

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CIVIC PHILANTHROPIST
DEFFENBAUGH

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Ron Deffenbaugh, of Shawnee, Kansas, the founder of Deffenbaugh Industries.

Recently, the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce presented its 2007 Citizen of the Year Award to Ron Deffenbaugh, who moved to the Kansas City area at age 9 and started a trash collection business with one truck at age 15 in 1957. Since that modest beginning, Deffenbaugh Industries became the largest privately owned refuse firm in the Midwest, including the Johnson County landfill, Deffenbaugh Disposal Service, Shawnee Rock and Johnny on the Spot. Deffenbaugh sponsors annual city events, including Old Shawnee Days, Fields for Freedom, Tidy Town, Shawnee Christmas Around Town, and the Great Grillers barbecue competition. In 2007, Deffenbaugh sold his company to DLJ Merchant Banking Partners.

At the conclusion of the annual Chamber dinner, Deffenbaugh Industries President Mark Rosenau announced a \$500,000 donation from Deffenbaugh to the Shawnee Town renovation project. As Rosenau said, "Ron started Deffenbaugh Disposal Service 50 years ago, and he always had a special affection for Shawnee. He was always quietly generous when it came to requests for services, donations and support from Shawnee groups and individuals. When Ron was informed he had been selected for this most prestigious award, he said he wanted to give something back to his city. He knew the city planned to rebuild Shawnee Town and he decided he wanted to help with that effort."

The City of Shawnee recently issued a press release commending Ron Deffenbaugh for his recent gift to the city and for his lifetime of service and support. Madam Speaker, I include that statement with my remarks and know that all members of the U.S. House of Representatives join with me in commending this outstanding community leader:

DEFFENBAUGH DONATES TO SHAWNEE TOWN

What a wonderful Night in Casablanca, shared by Shawnee City Officials and business leaders at the Sheraton this past Saturday! The Shawnee Chamber of Commerce hosted their Annual Dinner, which is a gala event honoring civic and business leaders in the community and celebrating a year of great achievement. The theme of Casablanca was apparent through the fashionable attendees and tropical atmosphere of the event. Many leaders were honored at the event including past Chairman and former Shawnee Mayor Jim Allen for his 2007 leadership of the Chamber, Councilmember Dawn Kuhn for the 2007 Ambassador of the year and Ron Deffenbaugh was named 2007 Citizen of the Year.

The citizen of the year honor was well deserved by Ron Deffenbaugh for his countless contributions to the Shawnee community. Deffenbaugh moved to the Kansas City area at the age of nine and started his trash col-

lection business with one truck at the age of 15 in 1957. Since those modest beginnings, Deffenbaugh Industries, Inc. has grown to become the largest privately-owned refuse firm in the Midwest. Deffenbaugh Industries has expanded over the years to include the Johnson County Landfill, Deffenbaugh Disposal Service, Shawnee Rock and Johnny on the Spot. Deffenbaugh saw significant success and this has been shared with the Shawnee community through donations to the City and countless organizations in the community.

Deffenbaugh annually sponsors many of the City events including Old Shawnee Days, Fields for Freedom, Tidy Town, Shawnee Christmas Around Town, St. Patrick's Parade, Sister Cities Program, Great Grillers BBQ Competition and various other events and programs. They have been a wonderful community partner always generously contributing to Shawnee. Deffenbaugh executives, Tom Coffman and Mark Rosenau accepted the award on behalf of Ron on Saturday and announced that he was pledging \$500,000 to the renovation of Shawnee Town. Shawnee Town is an outdoor museum interpreting small town rural life from the 1920s, which includes a museum grounds featuring a home, barn, school, post office, chapel, fire station, various businesses, and gardens. The strategic plan for the renovation of the area was approved in 2007, and this donation will be a tremendous help in getting the project started. The City is extremely grateful to Ron Deffenbaugh and applauds his honor of being named 2007 Citizen of the Year!

CONGRATULATING JONATHAN M. SCHNEIDER

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Jonathan M. Schneider, my departing district office director and communications director who was recently appointed the Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Brookhaven on Long Island.

Jon is a hard-working and dedicated public servant who has consistently demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the people of eastern Long Island. As one of my original staffers, I have enjoyed watching Jon develop and sharpen his communications and political skills.

