduring contributions to the resolutions that were adopted and have since become the foundation for the aging policy during this decade.

There are few words to fully describe Shirley Cohen. I do know one—indefatigable. Shirley works all the time for Feedback in the community at meetings or forums. She is more than just a friendly face—she is force for positive change.

The people of Orange County and especially our senior citizens have had a tireless friend and advocate with Shirley Cohen. I know I will still see Shirley around town or hear from her on some important legislative issue at any time.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors recently passed a Resolution honoring Shirley Cohen.

Shirley Cohen epitomizes our definition of a great public servant and a wonderful productive resource as a senior citizen. I am very pleased to pay tribute to her today.

RESOLUTION APOLOGIZING FOR SLAVERY

HON. TONY P. HALL
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I include the following remarks for the RECORD.

INTRODUCTION

In 1865, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, “When they have abolished slavery, the moderns still have to eradicate a much more intangible and tenacious prejudice—the prejudice of race. Differences [between races], have lasted for centuries, and they still persist in very many places; everywhere they have left traces which, though imaginary, time is hardly able to obliterate. I see slavery is in retreat, but the prejudice from which it arose is immovable.”

Those words, written over a century ago, unfortunately still ring true today.

WHY I INTRODUCED THE APOLOGY

A few years ago, I saw a television program with a black minister and a white minister commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday. They mentioned that there had never been an official apology for slavery. With the Civil War, with all that President Abraham Lincoln achieved, and with the Civil Rights Movement’s successes, I found that hard to believe.