

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY SPINKELINK

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend Gary Spinkelink, who passed away February 24, 2008.

Mr. Spinkelink was born May 1, 1939, in Orange City, Iowa, and had been a resident of the Boulder City community for over 43 years. He graduated from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, and moved to Nevada with his wife Judy of over 47 years, to pursue a career in civil engineering. He retired in 2003 from Pentacore Engineering after being a partner in the firm for 11 years where he was the director of all administrative processes. Gary also had administrative control of all personnel within the corporation. He served for many years as a panel member on the Congressional Academy Selection Committee. Some of Gary's hobbies included off-road quad driving, snowmobiling, and fishing at his Utah cabin. He also spent a majority of his time with his six grandchildren attending their many various functions and sporting events.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Gary Spinkelink. His work and dedication to the Boulder City community was commendable and enriched countless lives. Mr. Spinkelink was a great force throughout the community and will be profoundly missed.

HONORING RYAN NEWMAN OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, FOR WINNING THE DAYTONA 500

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the success and triumph of Ryan Newman, winner of the 2008 Daytona 500. Born and raised in South Bend, Indiana, Ryan serves as a shining example to young men and women who aspire to achieving great successes after long hours of work and sacrifice. His younger years were spent learning about cars at the elbow of his father and developing the team spirit he treasures to this day.

Supported by his family, his community, and a great team, Ryan won the 50th running of the Daytona race in an exciting last-lap finish. In a race with 16 different leaders and 42 lead changes, Ryan started in 7th position and fell as far back as 23rd in the field of 43 drivers. However, he managed to lead eight laps in his

first victory since 2005, earning 190 points and collecting over \$1.5 million for Penske Racing.

An honor student at LaSalle High School, Newman graduated from Purdue University in 2001 with a B.S. in vehicle structure engineering. By excelling academically and in racing, Newman exemplifies how youths should always pursue education along with other passions.

Ryan serves as the consummate example of what competitors should be. This is evident from his work, along with his wife, Krissie, with the Newman Foundation. This charity primarily focuses on assuring that adequate care is provided for unwanted dogs and cats in shelters and pounds. He also helped needy animals by supporting construction of the Catawba County, North Carolina Humane Society shelter in the county where he lives. The treatment of animals is just one of Ryan's concerns along with the safety of his fellow racers.

In 2003, Ryan overcame adversity by bouncing back from an accident in which he flipped end over end in Daytona. He suffered only bruises but gained a strengthened resolve. In August of that same year after a practice crash in Watkins Glen, NY, Newman chastised NASCAR for what he perceived as lax safety efforts in fire prevention, soft walls, and race procedure. His professional manner and eloquent words lent credibility to his cause.

Even the victory itself at Daytona is an example of teamwork and sportsmanship. Newman was given extra momentum by a friendly "push" from teammate Kurt Busch who selflessly gave his partner an extra boost rather than seek the prize himself.

It is my pleasure to pay tribute to the many years of hard work and dedication that have paid off for this model citizen. The South Bend and Mishawaka Communities are proud of the success of one of their hardest working sons, a man who serves as a role model for our youth.

HONORING DR. JUDAH SCHORR

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Dr. Judah Schorr is not only a distinguished anesthesiologist whose personal charm and sense of humor has helped many of his patients through difficult times but he is also someone who truly knows how important it is to give of yourself. Dr. Schorr took an extra step to help a patient recently when he donated his bone marrow through the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation.

Dr. Schorr is also a philanthropist who gives generously to society as a whole financially as well as to individuals through himself. He is also involved in many other worthy causes.

He and his wife Gail Levey are parents of Nathaniel and Ethan.

For his contributions to his community and society as a whole he is presented with the Andrew Zucker Community Service Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on February 27, 2008, I was avoidably detained and missed three votes related to the consideration of the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on approving the journal, ordering the previous question, and agreeing to the resolution for the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act (vote Nos. 79, 80, 81).

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. LARRY JUANARENA

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work and accomplishments of a true American hero and patriot, Larry Juanarena, a constituent of mine from Chico, California. For over five decades, Mr. Juanarena, has helped and inspired the residents of Chico.

Mr. Juanarena's work has touched citizens in many sectors of the community. From the Salvation Army, 4-H, to law enforcement and emergency response, Mr. Juanarena is known for providing assistance to those in need. Mr. Juanarena has touched many lives in his community, and has been highly decorated for his dedication and service to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Juanarena is probably best known for his efforts in supporting our Nation's troops and veterans from all wars and conflicts. Having served in the United States Air Force as a crew chief on a B-36 bomber, Mr. Juanarena continues his fight for freedom by supporting the families of our deployed soldiers and warriors through his work with the National Guard Family Assistance Program. Mr. Juanarena's Annual Red, White and Blue dinner has improved the lives of our guard families by providing financial assistance to those in need as they struggle to meet household obligations while their loved ones fight for our great Nation.

Mr. Juanarena continues to be an extraordinary individual who makes significant and

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

lasting contributions to our community through his civic minded leadership and can-do spirit.

Mr. Juanarena exemplifies the notion of responsible citizenship and through his charitable work has touched the lives of many in our community. Mr. Juanarena's selfless actions have inspired a community and demonstrated that one person can make a difference when acting from the heart.

