

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD CLASSEN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Howard Classen as he celebrates the end of his tenure at the Natividad Medical Center in Monterey, California. Mr. Classen retired from his position as Chief Executive Officer last month, and will be honored by his colleagues, friends and admirers in a dinner on Sunday, March 11, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join these people in saluting Mr. Classen's enormous contributions to the Monterey community. Natividad Medical Center is Monterey County's public hospital, and its obligation to both serve the residents of the county and continually restructure its caregiving operation has proved a daunting challenge to all involved in its operation. Mr. Classen, however, has embraced the recent changes in medical care and administration, and in the process has strengthened Natividad's scope and presence in the Monterey Bay area.

Howard Classen was raised in Chicago, Illinois, and obtained his Master's Degree in Hospital Administration at Cornell University in New York. Before coming to Natividad, he worked in a number of acute care hospital administration positions, including chief executive officer positions with National Medical Enterprises, Inc., and San Mateo General Hospital in San Mateo, California. Mr. Classen has also been active on State committees in California regarding the issues that have arisen with the changes in Medicaid, which is known as Medi-Cal in our State. He has also consulted on major managed-care plans and has been involved in the design, financing and construction of several major hospital projects.

One of the many projects in which Mr. Classen was instrumental was the remodeling and modernization of the Natividad Medical Center and its facilities in 1998. This state-of-the-art facility will no doubt continue to facilitate treatment well into the 21st Century, and much of the credit for this goes to Howard.

Beyond the scope of large projects such as this, Mr. Classen has also shown his dedication to the day-to-day operation of Natividad Medical Center. He is truly committed to the Center's mission of providing high-quality, cost-effective healthcare to all residents of Monterey County, and has worked hard to reach out and collaborate with others on major projects and minor details.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that we have lost an inspirational member of the Monterey County healthcare profession with Mr. Classen's retirement. I am sure that I speak for many when I say that his tireless work will not soon be forgotten, and we are all thankful. I would like to personally wish him well in this new

stage of his life, and hope that he continues to be a presence in the Monterey Peninsula healthcare community.

TUNISIA'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2001

Mr. HILLIARD Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to congratulate the Republic of Tunisia on its 45th anniversary of independence, to be celebrated on Tuesday, March 20, 2001. I invite my colleagues to join in extending our congratulations to the people and leaders of this important friend in Africa.

The Republic of Tunisia has been and continues to be a model of economic growth. Moreover, Tunisia has been at the forefront of normalization with Israel as the Middle East peace process develops.

Today, Tunisia maintains a more stable democratic system of government, and a steadily increasing middle class. The country continues to make every effort to broaden its political debate.

We should be proud to recognize our friendship with Tunisia, which spans more than 200 years. The U.S. was the first great power to recognize Tunisia's independence in 1956, and in keeping with that tradition, I congratulate the Republic of Tunisia and urge my colleagues to do the same.

IN HONOR OF FALLEN ELKHART POLICE OFFICER

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2001

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Patrolman Douglas Michael Adams of the Elkhart, Indiana Police Department, who died last week in a tragic automobile accident while on duty.

Officer Adams was killed in Elkhart when his patrol car was involved in a collision while he was responding to a call for assistance from another officer. His tragic death reminds us once again of the great personal risks which our nation's law enforcement officers take every day, and the sacrifices which they and their families often make in the line of duty.

All too often we take our police officers for granted. We forget that behind their badges are human beings who put themselves and their families at great risk every day in order to serve their communities. The thin blue line which protects society from criminals is even more fragile when it comes to the police offi-

cers themselves. Surely, we owe our nation's law enforcement officials a great debt of gratitude for the courage and dedication they display every day.

Patrolman Adams was an outstanding officer. In fact, he was described by Elkhart Police Sgt. Brett Coppins as "the best officer he had ever trained." Officer Adams grew up in Florida and moved to Elkhart in 1995. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he graduated from the Indiana Police Academy in 2000. Although he had been on the Elkhart police force for less than a year, he had already established himself as one of the most respected and effective officers in the department.

Officer Adams will be missed by his family, his colleagues in the Elkhart Police Department, and the entire Elkhart community. My sympathies and prayers go out to his wife Janet and the entire Adams family.

HAZLETON BPW CELEBRATES 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to pay tribute to the Greater Hazleton Business and Professional Women's Club, which will hold a celebration of its 80th anniversary on April 22.

The Hazleton BPW was chartered on February 21, 1921. To put that in historical context, that was just six months and three days after ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed women's right to vote nationwide. The membership of 40 professional women, led by President Alma Gorby, met at the Pricilla Tea Room on South Wyoming Street in Hazleton and paid two dollars each in dues to the national federation. They began right away to make a difference, and that tradition has continued for 80 years.

They gave of their time to sponsor young women in the professions. They donated more than \$50,000 in war bonds, while also sponsoring Chinese nursing programs, donating blood, rolling bandages and helping countless infants and women during the war years. They also attended state and national BPW conventions. They did all these things hoping to make a difference, and they certainly have.

With the help of the BPW members in Hazleton and across the state, the Pennsylvania Federation of Business and Professional Women has established a scholarship program as well as other free educational assistance programs for women. The Pennsylvania BPW also helps women affected by disasters, annually honors women who have achieved prominent elected and appointed positions, sponsors a public speaking program to aid

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