

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RIVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, nearly three decades ago the rise in juvenile delinquency led to the creation of the Riverdale Community Center. It gave a growing number of teenagers, who were unsupervised after school because their parents worked, a place to go. Drug and alcohol abuse were escalating as was teen pregnancy. The dropout rate was also soaring. The Community Center was organized to provide a structure where, under adult supervision, teens could escape the dangerous crosscurrents of life in the streets.

A free weekend recreation center was opened, then an after school program was added followed by a drug outreach program. Soon more than 1,400 teens a year participated in the after school program. In addition, the Center developed an Adult and Youth Education Center where, for modest fees, families could take classes. This program now serves upwards of 1,000 children, adults and seniors in a variety of courses.

Today, more than 2,400 people a year enjoy the many programs at the Riverdale Community Center.

The Center is a marvelous example of what a community can do when faced with adversity. Instead of wringing their hands, the parents of Riverdale mobilized. The Riverdale Community Center every year serves more people in more and better ways. I am proud to honor the Center on the occasion of its annual brunch. I congratulate the Center for all it has accomplished—and it has accomplished an awful lot.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
KYLE W. HEMMINGER ON HIS
APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Kyle W. Hemminger of Port Clinton, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Mr. Speaker, Kyle's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2004. Attending one of our nation's

military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Kyle is an outstanding student who brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Port Clinton High School, Kyle has attained a grade point average of 3.929, which places him seventh in his class of one hundred ninety-three students. Kyle is a member of the National Honor Society and has received the Port Clinton Kiwanis Scholar Athlete Award for his academic achievements.

Outside the classroom, Kyle has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Kyle served as Captain of the Varsity Football team and received the 1997 and 1998 Football Ironman Award. Kyle is also a member of the Varsity Wrestling team and was named the 1997–1998 Most Improved Wrestler. He is the President of the Leadership Council and is a member of the Varsity Club. In addition, Kyle has performed in several school musicals and was a delegate to Buckeye Boys State.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Kyle W. Hemminger. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Kyle will do very well during his career at West Point and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

URGING COMPLIANCE WITH HAGUE
CONVENTION ON CIVIL ASPECTS
OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD AB-
DUCTION

SPEECH OF

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 293, which urges all parties to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction to comply with this important treaty.

Too many countries that have signed this compact fail to live up to its principles. Whether by design or passivity, these countries act as obstacles to reuniting parents with their kidnapped children. This not only occurs with rogue nations that ignore basic human rights; but even some of our closest allies.

I first became acquainted with this issue several years ago when a constituent of mine lost his only daughter to his German ex-wife. She was only 15-months old. For the next four years, he followed the Hague Convention to

the letter, going to court in the United States and Germany to seek custody and visitation with his little girl and paying child support. Though a German court eventually awarded him visitation rights, his wife refused to comply and the German courts failed to enforce their own orders.

I was shocked at the impudence of the German government in its application of the Hague Convention. But, I was even more outraged at the failure of our own government to act as an aggressive advocate on behalf of American parents. The U.S. State Department left him to fend for himself, which his ex-wife appeared to have all of Germany fighting for her. I wrote to Secretary Albright, our Ambassador to Germany, and others seeking assistance, but my efforts were rebuffed as well. This happens to thousands of American parents every year, with similar responses.

Today's resolution says with firm resolve that the U.S. Congress will stand with these left-behind parents and fight for their children. When we unite with these parents in even a simple "sense of Congress" resolution, things can change and these nations will take notice.

Because of all the publicity that has been generated by this resolution and this issue, my constituent's ex-wife finally complied with the court-ordered visitation. He saw his little girl for the very first time in nearly four years last week. As he puts it, "I can't see her very often, she doesn't speak English, and hardly knows who I am, but I feel like I just won the lotto."

That is what this is all about. I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 293.

HONORING MR. GEORGE WILLIAM
ROBERTSON

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and honor the life of Mr. George William Robertson, a community activist in Southern Maryland fondly known simply as "Capt. Billy." Captain Billy was born in Baltimore on June 12, 1930, and grew up along the Potomac River. By the age of 19, he knew he wanted to live off the water and built Robertson's Crabhouse on the Potomac shores in Popes Creek. He purchased Capt. Drink's restaurant in 1986 and renamed it Capt. Billy's.

Captain Billy had many pastimes. In addition to his passions for the water and his restaurant, he owned Dahlgren Hardware Store in Virginia, was an avid horseman as he loved to race with friend Gene Euster, a zealous golfer, and a competitive bowler who was inducted into the Duckpin's Bowler's Hall of Fame. Another passion of his was cars, which he turned into a business by opening Capt. Billy's Auto

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