

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO NURSES AT WOODLAND TERRACE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the nurses at the Woodland Terrace Nursing Home in my home District of Florida.

As you all know, this is national nurses week and I am privileged to speak on behalf of the many talented nurses at Woodland Terrace. The Fifth District of Florida, and in fact the entire State of Florida, has a large and growing population of senior citizens. I firmly believe that seniors are one of our nation's most valuable assets. We will be judged on how well we care for our seniors.

The nurses at Woodland Terrace have not shied away from this important responsibility. I continue to be impressed with the quality of care at Woodland Terrace; a standard which is largely attributable to the nurses who work there.

At a time when many analysts are predicting a nursing shortage in the near future, it is critical that the nursing workforce be given proper commendation for continual hard work and dedication to what can seem like a thank-less profession. With that, I offer my most sincere thank you to the nurses at Woodland Terrace for a job well done!

HONORING THE POLO HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING PANTHER PRIDE BAND

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Polo High School Marching Panther Pride Band from Caldwell County, Missouri. The band, comprised of 7th through 12th grade students, has had many significant accomplishments in the last year. Most recently, the band has been honored with an invitation to play at the 2003 Toyota Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida. I, along with Polo High School students and administrators, are proud of the band's successes.

The band has worked very hard in competition to establish a reputation of marching excellence over the last two school years, which was a pre-requisite for their acceptance in the 2003 Gator Bowl Parade. Additionally, the band has been acknowledged for many outstanding achievements including 2nd place in the class 1A parade at Carrollton Band Day in 2001, 1st place in the class 1A parade at CMC Band Day in 2001, 1st place in class 1A at the Northwest Missouri State University Homecoming Flag Corps in 2002, the color guard competition in 2001, 1st place in the

class 1A parade at the Missouri Day Parade in 2002, 1st place in the class 1A Parade at Central Missouri State University Homecoming in 2002, 2nd place in the class 1A parade at Northwest Missouri State University homecoming in 2002, and 1st place in the Chillicothe Christmas Parade in 2002.

Many students have dedicated their time and effort to making the band the accomplished organization that it is. I commend the time and dedication these students have put forth being a part of this wonderful after school activity while also working hard at their studies. Marisa Fultz, Drum Major and Field Commander and Brenna Hicks, Assistant Drum Major have worked very hard to ensure that the band performs at it's best.

Additionally, the band has received a great deal of support from the education community, including the Board of Education, Mrs. Marla Barnes, President of the Board of Education, Mr. Gerald Snodgrass, Superintendent, Mr. Robert Newhart, Polo High School Principal, Ms. Beverly McQueen, Elementary School Principal, and the band boosters led by president Darrin Hicks.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the Polo High School Marching Panther Pride Band. The band is a primary example of educational excellence in North Missouri and in their community. I wish them the best of luck at the Gator Bowl!

SHEILA J. ADAMS HONORED BY THE GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sheila J. Adams, a friend and constituent, who will be honored by the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) at NCCJ's 75th Anniversary Dinner on May 22, 2003. NCCJ, founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, is a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism through understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures.

Sheila was selected to be honored by NCCJ because, as one person noted, "She's been involved, she's been active, she's led. She's gone from success to significance. Success is about you, but significance is about what you've done for others." And Sheila has consistently done a lot for others.

For over thirty years, Sheila has been a human relations professional. As president and chief executive officer of the Cincinnati Urban League since 1990, Sheila oversees programs and services that help African Americans and others to achieve social and eco-

nomie parity. Because the Urban League's goal is to eliminate the barriers of racism and level the economic playing field, her work includes employment and training programs; after school programs; parent empowerment programs; and adult and youth leadership development.

Sheila is also active with many other local organizations, serving on the Health Foundation; Cincinnati CAN (Community Action Now); Advocates for Youth Education; and the Cincinnati Chapter of Links, Inc. She has been honored as a Cincinnati Enquirer Woman of the Year; a Great Rivers Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction; and a University of Cincinnati Notable Black Alumna.

All of us in Cincinnati have benefitted from Sheila Adams' service. We congratulate her on this well deserved and distinguished award from NCCJ.

KEEPING THE PROMISE TO OUR DISABLED VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to call the attention of the House to three bills that I have introduced to address concerns of our nation's disabled veterans. Each of the bills was introduced in response to requests from veterans all across the nation.

H.R. 1919 will authorize transportation on military aircraft on a space-available basis for veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 50% or more. Currently, members and retirees of the uniformed services and the reserves may travel free on Department of Defense (DoD) aircraft when space is available. This benefit is allowed when it does not interfere with military missions and is a recognition of military careers filled with rigorous duty.

But present policies do not extend this benefit to our disabled veterans. What more rigorous duty can be imagined than to become disabled in the service of our country? Why has the DoD chosen not to recognize the brave men and women who sacrificed their health and well-being while serving in uniform? This DoD policy is wrong, and H.R. 1919 would correct it.

This bill would cost the federal government nothing, and adding disabled veterans would not interfere with benefits for active-duty personnel. Current military is always given priority, and H.R. 1919 would do nothing to change that. What my bill would do is to allow seats that would otherwise go unused to be occupied by men and women who have been disabled in their service to their nation.

Two other bills, H.R. 1917 and H.R. 1918, would also allow veterans with service-connected disabilities to use military facilities.

The DoD provides Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) programs to bring some of the benefits of civilian life to military communities. These programs are the cornerstone of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

community quality of life, providing for fitness, recreation, libraries, sports and athletic programs. DoD considers MWR programs as critical to mission readiness and productivity—these programs contribute to physical fitness and recruitment and retention of personnel.

