

TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN'S CLUB
OF LYONS ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding organization in my district, the Women's Club of Lyons on its 50th Anniversary celebration this year.

For five decades, the Women's Club of Lyons has promoted civic responsibility, philanthropy and friendship throughout its community. Chartered in April 1955, the Women's Club aims to encourage its members to become civic minded and socially active with charitable causes and community awareness and development.

From its early days, the Women's Club has branched out into other charitable endeavors, including funding Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League, American Cancer Society, Lyons Food Pantry, youth programs with the Lyons Recreation Department, the Ronald McDonald House, the Constance Morris home for battered women, the Wives and Children Fund of the New York Policemen and Firemen's fund after 9/11, and the Stars and Stripes fund, as well as many other charitable causes.

However, the club still maintains much of its original character as a place for women to form the bonds of friendship and camaraderie through its social activities and monthly meetings which feature speakers discussing important issues of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Western Springs Women's Club and all of its members, past and present, on its 50 years of service to its community.

COMMENDING BERNARD RYAN
FOR EXEMPLARY CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to Mr. Bernard ("Bernie") Ryan of the City of Buffalo who has been selected by the United Irish-American Association to lead The Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 13, 2005 as this year's Grand Marshal.

First held on March 17, 1913, the Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade pays tribute to the patron Saint of Ireland and after a short interruption from 1917–1935, the parade has been held every year since 1935, with the exception of the World War II years (1942–1945).

Buffalo, New York, like many other communities throughout the United States, has a large Irish American population and the St. Patrick's Day parade offers Irish Americans along with people from all ethnic backgrounds, an opportunity to celebrate one component of our rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Every year, thousands of people flock to Delaware Avenue in Downtown Buffalo to cheer on fellow citizens, Irish dancers, bands, and civic organizations who march in honor of St. Patrick.

The UIAA's election of Bernie Ryan as this year's Grand Marshal marks a proud moment for Bernie and his family, wife Karen and children Kathleen and Bernard Jay as Bernie embarks upon this once in a lifetime journey.

Four generations have worn the top hat and carried the blackthorn that belonged to Mike Quinn, Buffalo's first grand marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade back in 1913.

Bernie Ryan joins the ranks of other distinguished grand marshals and is honored for a lifetime of exemplary civic involvement.

Bernard served in the U.S. Army on a tour of duty in Vietnam. Upon return, he dedicated himself to family, work and community. He has had a 35 year career at Freezer Queen Foods where he has risen to the position of Controller. He is an active parishioner at St. Martin's Church in South Buffalo where neighborhoods are distinguished not by streets but by the parish to which you belong.

Bernie has always been particularly involved with various Irish organizations. Whether with the Irish Dancing School with whom his daughter Katie was a student, as a Board Member of the Gaelic American Athletic Association or as a member of the Parade Committee, Bernie's presence and commitment is unwavering.

Bernie is proud of his heritage and understands the importance of preserving our unique history as a community. I am proud to call Bernie Ryan my friend and I am pleased to honor him today.

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE LONDON
S. GILES

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Private Landon S. Giles, who died on February 26, 2005, in Iraq. Landon was just 19 years old and from Arkadelphia, Arkansas. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Landon graduated from Arkadelphia High School in May 2004, and left for the army the very next month to serve as an indirect fire infantryman. Landon was assigned to the Army's 6th Squadron, 8th Cav. Reg., 4th Bde., 3rd Inf. Div. based at Ft. Stewart, Georgia.

Landon had a thirst for playing sports and seeking new adventures. He played football in Junior High School, soccer at Arkadelphia High School, he loved to ski and snowboard, he played in local youth league baseball programs, and became a certified scuba diver at the age of 12. He went deep-sea fishing off the coast of Australia, surfed in Hawaii, rode an elephant through parts of Thailand, and even went on a jungle safari.

Joining the army and fighting for his country in Iraq, his family says, was Landon's next life adventure. While his family did not want him to go, there was no stopping Landon once his heart and mind seized upon an idea. He told his sister, Jenny, it was better for him to go than for a man with a wife and children. Landon heard news reports about the human rights violations occurring in Iraq and wanted to help people who were unable to help themselves.

