

TRIBUTE TO LINDA MILLS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of Linda Mills of Champaign, Illinois who passed away on Thursday, September 14, 2006. A great community leader and active businesswoman, Linda Mills has left a footprint in Central Illinois that will always be remembered.

Linda Mills was dedicated to improving the lives of those in the Champaign-Urbana community for many years. As President of Busey Travel and director of Busey Bank, Mrs. Mills volunteered at the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club where she served as president for many years. The executive director of this club remembers Linda Mills as an extremely compassionate lady, she was very interested in the education of our kids. Along with the Boys & Girls Club, Mrs. Mills also volunteered her time at the Cunningham Children's Home where the President and CEO of the Home always remembers Linda Mills' heart for the community, helping to meet the needs of children and adults who needed help overcoming the odds. She did so many great things in an unassuming fashion. She was someone who wasn't flashy. So much she did, no one would ever know about.

One longtime friend, Carol Scharlau, has said that Linda Mills had a commitment to building a better community and in such a sincere and caring way. Some people volunteer for different reasons. But with Linda, compassion for others came through in everything she did.

In 2005, Linda Mills and her husband Doug pledged \$10 million to establish the Mills Breast Cancer Institute at Carle Clinic in Urbana. As one who had suffered from breast cancer herself, Mrs. Mills felt very strongly about the research and the help this organization could give to serve others who suffer from breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the memory of Mrs. Linda Mills.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARILYN MENNELLO

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Marilyn Mennello of Winter Park, Florida, a wonderful friend, tireless advocate for the arts and community leader in Central Florida. She was a philanthropist who rose to national prominence as an arts patron who inspired all whom she met.

From humble beginnings in Pasadena, California, Marilyn moved to the Orlando area in 1962. Raising two daughters, she was a successful business woman and community activist.

She devoted her time and energy to charity work, especially in the arts. In 1964, she was appointed to the Cultural Affairs Committee and later founded a volunteer group of 101

women to raise funding for the Loch Haven Arts Center, now the Orlando Museum of Art. This group became one of the most successful fundraising organizations in Central Florida benefiting the Orlando Science Center, the Orlando Museum of Art, the American Heart Association of Central Florida and the Florida Hospital. In 1998 she and her husband, Michael Mennello cofounded the Orlando Mennello Museum.

She is credited for discovering the work of Earl Cunningham, a self-taught artist and shop owner from Maine. He displayed his paintings in his St. Augustine shop that included an array of vivid harbor scenes and Americana. Over 15 years, the Mennellos worked to promote him as an important folk artist. The Mennellos presented one of his pieces to President George W. Bush for the White House Collection. Cunningham's art now hangs proudly in the Mennello Museum. An exhibition featuring Cunningham's work will open in the Smithsonian in Washington, DC next year.

Not only was Marilyn Mennello special to art appreciation in America, she was a patriot who dearly loved our country. She was also a loving mother and grandmother to her daughters, Lynda and Sylvia, and her grandsons, Alec and Andrew.

To her devoted husband, Michael, we extend our deepest sympathy.

To Marilyn's entire family, we extend our condolences.

Mr. Speaker, because of Marilyn Mennello's dedication to our Nation and to art in America, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and remembering her life.

RETIREMENT OF PEARL MOORE

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent and Oncology Nursing Society Chief Executive Officer Pearl Moore, for her life-long commitment to advancing oncology nursing and helping people with cancer. In January, Pearl will be retiring from her position as the CEO of the Oncology Nursing Society.

Ms. Moore has lived and worked in Pittsburgh all of her life, and we are proud to have her as a member of our community. Ms. Moore received both her Bachelor of Science of Nursing and Master of Nursing degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and has been an adjunct assistant professor at the University's School of Nursing since 1983.

As a pioneer practitioner, Pearl served at Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh as one of the nation's first oncology clinical nurse specialists in the nation. Thirty years ago, Ms. Moore and other oncology nurses founded the Oncology Nursing Society and in 1983 she became its CEO. During her tenure, the Oncology Nursing Society has grown to the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, with more than 33,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. The Oncology Nursing Society honors and maintains

nursing's historical and essential commitment to the public good by providing nurses and healthcare professionals with access to the highest quality educational programs, cancer-care resources, research opportunities, and networks for peer support. I commend the Oncology Nursing Society's staff and members, especially Ms. Moore, for all that they do and have done to improve the quality of care for people with cancer.

