

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO ALICE HOEPPNER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career has come to an end. Mrs. Alice Hoepfner, of Lexington, MO, retired on December 31, 2005, from her position as deputy county clerk for Lafayette County.

Mrs. Hoepfner first entered public service while she was attending Lexington High School, Lexington, MO. On July 12, 1948, she began working for the probate court in the Lafayette County Courthouse. Later she joined the County Clerk's office on a part-time basis.

In 1950, Alice married Bennie Hoepfner, and in 1951, she resigned her job to raise her children, Patricia, Steve and Tony.

In September 1974, then-Lafayette County Clerk Edgar Oetting asked her to work for him full-time as the deputy county clerk. She remained full-time, also serving under County Clerk Linda Nolting and under the current County Clerk, Linda Niendick.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Alice Hoepfner has dedicated herself to serving Lafayette County. I know the Members of the House will join me in wishing her all the best as she moves on to the next step in her life.

HONORING SERGEANT JEREMIAH BOEHMER

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of SGT Jeremiah Boehmer, who died February 5, 2006, while serving in Iraq.

Every Member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, SGT Jeremiah Boehmer lived that commitment to our country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Jeremiah's compassion and service. Jeremiah, who represented the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the military continues to inspire all those who knew him and many who did not. Our Nation and the State of South Dakota are far better places because of his service, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his devotion to our country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of SGT Jeremiah Boehmer. His commitment to and sacrifice for our Nation will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO ODELL BARRY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize a Coloradan who has made a substantial impact on our State while serving as a role model for achievement in the African-American community. I am proud to acknowledge the accomplishments of Mr. Odell Barry and to congratulate him on his recent election to the Ford-Warren Library's "Blacks in Colorado" Hall of Fame. It is a well-bestowed honor, and befitting the life and works of a wonderful man.

Originally from Ohio, Odell Barry began his Colorado experience in a way that ensures the admiration and affection of many of our residents—as a Denver Bronco. Playing in 1964 and 1965, he still holds a place in the Broncos' record books with the second-most kickoff return yards in a season. Mr. Barry's athletic accomplishments are the envy of many, and I am sure he will not mind my saying that I am old enough to recall them.

After his retirement from professional football, Odell involved himself heavily in the civic affairs of Northglenn, CO, a community in my district. He built a successful business with his wife, Glenda, and raised his family. These years were a preamble to his historic 1980 election as the first African-American mayor of Northglenn and the second African-American mayor of a major metropolitan city—after Mayor Penfield Tate of Boulder—in Colorado. As mayor of Northglenn, Odell Barry helped to steer the city through major commercial and economic growth at a difficult time in the history of Colorado's economy. His open and warm-hearted style won many admirers and he was particularly committed to improving recreational opportunities for young people. He was instrumental in advocating transportation improvements, including construction of the new Denver International Airport.

Odell was the first African-American citizen to become a charter member of Rotary International, the first African-American citizen to become president of the Colorado Civil Defense Association, the chair of the Colorado Economic Development Commission, and a crucial advocate for building, and bringing a professional baseball team, the Colorado Rockies, to Colorado.

I have no doubt that Odell and Glenda will continue to accomplish great things, serving as role models for Americans of all ages and colors. In recognition of his latest achievement

and for his already secure place in Colorado history, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Odell Barry and congratulating him on becoming the newest addition to the Ford-Warren Library's esteemed "Blacks in Colorado" Hall of Fame.

RECALLING THE TRAGIC DAY OF FEBRUARY 24, 1996

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on February 24th the Cuban people commemorate a glorious and tragic date in the history of Cuba. The 1895 war of independence began exactly 111 years ago; the Cry of Baire constitutes one of the most heroic acts of the Cuban people. Intimately connected with this date is the heroism of Marti, Gomez, Maceo, Banderas, and the thousands of freedom fighters known as mambises who shall forever ennoble the Cuban nationality.

Tragically, February 24th will also be forever connected with the murders which took place on that date ten years ago. The Cuban tyrant, ultimately insulted by the courage demonstrated by the Brothers to the Rescue when they dropped pamphlets and other pieces of paper over Havana with pro-democracy slogans and copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ordered the murder of the men and women who were going to fly on February 24th in civilian planes carrying out humanitarian missions for Brothers to the Rescue.

The Cuban tyrant prepared his murders well. An agent of his by the name of Roque, who had occasionally flown for the Brothers to the Rescue organization, was ordered to return the day before to Cuba. Roque was going to publicly declare after the murders of February 24th that he was a survivor from the mission and that the humanitarian group's planes were taking arms to "Concilio Cubano", a coalition of dissident organizations inside Cuba which had announced its intention to host a public meeting in Havana on February 24th and whose membership was brutally repressed by the dictatorship. Roque would also announce that the planes had been shot down over Cuban waters.

We all know that Pablo Morales, Armando Alejandro Jr., Mario de la Peña, and Carlos Costa were brutally murdered on February 24, 1996. I am sure that those four martyrs of freedom, peace, and patriotism will be duly memorialized in the democratic Cuba of tomorrow, as they are in South Florida today.

The intervention of destiny saved the third Brothers to the Rescue plane which flew on February 24, 1996. That intervention of the impendable made it possible for the world and

● 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.

for history to know that the planes were shot down over international waters, while engaged in a peaceful and humanitarian mission.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember the four martyrs from the Brothers to the Rescue, let us remember all the political prisoners, and let us remember the countless men and women who have given their best years, and often their lives, for the freedom of Cuba. My colleagues, this February 24th, we must recommit ourselves to the cause of freedom and liberty for all who languish in the darkness of totalitarianism. My Colleagues, we must recommit ourselves to hastening the dawn of a free and democratic Cuba.

