

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO JASON HAYES OF
MADISON, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very brave and fortunate young man from Madison, Alabama, Mr. Jason Hayes. Last Thursday while in a Yemen port, the U.S.S. *Cole* was attacked with a bomb that blew open a 40 by 40 ft. hole in the midsection of the ship. The attack destroyed an engine room and nearby mess hall. Hayes was on the mess deck at the time and is currently recovering from cuts, bruises, smoke inhalation and a chemical burn on his foot.

Hayes, a third class petty officer on the Navy destroyer, is a hero. The word "hero" is not a word to be flippantly uttered—but Hayes and the other surviving sailors aboard the U.S.S. *Cole* that day are heroes. Their quick and brave actions saved lives as well as the ship.

Today, people from all across North Alabama and especially his friends in the Madison area are gathering at the Huntsville International Airport to welcome their hero and his family home. I cannot be there today but I wish I could to join his friends in telling Jason how proud we are of him and how thrilled we are that he is home safe. Hayes is a 1995 graduate of Bob Jones High School and his parents, Jean and Stephen, still live in the Madison community. Our community has come together in this crisis after receiving word of Jason's injuries and it is right that we gather to celebrate his homecoming. Jason and the Hayes family including Jason's wife, Roxanne, in Norfolk have been in our prayers.

What happened last Thursday was an intolerable act of terrorism. Across the country, 17 families are having much different and much more solemn ceremonies than the Hayes today as they bury their sons and daughters who did not survive the attack. My thoughts and prayers are with those families today. I urge our federal agents to exhaust all conceivable avenues to capture those responsible and bring them to justice for this horrific crime.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I want to express my gratitude for Jason's bravery and his service. I know today is an emotional and special day for the Hayes family and the Madison community. I hope that this time is a time for them to relish being together and celebrate the bonds of family.

J.T. WEEKER SERVICE CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5016, which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 514 Express Center Drive in Chicago, Illinois, as the J.T. Weeker Service Center. It is with great pride that we in the Illinois Congressional Delegation honor a man for whom our entire Nation is eternally grateful.

John Thomas (J.T.) Weeker was born in New York, New York in 1947. He graduated from Cornell University in 1969 and completed Executive Management Programs at Harvard, Pennsylvania State, and Duke Universities.

Mr. Weeker began his career with the Postal Service in 1972 in Akron, Ohio, as District Director, Employee Relations and served in a variety of management positions for the Postal Service throughout the United States. In 1988 he was appointed General Manager/Postmaster of the Albany, NY Field Division, and served in that capacity until 1993, when he was appointed District Manager for the Albany District.

When Mr. Weeker was appointed to direct operations of the U.S. Postal Service's Great Lakes Area in 1995, mail service in the area had been lambasted by public and postal officials the year before. Joining a rehabilitation effort already in progress, Mr. Weeker, known for fostering optimism in his coworkers, stressed employee development and built a professional relationship with the region's largest postal customers. He brought tremendous energy to this effort, despite his own fragile health. In 1977, he received a kidney and pancreas transplant to replace organs damaged by a lifelong struggle with diabetes.

As Vice President of Operations of the Great Lakes Area, Mr. Weeker was responsible for mail processing and distribution, customer service and sales operations in a territory covering most of Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, serving 25 million customers and staffed by more than 80,000 employees in 32 plants and 2,140 post offices.

Noted for his innovative leadership and team building activities, Mr. Weeker implemented the first extensive Quality Process in the Postal Service and was a founding member of the first national Management by Participation committee. During the four years he directed operations, Mr. Weeker changed operational structures in the office, as well as the way the region examined its performance. As a result, mail delivery times in the Great Lakes Area, and especially in Chicago, improved considerably. In FY 1998, the overnight committed first-class mail arrived on time in the Great Lakes Area 93.4 percent, and

93.5 percent in Chicago and further improvements were seen in FY 1999 and FY 2000.

Mr. Weeker died on January 6, 2000 at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. He is survived by his wife, Julia (from Wheaton, Illinois), his parents Samuel and Maxine, his sister Wendy Vaccaro, and his brothers, Brett and Scott.

Madam Speaker, I urge the adoption of H.R. 5016. I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BLAGOJEVICH) for recognizing this great man from Illinois.

IN HONOR OF SALLY MORILLAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Cleveland's finest citizens. Mrs. Sally Morillas. At 86 years old, Mrs. Morillas continues to be an example of selflessness, volunteerism, and the spirit of community.

Sally Morillas was born in Missouri, but she spent most of her childhood in Youngstown, Ohio. Mrs. Morillas became an active force in her community at an early age. Following her graduation from Oberlin College in 1934, Mrs. Morillas was instrumental in organizing the Youngstown Steelworkers Union. She continued her admirable fight on behalf of the Union until moving to Cleveland in 1942.

Since then, Sally Morillas has made immeasurable contributions to the city of Cleveland, particularly for women and the Hispanic community. Her interminable commitment to peace has earned her prominent positions in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice. Her unflinching dedication to peace first became evident during the Vietnam War when she participated in anti-war demonstrations in Cleveland and in Washington, DC. However, Mrs. Morillas does not only exercise her political activism during times of war and struggle. She worked diligently on the campaign to lift the embargo on Cuba and on the effort to return Elian Gonzales to his family in Cuba.

Beyond her extraordinary involvement with international issues and world peace, Mrs. Morillas also supports causes that hit closer to home. As a full-time teacher at Glenville High School for 7 years and a substitute teacher for 10 years, Mrs. Morillas aimed to advance the interests of teachers through her membership in the Cleveland Teacher's Union. In addition to the Teacher's Union, Mrs. Morillas honorably served on the first advisory committee of the Hispanic Senior Center, where she is still a member. Finally, she donated considerable time and effort as a senior companion for the Benjamin Rose Institute, a non-profit, health

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