In addition, civilian employees and their families are allowed access as a perk of their employee benefit package. Other groups, such as the Scouts of America, can also utilize the lands by getting special permission. In contrast, most of the over 2 million disabled veterans (rated 0% to 90% disabled) are currently deemed not disabled enough to be considered a patron of MWR. My bill, H.R. 1917, would fix that!

A third bill, H.R. 1918, would extend commissary and exchange store privileges to service-disabled veterans with a rating of 30% or more and their families. Congress must do all we reasonably can for the men and women in uniform who have become disabled in service to our nation. Our disabled veterans are important members of a greater military family, and they should be treated as such with every available opportunity.

I believe that changing these policies—use of military recreational lands, transportation on military aircraft, and commissary privileges—are the right steps to take for our disabled veterans! They have sacrificed their health and well-being for their country, and I believe that they have earned the right to these privileges. Please join with me by co-sponsoring these three bills and working for their passage.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBESON COUNTY CELEBRATION OF FLIGHT

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to salute the Robeson County Celebration of Flight celebration from May 14–May 18, 2003. The Lumberton Municipal Airport will host this special event that acknowledges and honors the 100-year celebration of the feat of Wilbur and Orville Wright.

Charles F. Kettering once said, “The Wright Brothers flew right through the smoke screen of impossibility.” On December 17, 1903, at Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the Wright Brothers manned the first-ever controlled, powered flight, and their optimism of achieving the impossible became our reality. And this reality has truly opened the world for all to see.

In honor of this historical event, The Robeson Aeronautical Foundation, Inc. and the Lumberton Municipal Airport have organized special events to celebrate this monumental feat. For three days, the Lumberton Municipal Airport will host school children from throughout the region. These children will be able to view a variety of exhibits highlighting the importance of sport aviation, the role of aviation in the military, and the history of aviation in the region. The celebration will culminate with a two-day air show featuring some of the best displays of aeronautical skill in the world.

My fellow colleagues please join me in saluting the Robeson County Celebration of Flight organizers for their time, energy, and re-

sources in planning for this event. May God's blessings shine upon them and all that they have done, and may God bless this special celebration.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE BURRELL MERRITT

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the accomplishments and character of a great American, a great friend and a constituent of mine, Judge Burrell Merritt. Burrell celebrated his 61st birthday this weekend and I was pleased to be a part of the celebration honoring him.

A lifelong resident of Brooksville, a graduate of Hernando High School, and a lawyer educated at the University of Florida, Burrell is a true Floridian and an outstanding lawyer and community leader.

In 1968 he joined the Richard E. McGee law firm as an associate and later that year he became a municipal judge for the City of Brooksville. In 1970 he became a partner in his own law firm, McGee and Merritt. In 1985, he was named a partner of a new firm, Merritt, High, Underwood & Eppley and in 1985 he was made senior partner in the Merritt and Mason firm.

In 1998 after thirty years practicing law, Burrell became a Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit serving Hernando County. He currently works with civil, family law, probate and child support enforcement cases.

He is a member of the Hernando County Bar Association, the Florida Bar Association and the American Bar Association and numerous other civic and social organizations, serving a leadership role in many of them. His skills and talent as a law professional have been recognized by numerous groups and associations. He has received a plethora of awards and accolades for his diligent work both as an attorney, judge and community member.

Aside from his accomplishments in his legal profession, Judge Merritt is also a Cattle Rancher. He operated the very successful Merritt Farm and Livestock Company in Brooksville.

Mr. Speaker it is easy to see why I am so proud of his accomplishments and why they are worthy of recognition on the floor of this body.

RICHARD JANULEWICZ ON HIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE CLAY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Richard Janulewicz, Director of Clay County Public Health Center in Clay County, Missouri. Richard has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for his 20-year commitment

to the health center and the citizens of Clay County.

Richard is well known among his staff and the citizens of Clay County for taking the initiative to make positive change in their community. He interacts on many levels with the people he comes in contact with and maintains the highest degree of professionalism and honesty. He prides himself on the hard work and dedication he has displayed over the past two decades.

During his years at the health center, Richard has designed and implemented new programs that have made Clay County one of the healthiest in the state. He has undoubtedly been one of the most influential people in Clay County's history. His colleagues and friends describe him as honest, dependable, helpful, trustworthy and professional. It is people like Richard that make me proud to call myself a Missourian.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Richard Janulewicz, who exemplifies qualities of dedication and service as both an employee and a citizen of Clay County, Missouri.

ROBERT KANTER HONORED BY THE GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished constituent, Robert Kanter, who will be honored by the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews, at NCCJ's 75th Anniversary Awards Dinner on May 22, 2003. NCCJ, founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, is a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism through understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures.

Bob's motivation for getting involved is simple—he enjoys it. He once said, “I found out you can get much personal satisfaction by giving your time and talent.” Robert has given enormously to organizations in our area over the years. Currently, he is president of the Plum Street Temple Historic Preservation Foundation; chairman of the Jewish Foundation; chairman of Jewish Health Systems, Inc.; a trustee of the Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati; a board member of the Lower Price Hill Community School; and founder of the Man to Man Prostate Cancer Support Group at Wellness Community.

In the past, Bob served as chairman of the Health Alliance of Cincinnati; president of the Isaac M. Wise Foundation; chairman of the Jewish Hospital; co-chair of the Jewish Federation campaign; trustee of the Emery Center; board member at the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion.

Bob is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and began his career with a public accounting firm. In 1966, Bob formed Rookwood Properties, a company that acquires and manages investment real estate. Bob and his wife,