

HONORING DONALD GUIMOND

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Donald Guimond, Town Manager of Fort Kent, Maine.

On May 1, 2008, the town of Fort Kent suffered from severe flooding that impacted businesses, apartments, homes and elderly housing. Mr. Guimond oversaw an orderly evacuation and quick response by emergency teams. Despite working without sleep for more than thirty six hours, Mr. Guimond always knew which residents and businesses had been impacted, where individuals sought shelter, and what further assistance was necessary. His well-coordinated reaction prevented serious injury and the loss of life.

Mr. Guimond continued to show his dedication to the residents of Fort Kent long after the flood waters receded. Through his efforts, the town provided the space necessary for disaster assistance teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration and other entities. He and his staff coordinated an effort to provide emergency heaters to residents whose furnaces were damaged by the disaster. He played an active role in the town's Long-term Recovery Committee, making sure that residents and business owners applied for the assistance that they needed and that the town is ready to respond to ongoing issues which have arisen from the flood. The Small Business Administration has recognized Mr. Guimond's significant contributions by presenting him the Phoenix Award for Disaster Recovery as a Public Official.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Guimond's dedication to the residents of Fort Kent, Maine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to personal reasons.

On Monday May 19, 2009 I missed rollcall votes 267, 268, and 269. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on those rollcall votes.

128TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF KEMAL ATATURK FOUNDER OF MODERN TURKEY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today, May 19, to commemorate the 128th anniversary of the birth of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. Ataturk was a

unique and inspirational figure who laid the foundation for the Republic of Turkey. He was a post World War I revolutionary leader who understood that Islam and modernity are not inconsistent—an important factor to reinforce today with democratic leaders throughout the Muslim world.

By any measure, Ataturk was an historic reformer. In the space of two decades, he built the nation of Turkey from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire—a nation that was based on secular principles and with a foundation that was fertile for democracy to take root and prosper. He held true to his fundamental vision for his overwhelmingly Muslim nation, namely that it be guided by two overarching concepts: secularism and progress. Just as is the case today, he understood that advances in science and technology would enhance the nation and the Turkish people.

To enable Turkey to reap the benefits of such advances, he set about enacting major reforms in all aspects of Turkish life—political, cultural, legal, educational, and economic all with an eye toward creating the architecture of the new Turkish nation that would raise it to the level of what Ataturk referred to as "contemporary civilization." These reforms touched on all aspects of Turkish society from abolishing the caliphate, recognizing equal rights for men and women, replacing the Arabic alphabet with Latin letters, and instituting secular law to reforming traditional styles of dress and mandating surnames.

Ataturk was an impatient reformer. His handling of the reform of the alphabet is one example of his impatience. The language commission he appointed to review the reform recommended that the alphabet reforms be phased in over a fifteen year period. Ataturk had a much different timeframe in mind. He set about traveling throughout the country, personally instructing crowds in the new alphabet, and within six months he had accomplished his goal. With the acceptance of the Latin alphabet, millions of Turks would be poised to turn westward for their second languages and the learning to which those languages are the key.

Ataturk championed women's rights, encouraging them to pursue careers as doctors, lawyers, scientists, writers and politicians. He did so because he wisely understood that by doing so he was unleashing the talents of all Turks and thereby making the nation stronger. Because of his vision and determination, Turkey is today a strong and vibrant democracy and a model for others in the Islamic world to emulate.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that Muslim leaders throughout the region will reacquire themselves with Ataturk's revolutionary leadership and take inspiration in the courageous reforms he undertook more than seventy years ago so that they too can preside over nations that are secular, democratic and prosperous.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRET

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, May 18, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall vote 267 (Motion to suspend the rules and Agree to H. Res. 300), "nay" on Rollcall vote 268 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to S. 386), "aye" on Rollcall vote 269 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 442).

HONORING ANDREA MACKENZIE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I, along with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, rise today to honor a dedicated and beloved advocate for preserving both agriculture and the environment of Sonoma County, California. Andrea Mackenzie is leaving the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and we celebrate her 12 productive years, especially the last eight years as General Manager.

Andrea was born in upstate New York and grew up in Los Angeles. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Natural Resources from the University of California at Los Angeles.

With her love of both the coast and the rugged mountains of the High Sierra, it is no surprise that Andrea worked for over 25 years in land use and conservation-related positions, including the East Bay and San Francisco where she began to develop a focus on collaborative public/private projects and regional approaches. She also loves walkable communities, old barns, hiking and kayaking, country rock, and nature writers.

Andrea first served the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District as project manager for the strategic conservation plan update, creating documents that have become models for other public land conservation agencies. In 2000, she was appointed General Manager by the Board of Supervisors.

The mission of the District is to "permanently protect the diverse agricultural, natural resource and scenic open space lands of Sonoma County for future generations." Funded by a quarter cent sales tax, it is the only such district in the state of California and is overwhelmingly supported by Sonoma County's residents.

Andrea helped direct the 2006 campaign to renew the sales tax, which passed overwhelmingly. Voters value the organization's mission and its programs including: matching grants to partner with local cities and agencies for land acquisition, preservation and enhancement; stewardship in managing these lands and various easements to protect them, as well as to allow for public access; land leases to local growers; and public and educational outings, including a focus on underserved populations. Andrea has played a key role in developing these programs as well as increasing the amount of open space from 25,000 acres to 75,000 acres (including 33,000 acres of farmland).

In 2007, in testament to Andrea's management, the District was selected for the National Leadership in Conservation Award from the