

nation's greatest leaders—the leaders of liberation. When jailed in Birmingham, Alabama, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., composed a letter in the margins of a newspaper and continued writing on scraps of paper some of the most powerful words ever written. He eloquently described many injustices suffered by so many African Americans. Near the end of that letter, he noted that, "One day the South will recognize its real heroes." Those heroes are the leaders of liberation—leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and the Little Rock Nine. These leaders stood up and sat down for what they believed in: equality and freedom for all. Their actions changed our nation forever, and for that we are grateful.

I had the distinct privilege to recognize the efforts of Rosa Parks and the Little Rock Nine when we in Congress presented them with the Congressional Gold Medal for their efforts to break down racial barriers and fulfill the legacy of liberation. I am also pleased to have supported legislation to construct the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in our nation's capital. This memorial, which is to be built along the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC., will honor Dr. King's dream of freedom and equality for all.

I also ask you to consider the impact African Americans have had in politics and civil rights right here in southeastern North Carolina. We should call attention to the African-American leaders who served our nation and our communities in ways unimaginable 100 years ago or even 50 years ago. African Americans now serve in unprecedented numbers in elected and appointed positions at all levels of government. These advances would not have been possible without those pioneers who opened doors of opportunity for all. I'm speaking of local leaders from southeastern North Carolina, such as Hiram Rhoades Revels, the first African-American member of Congress; Minnie Evans, an artist from this area whose work hangs in the White House; Meadowlark Lemon, the clown prince of basketball who led the Harlem Globetrotters to world prominence; and Michael Jordan, the greatest athlete in the history of basketball. By listening to and learning from these African-American leaders of the past and present, we can honor their legacies and strengthen our own liberty.

On the night before his assassination, Dr. King prophetically said, "Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go to the mountain. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land." Together, we will fulfill the legacy of liberation through listening, learning, and leading, so that we might one day reach the Promised Land that Dr. King dreamed of for all Americans—a land of equality, freedom and justice for all. It begins now. It begins with us. We have listened! We have learned! We must lead!

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE PEACE CORPS ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, It is a great pleasure to congratulate the Peace Corps as it celebrates the 40th anniversary of its founding. This truly is a milestone.

Founded in 1961, the Peace Corps has sought to meet its legislative mandate of promoting world peace and friendship by sending American volunteers to serve at the grassroots level in villages and towns in all corners of the globe. Living and working with ordinary people, volunteers contributed in a variety of capacities—such as teachers, foresters, farmers, small business advisors—to improving the lives of those they serve. They also seek to share their understanding of other countries with Americans back home.

As a returned volunteer, I can attest to the positive impact Peace Corps volunteers have on the lives of people around the world and here in the United States. Volunteers are not high-priced consultants but hands-on workers in the trenches who live in the communities they serve. In many cases, they speak the native language and become a part of the local culture.

To date, more than 151,000 volunteers have served in 132 countries. Currently, 7,300 Peace Corps volunteers serve in 76 countries, helping improve the lives of children, their families and their communities.

Volunteers also come back to the United States with a commitment to service, as well as the skills and interest in world affairs needed to be leaders in the global community. Many successful Americans served in the Peace Corps; their Peace Corps skills and perspectives shaped their lives and their careers back home. A few of the many notable alumni include Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD of Connecticut, who served in the Dominican Republic from 1966 until 1968, Donna Shalala, former Secretary of Health and Human Services, who served in Iran from 1962 until 1964, and Richard Holbrooke, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, who served as Country Director in Morocco from 1970 until 1972.

I believe I would not be a Member of Congress today were it not for my experience in the Peace Corps and know I am a better person for my service.

The Peace Corps has played an important role overseas and here at home. And my prayer is that it will do so for many years to come.

TO HONOR DELEGATE HARRY J. PARRISH FOR 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I speak today after reading in a local paper that Delegate Harry J.

Parrish, of Manassas, Virginia, has recently been recognized by the Virginia General Assembly for 50 years of public service. I want to bring to my colleagues' attention some highlights of this gentleman's exemplary career of service to the people of Manassas, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America.

