

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO GRACE ANN MURPHY

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2001

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, after 42 years of government service, the last 28 of which was with my office, Grace Ann Murphy has earned a well-deserved retirement. Grace began her government career at the Navy Department, followed by employment at NASA. In 1970, she came to Capitol Hill to work for Rep. Frank Bow, my predecessor in Congress.

When I came to the House in 1973, I was pleased to have Grace continue her service to the constituents of the 16th district. She is well known to residents of the 16th district having advised them on traveling to our Nation's capital, helping to set tours of the Capitol and the White House, and responding to a myriad of constituent requests.

With her vast knowledge of how the Hill works, Grace's skills were particularly appreciated during office moves and Presidential Inaugurations, both events having taken place recently. Grace is extremely knowledgeable about Washington, DC, as she was born and raised here where she graduated from Anacostia High School. She spends her spare time keeping track of all of her fellow classmates for class reunions.

My staff, my constituents, and I will miss Grace not only for her many outstanding contributions in helping to keep our office running smoothly, but especially for the way she made the various holidays special with the appropriate decorations and foodstuffs. We wish her well in her retirement as it is richly deserved.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRANK DOMINGUEZ

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frank Dominguez for his committed service to the community of Elizabeth, NJ, and for his extraordinary business achievements.

Frank Dominguez is president and CEO of Imperial Construction Group, Inc., one of the fastest growing construction firms in the country. From 1996 to 1999, sales increased from \$6.4 million to over \$21 million. This year, Imperial stands to earn revenues exceeding \$30 million. Hispanic Business Magazine ranked Imperial as one of the 100 fastest growing Hispanic-owned companies in the United States. The company has over 70 employees who provide construction and design services for private corporations and government agencies.

Many associations have recognized Mr. Dominguez for his outstanding business achievements. In 1993, he received the "Contractor of the Year" Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey. In addition, the U.S. Small Business Administration has honored him four times in the last 8 years.

In the past 3 years alone, Imperial has awarded over \$14 million in subcontracts to numerous small businesses in the State. Mr. Dominguez's dedication and commitment in assisting other small businesses speaks volumes about his character.

Frank Dominguez resides in Warren Township, NJ, with his wife and their two children Anthony and Mark.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Frank Dominguez for his hard work and for his years of service to the State of New Jersey, where he has helped build houses, develop and revitalize communities, and change lives for the better.

THE RETIREMENT OF CELIA DOLLARHIDE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as all federal agencies are keenly aware, the government is losing many valued employees to retirement. Among them, one stands out for her dedication and commitment—Mrs. Celia Dollarhide, Director of Education Service at the Department of Veterans Affairs, who retired on May 3.

Most veterans don't know Celia Dollarhide by name. Her leadership in setting policy, working with Congress, and ensuring that education benefits are paid has been felt by the hundreds of thousands of veterans and their survivors who received an education under one of the three GI Bills during her tenure.

Celia Dollarhide has devoted her working life to federal service. After taking the federal entrance exam, Celia was highly sought by many federal agencies. Fortunately for veterans, she settled on the Veterans Administration. In 1966, Celia began her career as a claims examiner at the Chicago Regional Office, and in 1972 moved to Washington, DC, to work as an Education Specialist. By 1975, Celia was the Chief of the Program Administration Division in the Education Service. After various management positions within the Veterans Benefits Administration, she became the Deputy Director of the Education Service and in 1994, then-Secretary Jesse Brown promoted her meritoriously to the Senior Executive Service. Celia has served the last six years as Director of Education Service.

Throughout her career, Celia has received numerous awards and professional recognition

due to her advocacy and leadership on behalf of veterans and their survivors. It is her core belief—that veterans could achieve so much more with an education—that has driven her to succeed at every turn. There is no way to count the number of people whose lives Celia has affected, and I wouldn't even begin to try.

Mr. Speaker, Celia Dollarhide has met the highest standards to which civil servants can aspire. On behalf of the VA Committee and our staff, I say thank you to this remarkable professional.

