

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA, OHIO

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA extends his congratulations on the occasion of the One-Hundred Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Village of Ottawa, Ohio; and

Whereas, Ottawa, Ohio has been a proud member of the Northwest Ohio community since 1833; and

Whereas, the citizens of Ottawa, Ohio provide friendship and tradition to all those in Northwest Ohio; and

Whereas, Ottawa, Ohio has a long history of fostering business, education, and community relationships; therefore, be it

Resolved, The people of Northwest Ohio are grateful for the service of the citizens and employers of Ottawa, Ohio. Ohio's Fifth Congressional District is well served by their dedication and support. We wish Ottawa, Ohio all the best during its celebration the One-Hundred Seventy-Fifth anniversary.

HONORING SILVIO J. PICCINOTTI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Silvio J. Piccinotti of Petaluma, California, who passed away April 19, 2009, at the age of 100. Silvio was a fixture of the community for most of those years as it developed from an agricultural center to a small city with a variety of businesses but true to its rural roots.

Like many of their contemporaries in the area, Silvio's parents emigrated from the Italian-speaking area of Switzerland to the dairy ranching area of nearby Marin County where Silvio was born. They moved to Two Rock near Petaluma when he was an infant, and he worked on the local ranches as he grew up. In 1930 he purchased a ranch with his brother Americo, retiring from that business in 1975.

But Silvio is most known for his lifelong passion for draft horses, a passion he shared with the community. He was a founding member of the Northbay Draft Horse and Mule Club and tutored many young enthusiasts. He participated with his horse team and wagon in the Sonoma County Fair and the Harvest Fair and was especially appreciated at events in Petaluma, such as the annual Butter and Eggs Day parade. For 25 years he also sponsored an annual draft horse Wagon Train through Sonoma and Marin Counties.

Silvio was predeceased by his wife Alice and is survived by his son Vernon S. and his grandson Vernon J. Piccinotti as well as his dear friend Ellen Wight.

Madam Speaker, in 2005 the Sonoma County Horse Council appropriately inducted Silvio into its Equus Hall of Fame. His true fame lies with the generations of locals who

will remember the wagon rides and the teams of draft horses that brought them joy and represented the spirit of the community.

RECOGNIZING MAURO LUNA'S SERVICE TO THE U.S. PROBATION SERVICE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to celebrate the retirement of Mauro Luna from the U.S. Probation Service. His 22-year career in Laredo exhibits his native and lifelong dedication to the city and its people.

It was at Mary Help of Christians School that Mr. Luna developed his high standard of morals and ethics that he later exhibited as an officer and supervisor. He brought this leadership to his job everyday, and positively impacted those he interacted with through the course of a day.

Mauro Luna found education to be the cornerstone to any successful life and career, so after graduating from J.W. Nixon High School he went on to earn his degree from the University of Texas-Austin and his MBA from Laredo State University. During this time Mr. Luna married Maria Martinez and had two children, Marcos and Massiel Melinda.

Madam Speaker, now after 11 years with the Juvenile Department and 22 years with the U.S. Probation Office I find great pleasure in wishing Mauro Luna a long deserved retirement so he may spend more time with his family and hunting.

EXTENDING THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME BENEFITS PROGRAM TO AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, PUERTO RICO, AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I have introduced today legislation that will extend the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits program to American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Specifically, this legislation would amend Section 303 of the Social Security Amendments of 1972 to make qualified residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands eligible to receive supplemental security income.

The Supplemental Security Income program assures a minimum cash income to all aged, blind, or disabled persons. Section 301 of the Social Security Amendments of 1972 established the Supplemental Security Income benefits program and ended matching grant programs to the 50 states and the District of Columbia for assistance to aged, blind, and disabled individuals. It is important to note that the House bill in 1972 included the territories under the proposed SSI program, but the final bill did not include that provision. SSI was extended to the Northern Mariana Islands in

1976, while American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands remain under the old matching grant programs with limited Federal funding.

Territorial governments currently receive non-entitlement, federal-state grants under Title I (Grants to States for Old-Age Assistance for the Aged); Title X (Grants to the States for Aid to the Blind); Title XIV (Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled); and Title XVI (Grants to the States for Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled) of the Social Security Act for programs designed to assist the needy, aged, blind, and disabled. Residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who would otherwise qualify for SSI benefits are shortchanged under the current Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (AABD) Program where the federal payment is \$637 per individual compared with an average payment under the AABD program on Guam being \$100. American Samoa is at a greater disadvantage, receiving no AABD funds.

The legislation which I have introduced today would bring uniformity and fairness in annual payments by the federal government for all eligible persons residing in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories under the SSI program and is one step in ensuring equity in Federal health programs for the territories.

I look forward on working with my colleagues to advance this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REAFFIRMATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE RESOLUTION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. GOODLATTE, Madam Speaker, Article VI of the U.S. Constitution declares that "this Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof . . . shall be the supreme law of the land." Since its beginning, our nation has operated under the fundamental principle that the people of the United States should determine their own destiny.

However, recently there has been a deeply disturbing trend in American jurisprudence. The Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, has begun to look abroad, to international laws, regulations and opinions to interpret the U.S. Constitution. This is a very frightening prospect considering these materials are crafted by bureaucrats and non-governmental organizations with virtually no democratic input.

This new trend is a threat to both our Nation's sovereignty and the democratic underpinnings of our system of government. Our Nation's founders acknowledged this very danger when they decreed in the Declaration of Independence that King George had "combined to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution and unacknowledged by our laws."

