

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO RAQUEL SHIVDAT

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 20, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding leader, Raquel Shivdat.

Ms. Shivdat may not have a very visible personality, but behind the scenes she is one of the biggest influences in the explosion of Caribbean music entertainment in New York City. As Promotion and Marketing manager of the JMC Entertainment Inc. (which includes JMC records, JMC Trevini band and Rum Jungle Bar and Restaurant), Ms. Shivdat's responsibilities range from the promotion of shows to the management of music recordings. After more than twelve years in the entertainment industry, Ms. Shivdat has become a defining force.

Ms. Shivdat rose through the ranks in the family's business, starting as flyer designer at JMC Records and later working at the family's Roti Express diner. Additionally, Ms. Shivdat managed to pursue a degree in Fashion Marketing at Berkeley College in New Jersey, while managing her household as a wife and mother of two boys, Tyler and Shane.

At Rum Jungle, Ms. Shivdat produces at least one concert every month involving artists from the West Indies. The biggest names in Soca and Chutney music are regular performers at the club. Ms. Shivdat also brought the legendary Indian performers Babla and Kanchan to New York.

Ms. Shivdat also makes regular contributions to charitable organizations and committee projects in New York and has done fund raisers at Rum Jungle for the Prime Ministers of Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana.

At 32 years old, Ms. Shivdat has become a key member of the JMC Company and she says that she always draws inspiration from her father Mohan Jaikairan who owns the business.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Shivdat, a wife, mother and entrepreneur, is both passionate about her chosen field of music and her community. Thus, we proudly recognize her today.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST  
LOUIS NIEDERMEIER

### HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 20, 2005*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Army Specialist Louis E. Niedermeier of Largo, Florida, who gave the last full measure of service to our nation while serving in Iraq.

Our nation buried Louis with full military honors this afternoon at Arlington National Cemetery following his death by sniper fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on June 1st while serving with

his Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He died just 2 weeks short of his 21st birthday.

Louis was a soldier's soldier. He wanted to enlist in the Army immediately after the events of 9-11, but he was only 17. His day came though as soon as he graduated from Pinellas Park High School in 2003. He followed in his father's footsteps and enlisted in the Army and a year later found himself serving in Iraq.

As a scout, Louis served on the front lines, providing critical targeting information to our air and artillery forces. He served with pride and with courage to bring about freedom in a land far from home. The true testament of Louis' service as a soldier came from the remembrances of three soldiers from his unit who served side-by-side with him in Iraq. The three were wounded in combat and were stateside at the time of Louis' death. They drove 36 hours nonstop from Fort Carson, Colorado to be with Louis and his family this afternoon. They said they did it because if the roles had been reversed Louis would have been there for them.

Louis' parents Edward A. Niedermeier and Denise A. Hoy were proud of their son. They were proud that he chose to serve his Nation in uniform. They were proud that he served with distinction to defend the principles of freedom and democracy. And they were proud that despite the fact that he served halfway around the world, first in Korea and then in Iraq, that he never forgot to remember his family and friends back home.

Both Ed and Denise marveled this afternoon that before they knew it Louis had grown from a boy into a man. They recounted Louis' love of family and country. And they emphasized that if Louis had it to do over again, they are convinced he would not have changed a thing.

Army Sergeant First Class Charles Welsh also attended today's services. He not only had the honor of serving with Louis in Iraq, but he was Louis' uncle. He recalled the day Louis came to him and told him he had enlisted in the Army as one of the proudest moments in this young man's life.

The price of freedom is great and in the case of Louis it was a life cut way too short. It was also the tragic interruption of a life together Louis had planned with his fiancée Sarah Hatley. Sarah and Louis were high school sweethearts who both volunteered to serve their Nation in uniform. Sarah is a Seaman serving aboard the U.S.S. *Fitzgerald*, stationed in Yokosuka, Japan. Her ship was underway off the coast of Australia when she learned of Louis' death.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation said goodbye to Specialist Louis E. Niedermeier today at Arlington National Cemetery. We said goodbye to a brave soldier who proudly wore the uniform in defense of freedom here and throughout the world. We said goodbye to a good son, a good nephew, and a good friend to so many people. And we said goodbye to the love of a young girl's life.