Delegate Harry Parrish was born on February 19, 1922, on a farm in Fairfax County, Virginia. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Manassas where his father bought a coal and ice company and renamed it the Manassas Ice and Fuel Company, Inc., which is still in existence today. As he was growing up, his father encouraged him to pursue flying, an interest that led him to fly for the U.S. Air Force. Mr. Parrish graduated from Osbourn High School in 1940 where he was a member of Prince William County's first high school football team. He then attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute to seek a degree in business administration. His courses were accelerated at the onset of the American involvement in World War 11, and in 1942, Mr. Parrish enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, which later became the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Parrish had a remarkable and distinguished military career. He was one of only 17 Americans hand selected to attend the Royal Air Force Flight School, No. 5 where he graduated as a pilot, navigator, bombardier, radio operator and armaments man. Through his extensive training, Mr. Parrish became one of the legendary pilots who served in the China-Burma-India Theater where he "flew the hump" and delivered vital war supplies to our troops. Of all his accomplishments, his experiences in World War 11 are the moments in his life of which he is the most proud.

While on active duty, Mr. Parrish was a flight commander, squadron commander, wing operations officer and base operations officer. Following the war, Mr. Parrish went into the Air Force Reserves and served active tours of duty in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Mr. Parrish retired from the Air Force in 1971 with the rank of full colonel and with multiple awards and decorations including the Air Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the war, Mr. Parrish returned home to work for his father in his ice and fuel business. Mr. Parrish again followed in his father's footsteps when he began serving the Town of Manassas in 1951 as town councilman. He served as councilman until being elected mayor of Manassas in 1963. Mr. Parrish served as mayor for 18 years during which time the town became a city. His service as mayor had such a positive impact on Manassas that in 1973 he was named the "Town of Manassas Man of the Century." He left his position as mayor and ran successfully for a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates in 1981, a post which he holds to this day.

Mr. Parrish is currently the co-chairman of the House Finance Committee and a member of the House Committees on Conservation and Natural Resources, Commerce and Labor, Corporations, Insurance and Banking, Rules and Joint Rules.

Mr. Parrish also serves on numerous state and local legislative and civic boards including

the joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission, and Virginia Veterans Cemetery Board. He is now the chairman of the board of the company his father began in 1922, the Manassas Ice and Fuel Company, Inc., and his son, Hal, is the president. He has served as president of the Virginia Municipal League and on the boards of United Virginia Bank and Crestar Bank. Mr. Parrish is one of the founders of the Prince William Hospital where he has served on the board of directors.

Mr. Parrish has been involved in far too many community clubs and groups to mention all of them at this time. Mr. Parrish is a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Manassas, the Kiwanis Club of Manassas, the American Red Cross, the Society for Preservation of Black Heritage, and Boy Scouts of America. He has also been a member of the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company since 1948.

In addition to the honors and credit to his name that I have already mentioned, he has also received the Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia Oil Men's Association and in 1998 was recognized by his peers by being named Virginia Oil Man of the Year. Also, in 1995 he served, along with his wife Mattie, as the grand marshal of the Manassas Christmas Parade.

He met Mattie during his years at Osborn High School in Manassas where they have been sweethearts since eighth grade. Mattie has been an incredible source of support and devotion ever since. They have two children and three grandchildren.

The most amazing thing about Mr. Parrish is that despite his long and distinguished career, he remains without a doubt one of the most humble public servants that can be found anywhere. Throughout his 50 years of public service and during his time in the military, he has shown extraordinary and tireless dedication to his country, state, city, church and family.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues join me in commending Delegate Harry Parrish for achieving 50 years of remarkable public service.

PEACE CORPS ANNIVERSARY

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join our colleagues and the tens of thousands of Americans who have served with the Peace Corps in celebrating its 40th anniversary.

I had the honor of working as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, in what was then a small town where I taught English. When I returned to my "village" a few years ago, I was astonished to see not only how much had changed—but also to see how many of the students and former colleagues I knew three decades ago still remembered the work done so long ago.

