

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING PEPPERELL MIDDLE SCHOOL, ROME, GA, "34,288 CANS OF FOOD IN THE HALL"

### HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the main hall of Pepperell Middle School, located in the small community of Lindale, just outside the city of Rome, GA, has been lined with 1225 inch cardboard boxes stacked halfway to the ceiling for several weeks. The boxes were crammed with more than 34,000 cans of food; all donated by students for this year's local Salvation Army Can-a-Thon.

Sponsored by Atlanta NBC affiliate WXIA 11-Alive; Rome radio stations WRGA, Q-102, South 107; and the Forum, the Salvation Army Can-a-Thon accepts donations of canned, non-perishable food items in the Forum's main parking lot on a designated day in December.

On November 1st each year, students begin to solicit canned goods from family, friends, neighbors, and others. Last year, over 24,000 cans were collected by students at Pepperell Middle School. The goal for 2001 was set at 26,000 cans. Once they exceeded that total, a new goal was set at 30,000 cans. On the morning of Friday, December 7, a large Marine Corps truck made its way to Pepperell Middle School. Upon arrival, students loaded 34,288 cans of food onto the truck which was escorted by the local police, and two bus loads of students from the school, making its way to the Forum.

The annual holiday Can-a-Thon collected more than 70,000 cans from throughout the city and county. Approximately 700 baskets will be filled with canned goods and will be given to families in need. The food will also go toward providing daily meals for men, women, and children who seek shelter at the Salvation Army.

Pepperell Middle School principal Frank Pinson is justifiably and extremely proud of his students, saying, "this is a big deal thing to them, and it teaches them one of the greatest lessons they learn." The students work extremely hard, soliciting in many ways other than just going house to house. Some students donated their ice cream money; they held a dance and a talent show to raise money. The school has led the entire state in Can-a-Thon donations for 8 straight years.

Eight years ago, a tornado hit the Lindale community, destroying or damaging many homes, and leaving many families homeless. The Salvation Army was immediately there to assist those families. The students of Pepperell Middle School decided at that time to secure canned goods for those who experienced losses due to the storm. They found great satisfaction in helping those in need; and the tradition continues each year with the Can-a-Thon.

The principal, staff, faculty, students, their families, and, indeed, the entire community, are to be commended for their outstanding participation in this event. It is with great pride I recognize them today as true community leaders. I am honored to serve as their Representative in the U.S. Congress.

TRIBUTE TO MR. PETE AND LENA NEIN

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Pete and Lena Nein of Crook, Colorado, on their 70th Wedding Anniversary. In honor of this extraordinary occasion, I would like to convey to them my genuine congratulations.

Pete and Lena were married on January 3, 1932 in Sedgwick, Colorado, where they began their lives together. Mr. and Mrs. Nein moved to Crook, in 1934 where they rented 160 acres of land and began farming with horse-drawn equipment. Their first house, in which they lived for 42 years, had electricity installed in 1936. Indoor plumbing was not installed until 1940. Pete and Lena have witnessed and experienced extraordinary events including the Dust Bowl, Great Depression, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, fall of the Soviet Union and now, the war against terrorism. Throughout this time period they have devoted their lives to agricultural production and determined community service. Pete was the president of the Crook Volunteer Fire Department for 27 years and Lena was the organist and pianist in a Crook church for over 45 years. The Neins serve as a shining example, not only for their community, but for all Americans.

As a husband and father of five, I have come to adore the example of a strong marriage and loving children. Pete and Lena started their lives together humbly, working hard to build a happy and successful life together. My admiration for them, and the fortitude and commitment they have demonstrated is deep. Through the good times and the bad, Pete and Lena's love has forged a seemingly unbreakable bond.

Pete and Lena Nein are amazing role models. As a Member of Congress, it is my honor to congratulate both Pete and Lena on their anniversary. Pete and Lena let nothing stand between their unceasing love for one another on their glorious day. I ask the House to join me in extending wholehearted congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Pete Nein.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE

### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in recognition of the City of Gainesville, Texas, which has recently instituted the Medal of Honor Host City Program. This program, unique in the nation, will provide a stipend to cover lodging, food and some travel expenses to Medal of Honor recipients visiting the City of Gainesville.

The Medal of Honor Host City Program seeks both to honor the 149 living Medal of Honor recipients and to expose the citizens of Gainesville—especially its youth—to true American heroes. The local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1922, and community leaders, initiated the project to help recognize these men of valor and to give the citizens of Gainesville the chance to hear, first-hand, their amazing stories.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society announced the project to its members at its October annual reunion. Two Medal of Honor recipients visited Gainesville on Veterans Day.

This program was organized before the tragedies of September 11, but in light of recent events, projects like the Gainesville Medal of Honor Host City Program highlight the sacrifice, patriotism and sense of duty that have been a foundation of our great nation. Our Medal of Honor recipients are living examples of those values and are the best messengers to tell the price of freedom. While in Gainesville, these extraordinary individuals will meet with school classes, speak to civic groups and others who would like to hear about their experiences. It gives the honorees a forum for their thoughts and gives Gainesville the chance to thank them for all that they have done for their country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Mayor Kenneth Kaden for his leadership in promoting this project. It is an honor to recognize such a unique and special program—the Medal of Honor Host City Program—and I look forward to seeing it succeed in Gainesville.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district during the following roll-call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below. Rollcall No. 499: Yes; 500: Yes.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.