As the day draws to an end, we can take solace in the fact that America sleeps better

tonight and every night because of heroes like Louis Niedermeier who sacrificed all for the love of country and the love of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, a grateful Nation said thank you today to a courageous soldier and I join all my colleagues today in expressing our sorrow and our thanks for the life and the service of Louis Niedermeier and to the strong and loving family and friends he leaves behind. His was a life that was all too short in time but full of love and grace.

JUNETEENTH AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 20, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an African-American day of celebration of freedom and justice. Juneteenth marks the end of slavery for African-American communities around the country. It is a day to embrace our freedom and equality, to reflect on the progress we have made as people, and to ponder our future role in this country.

Despite the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863, it took two and a half years—June 1865—for the liberation of all slaves in the United States to occur. For 140 years now, African-Americans have celebrated the final attainment of their freedom on the 19th of June. Tradition has it that it is the date when news of emancipation from slavery was finally delivered to slaves in Texas, the furthest point from Washington where slavery existed. The most accepted explanation is that the delay was caused by the primitive communications of the day, but some historians believe that the news of emancipation was deliberately denied to slaves.

On this Juneteenth, African-Americans across the country will contemplate the importance of their freedom compared to their ancestors. They will reflect on their ability and rights to hold a job, to ride a bus, to own property, to live unencumbered by the government, and to make decisions about their own lives. Some will think about the obstacles that remain in their way of achieving the "American dream." Others will ponder the future of their children and the opportunities ahead of them.

I, for one, would think both about how far we have come as a country and how much further we need to go to erase racism and discrimination from our society. Once the slaves of plantation owners, African-Americans now can freely move about the country, hold jobs and careers of importance, marry their chosen partner, provide for their families, raise their kids, and live in true freedom. African-Americans are graduating from college at increasing rates; receiving medical, professional, and doctoral degrees; working in major corporations and businesses; and making decisions about the future of this country. We have come a long way in our struggle for equality.

• 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.

Nonetheless, we have far to go. Less than half of African-American families own their own homes and they are twice as likely to be denied mortgages as whites. While the unemployment rate for whites is 5 percent, the black unemployment rate is 10 percent. African-Americans are three times more likely to be arrested as whites and on average serve longer sentences than whites. Crime, drugs, and poverty are rampant in many minority communities. Many young African-Americans are disillusioned, frustrated, and feel powerless in their own country.

The challenges African-Americans are facing today are rooted in the system of slavery. After emancipation, segregation, a system of continued oppression, was imposed which maintained the disparities between blacks and whites. It fueled the animosities, resentments, and discrimination that would separate and divide this country. We are still grappling with the effects of slavery, racism, and discrimination. We must do more to undo the wrongs of that evil institution.

On this Juneteenth, let this great country come together to reflect on the role slavery has played in our system today.

A TRIBUTE TO WINSTON P.  
THOMPSON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 20, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished and accomplished Brooklynite, Winston P. Thompson. It is an honor to represent Mr. Thompson in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such an exemplary citizen.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Thompson worked diligently and attained his undergraduate and graduate degrees from St. Francis College and Pace University. His work experience is impressive—from being employed as an auditing officer for Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, a Wall Street Investment Banking firm, for two years, and a big five international accounting and consulting firm, where he remained for five years.

Over the past 20 years, he has demonstrated deep devotion and civic commitment as a CPA and Financial Planner by offering tax and financial services to the Brooklyn community. In addition, he is the founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Thompson & Company, a Certified Public Accounting and Consulting firm based in Downtown Brooklyn, which recently enjoyed its twentieth year in operation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements and service of Mr. Thompson. He continues to offer his talents and services for the betterment of the community through his involvement in several community activities and organizations, particularly as a Member of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and the Bedford Stuyvesant Real Estate Board.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the civic actions of committed and talented individuals such as Winston P. Thompson.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT L.  
PANEK

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 20, 2005*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Mr. Robert L. Panek, who retired from the Senior Executive Service, in the Department of the Navy, on June 3rd, 2005. Mr. Panek's long and highly distinguished career spans nearly 34 years of Federal Service and eclipses 27 years of dedicated service in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller).