Ms. Moore's strong leadership and experience in quality cancer care has been recognized by many organizations. In 1996, the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care presented her with its Distinguished Merit Award in recognition of steadfast and prolific contributions to the art and science of cancer care worldwide. In 2004, Ms. Moore was named a University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate, which honors alumni who have been recognized for their outstanding personal and professional achievements. Additionally, Ms. Moore serves as a member of the School of Nursing's Board of Visitors at the University of Pittsburgh, as well as the Advisory Board for People to People, and the Johnson & Johnson Advisory Board for the Campaign for Nursing's Future. All of these honors are extremely well-deserved. I understand that despite all of her professional achievements, she is most proud of her role as beloved grandmother of her two grandsons, Niko and Tony. Niko and Tony are lucky young men to have such an accomplished and dedicated grandmother.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District and all people who have or may be touched by cancer, I would like to thank Ms. Moore for her outstanding and innumerable contributions to oncology nursing. As a nurse and leader in the field for almost 50 years, Ms. Moore has made it her life's mission to help others, and she should be applauded for all she has accomplished. Cancer patients and their families have benefited immensely from Ms. Moore's involvement and leadership in cancer care.

I am most grateful to Pearl Moore for her ongoing commitment to assuring access to quality cancer care for all cancer patients and their families, and I wish her all the best on the occasion of her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saturday, November 18th as National Adoption Day and to celebrate all adoptive families.

On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, courtrooms across the country will come together to dedicate the resources of our judicial system to finalize adoptions of kids currently in the foster care system.

In the five years since National Adoption Day was established, it has truly grown into a national celebration. Last year, 3,300 adoptions were finalized as part of 227 nationwide events.

Unfortunately, despite the declining number of children waiting in foster care, there are still 118,000 children seeking adoption.

This is simply unacceptable. It is our duty as a prosperous nation to unite and ensure these children find safe, loving homes.

Six years ago, my wife and I decided to expand our family and open our home to two foster care children.

Like many adoptive families, we faced many challenges during this process. But these experiences have only made our family stronger.

The adoption process is often complicated and riddled with paperwork, meetings, and home studies—important factors when accessing the ability of a family to care for a new child—but they can also discourage qualified parents from embarking on the adoption process.

The foster care community has been working with Congress and state governments across the country to streamline the adoption process and focus on limited resources, such as requiring frequent home visits and experienced caseworkers.

As Members of Congress, it is our job to be the voice for foster children and make sure their dreams are recognized. We owe it to them to streamline the adoption process to ensure positive outcomes for these kids.

It is important that we continue to make this process more accessible to families so that these children can be welcomed into loving homes.

Despite the obstacles that we still need to overcome, this is a time to celebrate those families that have decided to make a difference in the life of a child.

I commend these families and hope that children across the nation will find a place to call home this Saturday as part of National Adoption Day.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW METZGER-CROOK POST 6504

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join in honoring the 60th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Metzger-Crook Post 6504 in Waterloo, Illinois.

In 1946, as many of our nation's veterans were returning from serving their country in World War II, a small group of veterans in Monroe County, Illinois began discussions about forming a local VFW post. With assistance from the Adjutant of the neighboring post in Belleville, and after the original group solicited additional veterans for membership, the Metzger-Crook Post was formed and received its charter on April 27, 1946. The name, Metzger-Crook, was selected in honor of the first two Monroe County residents to give their lives in World War II, Monroe Metzger and William Crook.

With 108 names on the original charter, John Mitchell was elected as the first president. Meetings in the early days were held in a variety of locations as the fledgling organization grew in size of membership and array of activities. The first fish fry and picnic was held on July 4, 1946 and was such an instant success that it developed into an annual event.

Post 6504 has provided support for countless individuals and organizations in Monroe

County throughout their sixty years of service. Scholarship recipients, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, Operation Uplink and Adopt a Unit are just a few examples of the beneficiaries of Post 6504's support. The post also provides the use of assistance equipment such as canes, walkers and wheelchairs to anyone who asks.