IN MEMORY OF THE MOST REVEREND BISHOP MICHAEL F. MCAULIFFE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of the Most Reverend Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe of Jefferson City, MO.

McAuliffe was born on November 22, 1920, in Kansas City, Kansas, son of John and Bridget McAuliffe. His education included the St. John High School Seminary in Kansas City, St Louis' Preparatory Seminary and the Theological College of Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. On May 31, 1945, he was ordained a priest. In 1954, he earned a doctorate in Sacred Theology.

He served many parishes and education assignments. One of these assignments was superintendent of the diocesan schools in the Kansas City area. On July 2, 1969, Pope Paul VI appointed McAuliffe as the second Bishop of Jefferson City. He served in this position for 28 years. During his tenure, he had an active interest in parochial education. Approximately 13 years ago, he started the Diocesan Excellence in Education Fund.

McAuliffe retired in 1995, at age 75, but remained the bishop until Pope John Paul II appointed the current bishop in 1997.

Mr. Speaker, the Most Reverend Bishop Michael McAuliffe was a valuable leader in both the church and his community. I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his friends and family.

HONORING SPECIALIST ALLEN KOKESH, JR.

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of SPC Allen Kokesh Jr., who died February 7, 2006, from wounds suffered while serving in Iraq.

Every member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the constitution against all enemies, foreign and

domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, SPC Allen Kokesh Jr., lived that commitment to our Country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Allen's compassion and service. Allen, who represented the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the military continues to inspire all those who knew him and many who did not. Our Nation and the State of South Dakota are far better places because of his service, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his devotion to our Country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of SPC Allen Kokesh Jr. His commitment to and sacrifice for our Nation will never be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO CAL FRAZIER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Mr. Cal Frazier, a great Coloradan who passed away on January 30, 2006, at his home in Lakewood, CO. He will be missed by friends and loved ones, and his leadership in civic affairs and education will be missed as well.

Orphaned as a teenager, Cal Frazier studied at Palmer High School in Colorado Springs and earned a scholarship to the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. There he met his future wife, Jean H. Frazier, and upon graduation became an elementary school teacher. This was the beginning of a long and illustrious career in the education system. While still in Washington, Cal taught high school, became a principal, a special education director, and earned his masters and doctoral degrees in education.

After his stint in Washington, Colorado was fortunate to have him back. Cal began to teach in yet another capacity at the University of Colorado—Boulder, giving him experience in virtually all levels of our education system. In 1973, with all of his hard-earned expertise and credibility, he was appointed to serve as the commissioner of the Colorado Department of Education, beginning a 15-year term of service. Even after his official retirement, Cal continued to serve on boards and commissions devoting his life toward improving the education system.

Those who knew Cal Frazier have fond memories of his remarkable impact on the education system. He was a role model and a leader on many levels. Beyond his many accomplishments in life, Cal Frazier taught Coloradans through his deeds as well as his words. He will be remembered as someone who did not need to be in the front of a classroom to be a teacher.

I had the opportunity to work with Cal briefly on the "Education to Elevate Colorado's Economy (E3) Summit" last fall. I was struck imme-

diately by his thoughtfulness, wisdom and humor. Given the critical importance of addressing the needs of our Colorado education community, I was heartened to know that people like Cal were at the helm.

If the measure of a life well-led is the impact that a person has on others, then Cal's impact is broad and deep. We all owe him a debt of gratitude and respect, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and remembering a life of service while expressing our deepest sympathies for his family's loss.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN SENDS NEW YEAR GREETINGS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, last month the Council of Khalistan sent out New Year's greetings to the Sikh Nation. In the letter the Council noted that the flame of freedom still burns brightly in Punjab, Khalistan, despite India's ongoing effort to stamp out the freedom movement. In both January and June of 2005, Sikhs were arrested for making speeches in support of freedom Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, and raising the Khalistani flag. When did making speeches and hoisting a flag become crimes in a democracy?

The letter took note of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's apology to the Sikh Nation for the massacres of November 1984 that killed over 20,000 Sikhs. This clearly admits India's culpability for this horrible massacre. While that apology is a positive step and we applaud it, it was not accompanied by any compensation to the victims' families. Nor was it accompanied by an apology for the military attack on the Golden Temple or any other Indian government atrocity against the Sikhs. Nevertheless, it shows India's awareness of the rising tide of freedom in Punjab, Khalistan.

Last month, the Indian government bulldozed the homes of Sikh farmers in Uttaranchal Pradesh, farms they had worked all their lives for, and expelled them from the state. This is the height of discrimination against the Sikhs. No Sikhs are allowed to own land in Rajasthan and in Himachal Pradesh, but outsiders are allowed to buy land in Punjab. The government encourages Hindus to buy land in Punjab. Is this secularism in action? Is this democracy at work?

Mr. Speaker, these are just the latest acts against the legitimate freedom movement in Punjab, Khalistan. The repression has been ongoing. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights groups. In addition, the Movement Against State Repression, MASR—an organization that should be unnecessary in a democratic state—reported in one of its studies that the Indian government admitted to holding 52,268 Sikh political prisoners. Some have been held since 1984! These are in addition to tens of thousands of other political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. And the Indian government has killed over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and