

A RESOLUTION HONORING ABBY WALTER, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF GRASS LAKE, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Abby Walter, winner of the 2000 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Abby is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Abby is an exceptional student at Grass Lake High School and possesses an impressive high school record.

Abby has received numerous awards for her excellence in academics as well as her involvement in band. Outside of school, she has received many awards for her involvement in 4-H.

Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Abby Walter for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

HONORING ERICA VASQUEZ

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support the efforts of Erica Vasquez to raise funds for the Leukemia Society of America by running a marathon in Walt Disney World. She represented a 7-year-old boy, Adam Valencia, who has acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Erica was the youngest runner on the Team in Training Desert Mountain States Chapter, training for five months and raising money to compete. She even created her own donation forms and sent them out to businesses, doctors, lawyers, friends, and family members. Though they could not run with her, she gave them an important opportunity to do their part.

Sadly, Erica was inspired to help others because of a personal loss: in one year, she lost two cousins and an aunt to cancer. This tragedy inspired her to fight the disease any way she could. Her immediate goal is to increase awareness about Leukemia. Until a cure is found, people like Erica will continue to fight in whatever way they can, including increasing

education about cancer and fundraising for treatment.

Please join me in celebrating the generous heart of Erica Vasquez, a young woman who fights to bring awareness about a disheartening disease to the world. May her resilient spirit of giving encourage to us all to give of ourselves to save lives.

ESTONIAN PRESIDENT LENNART MERI HONORED BY THE CONGRESS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today the Congress of the United States is honoring President Lennart Meri of the Republic of Estonia at a special reception here in the Capitol Building paying tribute to the contribution of the United States to the freedom of the Baltic states. Sixty years ago, in 1940 as World War II raged in Europe, the Baltic nations—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—lost their freedom, first falling under Soviet control, then Nazi German occupation, and then again under Soviet dominance.

For half a century—from 1940 until 1990 when the Baltic states regained their independence—the United States government refused to recognize the occupation of the Baltic states. This policy of non-recognition was a public affirmation of the right of these three nations to their independence. When the Soviet Union collapsed ten years ago, the American people joined in the celebration as Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia once again emerged as independent and democratic states.

It is appropriate, Mr. Speaker, that we mark today the six decades of American support for the independence of the Baltic States. It is particularly noteworthy that President Lennart Meri is here in the United States to join us in celebrating a decade of renewed independence for Estonia.

Mr. Speaker, President Lennart Meri's life mirrors the tragedy and pathos of the Estonian and Baltic struggle for national independence and democracy. As a young man, President Meri and his family were deported to Siberia along with thousands of other Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians. It is particularly noteworthy that we are holding this celebration today, because today is the anniversary of the date that Lennart Meri and his family were expelled from Estonia and forcibly taken to Siberia—June 14, 1941.

Later, after returning to Estonia, President Meri graduated cum laude from Tartu University. Unable to practice his profession as a historian, he traveled to the most remote areas of the Soviet Union, where he wrote and produced films on the cultures of small ethnic groups. Meri's literary works, films and translations contributed significantly to the preservation of the Estonian national identity.

Lennart Meri's shift of focus from literary to political activities took place in 1988 when he established the non-governmental Estonian Institute to establish cultural contacts with the countries of the West. These Estonian cultural missions, established under his auspices, be-

came embassies of Estonia when the country formally regained its independence in 1991.

Lennart Meri was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs on April 12, 1990, following Estonia's first non-communist elections in over fifty years. He established formal diplomatic contacts with countries of Europe, the United States, and other nations, and he represented Estonia at a number of international conferences. He also served briefly as Estonia's ambassador to Finland. On October 6, 1992, Lennart Meri was elected President of the Republic of Estonia, and in September 1996 he was reelected to this position.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in extending a special warm welcome to President Lennart Meri of Estonia.

TRIBUTE TO ETHEL McCANN

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as we celebrate the 225th Birthday of the United States Army, to recognize Ethel McCann, who dedicated 38 years of service to the Department of the Army. Although, Mrs. McCann retired on December 29, 1999, she remains a part of the Army family.

For the last 26 years of her employment, Mrs. McCann served in the Army House of Representatives Liaison Office. In that capacity, Mrs. McCann was a dedicated and reliable resource person for Members of Congress and their staff. At the time of her retirement, it was estimated that she had responded to more than 125,000 inquiries from Congressional Offices.

Mrs. McCann touched the lives of thousands of service members and their families during the 38 years that she was a civilian employee with the Department of the Army. She can be justifiably proud of her many achievements. On this day of celebration for the Army, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Ethel McCann on her service to our Country and to extend to her best wishes in her retirement in Florida.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 90 ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 90 of New Haven, Connecticut as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

Chartered January 1, 1900, fifteen electrical tradesmen established what has since become one of the most respected union organizations across the State of Connecticut. Historically, union members have been challenged by communities to prove that, as

tradesman, they deserved respect and a better quality of life for their labor and skills. Throughout its century of history, Local 90 has expanded its jurisdiction—reaching out to other communities, protecting the interests of electrical tradesman through much of Central and Southern Connecticut.

