

his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF THE LATE AUSTIN J. "SONNY" SHELTON

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of the late Austin J. "Sonny" Shelton, who passed away on September 7, 2008, after a long illness. Sonny was 59 years of age. Sonny was a member of the 19th Guam Legislature, from 1987 to 1989, where he served as the chairman of the Committee on Rules, vice chairman of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Consumer Protection, secretary general to the Asian Pacific Parliamentarian's Union and as a member of the Association of Pacific Island Legislators.

In 1995, Sonny was appointed as the director of the Government of Guam's Department of Parks and Recreation and as the Guam Public Auditor from 1999 to 2000. In 2001 he served as the acting director of the Department of Administration.

After graduating from Father Duenas Memorial High School in 1967, attending the University of Guam and Texas State Technical Institute, Sonny returned to Guam and joined Shelton Music Company, his family's business. He later established AJS Incorporated and expanded his business interests to include other vending machines, amusement devices and real estate.

Sonny Shelton was a civic minded individual who devoted much time to community organizations including the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Guam Shrine Club, Aloha Temple. He was a volunteer for the University of Guam's 4-H Summer Youth Fishing Program. He served as president of the Father Duenas Memorial School's Football Booster Club. He was active in his church where he served as a brother of the 2nd Community of the Neo-Catechumenal Way of Nino Perdido Catholic Parish in Asan.

Sonny was an avid fisherman who participated in many deep sea fishing events and his love of outdoor sports extended to off-road racing where he enjoyed success as a driver.

Austin J. "Sonny" Shelton was the only child of the late Austin James Shelton, a successful Guam entrepreneur and Amanda Pangelinan Guzman Shelton, a professional nurse. He is survived by his widow, Graciella Shinohara Shelton, his children, and their spouses, Raymond and Melinda Shelton Slatery; Madeleine Shelton, Austin Shelton II, and Amanda Shelton; and his grandchildren Trinidad, Kaya, Mariana, Raymond and Gabryelle. He is dearly missed by his family and friends, and our community extends our sympathy to them.

HONORING COLTON R. ZIRKLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize, Colton R. Zirkle a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Colton has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Colton has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Colton R. Zirkle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present in the Capitol on Monday, September 15, 2008, and was unable to cast votes on the House floor that evening.

However, had I been present I would have voted yea on H. Res. 1200—Honoring the dedication and outstanding work of military support groups across the country for their steadfast support of the members of our Armed Forces and their families; yea on H. Con. Res. 390—Honoring the 28th Infantry Division for serving and protecting the United States; and yea on H.R. 6889—To extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to ensure continued access to Federal student loans, for 1 year.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF GLADYS CANNON

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and lifelong Democrat, Gladys Cannon, who passed away on September 8, 2008, at her home in West Covina, California. Gladys was a beloved wife, mother, friend, activist, and community leader who will be missed by her peers and the beloved community she devoted her life to serving. I am proud to have called Gladys my friend and I join her husband Frank and her family in mourning her passing.

Throughout her life, Gladys never failed to become involved in helping her community. She had the heart of an activist and the soul

of a fighter and she never failed to fight for progressive values. She was a proud member of the Teamsters Union and an active and ardent Democrat. She worked hard to ensure that working families would have their voices heard. Our community will be forever grateful for Gladys's civic activism and volunteerism.

In addition to being a community activist, Gladys was an avid sports fan who always looked forward to March Madness and rooting for USC, the Los Angeles Lakers, the Los Angeles Dodgers, and the Green Bay Packers. Gladys also loved to travel. Her fondest memories were of cruises to Alaska and trips to England and Ireland. Gladys loved to live life and she always did so with a cunning smile and fighting spirit. Gladys will always be remembered and missed for the special joy she brought us all.

Gladys will be remembered for her lifetime dedication to her community and fighting spirit. She was a heartfelt champion of women and working families. I extend my sympathy to Gladys's family in this difficult time, and especially to her beloved husband Frank Cannon whom she greatly loved. Gladys will be dearly missed.

CONGRATULATING COLBY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Colby College Museum of Art for being accredited by the American Association of Museums, AAM. Accredited since 1995, and re-accredited recently, the museum joins 10 other museums from Maine and 775 nationwide to receive this honor. Accreditation recognizes the Colby College museum's commitment to public service, professional standards, and excellence in education.

The Colby College Museum of Art is a powerful community presence and leader in communicating the value and importance of art. The museum is more than just a collection of great works of art; it is also an incredible educational resource for the state of Maine. It offers hands-on workshops, morning story times for children and various lectures from faculty at Colby, visiting speakers, and student docents.

The Colby College Museum of Art extends its reach far beyond the Colby College campus, sharing its astounding collection with community members of all ages and providing a place for study for faculty and students. I have no doubt that the museum will continue this mission of service and education well into the future, and congratulate the museum once again on this deserved accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

HONORING ALEXANDER J.
EICHSTADT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize, Alexander J. Eichstadt, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1138, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander J. Eichstadt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO MARY JO SHARPE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Jo Sharpe, a shining example of a true lady, in my hometown of Somerset, Kentucky. Sadly, Mary Jo passed away on July 8, 2008, at the age of 76.

