

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE OXON RUN PARKWAY LAND TRANSFER AND RESTORATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Oxon Run Parkway Land Transfer and Restoration Act, a bill which directs the National Park Service to convey to the District of Columbia all right, title, and interest of the United States to approximately 25 acres of land in Southeast DC, in Ward 8. The purpose of my legislation is to enable a group of churches, the Washington Interfaith Network [WIN], working with the District of Columbia government, to build more than 300 units of low- and moderate-income housing, almost entirely with church-gathered funds. WIN is a coalition of 43 churches. They stand ready to invest \$2.5 million at no interest to finance the construction of these homes. Among the major contributors are: First, the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, second, the Episcopal Archdiocese of Washington, third, the United Methodist Church, and fourth, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

My understanding is that the Interior Department supports this transfer. The land is bordered on the northeast by South Capitol Street, on the west by Oxon Run Parkway, and on the southeast by the Maryland-DC border. Presently, the land is administered by the District of Columbia but is actually owned by the National Park Service. In 1972, the Park Service transferred jurisdiction to the District of Columbia of approximately 100 acres of land in Southeast DC, that includes the approximately 25 acres addressed in my legislation. However, the transfer was made under condition that the land be used for recreation and related purposes. My legislation removes this legal impediment to construction of low and moderate income housing on this land and enables the future homeowners to own full title to their property.

The transfer which I propose is a modest but important step in restoring one of the city's vital residential neighborhoods and the city's overall morale and financial health. Ward 8, the most disadvantaged in the city, has experienced devastating loss of population in significant part because of the absence of affordable housing. In addition, the land which I propose to transfer from the Park Service to the District is currently in a deplorable condition and is an embarrassment to the Park Service and the city. Although this piece of land is ostensibly recreational parkland, it has become unsightly neighborhood dumpyard. Transfer of this land to the District for construction of a residential neighborhood will not only enable environmental cleanup of the property but will also provide desperately needed housing at a site that has become a terrible eyesore.

TRIBUTE TO FRED HOLSTEN

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fred Holsten of South Brunswick, NJ. He was honored Monday, August 4, for his 20 years of volunteer service to Middlesex County Fair by the trustees of the annual fair.

Since retiring as chief of police in South Brunswick in 1974, Mr. Holsten has served many organizations such as the Lion's Club and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. In his over 20 years of service to the Middlesex County Fair, Mr. Holsten has come to be affectionately known as Uncle Fred. Since Mr. Holsten has joined the fair, it has grown to offer a great family atmosphere for all those in Middlesex County. As a result, worthy causes that receive funds from the fair have benefited greatly.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Holsten has set a great example. After an extensive time of service as police chief, he continues as a volunteer. This selfless service to his community is a great example of the indelible American spirit that only makes our country stronger.

I, too, commend Mr. Fred Holsten for the unselfish, heartwarming dedication he has shown.

HONORING RIVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Riverdale Neighborhood House is a settlement house serving 5,000 residents of the northwest Bronx, providing programs for parents, their infants and toddlers, and after school programs. It not only serves young families, but provides outreach and support to homebound senior citizens. Its teen center offers job training and a place to congregate, or as the teens might say, "hang out." Riverdale Neighborhood House also had a pool for local residents, a summer camp for kids, and a thrift shop.

Not only does the Riverdale Neighborhood House do a lot of good for the community, it has been doing it for a long time for this year it celebrates its 125th anniversary. RNH started as a neighborhood lending library for workers to which Riverdale residents subsequently gave land and money to promote social services as well as a reading room. In time it helped servicemen in the Spanish American War, fought problems of sanitation and contagious diseases, aided soldiers' families in World Wars I and II, opened a kindergarten and a seeming infinite number of programs to aid the community and its residents.

On its anniversary, RNH is honoring Paul Elston, a member of its board who has served on so many organizations working for the community that his life would deem to epitomize public service. Riverdale Neighborhood House and people like Paul Elston deserve the acclaim of all people, for they show the benefit and goodness which flows to the community when good people act to benefit all of us.

A TRIBUTE TO WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a courageous group of women who have played an important role in shaping the future of women in the military. On October 18, 1997, the Women in Military Service Memorial was dedicated to the millions of courageous women who have served and continue to serve our country in the armed services. The dedication of this memorial is another page in American history that will give women in the military the recognition they have so longed deserved. This memorial is a reminder and representation of the invaluable service, sacrifice, and dedication women have given our country.

Mount Holyoke College, the oldest continuing institution of higher education for women in the country, resides in my district and is very proud and grateful for the Women in Military Service Memorial. Joanne Creighton, president of Mount Holyoke College, wrote a letter to Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, who was responsible for the organization taking the lead to build the memorial, paying tribute to the Women in Military Service Memorial. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I submit the letter written to Brigadier General Vaught from Joanne Creighton, president of Mount Holyoke College.

As a women's college, we support activities that recognize women and women's varied contributions to the world. It is vital that the experiences of women be known and included as a visible part of history. The women's memorial, which honors and remembers the service, sacrifice, and achievement of the nearly 2 million American servicewomen who have defended America through our Nation's history, accomplishes all of these important tasks and is, therefore, a welcomed and much-needed addition to our Nation's heritage.

Fittingly, it was 55 years ago this November 9, during World War II, that Mount Holyoke was part of the history which is about to be honored by the new memorial. From across the country, women came to Mount Holyoke's campus to receive the training they needed to serve the country. Along with our nearby sister institution Smith College, Mount Holyoke served as one of the very few training centers for women officers. It was a privilege to function during that historic

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