

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SAYING FAREWELL TO HOUSE  
PARLIAMENTARIAN MUFTIAH  
MCCARTIN

SPEECH OF

**HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor House Associate Parliamentarian Muftiah McCartin. Today marks the final day in the long and distinguished career of Muftiah, who has served this House with great distinction for nearly 30 years in the Office of the Parliamentarian.

During her nearly three decades of service, Muftiah served under six Speakers and three different Parliamentarians of the House. Charlie Johnson, the former Parliamentarian, would often describe Muftiah as a "Renaissance woman." She came to work for the Parliamentarian's Office as a clerk in 1976 and continued her education at night. On top of her day job and night school, Muftiah was a dedicated mother. She accomplished all her tasks with great determination, strength, and grace. After completing her juris doctorate, Muftiah was the first woman appointed an Assistant Parliamentarian in January of 1991 by Speaker Tom Foley.

Aside from her dedication to the office's daily procedural mission, she has provided special expertise to the House in the areas of budget process and rule making. Muftiah has also assisted the office as the long-time editor of the House Rules and Manual, published every Congress, as well as two editions of House Practice.

Over the years I have served in this House as both a Member and now Speaker, I have come to have a greater appreciation for the role of the office of the Parliamentarian and those giving me advice. On behalf of all those who have looked to you for help while presiding in the Speaker's chair, thank you for being such a trusted and educated colleague.

I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors and hope that with the long hours of this job behind you, you will be afforded more time to spend with your husband and four children.

CONGRATULATING DAVID WHITE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. David White for receiving the Gold Medal of Achievement in Royal Rangers.

Royal Rangers is an achievement program of the Assemblies of God which utilizes an outdoor theme to teach positive character, responsibility, leadership, citizenship and service to God, men and country. The Gold Medal of

Achievement is the highest achievement that can be earned in the Royal Ranger Program.

Mr. White is a freshman in Roanoke, Texas. His achievement represents many years of diligent work completing merits, camping and nature skills, leadership training camps, memorization, essays and service projects. A special service honoring Mr. White's accomplishment is planned for November 27, 2005 at Grace Community Assembly of God in Flower Mound, Texas.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. David White on receiving the Gold Medal of Achievement. His hard work and dedication to excellence warrants the highest achievement given by the Royal Rangers Program.

HONORING MARGARET ATENCIO

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a leader in Colorado's Hispanic community, Ms. Margaret Atencio. Margaret's tireless efforts in the competitive arena of Colorado politics has spanned many years. She is a beloved person in the Colorado Democratic Party, and well respected by all, including many Republican friends, for her dedication to Hispanic youth and increasing the participation and clout of the Latino vote. Her contributions are an inspiration to anyone interested in public service.

Margaret Atencio has had a distinguished career which began with her work at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission. Governor Roy Romer appointed her to the Second Judicial Performance Committee Commission. She serves as the chair of the Downtown Democratic Forum, the Democratic Outreach Commission, and was a founder of the Democratic Latino Initiative.

Margaret has shown boundless energy and commitment to political causes in Colorado. She is currently the vice chair of the 1st Congressional District, the captain and precinct committeeperson of House District 1B, the 2nd Vice Chair of the Colorado Democratic Party, and the president of the Denver Jane Jeffersons. She has been a delegate to many National Democratic Party Conventions and State Party Conventions.

As influential as she has been in politics, it is not her partisan affiliation that strikes me as most worthy of recognition, but rather her commitment to projects that strengthen her community. She is a member of a grassroots group in Denver, "Finding Common Ground" and she serves on the Board of Brothers Re-development, Incorporated, which is a non-profit group that sponsors programs to help low-income, elderly and disabled persons find affordable housing and support services.

Margaret does not hold public office, nor has she been a candidate for office, but she

is, nevertheless, the kind of person who makes a difference. She is one of those persons who has helped others get elected, and to make sure that her candidates keep their promises.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Margaret Atencio for her continuing commitment to honest politics in Colorado. In a time when voter turnout is sometimes disappointingly low and faith in government has fallen, it is heartening to know that there are people like Margaret who find time to volunteer, engage others and who are devoted to bettering the political process, increasing political participation and strengthening our communities in the process. I'm proud to know Margaret Atencio, to count her as a friend and advocate of people whose voices are not always heard, but need to be heard.

MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL  
VOLCANIC MONUMENT

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, 1980, a catastrophic volcanic eruption forever changed the face of Mt. St. Helens in Washington. As a result of the eruption, fifty-seven people were killed, hundreds of square miles of forest were shattered, and the once graceful peak of the mountain was reduced to a smoldering crater.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan established the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument within the U.S. Forest Service. The Monument is unique in that it is the only unit of its kind in the U.S. Forest Service. The Monument's mission to provide research, recreation, and education opportunities related to Mt. St. Helens and the 1980 eruption does not fit with that of the Forest Service, which is charged with management of our Nation's forests.

The attached article, which appeared in The Columbian, a Vancouver, Washington-based newspaper, puts forth the idea that the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument should be removed from the Forest Service, and made a unit of the National Park Service, whose primary mission is research, recreation, and education.

When I visited the Monument earlier this year, the same idea occurred to me. Perhaps it is time we look into it.

[From the Columbian, Nov. 7, 2005]

PARK STATUS MAY EASE ST. HELENS' BLUES

(By Erik Robinson)

Dave Uberuaga has been watching with interest as his neighbor to the south struggles to pay the bills.

Uberuaga, superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park, has a built-in advantage over the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument: a steady and reliable source of funding.

• 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.

While the U.S. Forest Service looks for private enterprise to help make ends meet at Mount St. Helens, Congress provides 80 percent of Mount Rainier's budgetary needs. Out of an annual budget of just over \$10 million, Ueberuaga said Congress provides all but about \$1.9 million.

In contrast, the \$2.25 million recreation budget at Mount St. Helens is supported roughly 50-50 by direct allocations from the Federal government and fees generated by visitors. Even with that, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest has had to jockey with other forests for a \$400,000 boost from the Forest Service's regional office in Portland this year and last.

"It makes it very difficult on Mount St. Helens to have a viable operation," Ueberuaga said.

For some, the proximity of Mount Rainier offers one tantalizing solution to the chronic funding woes at Mount St. Helens.

"I think the possibility of it being folded into the Park Service or redesignated as a national park has never been greater," said Sean Smith, regional director of the National Parks Conservation Association in Seattle.

#### A NEW NATIONAL PARK?

Mount Rainier and other national parks receive direct appropriations from Congress.

Mount St. Helens, on the other hand, receives its share of recreation funding only after it filters through three distinct layers of administrative overhead from national headquarters, through the regional office in Portland, and, finally, through the Gifford Pinchot forest headquarters in Vancouver. At each level, the monument must compete with other recreation programs operated by the Forest Service.

"That's what the park service doesn't have," said Cliff Ligons, monument manager at Mount St. Helens for the past 5 years.

Ligons added that the Forest Service had ample money and resources to operate in the years after Congress established the 110,000-acre monument in 1982.

Times have changed since then, beginning with a precipitous decline in timber revenue since the 1980s. Since the Forest Service opened the last of three visitor centers at Mount St. Helens in 1997, direct appropriations for recreation have dwindled.

"The money to fight wars and to fight terrorism comes from someplace, especially when you cut taxes," Ligons said. "Where do you think that's coming from? It comes from government programs. Mount St. Helens is one of many areas in the Forest Service that's currently struggling."

Ted Stubblefield, who retired as Gifford Pinchot forest supervisor in 1999, said Congress ought to establish a budget for national monuments such as Mount St. Helens as they do for national parks. He said it made sense for the Forest Service to hang onto Mount St. Helens once the monument was established, partly because national parks tend to employ more people with higher salaries.

"Our guess is it would have been somewhere between two to four times as expensive to operate it," he said.

Stubblefield and another former Gifford Pinchot forest supervisor, Bob Tokarczyk, blasted members of Washington's congressional delegation for failing to adequately fund the monument in a guest opinion piece published by *The Columbian* on Oct. 28. Although Stubblefield said the monument is suffering from budgetary neglect, he doesn't believe the solution is to simply fold it into the National Park Service.

Instead, he said the volcano should be treated less like a wayside and more like Mount Rainier, Liberty Island or Mount Rushmore.

"Congress should do the same thing with monuments that the Forest Service manages," he said. "The monuments are really owned by the public in a more deeply held manner, in my mind. They're like our national treasures."

