EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

July 25, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember the accomplished and unforgettable life of Gladys "Skeeter" Werner Walker. She was truly a kind person and an outstanding athlete. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Skeeter was an Olympic athlete and an American hero. She was a role model for others. I know I speak for everyone who knew Skeeter well when I say she will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY MORAN
OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an error I made earlier today in voting for the previous question motion on the Treasury, Postal Appropriations bill. As is customary on such procedural motions I voted "aye." Had I been aware of the implications of the vote, I would have voted "no."

I have been and continue to be an opponent of Congressional pay raises. Fiscal discipline must start with our elected officials. My constituents don't get a cost of living increase every year and neither should we. Had I known the previous question vote would be construed as having anything to do with a congressional COLA, I would have opposed it. Not only do I oppose the pay raise itself, but I strongly oppose the manner in which this issue is handled. We ought to have a clear opportunity to vote on the pay raise and let the chips fall where they may. When given the opportunity to vote on the pay raise directly, I have always voted "no."

If others feel differently, let them cast their vote in the light of day and explain it to their constituents. To disguise an issue as important, as a congressional pay raise inside a procedural motion is less than honest. Such gimmicks further erode the trustworthiness of our elected officials. My constituents have paid their fair share of taxes. I hope the American people will see through this.

VETERANS HAVING HEALTH-CARE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to ensure that all veterans, regardless of where they live, have...
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, earlier today on the vote to consider the previous question on this bill I intended to vote "no" but inadvertently voted "aye".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 255 on H.J. Res. 50, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "no" when I should have voted "aye".

TRIBUTE TO THE ORIGINAL 29 NAVAJO CODE TALKERS

HON. MARK UDALL
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers, who courageously served this country during WWII. The original 29 Navajo code talkers developed a Navajo language-based code to transmit information while in the Pacific theatre. Their efforts were invaluable to this nation and helped bring the war in the Pacific to a close, impacting all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as the end of our July 4th weekend approaches, I want to take the time to pay tribute to an American hero who saved our nation's lives. I am referring to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers. These men and women helped our Navajo Code Talkers reveal the secrets of their code, enabling the Marines and this Nation to achieve victory.

The war in the Pacific was brought to a close with the help of these original 29 Navajo code talkers and the hundreds of code talkers who followed. The Navajo, who bravely served this country, despite poor governmental treatment at home, should be commended for their service. I would ask my colleagues to join me, now and forever, in paying tribute to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers who bravely served this nation. I am including an article from a recent edition of Indian Country Today, which recognizes the significant contributions of the Navajo Code Talkers.

[From Indian Country Today, July 11, 2001]

NAVAJO CODE TALKERS TO RECEIVE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS

TRUE RECOGNITION A DECADE AFTER HEROISM

(By Brenda Norrell)

SANOSTEE, N.M.—The late Harrison Lapahie’s Dine name Yieh Kinne Yah means “He finds things.” His son, Harrison Lapahie Jr., is honoring his father’s name by finding Navajo Code Talkers who will receive Congressional gold and silver medals.

Born here in Sanostee, officially in 1923 but closer actually to 1928, Harrison Lapahie served in the U.S. Marines using his Native tongue to transmit the code never broken by the Japanese during World War II. Aircraft bombers were “Jay-Sho” buzzards, dive-bombers were “Gini” chicken hawks and battleships were “Lo-Tso” whales.

The original 29 Navajo Code Talkers who created the code will join George Washington, Robert Kennedy, Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela as recipients of the Congressional gold medal, the nation’s highest civilian honor.

With beautiful piano music and galloping horses, an eagle and an American flag on his Web site, Harrison Lapahie links readers worldwide to the legacy and history of the Navajo warriors being honored more than half a century after their heroism with their Dine-based military code.

Charles Hedin, Navajo working in health recovery with veterans in Denver, discovered the search for his uncle on the Web site. The late John Willie Jr. was among the original 29 being sought to be honored in Washington this month.

I was surfing the Web and I landed on Mr. Lapahie’s Web site. I didn’t know Zonnie Gorman was searching for relatives of Code Talkers. Filled with overwhelming pride, I called her and explained that John Willie Jr. was my uncle.

“We compared some notes and I also helped her to find Adolf Murgursky, another Code Talker,” Willie did not live long enough to receive his recognition.

“I have mixed emotions because the recognition for my uncle’s war contributions has come 50 years later,” Hedin said, “He was one of the first 29.”

Still, he said, “I am so proud it is hard to express the feelings.”

Lapahie, Zonnie Gorman honors the memory of her father, Carl Nelson Gorman. The late artist, professor and storyteller and