The Metzger-Crook Post 6504 Auxiliary is also celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. In addition to their duties at the post, the Auxiliary has provided support for numerous organizations and individuals. Annual trips to visit nursing home residents, support of cancer research, local veterans hospitals and the children of veterans are just some of the ways that the Auxiliary has contributed to its community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of VFW Metzger-Crook Post 6504 both past and present on sixty years of serving veterans and the people of southwestern Illinois.

CONGRATULATING FOCUS: HOPE ON RECEIVING THE 2006 EXEMPLARY INTEREST CONTRIBUTION AWARD

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Focus: HOPE and its wonderful team for being selected to receive the 2006 Exemplary Public Interest Contribution Award (EPIC). Focus: HOPE co-founder Eleanor Josaitis is one of my dear friends and one of the most admirable and inspiring women I know. She has put together an outstanding team of motivated, energetic individuals such as Keith Cooley, who recently became Chief Executive Officer.

The EPIC Award is one of the most prestigious honors recognized by the United States government through the Department of Labor, honoring public interest organizations that support equal employment opportunities and have worked with federal contractors to make these opportunities available for minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans.

For nearly four decades, Focus: HOPE has been a leading voice for eliminating discrimination and injustice, starting in Southeast Michigan. Following the deadly and violent 1967 Detroit riots, Father William Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis founded Focus: HOPE, a metropolitan civil and human rights organization committed to "intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice." The belief is that this goal can be accomplished if the playing field is level and the economic mainstream is accessible to everyone.

Focus: HOPE programs assist individuals from all walks of life in many different ways. Their food distribution program is one of the largest in the nation, serving 43,000 children, mothers and seniors every month. Focus: HOPE career development programs are targeted towards preparing participants for employment in high-demand fields such as engineering and information technology. Since its inception, Focus: HOPE has literally helped thousands of individuals—particularly women and minorities—to become financially independent.

Focus: HOPE is one of the most successful organizations of its kind in this country, and this award is well-deserved. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Focus: HOPE on another momentous achievement and in sending the Focus: HOPE team our best wishes for another successful year.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN LENABURG

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to reflect upon the life of a strong and good man, Dean Lenaburg from Valley City, North Dakota.

Dean was my mentor and my friend. Without his role in my life, I would never have been a Member of Congress. Dean passed away earlier this year after a long battle with kidney and liver disease, but his memory will continue to guide and inspire his family and friends in the years ahead.

Dean was easy to look up to—he towered over most of us with a height of 6' 4" and the athletic build of someone who excelled in sports. He easily transitioned from the small town competition of Portland, North Dakota to stand-out on the University of North Dakota football team.

Dean's parents obviously instilled in him an intellectual curiosity and love of learning—that would be an important feature of his character throughout his life.

Dean quickly completed his university years earning his undergraduate and law degrees in just 5 years. He married Mary Trom from Lisbon, North Dakota, and upon graduation they began the adventure of Dean's service in the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Dean would have been the very picture of an FBI agent in those days—tall, strong, smart, and absolutely committed to advancing justice and public safety. Dean was never one to talk about himself, so most of his experiences as an FBI agent were never shared—even with those closest to him. I know, however, he served with honor and that the FBI has never had an agent more trustworthy than Dean Lenaburg.

After several years Dean, Mary and their four young daughters, Kristin, Kathryn, Andrea, and Susan, came back to North Dakota where Dean began his career as a practicing attorney—briefly in Oakes and later in Valley City where he was a fixture in the area's legal community for more than 30 years.

In the course of these years, Dean made many positive contributions to his community, his clients and friends. He profoundly influenced my own life during this time, as revealed in three examples.

In 1971, my father died unexpectedly at the age of 57. Dean handled the estate. To this day, I vividly remember the competent and sensitive representation he provided to our grief stricken family. His example of service furthered my own thinking with regards to pursuit of a law career.

In 1974, Dean supported my application for the Rotary Foundation Award. With his help, I won the scholarship and was able to pursue graduate studies in England.

Finally, Dean and his law partner R. Jon Fitzner allowed me to fulfill my first career