Mary Jo and her husband of 58 years, Jim Sharpe, are lifelong residents of Pulaski County, Kentucky. Together, they were one of the most thriving and generous entrepreneurial couples that Southern Kentucky has ever seen. Through hard work during their life together they started and operated numerous successful business ventures. They led a distinguished career in grocery and food retail business, automobile dealerships, marinas, restaurants, and most notably the houseboat industry where Jim and Mary Jo are recognized as the pioneers of the industry.

As successful as Mary Jo and Jim were in their business life, their real sense of pride and love was found in their family. They raised four children and nine grandchildren. Mary Jo, or "Mim" as her grandchildren call her, was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and the rock of the family. She was the heart, soul and guiding light helping to lead her children and grandchildren through the trials and tribulations of life. "Mim" was the eternal optimist always giving encouraging advice and making those around her a better person.

Mary Jo's other great love was for her church, First Baptist Church of Somerset. Jim and Mary Jo were married at First Baptist Church on April 4th, 1950. She was a lifelong member and taught the junior and senior girls Sunday school class. Mary Jo was instrumental in the construction of the new sanctuary for the church and was also the "Happy Birthday Voice" for First Baptist's outreach program.

In addition to raising her family and church duties, Mary Jo found time to be president of the local PTA and contribute in various ways to the educational system throughout her life. She also loved to sing and did so on local radio stations and at numerous weddings and funerals.

Mary Jo Sharpe was a graceful, friendly, caring, patriotic, beautiful woman. She believed that "positive things happen to positive people". Mary Jo was a Christian woman and an angel on earth and she is now basking in the glory of her Savior.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Mary Jo Sharpe. She will be sorely missed, but her legacy and character will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of her loving family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker unfortunately last night, September 15, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 1200, H. Con. Res. 390, and H.R. 6889, and wish the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 589 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1200, honoring the dedication and outstanding work of military support groups across the country for their steadfast support of the members of our Armed Forces and their families, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 590 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 390, honoring the 28th Infantry Division for serving and protecting the United States, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 591 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6889, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to purchase guaranteed student loans for an additional year, and for other purposes, I would have voted "aye."

IN RECOGNIZING OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAVAL AIR STATION WHITING FIELD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 65th anniversary of Naval Air Station, NAS, Whiting Field. The anniversary was quietly marked by a simple cake-cutting ceremony attended by over 100 northwest Florida dignitaries, Navy and Marine Corps League representatives, military personnel, Government civilians, and other base employees on July 16, 2008. This ceremony celebrated a long-lasting friendship between the base and surrounding community and served to further forge their wonderful relationship for

many years to come. A much larger, formal ceremony will be held on October 25, 2008.

According to historian and U.S. Navy Retired CDR Doug Seigfried, the 65-year-old NAS Whiting Field is the busiest field in the Training Command and home to Training Wing Five's three T-34C primary/intermediate maritime prop squadrons, two TH-57B/C Sea Ranger helicopter training squadrons and the helicopter and fixed-wing instructor instructional units. Eighty-three percent of all student Naval aviators conduct a portion of their initial flight training at Whiting, which averages over 350 flights a day.

Construction began on the largest of Pensacola's auxiliary fields in early 1943 and was completed in November. The new field, located 35 miles northeast of Pensacola and 6 miles north of Milton, was planned to incorporate two individual fields about a mile from one another with base facilities located between them. Both Whiting's North and South Fields featured four 6,000-foot runways, a large parking mat and two big red-brick hangars. Despite the fact that construction was not yet complete and assigned personnel were temporarily living in tents, the field was officially dedicated by RADM George D. Murray, commandant of the Naval Air Training Center, Pensacola, on July 16, 1943. In attendance at the ceremony was the recent widow of Captain Kenneth Whiting, Naval Aviator Number 16, for whom the field was named.

Fifteen days earlier, SNJs (the Navy's version of the North American T-6 Texan) of VN-3A and VN-3B from Chevalier and Saufley Fields had arrived at their new South Field home to inaugurate operations in basic and radio instrument instruction as part of the intermediate phase of the World War II training program. With the two fields completed, VN-8C and its large fleet of SNBs (Navy designated Beech Aircraft TC-45s) arrived at North Field from NAS Corry in November 1943. The squadron moved back to Corry in December 1944 and was replaced by operational training squadron VB4 OTU 4, flying Consolidated PB4Y-1 Liberators. With all the multi-engine and basic instrument instruction conducted at the base, a large building was constructed to house the numerous Link trainers and six big Link celestial navigation trainers manned by WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

After the war, Whiting became a naval air station under control of the new Naval Air Advanced Training Command, Jacksonville, Florida. Based at Whiting from 1946 to almost the end of 1947 were VB-2 and VB-4 advanced training units flying Consolidated PB4Y-2 Privateers and Lockheed PV-2 Venturas; the advanced carrier qualification and Landing Signals Officer training unit flying F6F Hellcats, SB2C Helldivers, TBM Avengers and SNJ-3/5Cs; and two photo training units flying the PB4Y-1P and F6F-5P.

Over the next several years, Whiting survived through reorganization of its missions and promotion of its newer facilities and longer runways. The first jets assigned to the Training Command were sent to Whiting Field in July 1948. From 1951 to 1956 Whiting Field devoted its total efforts to primary instruction. It was during this period that the Training Command introduced new aircraft, consolidated bases and made major syllabus