

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING THE TOWNSHIP OF BERNARDS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 240th Anniversary of the founding of the Township of Bernards, County of Somerset, New Jersey.

Allow me to recount the history of the town. Its earliest inhabitants were the Lenape Indians. It was the Chief of the Lenape, named Nowenoik, who in 1717, sold the first 3,000 acres of the land which would become Bernards Township to an agent of King George I of England for \$50. William Penn also purchased some of the land in this area later that same year.

In 1733 the name Basking Ridge first appeared in the ecclesiastic records of the Presbyterian Church and is recorded as being derived from the fact that the "wild animals of the adjacent lowlands were accustomed to bask in the warm sun of this beautiful ridge."

In 1760 King George II of England created Bernardston Township by charter. This was in honor of Sir Francis Bernard, provincial governor of New Jersey from 1758–1760, who created the first Indian Reservation at Brotherton, New Jersey at the close of the French and Indian Wars.

During the American Revolution, Bernardston provided over 100 soldiers to the war effort. It was in the Widow's White Tavern at the corner of Colonial Drive and South Finley Avenue that General Charles Lee, second in command only to General George Washington, was captured by British Troops. Years later, during the Civil War, Bernards Township was a production center for Union uniforms and for axles and wagons in its hub and spokes factory.

Bernards Township has continued to be a location for significant events into the 20th century. The Basking Ridge village green was the site for a speech given by Woodrow Wilson just before the first World War.

Bernards Township is now home to the headquarters of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the Bonnie Brae Educational Center, Lord Stirling School, Hooper Holmes, Ingersoll Rand, Fellowship Deaconry, and the United States Golf Association.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 240 years, Bernards Township has played a significant role in creating the cultural fabric of our state and nation's history and will most certainly continue to do so in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to congratulate the citizens of the Township of Bernards on this special anniversary year.

LEGGZ DANCE'S TAP 2000: TAP INTO AMERICA'S HEARTS TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on May 25th National Missing Children's Day, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and Leggz Dance will coordinate Tap 2000: Tap into America's Hearts to Keep Our Children Safe in Rockville Centre, in my home district of Long Island. NCMEC is teaming up with performers and studios across the country in a grassroots effort to raise awareness about child safety.

The average victim of abduction and murder is an 11-year-old girl, a child with a stable family, and frighteningly, she had initial contact with an abductor within a quarter mile of her home. This is exactly the audience that TAP 2000 reaches by having local dance teachers "tapping for safety."

The goal of TAP 2000 is to entertain through Leggz Dance while educating via valuable child safety literature provided by NCMEC. Tap 2000 is one of the many vehicles that the NCMEC uses to emphasize the importance of children's photographs. One out of six missing children is found as a result of someone recognizing a photo. Tap 2000 will begin May 25 and will continue throughout Nassau County when participating studios hold their showcases and tap festivals.

I commend this important public safety workshop sponsored by both the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Leggz Dance. It is important that we take every step possible to prevent child abductions in our communities.

JOHN RIGAS BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. John Rigas, of Coudersport, Pennsylvania, recently celebrated his 75th birthday and 48th year in the cable business. I have come to know him well over the years—unfortunately not seeing enough of him.

The son of Greek immigrants, he was born in an apartment above his parents' restaurant in a small town in rural western New York. After receiving a degree in management engineering, he returned home to help out with the family business. However, John Rigas had other aspirations and he accepted a position as a Sylvania plant engineer in Emporium, Pennsylvania. After borrowing from family and

friends, he purchased the local movie theater in nearby Coudersport.

To protect his movie theater business, he invested \$100 in a cable television franchise to provide signals to a rural community with little or no off-air reception. Flash forward several decades. This fledgling enterprise became Adelphia, the Greek word for brother, which John Rigas and his family have turned into one of the nation's largest telecommunications providers, serving more than 5 million customers in 30 states, including a significant presence in Florida.

John kept the company headquarters in Coudersport, a community of about 2,500 where he purchased the old high school on Main Street and converted it into Adelphia's corporate headquarters. John's love of Coudersport and its residents transcends almost everything in his life except for his family. That's why he has chosen to remain in that community. Now, they have added Adelphia Business Solutions, a telephone subsidiary and the company provides high speed cable modem connections to the Internet, digital programming tiers, and long distance telephone service.

This year marks the fourth anniversary of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. It is fitting that the exciting new services made possible by this act are being developed and delivered by the entrepreneurship of people like John Rigas. Happy birthday, John, and thanks for fulfilling the American dream in a way that provides exciting new telecommunications services throughout our country.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4475 making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 4475, the Fiscal Year 2001 appropriations bill for the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies. This important legislation contains federal transit capital funds that are vital to the success of the Denver Regional Transportation District's new light rail transit corridors projects, the nearly completed South West Corridor, and the new South East Corridor.

I want to thank Transportation Subcommittee Chairman WOLF, Ranking Member

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