RETIREMENT OF CELIA DOLLARHIDE

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, last week marked the retirement of Celia Dollarhide, longtime Director of the Education Service for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Like most people, I don't like telling friends goodbye. And Celia has been an incredibly helpful friend to me and to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs over the years. Most importantly however, Celia has been an unwavering friend to the men and women who have served our Nation in uniform.

Mrs. Dollarhide has served veterans faithfully for almost 35 years, all of which have been with VA's Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). She has achieved a remarkable record of accomplishment in the education program. From processing individual education claims for veterans to managing the administration of entire benefit structures, Mrs. Dollarhide's career has been devoted over time to three different GI Bill programs. Prior to her management role at VBA, she began her career at the Chicago Regional Office in 1966 as a Veterans Claims Examiner. She then became an Education Specialist when she moved to Washington, DC in 1972.

From 1975 to 1980, Mrs. Dollarhide served as Chief of the Education Service's Program Administration Division. Throughout the 1980's, she assumed the roles of Administrative Officer for VA's Central Region and Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief Benefits Director for Program Management. She returned to the Education Service in 1990 as its Deputy Director. In 1994 our former Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jesse Brown, had the wisdom to bring Mrs. Dollarhide into the Senior Executive Service. Since that time, she has excelled in her role as Director of the Education Service.

Above all else, Celia Dollarhide has always believed in the power of higher education. As a major proponent of enhanced education benefits for veterans and as a caring administrator, her career stands as a testament to the notion of individual empowerment. Her life's

● 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.

work has focused on empowering the brave men and women who defend this country to become more and achieve more than they ever could have without education.

The VA education benefits that Mrs. Dollarhide has so masterfully administered have helped countless thousands of veterans and servicemembers to make their dreams a reality. I can say this from experience, as I myself have directly benefited from VA education benefits under the GI Bill program. In this regard, I want to personally thank my friend Celia—for her tireless energy, for her unwavering advocacy efforts and for her leadership.

At VA, Mrs. Dollarhide has spent her working days seated behind the large lawyer's desk that used to belong to her late husband, Charles "Lew" Dollarhide. Mr. Dollarhide also served as VA's Director of the Education Service from 1980 to 1986. Mrs. Dollarhide's service and that of her husband have been an exemplary contribution to public service by two remarkable people. For the betterment of veterans and their families, Celia Dollarhide leaves behind an outstanding record of achievement at VA and for this we are all grateful. Thank you, Mrs. Dollarhide, and best regards to you in your well deserved retirement.

NO ESCAPE, NO MORE TO GIVE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to a poignant and powerful article about the increasing violence we are witnessing in Israel. The author of the article, Sherri Lederman Mandell, is the mother of one of the two teenage boys who was found stoned to death in a cave last week. Her words provide us with an insightful look into the lives of Israelis living on the front lines of the violence in Israel.

We must not lose sight of the human element of the issues which we debate. The decisions we are trusted to make impact the lives of real people, a fact too often forgotten. This is especially true for the current violence in Israel, where personal testimonies are often drowned out by pools of rhetoric and propaganda. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that innocent Israelis are forced to live lives full of fear of violence and terror. Confined to their homes by the violence that surrounds them, these brave people hold out hope that peace will occur one day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this entire article "No Escape, No More to Give" by Sherri Lederman Mandell, and published in the May 14th edition of the Washington Post be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I urge my colleagues to carefully consider the tragic human suffering that persists in the Middle East and which the author describes so vividly in this excellent article.

[From the Washington Post, May 14, 2001]

NO ESCAPE, NO MORE TO GIVE
(By Sherri Lederman Mandell)

We want to stop listening to the news and watching TV. It is so unbearable that we

have reached the point of saturation; no more—no more listening to reports about our children, our soldiers, our husbands, our mothers, our fathers dead, maimed, dying, lost, suffering.

My friend Leah this morning had to pay a mourning visit to a friend whose husband died on Friday. He was on his way from Neve Yaakov, home to Beit Shemesh, and was found in the trunk of his car, dead. It's not clear whether the killing was criminal or terrorist. The astonishing thing is that we talk about this story and feel as though the world is lost. Then, 10 minutes later we're talking about our diets. Everyone I know is on a diet. Why? Because our weight is all we can control.