Jon started as a press secretary when I opened my Washington office in 2003. He became a trusted advisor who helped shape and carry out my agenda. He was already an experienced congressional staffer with service as Congressman STEVE ROTHMAN's press secretary. Additionally, he brought energy and environment policy expertise to my staff as a former national political representative of the Sierra Club.

When Jon moved back home to Long Island, I was delighted to keep him on board my staff as the communications and district office director. As the leader of my office in Coram, New York, I have always been able to count on Jon's counsel to deliver effective constituent services.

Jon has also excelled at advocating key transportation and infrastructure projects on

Long Island. He has helped me advocate important conservation initiatives, particularly the preservation of open spaces and biodiversity in Long Island Sound. He was also instrumental in helping me secure a federal study of the severely polluted Forge River in Mastic, New York.

Such important assignments involved working closely and almost daily with multiple levels of local elected representatives and maintaining important working relationships with government officials, civic groups and community advocacy organizations. As such, Jon proved to be an invaluable asset to my staff, both as a skilled professional and through his friendly, light-hearted nature.

Jon currently resides in Port Jefferson Station with his wife, Mary Ellen, their nearly five-month-old daughter, Eleanor, along with a notorious yet very talented pet tortoise named Boris. While I am saddened to see him leave my staff, I congratulate Jon on his appointment and will look forward to observing his continuing career in public service in the years ahead.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my staff and the people of the first congressional district of New York, I thank Jonathan M. Schneider for his hard work to improve the lives of eastern Long Island's residents. I wish him and his family continued success, good health and the best of luck for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE REVEREND DR. CARL F. BROOKS

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Dr. Carl F. Brooks for his commitment to service in his community and his church, First Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Punta Gorda, Florida. Dr. Brooks has employed his selfless vision to promote and provide resources that help people turn to God.

Sunday February 10, 2008 will mark the 28th anniversary of Dr. Brooks' service as Pastor of First Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. He began in 1980 when Punta Gorda was a small town on the southwest coast of Florida. As Punta Gorda grew, his vision and mission to serve expanded to provide human services and educational resources.

The Reverend Dr. Brooks is quoted as saying "The future is not something you enter, it is something you create. We will not continue with 'Business as Usual', we will be guided by an authentic vision through which the Kingdom's agenda is accomplished."

In his capacity as visionary and servant of Charlotte County, the Reverend Dr. Brooks has made his church part of the Emergency Shelter National Board Program by providing food and shelter to residents in times of disaster. He has worked tirelessly to create non-profit organizations that help children and families, promote educational opportunities for his congregation, and serves as a member of the National Baptist Convention of America in addition to being Florida's representative for the Board of Evangelism.

Dr. Brooks is the proud husband of Karen and the father of three daughters Tonya, Carla and Kayla.

I am proud to recognize Dr. Brooks for his great service to both Charlotte County and the First Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Our community is truly blessed to have Dr. Brooks as a resident. I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to Dr. Brooks for his service to our community and our country.

HONORING MR. ED SIEGMANN

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of New York's first congressional district to mourn the passing of a beloved constituent and treasure of the Long Island community, Mr. Ed Siegmann.

Born in Ridgewood Queens, New York in 1919, Ed was an exemplary citizen who served honorably in the U.S. Army during World War II. Upon his return, Ed became a tireless advocate for the interests of seniors on Long Island, perhaps most effectively as the President of the Suffolk County United East End Senior's Council.

Frustrated by the lack of media coverage concerning health care and other challenges faced by seniors in Suffolk County, New York, Ed approached publishers with an idea to write about them himself. As a result, Ed's column in the Suffolk Life newspaper, "The Upper Half," was born in 2000. The following year, Ed had the distinction of being the only Long Island resident to be awarded the prestigious Beneficiary Services Certificate of Merit.

Ed's tireless work to promote economic and social justice for the elderly and disabled were boundless. He was the founder and vice president of Southold TaxPac; president of the Southold-Mattituck Senior Citizens Club; a member of Seniors Against Discrimination; and a member of Southold's Senior Housing Taskforce. He worked in these organizations to improve the lives of seniors by working to reduce taxes, and to promote affordable health care and moderately priced senior housing.

Indeed, Ed was a local hero who was a shining example of a concerned and active citizen who was among our community's most effective champions for the rights of the elderly. It is entirely appropriate that he is honored by the naming of the Ed Siegmann Community Room at the Southold Town Human Resources Center.