#### BROADENING OPPORTUNITIES

Were it not for a new system of collecting fees on public lands authorized by Congress in 1997, the Mount St. Helens recreation program would have run out of money long ago.

The Forest Service collected about \$1.1 million in visitor fees for the volcano last year. Now, the agency is looking for more help from private enterprise.

In a 150-page prospectus issued last month, the Forest Service solicited proposals from private businesses willing to pay the government to operate helicopter tours, mobile food stands, RV sites, or other amenities around the erupting volcano. Forest Service officials said the outreach may help to improve the monument's bottom line, but it also would "broaden visitor opportunities" around Mount St. Helens.

"The government doesn't run gift shops," said Steve Nelson, recreation planner for the Gifford Pinchot.

Ueberuaga said Mount Rainier also has private concessions, including two overnight lodges, gift shops, a store for campers and three services providing guided climbs to the top of the 14,410-foot peak. He acknowledged, however, that people generally expect a national park to have a limited range of commercial opportunities.

"So there are no off-road vehicles at Mount Rainier, and yet on the forest there's appropriate places for that," he said.

Snowmobile tours are one of the potential opportunities suggested in the prospectus offered by the Forest Service at Mount St. Helens. Ueberuaga said he will be interested to see how the Forest Service strikes a balance between new recreational opportunities while protecting the unique environment surrounding the most active volcano in the Cascade Range.

"I think the Forest Service has a great opportunity there to demonstrate their recreation and visitor experience," he said. "They just need a little more funds to take some of the pressure off."

#### LEGISLATION TO MAKE SOUTH KOREA A VISA WAIVER PROGRAM COUNTRY

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the Republic of Korea has long been a staunch ally and friend of the United States. In the last few years, South Koreans have been one of our strongest partners in the global war on terror. They have shown their commitment by supporting continued operations in Afghanistan. In line with the U.S. and Great Britain, South Korea committed the 3rd largest number of troops to support the efforts of our Armed Forces in Iraq. Korea has also adopted economic policies that have helped them become the world's eleventh largest economy, the United States' seventh largest trading partner, and the fifth largest market for United States agricultural products.

In recognition of this steadfast friendship and unique relationship our nation has with the Republic of Korea, I am introducing legis-

lation to make South Korea a Visa Waiver Program country. Under the Visa Waiver Program, a traveler to the United States, either for business or pleasure, can enter the country for up to ninety days without obtaining a visa. This courtesy has already been extended to United States citizens by the South Korean government. Currently, twenty-seven countries are on the visa waiver list, ranging from France and Japan to Brunei and Slovenia.

The United States is home to over two million people of Korean heritage. By placing South Korea on the Visa Waiver Program list, we would make it easier friends and family the opportunity to visit our country and strengthen relationships with their loved ones. Currently, if a friend or family member wants to visit someone in the U.S. they must apply for a visa at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, requiring travel to the capital city where the process often takes up to two weeks to complete. For many family and friends the process is too expensive and onerous to complete. Allowing the Republic of Korea into the waiver program will streamline this process, granting our South Korean friends the same opportunity to visit our country as people from our other allied nations.

Placing Korea on the visa waiver country list would have a positive impact on our economy. More than 626,000 Korean citizens visit the United States each year. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, overall tourism dollars spent in the U.S. by tourists from the Republic of Korea exceeded \$1 billion in fiscal year 2004. Visitation and tourism dollars are bound to grow if South Korea is allowed to be a part of the Visa Waiver Program.

To curb any potential abuses, the South Korean government is taking aggressive steps to comply with post 9/11 security requirements to combat visa fraud. South Korea has already invested in state of the art technology and currently issues secure machine readable passports with digitalized photographs that are difficult to counterfeit. By 2007, e-passports will be introduced with biometric identifiers in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization standards.

Economically, militarily and politically, the U.S. and South Korean share a vision of freedom and democracy that has made our nations solid friends and allies. In recognition of this friendship and our shared history, it is time to ease the restrictions Korean citizens encounter when they attempt to visit our nation, which has strong cultural ties to the people of Korea.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ALL VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week we honor our Nation's veterans—not just the thousands who have risked their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the millions more who over the years have answered the call to arms and served as a member of the United States Armed Forces.

Since the founding of this Nation, Americans have battled courageously to protect the helpless, defeat despots and spread the cause of freedom to every corner of the globe. Most of