I am privileged to have a friend in Larry Juanarena, and I am extremely grateful for his service to our troops, veterans, and our community-at-large. It is a great privilege to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of a true American hero and patriot.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DAVID JOHN DONAFEE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of David Donafee for a life that was dedicated to his family, friends, and public service.

David was a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for 14 years. He was tragically killed while delivering mail on his route in Parma Heights, Ohio. David was a devoted father who actively supported his children's interest in hockey, as well as a devoted husband and son. David is survived by his wife, Sandi; his two children, Derek and Liam; and his mother, Rose.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering David Donafee. May his life be an example of how we should lead our own.

GUEST BOOK FOR JOHN DAVID DONAFEE: [HTTP://WWW.LEGACY.COM/CLEVELAND/GB/GUESTBOOKVIEW.ASPX?PERSONID=103615431](http://WWW.LEGACY.COM/CLEVELAND/GB/GUESTBOOKVIEW.ASPX?PERSONID=103615431)

Shellie Rockwell (Broadview Hts., OH)

Sandi, Liam and Derek,

You are in our thoughts and prayers. Just remember that Dave's presence will forever be with everyone that knew him. His love for all three of you, his contagious smile and his easy-going style will be remembered for years to come.

The Rockwell Family

RECOGNIZING APRIL BRANSCOME AS OKALOOSA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of April Branscome, Okaloosa County's Teacher of the Year.

For over two decades, April Branscome has worked at Niceville High School. Employed initially as a secretary, Ms. Branscome now serves as an information technology instructor and is a savant on educational technology.

Her teaching skills range from the conventional to the more cutting-edge. She is excellent in the classroom, possessing an incredible ability to inspire her pupils. Not content to rest upon her laurels, Ms. Branscome has expanded upon her talents and has taken her advanced comprehension of technology to the next level of teaching.

Constructed for Okaloosa's CHOICE IT institute, Ms. Branscome fashioned her own web design curriculum, which resulted in a 100 percent passage rate for students seeking their Internet Webmaster certificate. She is currently being courted by schools throughout the State to train their IT teachers.

Ms. Branscome's ascension to Teacher of the Year did not happen quickly. Shortly after her high school graduation, Ms. Branscome took on a secretarial position at Niceville High School. While working, she became enthralled with education, yet lacked the credentials to teach. For 12 years, taking one or two night and weekend classes at a time, Ms. Branscome finally attained a teaching degree.

The title of Teacher of the Year is an immense honor and is evidence of the greatness Ms. Branscome has attained. Beyond the title lies Ms. Branscome's dedication and devotion to not only her students, but to the entire community. Her teaching skills and affable personality have influenced many and have pushed countless students to a higher level of academic achievement. Ms. Branscome's outstanding accomplishments have distinguished her as one of the great teachers in northwest Florida, and the Okaloosa County School District is honored to have her as one of their own. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize April Branscome on this outstanding achievement and her exemplary service in Okaloosa County.

IN HONOR OF THE BRAVE MINNESOTA MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, Minnesota has been blessed with 23,000 brave men and women who selflessly police our streets, protect our neighborhoods, and keep our families safe.

These men and women are represented by a truly phenomenal organization. The Minnesota Fraternal Order of Police defends and supports every hero who wears a badge and carries that great and high honor of being called an officer of the law.

No people, no nation, can enjoy the blessings of liberty without the rule of law. Thanks to their tireless dedication and noble sacrifices, the people of our State can live free of fear and safe from harm as they raise their families, live their lives and build their communities.

Our debt to these brave souls can never be paid. But we can start by erecting a wall to honor the inspiring heroes of our State who gave their very lives in their daily battle

against every hazard and evil that threatens the peace.

We must never take for granted the sacrifice each and every officer makes, day in and day out, for the people of Minnesota. They have my deepest gratitude and unwavering support.

CONGRATULATING KAREN SKORDINSKI, A RECIPIENT OF THE STATE OF TEXAS EXCELLENCE IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karen Skordinski of Flower Mound, Texas for her many contributions to the State of Texas and the north Texas region. Ms. Skordinski was recently named one of four recipients of the Emergency Management Award for the State of Texas.

The Excellence in Emergency Management Award is presented annually to State and local emergency management projects, activities and campaigns that advance the goals of saving lives and protecting property by mitigating, preparing for, responding to, or recovering from disasters and emergencies in Texas. Recipients of this award must exemplify model emergency management by developing and implementing an exceptional emergency management project, activity or campaign in Texas during the past year.

Ms. Skordinski is acknowledged for her work developing Flower Mound's Emergency Management Plan and for the Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, Program. She is the Emergency Management Specialist for Flower Mound and has worked in emergency management for 5 years. Before then, she worked in the town's geographical information systems department, which designs the town's maps.

Prior to her work in north Texas, Ms. Skordinski worked with geographical information systems at Cape Canaveral, Florida, and was a geographical information systems contractor for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA.

Ms. Skordinski started Flower Mound's CERT program after learning about it from a Flower Mound firefighter. She felt that it was important to start this program in order to get the citizens of Flower Mound more involved in the Fire Department. In the years since Ms. Skordinski began the CERT program, numerous residents have received the training required to respond to emergency situations, making the community safer for all.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor today to rise in recognition of Ms. Skordinski's dedication to the safety and well-being of her fellow Flower Mound citizens. She is truly deserving of such an enormous honor. Flower Mound is now a safer city, and all those who recognize the contributions of Ms. Skordinski are truly grateful. She is an inspiration to all Americans devoted to community service.