

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HEROIC ACTS BY SAILORS OF THE
USS JOHN S. MCCAIN

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, during the USS *John S. McCain* recent visit to the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), a sailor and his friends saved the lives of two women at the Grotto, a popular swimming and diving spot on the island.

A sunken pool located on Saipan's northern coast, the grotto is connected to the sea by an underwater passage. The strong current regularly flows turbulently up and around the rocks making it very dangerous when the tide comes in. As Firecontrolman Petty Officer 3rd Class Luke Ishizaki, and his friends Derek Hendricks and Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Baumgarten were swimming, they noticed tourists Hsieh Yi Fan and Shih Pei Chi swept off their feet by huge waves.

Ishizaki jumped in the water grabbing onto a safety rope attached to a large rock. Hendricks and Baumgarten also attempted to help but were unable due to the strong current. Locking his legs around the safety line, Ishizaki was able to grab one woman by the wrist and hold onto the other with his arms preventing them from being swept away by the current. Before settling down, the waves bashed Ishizaki and the tourists against the rocks several times. Had he failed to hold onto the rope, all three would have lost their lives.

Ishizaki and the women suffered cuts and bruises but were not seriously hurt. Upon being brought to safety, Baumgarten and Hendricks constantly attended to the women to prevent them from going into shock. Upon determining that they were well enough to leave, another sailor, Sonar Technician Petty Officer 3rd Class Jay Arnold drove the women to their hotel. The men were later to be informed that a diver was killed on this spot earlier that day.

Luke Ishizaki is from Guam and grew up in my neighborhood of Yona. He believes that the training he received from the United States Navy contributed to his quick and calculated response to this life-threatening situation. He also credits his experience as a swimmer in the reefs of Guam as well as his training and involvement in Martial Arts as key factors that led him to perform this selfless and heroic act.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride and pleasure in commending the acts of Luke Ishizaki and his friends. These men are the embodiment of what is excellent and admirable in our society. They are worthy role models for this and future generations. Si Yu'os Ma'ase pot todú i bidan-miyu!

TRIBUTE TO HEROES OF
BROOKWOOD, ALABAMA

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, this is a time of heroes for America. The world has applauded the heroism and dedication of the rescue workers in New York and at the Pentagon. Now, sadly, Alabama has its own heroes deserving of our recognition and applause.

When three Alabama coal miners became trapped a mile underground last Sunday, ten of their colleagues—fully aware of the danger—rushed into the mine to rescue them. Tragically, all 13 miners died.

We stand in awe of such demonstrated bravery, valor and personal sacrifice. But on the other hand, none of us should really be surprised because, after all, they were coal miners. Those who died trying to rescue their fallen comrades were upholding a proud tradition of American coal miners. They put their own lives at risk to save each other from disaster. Those who rushed to the aid of their fellow miners were doing what coal miners have done for ages.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to their families. I am mindful of a James Michener quote contemplating American heroism—brave acts by Americans whose fate pulls them from ordinary lives and places them in extraordinary circumstances: "Where do we get such men?" Men at ground zero in New York, at the Pentagon, and in the mine in Alabama, grace us all by their response and sacrifice in times of peril.

Mr. Speaker, this tragedy should give us renewed respect and appreciation for our nation's coal miners. They are true patriots. They literally provide the fuel for our economy and our strength. God bless them all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, due to an emergency in my district I unexpectedly missed two votes yesterday. If present I would have voted yeay on rollcall vote Nos. 349 and 350.

TRIBUTE TO KGTF GENERAL MANAGER GERALDINE "GINGER" S. UNDERWOOD

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend and congratulate a superb and admirable woman, Geraldine "Ginger" Underwood, upon her retirement after 29 years of service to the people of Guam.

I can truly speak of Ginger's accomplishments for I have known her for many years. The daughter of Thomas Sapp and Marie Garcia, Ginger is a product of Guam's educational system. She attended Wettengel Elementary and Tamuning Elementary as well as St. Anthony School. She later attended Dededo Junior High and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. She went on to earn a degree from the University of Guam.

Ginger started out her career in government service with the Guam Telephone Authority. Having been employed at this agency from 1972 until 1983, Ginger held various positions namely as a telephone operator, claims adjuster, customer service representative, service office division manager, and directory manager.

Most noteworthy, however, was her accomplishments at the Guam Educational Telecommunications Corporation—the Guam Public Television, KGTF Channel 12. She started out in 1984 as a private secretary. Prior to serving as the television station's administrative officer, she was its acting general manager. In 1995, she gained the position she holds today by becoming KGTF's general manager.

Upon taking KGTF's top post, Ginger spearheaded office improvements and facilitated a more productive work environment. Under her direction, the station purchase and installed a digital ready (DTV) tower and antenna. Shelves to house thousands of tapes were made available for the Programming Department. An employee lounge room was constructed for employees and guests. Televisions were placed in every office department in order to familiarize employees with KGTF TV programs and services. The station facility was beautified by tree-planting and landscaping projects. Ginger also made sure that rusted shipping containers used as hiding places by students skipping school were removed from the KGTF yard.

As general manager, Ginger was given the opportunity to attend national conferences on public broadcasting. She also used her position at KGTF to gain involvement in a wide variety of community and fundraising activities. KGTF's major fundraisers include the annual KGTF/MWR Fourth of July Carnival, quarterly pledge drives, island-wide Read-a-Thons, golf

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