There are few initiatives as successful as this one, and it is with tremendous pride that I count myself as one of the people lucky

enough to have had this experience. In the years since 1967, I have visited dozens of countries where Americans are performing Peace Corps service—and dozens more where their work is desperately needed.

I have met countless leaders in business, in charitable organizations, in government, in academia, in every walk of life whose service in the Peace Corps launched careers that have contributed in innumerable ways to the betterment of our country and the countries where they worked.

The Peace Corps does tremendous good overseas. It does wonders for the Americans who serve, and the millions more who benefit from the goodwill they instill in those who know them. And it does America proud. I salute it for its successful first 40 years, and hope it will continue a tradition unmatched by any other American initiative.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGIL SCHEIDT

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virgil Scheidt, an outstanding citizen and dedicated community leader in Bartholomew County, Indiana. He recently retired as the Republican Party County Chairman and intends to spend more time with his lovely wife, Bettie, and eleven energetic grandchildren.

In addition to his service as County Chairman, Mr. Scheidt is a former State Chairman, a 30-year District Chairman, and a former County Treasurer. He has served as a delegate to the Republican State Convention each session since 1958 and as a delegate to the National Convention on seven separate occasions. Indiana Governors Edgar Whitcomb, Otis Bowen and Bob Orr have all recognized Mr. Scheidt's devotion by awarding him the Sagamore of the Wabash.

Privately, he farms 300 acres of land in Bartholomew County. As a pioneer in real estate, he developed both the Highland Ridge Subdivision and Woodridge Retail Center near Columbus, Indiana. Such achievements earned him the title Realtor of the Year in 1987 by the Columbus Board of Realtors.

Mr. Scheidt's passion for public service has made him an inspiration to all the residents of Bartholomew County. He is not only deeply regarded, but also deeply loved.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this respected man who has helped make selected communities of south central Indiana the pleasant places they are today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on February 28, 2001 I had an urgent family medical issue. As

a result I missed rollcall votes Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21. Please excuse my absence from this vote. If I were present, I would have voted "yea" on each vote.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE CORPS

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, as a former Peace Corps volunteer, I am pleased to rise to speak in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

When President John F. Kennedy signed the Executive Order establishing the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, the response to this bold initiative was both swift and enthusiastic. Less than six months later, the first volunteers had accepted the challenge and left for their two year assignments overseas.

In 1966 and 1967, I myself served as a volunteer in Somalia. It was a meaningful experience for me, and it allowed me to see that Peace Corps volunteers are the best grassroots ambassadors the United States can have. The Peace Corps provides direct aid to ordinary people, and it is probably one of the most cost-effective forms of foreign aid that there is.

I am also pleased to say that the state of Wisconsin leads the Peace Corps' legacy of service. The University of Wisconsin-Madison is the nation's top producer of volunteers, with other 2,300 graduates having joined the Peace Corps and bringing their skills and talents to dozens of countries.

Now, as we observe the Peace Corps' 40th anniversary, it continues to capture the imagination of the American people. It has emerged as an international model of citizen service and of practical, grassroots assistance to people in developing countries.

Additionally, Peace Corps volunteers also make a difference at home by continuing their community service, and strengthening Americans' appreciation of other cultures. By visiting classrooms, working with community groups, and speaking with friends and family members, Peace Corps volunteers are helping others learn more about the world in which we live, and helping to build a legacy of service for the next generation.

Today's 7000 volunteers are somewhat different than the volunteers of the early years. The average age has risen from 22 to 28, the percentage of women has increased from 35 to 60, the number of volunteers with graduate degrees is growing.

But having said that, I believe today's volunteers still share a characteristic with their predecessors that is a cornerstone of Peace Corps service—a commitment to the spirit of volunteerism and service that President Kennedy first envisioned 40 years ago.

I salute the Peace Corps and the thousands of volunteers who have served, and I look forward to many more years for this organization which has truly made a difference around the world.