I am cleaning house, something I generally don't do. Each corner has to be swept, each bed needs to be made. It is a way of feeling that I can cope. My house is clean and in order, so the world is good.

My friend Shira who is a former SDS member, a feminist and now a therapeutic masseuse, has been reading romance novels—for the first time in her life. She also is decorating the walls of her house with shell sculptures that she fastens with concrete glue. She is busy designing waves and a sun. She is building a life of freedom within the confines of her four walls, the only place she feels safe nowadays.

Suddenly, everyone is home for Independence Day. The only picnic is one that is close by, one that we don't have to drive to with our whole family in the car. We say a special prayer in the synagogue on Friday for Linda and Bobby who were shot at on the tunnel road—shots were fired over their car, the road was closed and they turned around and went back, unhurt.

This is our freedom and independence in our own country. During Holocaust Day, you could hear the sounds of gunfire and tank fire from Gilo and Bethlehem as the prime minister made his speech at Yad Vashem praising Israel as the land where the Jews are free to defend themselves.

On Independence Day, my daughter read the names of 12 people from our area who were killed in the most recent battles. This is not Holocaust Day; this is not some distant battle. This is the battle of today.

We can try to deny it, but we can't escape it—a battle is raging around us. No matter how much we don't want to listen, we lie in bed and hear the shooting.

There is no way not to listen. But what is the message we are supposed to hear? It's not clear anymore. We want peace, but peace is a word that is not the absence of war. Peace has to have value in itself. We have been dreaming about peace. But we have been dreaming with our eyes closed.

Now our eyes are open. We can't escape the sounds of battle. And what is most alarming is this: The battle is a result of giving everything we could. To give more, makes no sense.

The writer's 13-year-old son, Koby, was stoned to death in a cave in Israel last week; she wrote this piece before her son's death, and it is published now with her permission.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE WILLIAMS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, and I am

proud to recognize Joyce Williams in the Congress for her invaluable contributions and service to our nation.

Joyce comes from the small town of Bono, Arkansas, but her resume shows that she has not had a small town life. In the first place, she is one of the best-educated people I know, having attended Arkansas State University, the Graduate Institute of Politics, Jonesboro Business College, John Robert Powers Modeling School, and of course, Bono High School.

Right now she and her husband Jim—who also is a wonderful friend—operate Williams & Associates Management Consultants, but I came to know her when she worked for me after I was elected in Congress. In total Joyce spent 22 years employed with the U.S. House of Representatives, and her experience in the offices of my predecessors was crucial as I learned how to represent the First Congressional District of Arkansas. Before working for our institution, Joyce had jobs in industry with General Electric and A.D.T., as well as in the bookkeeping trade and sales.

In addition to these professional responsibilities, Joyce somehow found time to be the Governor of Altrusa International, and hold memberships in the Altrusa Club of Jonesboro, the Order of the Eastern Star, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, the Girl Scout Council, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Arkansas Democratic Women, the Craighead County Democratic Women, the Craighead County Election Commission, the Walnut Street Baptist Church.

Joyce is a devoted mother to her daughter Teresa Jo—now Mrs. Michael Watkins—and spends a great deal of time with her grandchildren Seth and Sarah Watkins, and she is a devoted daughter to her own mother.

I am proud to recognize Joyce Williams for everything she has done to help me and the residents of the communities that have been lucky enough to count her as a member. Today I want to express my appreciation on behalf of those people, and on behalf of the citizens of this nation.

PHIL KENT, PRESIDENT, SOUTH-EASTERN LEGAL FOUNDATION

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, those who would argue that a successful career in the news media and sensible conservative views are mutually exclusive traits have obviously never met Phil Kent.

Phil's service to his country began with duty as a military police officer in the United States Army, and as press secretary to Senator STROM THURMOND. After finishing his tenure in Washington, Phil returned to Georgia where he began a job as opinion page editor for the Augusta Chronicle.

His work at the Chronicle brought him widespread recognition and honors. Even his liberal opponents will admit, Phil's written work was always well-researched, well-written, and interesting to read.