

RECOGNIZE REVEREND RONALD I. SCHUPP FOR HIS DEDICATION TOWARDS A FREE TIBET

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, January 6, 2001*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to give my full support once again to the work of Chicago civil and human rights leader Reverend Ronald I. Schupp, who is embarking on his fifth annual peaceful twenty-four hour fast and vigil outside of the Chinese Consulate in Chicago. Reverend Schupp is calling upon the government of the People's Republic of China to grant independence to Tibet and its people.

His vigil will be held on March 10, the day that is known each year as Tibetan National Day. This day recognizes the ongoing efforts and continuing struggle of the Tibetan people to gain their freedom.

I fully support Reverend Schupp and the vigil he is undertaking once again.

OBJECTION

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, January 6, 2001*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, in a short while we will gather in a joint session to count the electoral vote from November's Presidential contest. We will count these votes even though the Republican appointees on the Supreme Court slammed the door in the face of thousands of Florida voters by refusing to allow their votes to be counted. Ironically, Republican legal advisors used the "equal protection" clause of the 14th amendment to argue their case while denying equal protection to thousands whose votes were never counted. The message calls to mind George Orwell's famous words that "some are more equal than others."

One fact is not in dispute: that Vice President AL GORE won over 539,000 more votes nationwide than George W. Bush. That makes it even more important that we get an accurate vote in Florida.

As a member of the House International Relations Committee, I have had the privilege of monitoring elections around the world. Never have I seen a case like this—where one candidate's first cousin was hired by a major news network to call the election results; where that same candidate's campaign co-chair had the authority to certify the election results and rushed to do so before all ballots had been counted; where the certification was signed by the candidate's brother, the Governor, and where Supreme Court members appointed by the candidate's father halted a vote count. Is this the model of democracy we want to hold up to the rest of the world? I urge my colleagues to refuse to be a part of this undemocratic process.

IN MEMORY OF PAUL STANLEY EBENSTEINER

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, January 6, 2001*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Paul Stanley Ebensteiner, a deco-

rated patriot, a successful businessman, a loving family man, a philanthropist, and a good friend.

Paul passed away Sunday, leaving behind a legacy of living, achieving and sharing the American dream.

He joined the Marines during the Korean War, where he served with distinction. An excerpt from his official service record book reads: "Combat operations against North Korean Forces; assault and seizure of Inchon, Korea; capture and securing of Seoul, Korea; operations against enemy forces in south and central Korea; is authorized to wear the Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Korean Service with three stars, Presidential Unit Citation with one star, Purple Heart, and the United Nations Service ribbons." Paul retired from the Marines at the rank of Technical Sergeant.

In 1970, he founded the Ebensteiner Company, one of the largest general engineering contractors in California. He was named Contractor of the Year in 1999, and was a member in good standing with the Southern California Contractors Association.

At about the same time as he founded Ebensteiner Company, he married June. Together they raised seven children: Paul George, Rebecca, Pennie, Debra, Suzanne, Therese, and Christine. Paul and June are also blessed with 10 grandchildren.

Paul Stanley Ebensteiner was a successful family man and businessman, and he believed in sharing his blessings with the community. Among the philanthropic organizations he and June supported were Mary Health for the Sick, the building of the Los Angeles Cathedral, the United States Hospice Foundation, and the June Ebensteiner Hospice Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, Paul realized his dream and then shared his dream with many, many more. He was, to me, the definition of a Great American. I know my colleagues will join me in sending condolences to his family and in paying tribute to his memory.

SALUTE TO FIRE ENGINEER CHRIS ALTEN

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, January 6, 2001*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute Fire Engineer Chris Alten, the Montclair Fire Department Employee of the Year.

Our brave firefighters do a hero's work, exposing themselves to danger, in acts of selfless heroism. As Fire Engineer, Chris ensures that the Montclair Fire Department is in top condition to meet these challenges, contribution to excellent quality and livability of fire stations.

Chris joined the Montclair Fire Department as a Comprehensive Employment Training Act (C.E.T.A.) Firefighter in October 1976. Chris was hired as a regular Firefighter in October 1979. Chris' mechanical abilities and skills contributed to his quick promotion to Fire Engineer in July 1980.

It is a combination of Chris' mechanical abilities, his "can do" attitude and his steady and extremely dependable contribution to his crew and to the Montclair Fire Department that led to his selection as the Montclair Fire Department Employee of the Year.

During his employment, Chris has saved the City thousands of dollars in both time and material through a variety of construction projects that would have otherwise been done by outside vendors. Examples include: the replacement of all of the sinks and faucets in the fire stations, several remodeling projects that included framing, drywall and the installation of windows and doors in both stations and innumerable small projects.

Chris is a multi-talented and valued employee of the Montclair Fire Department. We in the Congress salute him for his selfless efforts and achievements.

A TRIBUTE TO HENRY SCIARONI ON THE OCCASION OF BEING AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, January 6, 2001*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, 56 years ago Lt. Hank Sciaroni led a group of U.S. troops through hostile Nazi territory after his bomber crash-landed on an Italian beach. His heroics went unrecognized until December 18, 2000 when he was finally honored for his valor with the Bronze Star.

On October 20, 1944, when Lt. Sciaroni realized that his B-24 Liberator bomber wasn't going to make it back, he told his pilot to crash land on the Italian beach below because he knew that the B-24 was a heavy plane that would sink before the crew could get out.

It was not the only time Lt. Sciaroni would have to think quickly. After the wheels-up crash landing, Lt. Sciaroni took command of one of the three groups created by the downed crew members. For the next two weeks Lt. Sciaroni used his training, his quick thinking and his ability to speak Italian not only to evade capture and get his group back to safety, but to collect vital intelligence along the way. The other two groups of crew members were captured by German forces. Lt. Sciaroni would have been recommended for a medal, but by the time he made it back to his squadron his commanding officer who would have nominated him had been killed in action. Lt. Sciaroni went back into action and served out the War.

When I became aware of this war time story, I committed myself to secure the honor which had evaded this young and brave Lieutenant for 56 years. While it is extremely rare for medals to be awarded so long after an episode has occurred, we searched the military archives for crew reports. Fortunately, Hank Sciaroni had saved a copy of a report the frontline unit made when he reached friendly forces. After petitioning the U.S. Army, they granted our request and Hank Sciaroni was finally honored.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Hank Sciaroni with the Bronze Star. He represents the collective courage many of our