Landon gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a brother,

son, hero, and friend. My deepest condolences go out to his mother, Kim Giles; his father, Alan; two sisters, Jo Ann and Jennifer; stepmother, Cynthia Kay Giles; two step-sisters, Angela and Alana Giles; and a step-brother, Jeremy Giles. I know Landon was proud of his service to the U.S. Army and to our country. He will be missed by his family, fellow soldiers, and all those who knew and counted him as a friend.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
ON 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 199, recognizing the contributions of the Marine Corps and the other branches of the United States Armed Forces on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II. The commemoration of these branches of the military, and most importantly the soldiers who fought in this battle, is crucial. We must take into account every day the bravery and dedication that the men and women of the Armed Forces have shown us.

The United States military sent more Marines into Iwo Jima—110,000—than in any other battle in World War II. The Air Force and Navy also played pivotal roles in securing a victory for the United States.

The 36-day battle that began on February 19, 1945 was an arduous campaign for the United States, largely due to the underground bunkers the Japanese had built. These subterranean caves allowed the Japanese to see the Marines, but the U.S. soldiers had no visual on the Japanese. After days of battle and U.S. casualties totaling over 25,000, our troops finally took control of Mount Suribachi, securing victory for the United States of America and the Allied Forces.

The image of soldiers like Mike Strank, Harlon Block, and Franklin Sousley raising our flag in glory, as portrayed by the Iwo Jima Memorial, reminds us of the perseverance and devotion to country exemplified by the Armed Forces. Because of these acts of bravery and dedication, we stand here free today.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude by again reiterating my support for the recognition of the Marine Corps and other branches of the Armed Forces on the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. The characteristics of strength, devotion, and honor ring strong in our hearts today and always, as we recall all those who fell in one of the most important battles in U.S. history.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE CERTIFICATION OF IMET FOR INDONESIA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the certification of International

Military Education and Training (IMET) for Indonesia by Secretary Rice. Since 2004, Foreign Operations Appropriations legislation has indicated that the Secretary of State must determine if Indonesia is eligible to receive IMET funds. According to the law, what determines eligibility is the cooperation of the Indonesian government and armed forces with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's investigation into the August 31, 2002 murders of two American citizens and one Indonesian citizen in Timika, Indonesia. Last year, then-Deputy Secretary of State Armitage defined "cooperation" in the Freeport killings as seeing the case through to "its exhaustion."

Yet the present Secretary of State has indicated that she has certified IMET for Indonesia, despite the fact that the Indonesian authorities have not "cooperated" by any definition of the term. In July 2004, when U.S. investigators notified Indonesian police that they were willing to return to Indonesia to assist in apprehending the only person thus far indicted by a U.S. grand jury, Anthonius Wamang, it took the Indonesian police well over 6 months to respond. Furthermore, Indonesian authorities have not indicted or apprehended Wamang or anyone else. For the first 6 months after the indictment was unsealed in June 2004, Indonesian police did not inform U.S. investigators as to what they were doing in the investigation.

The cooperation—or lack thereof—of the Indonesian government and armed forces with the FBI investigation is further complicated by the initial Indonesian police report, as well as NGO and media investigations, which pointed to Indonesian military involvement in the attack. Wamang also admitted ties to the notorious Special Forces Kopassus in a video interview broadcast in Australia.

Providing IMET now will remove the key U.S. leverage to assure justice is done in the Timika case, on the eve of the return of the FBI team to Indonesia.

Congress prohibited full IMET for Indonesia for years because of its extremely poor human rights record. Indonesia has yet to fulfill these previous conditions on IMET, and human rights violations, especially in Aceh and West Papua, continue.

Furthermore, there has been no justice for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in 1999 in East Timor. The few Indonesian trials were a whitewash; not one Indonesian officer has been held accountable. Indonesia refuses to extradite anyone, including senior military officers, indicted in a separate and credible UN-East Timor justice process. On top of that, there are increasing reports of militia infiltration into East Timor from Indonesia.

