

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLMES RUN ACRES

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community in Fairfax County, Holmes Run Acres, on its 50th Anniversary. This neighborhood has been providing families with the best Falls Church, Virginia has to offer for many years and is well-positioned to continue to do so in the future.

Holmes Run Acres was designed with unique contemporary architecture to save trees and blend into the Virginia countryside. When the neighborhood was in its early stages, Fairfax County was a rural area. In 1951, the county was impacted by the post-World War II development. The residents of Holmes Run Acres decided this was time to form a Civic Association, and a year later they published "The Holmes Runner," a community newsletter.

Today, they still rely on their Civic Association meetings and publications, but, in keeping with technology trends, they have their information posted on the World Wide Web. These factors promote unifying, community-wide communications network.

Holmes Run Acres built the first community swimming pool in Fairfax County. Volunteers from the neighborhood worked with the Fairfax County Park Authority to turn an old dump site into the first neighborhood park in the County. The Civic Association encourages its residents to initiate and participate in activities that bring the community together, such as house and garden tours, art shows, classes and family gatherings.

The residents of Holmes Run Acres are always available to lend a hand with many community activities, including those events that are county-wide. During the 1960s their well-established Civic Association helped create an association for a newly formed neighboring community. During the holidays, Holmes Run's children run a gift drive for needy children outside of their immediate area.

The recent publication of the third installment of "Holmes Run Acres: The Story of a Community" proves that this community is going strong year after year. The publication provides background on the community's history and residents, as well as local history and plans for future improvements.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank Holmes Run Acres for all it has provided to the community. They will be celebrating on Saturday, October 6, 2001, and they will also have another event in the spring. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating them on 50 years of service and wishing them the best in the years to come.

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will correct a great injustice being endured by many widows and

widowers throughout this Nation. Current Social Security law requires that those who have lost spouses surrender their survivor benefits when entering into a new marriage. Many of those who have lost spouses count these benefits as their only source of income and rely upon them for continuing their daily lives. To force these men and women to abandon survivor funds simply because they enter into a marriage after their spouse's death is outrageous.

This measure would be of very modest expense to the government, and the costs incurred are certainly justified by the positive results derived from the correction of this oversight. Senior citizens, a sector of our society often plagued by low incomes and tight budgets, would be the primary beneficiaries of this legislation, and we owe it to these citizens to provide them with every possible avenue to enjoy a proper standard of living.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would ensure that those who enter into a new, long-lasting marriage are not punished simply for finding another loving spouse. It is fiscally sound and morally correct. I thank you and urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MISSOURI AIR GUARD'S 139TH AIRLIFT WING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Missouri Air Guard's 139th Airlift Wing for its work and sacrifice in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seek to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of organizations like the 139th Airlift Wing signify the commitment and concern of Americans everywhere. Our nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, the 139th Airlift Wing flew to McGuire Air Force base in New Jersey to bring back Missouri's Task Force One whose 65 volunteers had spent more than a week at Ground Zero in an effort to support the search and rescue effort. The patriotism and persistence of the 139th Airlift Wing is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and do what they can to assist the nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousands of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the

line each and every day so that we may be free, it is important that the American people are vigilant in their efforts to overcome this evil. Though our nation has witnessed unspeakable horror, America's virtues, determination, and faith continues to shine brightly on the world.

I am confident that the United States will seek out those that harbor hatred, terror, and depravity in their hearts; and we will defeat them. This is a war that we must, can, and will win. May God bless the families and children grieving across this great nation and may God bless America.

COMMENDATION OF COAST GUARD

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the men and women of the United States Coast Guard who have come to the rescue of South Texas communities of South Padre Island, Port Isabel and Brownsville.

Very early Saturday morning, Sept 15th, the Queen Isabella Causeway, the bridge that connects South Padre Island to the mainland was hit by a barge, resulting in sections of the bridge falling into the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Nine cars crashed into the water of the Laguna Madre, rocking the community with the fear that terrorists had struck in South Texas since it occurred the weekend following the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks.

The Coast Guard Group of Corpus Christi, South Padre Island and the Marine Safety Office arrived at once and worked tirelessly—around the clock—to recover the victims, and retrieve the vehicles and debris from the water in the canal so commercial traffic could move again through the canal.

No one was surprised by the instant response from our Coasties. They are amazing people. They began as soon as the tragedy was reported and worked with our local and state officials in providing further protection and emergency assistance for citizens in the area. They worked tirelessly around the clock.

They brought assets to the Valley from the Coast Guard, Corpus Christi Group to help with search and recovery. They were focused on recovering victims. They are well-trained and ready to perform brilliantly in a time of crisis like the bridge collapse.

The Coast Guard provided tremendous support to the local and state officials, which was a huge logistical chore. They helped ensure the re-opening of the canal so the Rio Grande Valley would receive fuel supplies, food and other necessities, which arrive via the Intra-coastal canal, closed to such traffic while the recovery is in progress.

One of the most satisfying things about watching these men and women do the work that they do is understanding the love they have for their job. They simply love what they do, and they are very good at it.

While we always appreciate the good work of the Coast Guard in South Texas and around our nation, we particularly want to thank them today for the hard work they did when they came to the rescue when our community needed them.

The Coast Guard has a wide range of responsibilities . . . in peacetime, they are law