Madam Speaker, it was truly an honor to work with Ed and to call him a friend. On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Ed Siegmann for his many enduring contributions to eastern Long Island, where he will always be missed but whose memory will be forever cherished.

HONORING THE 111TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 111th anniversary of the Washington Birthday Celebration Association (WBCA) in Laredo, Texas.

The Washington Birthday Celebration is a nearly month-long event held in Laredo, Texas. It is the largest celebration of its kind in the United States that honors the birthday of George Washington, the first President of the United States. The festival receives over 400,000 attendees, and consists of various celebrations including the Society of Martha Washington Colonial Pageant & Ball, Princess Pocahontas Pageant and Ball, parades, a carnival, an air show, and live concerts.

The WBCA was founded in 1898 by the patriotic Improved Order of the Red Men, Local Chapter Yaqui Tribe No. 59, whose members included prominent Laredoans of both Mexican and American ancestry. The first celebration was a great success, and its popularity grew when the Washington Birthday Celebration Association of Laredo, Inc., received its state charter in 1923. In the following year, in 1924, the Celebration featured its first Colonial Pageant, which showcased thirteen young women from Laredo, representing the thirteen original colonies. The International Bridge Ceremony is the welcoming ceremony between officials and dignitaries from Mexico and United States as a sign of international good will between the two nations.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the 111th anniversary of the Washington Birthday Celebration Association in Laredo, Texas.

HONORING MEMBERS OF EASTERN CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts of four members of eastern Connecticut's community: Robert Butler, John Roberts, and Shelly and Greg Erb. These individuals' selfless and quick, smart actions saved the lives of two kayakers from the frigid waters of the Noank River. On Friday, February 7, 2008, Robert Butler and John Roberts will be presented with a Meritorious Public Service Award by Rear Admiral Timothy Sullivan and Captain Dan Ronan. Shelly and Greg Erb will be presented with a Certificate of Merit.

On January 30, 2008, Shelly Erb was driving to her home in Noank, Connecticut, when she spotted a stranded kayaker on the bank of the Noank River. Once home, she immediately notified her husband, Greg Erb who called 911

and the Noank Village Boatyard. Shelly and Greg's quick, decisive actions to notify both emergency responders and the Noank Village Boatyard would ultimately prove to save both kayakers' lives.

Employees of the Noank Village Boatyard, Robert Butler and John Roberts received the call from Mr. Erb. The waters were near freezing, and understanding that prolonged exposure posed serious life-threatening risks, the men immediately launched a boat to find the kayakers. Soon after, Robert and John were able to locate the kayakers, one of whom remained in the water, nearly unconscious. Robert and John rescued the kayaker from the water and helped both to a waiting ambulance. Both kayakers survived.

The events that unfolded on January 30 could have very possibly ended in tragedy. Instead, our community witnessed the very best of its neighbors. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing and saluting the heroic efforts of Robert Butler, John Roberts, and Shelly and Greg Erb.

HONORING FORT DAVIS, TEXAS ON BEING LISTED IN THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION'S 2008 DOZEN DISTINCT DESTINATIONS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise here today to recognize the designation of Fort Davis, Texas, as one of the locations listed in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2008 Dozen Distinct Destinations. Making it only the fourth locality ever in Texas to receive this distinction.

For the past eight years, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has produced an annual list of twelve communities throughout the United States that provide visitors with unique experiences that bring to life the richness and diversity of America's cultural and historical heritage. This year, the organization has recognized Fort Davis, Texas, one of the many historic communities in my congressional district, as a place of distinction because of its exceptional character and history.

From 1854 to 1891, troops stationed at the post protected emigrants, freighters, mail coaches, and travelers on the San Antonio-El Paso Road. Because Fort Davis is one of the best remaining examples of a frontier military post in the American Southwest, this community serves as a vivid reminder of the significant role played by the military in the settlement and development of the western frontier.

Through great effort and a true devotion, the residents of Fort Davis have worked hard to preserve its historic, cultural, and scenic uniqueness. Aside from undertaking important restoration projects, members of the community preserve Fort Davis' culture through reenactments of life during the 19th century on the western frontier. In so preserving its character and by protecting its serene landscape, visitors from all over can enjoy and learn about the history of Fort Davis in a truly realistic and dynamic environment that is sure to make an indelible impression.