A native of Oceanside, New York, Mr. Panek received a Bachelor of Science degree, a Naval Reserve commission, and a Merchant Marine Third Officer's license from the Maritime College of the State University of New York, before entering Federal Service in 1971.

Excelling as a management intern with the Naval Ordnance Systems Command, budget analyst in the Anti-Submarine Warfare Systems Project Office, financial management advisor to the Deputy Chief of Naval Material, and budget analyst/branch head in the Department of the Navy (DoN) Budget Policy and Procedures Directorate, Mr. Panek was appointed to the Senior Executive Service (SES) in July 1986. As a SES officer, his breadth of responsibilities grew to encompass nearly every facet of the DoN budget to include setting policies and procedures for the formulation and execution of the DoN budget; directing DoN budget operations; and overseeing Investment, Research & Development, Construction, and Acquisition accounts. In December 1994, Mr. Panek's exemplary career culminated in his selection as the Associate Director, Office of Budget with responsibility for the formulation, presentation and execution of the DoN budget. In this position he achieved the grade of Senior Executive Service, Level 6 and also served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller).

Mr. Panek's devotion to duty, financial acumen, and commitment to the Navy-Marine Corps Team have made our Nation safer and our Navy and Marine Corps Stronger. He has been awarded numerous performance awards and citations throughout his career to include the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award in December 1988, the Presidential Meritorious Rank Award in 1993, and the Department of the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 2001. His selflessness, exemplary conduct, and commitment to a cause greater than himself is memorialized in his parting email to his shipmates in the Department of the Navy in which he reminded them—"Finally, please always, always remember that we do this for our Sailors and Marines that go in harm's way."

It is fitting and altogether appropriate to recognize Mr. Panek's contributions to the DoN at the same time that we consider the Fiscal Year 2006 Defense Appropriations Act. Our Nation and the Department of the Navy have been made better through the talent and dedication of Mr. Robert L. Panek. I know all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Bob, his wife Susan, and their two daughters, on the completion of an outstanding career. While his

service to our Nation will be missed, he has left a legacy of high standards and superbly trained professionals in his wake. We wish him fair winds and following seas!

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 16, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Moran amendment to restrict the exportation of 50 caliber sniper rifles.

This weapon was not built for hobbies or marksmanship, but for military purposes. According to its original patent filing, it was designed to destroy aircraft at long range, beyond security perimeters.

Semi-automatic versions of these guns can fire as many as ten rounds in one minute at a plane, but it only takes one accurate hit to the fuselage, engine or cockpit to cause disaster.

There are even two published books on the market that explain how to use this sniper weapon to attack planes and helicopters.

All this may be why the conservative Rand Corporation, in a 1995 report, found the 50 caliber sniper rifle to be a serious threat to U.S. military air bases.

Today, nine years after that report and three and a half years after 9/11, these terrorist weapons remain under extremely loose regulation.

They are as easy to purchase as a regular rifle and even easier to purchase than a hand gun and yet we know terrorists and criminal organizations have sought them.

According to the Violence Policy Center, Al Qaeda has at least 25, the Church Universal and Triumphant has at least 10, the IRA has 2, and the Militia Training Camp in Canada has 1.

This weapon not only threatens American planes and airports, but also chemical and refinery plants.

The military's top choice of ammunition for the 50 caliber is not only armor-piercing, but also explosive and incendiary—meaning it causes fire.

That type of ammunition could easily cause a huge disaster.

We should protect ourselves and pass the Moran Amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO DECOSTA HEADLEY

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 20, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Brooklynite and distinguished entrepreneur, DeCosta Headley. It is an honor