The Indonesian armed forces—TNI—are massively corrupt and have direct ties to terrorist groups. The TNI engages in drug running, illegal logging, extortion of U.S. and other domestic and foreign firms, and human trafficking, among others. A number of Islamic jihadist militia that have terrorized and killed thousands within Indonesia collaborate with and are even empowered by the TNI. The TNI operates a shadow government extending from the central government down to the village level. It continues to resist subordination to civilian authority and is a threat to democracy in Indonesia.

While the amount of money for IMET may be small, it has tremendous symbolic value.

The Indonesian military will view any restoration of IMET as an endorsement of business as usual, not as a reward for extremely limited reforms.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER TOMMY ADKISSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding contributions of Bexar County Commissioner of Precinct 4 Tommy Adkisson.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas Commissioner Adkisson earned his law degree, and returned to San Antonio to practice civil law. Commissioner Adkisson's hard work did not go unnoticed; he was named one of the "Top Ten" Legislators by the family law section of the Texas State Bar.

In 1981, he began his political career when he was elected as State Representative of District 57, and he won the District 119 seat in 1985. His career excelled even furthered when he was elected Bexar County Commissioner in 1998.

As County Commissioner he has brought great value to his District, most notably bringing the SBC Center to Precinct 4. He is known for working well with the citizens of the community. While working with the community of Kirby and Gardendale he was able to purchase needed equipment and provide meal assistance for the elderly. He also worked with the citizens of Converse to create the 1st Emergency Service District in Bexar County. Along with his many accomplishments as a public servant, he is also a dedicated husband to his wife Karen.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the many contributions of Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson.

COMMENDING AUGSBURG COLLEGE ON ITS 9TH NCAA DIVISION III NATIONAL TITLE

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to commend Augsburg College on its ninth NCAA Division III national title in school history this weekend at the NCAA Division III National Wrestling Championships.

Augsburg was ranked number one nationally all season long, qualified wrestlers in all 10 weight classes, had five top-seeded wrestlers and finished with a national-record-tying 10 All-Americans.

Augsburg's Division III program is one of only four remaining in the state. Its legacy of championships may perhaps be one of the reasons why the NCAA Division III Championships were hosted this year in Minnesota for the first time.

The team's winning point total is the most ever for Augsburg at the national champion-

ship tournament. It is also the second-highest point total for any championship team in Division III history, accumulating 162.0 points, outdistancing second-place Wartburg (Iowa) with 104.5 points and breaking Wartburg's two-year hold on the national crown.

Coach Jeff Swenson is in his 23rd season at Augsburg. When asked about the program's success, he says the key is keeping it simple: getting rest, training hard and doing everything right. I believe this approach speaks volumes about the program and about the college as well.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Jeff Swenson and the Augsburg student athletes are to be lauded for their pursuit of excellence. I'm certain that their commitment and discipline has reaped rewards of many kinds—one being the title victory.

INTRODUCTION OF BEST HELP FOR RAPE VICTIMS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce an important piece of legislation that will help rape victims across the country avoid unwanted pregnancy, the Best Help for Rape Victims Act.

Recently, the Department of Justice has issued its first-ever medical guidelines for treating sexual-assault victims, the National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination. While otherwise a thorough step-by-step medical treatment guide, the Justice Department omitted any mention of the option of Emergency Contraception, ignoring a crucial opportunity to provide vital and time-sensitive healthcare to victims of rape and sexual assault.

Of the 300,000 women who are sexually assaulted each year, an estimated 25,000 will become pregnant as a result. If Emergency Contraception was regularly offered to rape victims, its 89 percent success rate could avert up to 22,000 unplanned pregnancies every year—many of which may ultimately be terminated in abortion.

The Best Help for Rape Victims Act would address this problem by simply requiring the Department of Justice to include language in the Protocol stating that a victim of sexual assault who is at risk of pregnancy be offered information about Emergency Contraception, and if requested, provide Emergency Contraception to the victim on site.

The vast majority of Americans believe we should be doing everything we can to help rape victims recover from sexual attacks, not withholding important health information from them, and certainly not making fathers out of rapists. Unfortunately, since the Justice Department apparently has a different set of values, we must pass the "Best Help for Rape Victims Act" to protect the health and rights of victims of sexual assault by ensuring that they receive all available information and the best medical care available.