I have often said that we are fortunate to live in a country that allows its workers to engage in efforts to better employee standards and benefits. Local 90 has fought hard for better wages, more comprehensive health benefits for their members and their families, and safer working environments—ensuring that corporations throughout Connecticut listen to their employees and afford them these basic rights. Local 90 has been a true leader for our working families, giving them a voice during the hardest of economic times.

In addition to their professional contributions, the members of Local 90 are dedicated to our community. For the past several years, Local 90 members have used their expertise to create what has become a highlight of the Christmas season—the Fantasy of Lights exhibition at Lighthouse Point in New Haven. The exhibition and their work benefits the New Haven Rehabilitation Center. The tremendous work that goes into this project is truly remarkable—bringing the spirit and joy of the holiday season for all of our children and families to enjoy.

For the many contributions they have made to the working families of Southern and Central Connecticut, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to former and present members of Local 90—they have made a real difference in the lives of many. I am honored to extend my sincere congratulations to them as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary and my best wishes for another century of success.

FLAG DAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of a day that would not exist without the sacrifices endured by brave men and women throughout our country's distinguished history. Although today is known as Flag Day, it symbolizes much more.

When describing the American flag, George Washington once said, "We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separate it by white in stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her . . .".

Well, over 200 years later, our flag continues to symbolize the independence fought for by Washington as well as countless others.

From the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War, our men and women in uniform risked—and lost—their lives to promote democracy, and defend the liberties we cherish. These brave men and women defended the most basic belief which our flag symbolizes—that freedom is worth putting our lives in harm's way to preserve.

These were real people, not simply statistics in a history book or names chiseled in stone. They were young men and women with moth-

ers, fathers, dreams and fears just like the rest of us.

When I visit schools back home, and children ask me questions about the American flag or Pledge of Allegiance, I tell them there is more to the flag than pretty colors. If you look behind those stars and stripes you unveil a story of determination and sacrifice.

As we take time out of our lives to honor those who fought to protect our flag, we must never forget that we stand together as a great, proud, and free Nation because of their sacrifices.

The American flag is a fitting reminder of their devotion.

A RESOLUTION HONORING ANDREW POENICKE, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF ADRIAN, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Andrew Poenicke, winner of the 2000 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Andrew is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Andrew is an exceptional student at Lenawee Christian High school and possesses an impressive high school record.

Andrew has received numerous awards for his excellence in academics as well as his involvement in soccer. Outside of school, he has been active in many volunteer programs such as Meals on Wheels for Lenawee County.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Andrew Poenicke for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

HONORING ELWAR "RUBEN" LACOUR

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention Elwar "Ruben" LaCour, Jr., a student in my district. As a mid-

dle schooler, he was awarded the U.S. National Award in mathematics. His commitment to learning is an indication of great future success.

Ruben's recognition from the U.S. Achievement Academy is a great honor. We all know of the studies and reports that say that students in the United States are falling behind in math performance. Ruben's skills, abilities, and success provides evidence of students excelling in math.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Elwar "Ruben" LaCour on his achievement in and dedication to mathematics. We must celebrate achievements and encourage our children to do their very best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: June 8, 2000, rollcall vote 247, on agreeing to the rule H. Res. 518, providing consideration of H.R. 4577, the FY2000 Labor, Health & Human Services and Education bill, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JOHN RUSSELL BLANDFORD

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn recently of the death of Major General John Russell Blandford, who was an outstanding American. General Blandford joined the staff of the Committee on Armed Services in the House of Representatives upon its formation in January 1947. He was appointed the Chief Counsel of the Committee in December 1963, and he served in that position until his retirement from the House in 1972.

On behalf of the Members and the staff of the Committee on Armed Services, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Betty, and to the other members of his family. I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the obituary of this remarkable man.

[From the State, Columbia, SC, May 18, 2000]

CAROLINA OBITUARIES

JOHN BLANDFORD

CHARLESTON.—Memorial services for John Russell Blandford, 82, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Johns Island Presbyterian Church. Burial services will be conducted 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2000 in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the First Marine Division Association Scholarship Fund, 14325 Willard Road, Ste. 107, Chantilly, VA 20151-2110 and/or Johns Island Presbyterian Church, 2550 Bohickett Road, Johns Island, SC 29455. J. Henry Stuhr, Downtown Funeral Chapel is in charge.

Mr. Blandford was born in Buffalo, N.Y., Feb. 20, 1918, a son of the late Raymond and