

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN BURRITT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to John Burritt of Redlands Mesa, Colorado for his remarkable achievements as an American pioneer in the biathlon and his work with the youth in his community. His 14th place finish in the 20-kilometer biathlon at the 1960 Winter Olympics was the highest American finish to that date in the typically European dominated sport, and has since been matched only twice. It is John's commitment to excellence which enabled him to compete in his sport at the international level, and to help shape the history of American athletics.

John came to the sport of biathlon, a sport that combines cross-country skiing and shooting over often rugged, grueling terrain, through a somewhat unorthodox path. Although he grew up enjoying cross-country skiing and hunting on his family's Redlands Mesa farm, he did not come to the biathlon until his days at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado. John began practicing with the cross-country skiing team to improve his conditioning, and in 1956, at the invitation of a US Army colonel, he competed in the first biathlon race ever staged in the United States at Camp Hale.

John continued his training after college while he served his country in the U.S. Army, which allowed him to compete at the international level, specifically on the US team at the 1959 World Championships in Courmayem, Italy. After finishing his military career, John qualified for a place on the 1960 Olympic team, where he finished 14th in the 20 kilometer biathlon at Squaw Valley. Since his retirement from competition in 1964, John has continued to stay active in cross-country skiing, spending this past winter teaching the sport to local children.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the achievements of John Burritt in front of this body of Congress and this nation, and to thank him for his contributions to the great tradition of athletics in Colorado and the United States. His efforts to instill the love of cross-country skiing in the youth of his community are commendable, and I sincerely thank him for his contributions to the sport. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEVIN BAKER

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. Blunt. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has distinguished himself as a dedicated and dynamic educator. Kevin Baker of Springfield, Missouri, is not only an eighth grade social studies teacher and basketball coach, but an innovator and motivator. For the past 20 years, Baker has found ingenious ways to recreate American history for his students at Pershing Middle School while motivating them to become responsible, caring

individuals. Baker's tireless efforts to help his students meet their full potential helps build active and responsible citizens with unwavering values and discipline.

Kevin Baker is perceived by the students and staff of Pershing Middle School as the most patriotic person they have ever met. Everyday he arrives at school adorned in red, white and blue attire and drives a vehicle covered with U.S. flags. But Baker's patriotism is not simply for show. His love for this country is demonstrated each day as he shares his passion for American history. Baker pushes his students to excel academically and socially, and commands respect by his unflinching integrity and enthusiasm. His positive attitude is contagious.

Learning social studies is "fun" in Kevin Baker's classroom. Every year Baker takes the eighth grade students at Pershing on a field trip to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. For weeks beforehand, Baker drills his students, transforming them into a well-trained army that marches with wooden muskets to noted battlefield locations. In addition to his efforts to bring the Civil War to life, Baker also organizes and chaperones over 150 students on a trip to Washington, D.C. during Spring Break. This annual trip, which Baker initiated during his first year at Pershing, has long since become an institution. This year will mark his 20th student trip to our Nation's Capital.

Kevin Baker not only encourages his students, but also other teachers. His professionalism and expertise as a master educator in social studies is regarded highly by his community. Baker spends his summers planning and writing new Power Point presentations to complement the district's social studies curriculum, and his peers often ask him to share these presentations, as well as other classroom teaching techniques and tools, at district professional development meetings.

Kim Finch, the principal at Pershing Middle School, praises Kevin Baker as a bright, inquisitive and multi-talented teacher who enables his students to blossom academically. Finch also commends Baker as a positive role model for both students and staff, practicing daily in his own life what he teaches in the classroom.

Springfield and Pershing Middle School are lucky to call Kevin Baker one of their own. He is a valuable and cherished member of our community and nation.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE GUYANTE, CITY MANAGER, CITY OF CORONA

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. Calvert. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. George Guyante is one of these individuals. On Wednesday, April 1, 2004, he will be honored at a retirement reception.

George has called many places "home" during his life, having grown up in a military

family. He followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Army and later attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. After receiving his degree in city and regional planning he obtained a job as a planning technician for the City of Corona in 1976.

In 1978, George started the city's Redevelopment Agency which later encompassed an economic development division as well. During his time he helped create Team Corona, a marketing and retention program designed to attract businesses and create jobs through the agency. Under his leadership Corona experienced and managed a period of high growth. The city grew from 27,000 to 140,000 during his tenure and continues to experience booming housing and commercial markets.

In May 2001, after serving as the interim city manager since November 2000, the City Council appointed George city manager after considering 44 other applicants. Under his guidance the city has worked to improve transportation, provide ample park areas for residents, provide affordable housing to low-income residents, and help the homeless.

George's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. He has been the heart and soul of many community projects and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID McDONNALL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to the life and memory of David McDonnall, an extraordinary American who was one of four Baptist missionaries killed in Iraq on March 15 by unknown assailants. His wife of less than one year, Carrie Taylor McDonnall, was also seriously wounded in the attack. While we mourn the loss of David and his fellow missionaries, I think it is appropriate to call the attention of this body of Congress and this nation the sacrifices David made for his country and the people of Iraq.

David grew up in Lamar, Colorado, and graduated from Lamar High School in 1993. Motivated by a desire to serve those in need and help rebuild the country, David and Carrie traveled to Iraq this last November, even though they knew there was a possibility they could be harmed. Their selfless efforts while in Iraq included distributing food, organizing relief projects, and renovating schools. When David and his group were attacked, they were searching for a suitable sight for a water purification project for the Iraqi people in Mosul.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and pay tribute to the life and memory of David McDonnall. His personal sacrifice is a testament to the love he had for his fellow man, and will not go in vain as others continue his noble work in Iraq. My thoughts are with his loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.