

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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Sales on U.S. 301 in La Plata. Every week with friend Dave Phillips, he attended car auctions throughout Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Captain Billy was diagnosed with gall bladder cancer in January 1999. Together with his friend Robert Mitchell, he sponsored a benefit golf tournament in August 1999 at Swan Point Golf Course in Issue. Four hundred golfers participated to raise \$170,000 for the American Cancer Society. For his efforts to fight the disease, the American Cancer Society recently presented him with the Excalibur Award. In addition, he was a strong supporter of Civista Medical Center in La Plata. At the first Mardi Gras Ball sponsored by the Physicians Memorial Hospital Foundation, he was crowned "King Rex." Robertson also raised money for Richard R. Clark Senior Center in La Plata, Hospice of Charles County, United Way of Charles County, Melwood, local churches and schools, and supported Newburg Volunteer Rescue Squad, Bel Alton Volunteer Fire Department, and local softball and baseball leagues.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to speak on behalf of the people of Southern Maryland, for whom Captain Billy gave so much, and thank him for all that he has done to benefit our community and our country. We remember his life and the memories he has given us. On behalf of the people of my district, thank you Captain Billy.

TRIBUTE TO REV. PHILIP RONAN BRENNAN

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the Reverend Philip Ronan Brennan, a remarkable man who has rendered fifty years of service to the people of my Northern California district.

Born on August 23, 1926, in Duleek, County Meath, Ireland, Philip Brennan was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest on June 18, 1950, in Dublin. His first assignment in the priesthood brought him half way around the world to the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, where he has made his home ever since. In fact, although born in Ireland, he is now a naturalized citizen of the United States. It is here that he has offered a lifetime of compassion and dedication to others.

Beginning as an associate pastor at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Auburn, in 1950, Reverend Brennan later went on to serve as an assistant at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Truckee in 1952. In 1956, he began an eleven-year assignment as Chaplain at Folsom State Prison. In this capacity, he worked with some of those members of society who stand in the greatest need of comfort and guidance. Then, in 1967, Father Brennan advanced to the position of pastor at Corpus Christi parish in Tahoe City, California, which included the community of Squaw Valley.

In 1972, Rev. Philip Brennan returned to where he began his ministry, serving as pastor at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Auburn.

During his years in Auburn, he negotiated the purchase of a 16-acre parcel of land in North Auburn, moving St. Joseph's school from the overcrowded and landlocked downtown location to the new site. He also sparked the building of a large parish center there. Recognizing his contributions to the community, in 1988 the City of Auburn named Father Brennan as one of the 100 most influential people in the city's first 100 years of history.

After spending eight years at St. Joseph's, Father Brennan moved to the small town of Sutter Creek, serving for 12 years as pastor at the Immaculate Conception parish. Since retirement in 1992, he has again settled in Auburn, where he continues to sit on Diocesan committees and acts as supply pastor throughout the Sacramento Diocese.

As he celebrates the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood on June 18, I join with his many friends and admirers in honoring the Rev. Philip Ronan Brennan for his tireless efforts to meet the temporal and spiritual needs of those he has served so faithfully. No price can be placed on Father Brennan's contributions. His influence cannot be measured. His service cannot be gauged. His is a life well-lived, and I thank him for it.

HONORING JOSEPH PURE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, America has been very fortunate in that many of its finest citizens come from other lands, landing here to better their lives or sometimes only hoping to escape persecution. Joseph Pure is a man who did both. He was born in Bialystock, Poland 75 years ago. Like all European Jewry he came face to face with the Holocaust. He is more fortunate than the great majority because he survived. He came to America from a ravished Europe and in the course of his life here founded the very successful Woodworking Specialty Company and several other firms. But he did not forget his heritage and was extremely supportive of Jewish causes. He also became a mentor for a generation of young.

His strong character, determination, industry and luck made him a success in America and made America a better country for his coming here. He is a shining example of how people can prosper under freedom, away from the evils of totalitarianism.

Joseph Pure was married to the late Alice Pure and they had three children, Samuel, Ellen and Vivian, and a granddaughter, Nicole Negrin. I want to wish him a very happy 75th birthday. He has earned the best wishes of all of us.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THOMAS J. ROOT ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

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 Thomas J. Root of Norwalk, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Mr. Speaker, TJ'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.

TJ brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Norwalk High School, TJ has attained an astounding grade point average of 4.329, which places him fourth in his class of one hundred fifty-three students. TJ is a member of the National Honor Society, Principal's List, and was Captain of the Academic Challenge Team. Additionally, TJ placed fifth in the state on the Ohio Test of Scholastic Achievement Pre-Calculus exam. TJ was twice presented with the Huron County American Legion Award for his academic accomplishments.

Outside the classroom, TJ has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, TJ has earned letters in Varsity Football and Wrestling. TJ was also named Captain of both the Football and Wrestling teams. TJ has also been active in the Norwalk High School Key Club and with his church youth group.

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

RECOGNIZING THE SALT RIVER PROJECT

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the profound and positive impact that Salt River Project has had on the state of Arizona for nearly 100 years. Accordingly, SRP has a deserving place in the Library of Congress' Local Legacies.

SRP is the oldest multipurpose federal reclamation project in the nation, older even than