The contrast between this language in the Declaration of Independence and that of many of our Supreme Court justices could not be clearer. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg told the New York City Bar Association in 2005, "I will take enlightenment wherever I can get it. I don't want to stop at a national boundary."

Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor made the prediction that the Supreme Court will rely "increasingly on international and foreign courts in examining domestic issues . . .," as opposed to relying solely on our Constitution as the basis for its rulings.

Indeed, with the laws of an entire world of nations to choose from, citing foreign laws and opinions encourages cherry-picking the foreign precedents that suit the desired outcome of the one citing them. It promises to be a very convenient tool for any federal judge or justice seeking to stretch the meaning of our Constitution beyond its original meaning.

As elected representatives of the people, we cannot stand by and let this occur any longer. We must return the focus of federal judges to their role as interpreters of the Constitution, not importers of foreign laws and opinions.

The Supreme Court is charged with making final pronouncements about our Constitution, which is uniquely American. Each of our nation's judges, as well as Supreme Court justices, took an oath to defend and uphold the U.S. Constitution—and it is time that Congress reminds these unelected officials of their sworn duties.

That is why I am introducing this resolution today, which expresses the sense of Congress that Federal judges and justices should not cite foreign judgments, laws, or pronouncements when interpreting the U.S. Constitution. This common sense resolution sends a strong, clear message that the Congress is not willing to simply stand idly by and see our nation's sovereignty weakened.

I believe the judicial branch is guaranteed a very high level of independence when it operates within the boundaries of the U.S. Constitution. However, when judges and justices begin to operate outside of those boundaries, Congress must respond. We must be steadfast guardians of the freedoms that are protected in the Constitution of the United States of America.

I urge the Members of this body to support this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DIONYSIOS
ANNINOS

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Dionysios Anninos, who will assume Command of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Central District, located in Baghdad, Iraq on July 7, 2009.

There is without a doubt, few, if any, men who are as capable or prepared to oversee engineer projects in Iraq than Colonel Anninos. However, it is with reluctance and a heavy heart that we bid farewell to an officer who has served the Hampton Roads region of Virginia so well.

For almost three years, Colonel Anninos has commanded the Norfolk District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As Commander, Colonel Anninos managed the Corps' water resources development and navigable waterways operations for five river basins in the Commonwealth of Virginia. A key contributor to Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, Colonel Anninos also oversaw projects helping to create jobs while improving the Nation's aging infrastructure.

From maintaining the critical intercoastal waterways and the Great Dismal Swamp Canal, to laying the groundwork for the Deep Creek Bridge in Chesapeake, Colonel Anninos has demonstrated a level of professionalism and excellence that I have only rarely had the benefit to witness.

For the many Virginians and residents of North Carolina within the sixteen counties and 5,000 square miles that lie within the Chowan River Basin, Colonel Anninos will be remembered for his tireless leadership to address the flooding there. Because of his efforts, we can look forward to a comprehensive Reconnaissance Study to investigate the flooding beginning in the next several months. In addition, Colonel Anninos' persistence and resourcefulness were central to bringing together federal, state, and local officials in a local-federal partnership to install a system of early-warning gauges on the River, which has risen to six of its highest flood levels in the last eleven years.

Under Colonel Anninos' command, the Norfolk District has also provided support in response to several natural disasters within Virginia and some of our Nation's greatest natural disasters, including Hurricanes Katrina and Ike. All the while his District provided engineering support to Overseas Contingency Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan serving side-by-side with our men and women overseas.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, the residents of the Chowan River Basin, and the residents of the Fourth congressional District of Virginia, I express my gratitude to Colonel Anninos for his service to our Nation, and for his friendship. I wish Colonel Anninos, his wife Catherine, and his two sons the very best as he continues to serve our great Nation.

CONGRATULATING ERIC YANG,
WINNER OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eric Yang, who won first place in the 2009 National Geographic Bee.

I had the pleasure of finding out that Eric had advanced to the final round of the National Geographic Bee, and I was ecstatic to hear that he won. Eric, who is a 7th grader from The Colony, Texas, captured the 1st place title in the tie-breaker round. Eric did not miss a single question during the entire final round, in a competition that National Geographic reported as their most difficult competition to date. Eric is now the proud recipient of a \$25,000 scholarship, a trip to the Galapagos Islands, and bragging rights for life.

More than just a geography buff, Eric demonstrates his giftedness in several other aspects of his life. An avid pianist, Eric placed first in the Dallas Jazz competition three years in a row. He also conquers in chess, reads anything he can get his hands on, and has an insatiable curiosity. I am encouraged by the in-

quisitiveness we see in this talented young man. Young people like Eric are the guiding lights we will look upon in the future to better our society.

I am proud to recognize Eric Yang for his great accomplishment. It is a distinct privilege to represent Mr. Yang in the 26th District of Texas, and I wish him the very best for a bright future.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE MCGOVERN

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the State of Rhode Island and those whose lives have been impacted by Special Olympics Rhode Island, I would like to pay tribute to Mike McGovern, a man who has dedicated his life to the fulfillment of dreams of many with intellectual disabilities.

After a long and accomplished career serving in various leadership capacities for Special Olympics Rhode Island, Mike has decided to retire. He served as Assistant Executive Director from 1988 through 1998 before taking on the role of Executive Director in 1998. Over the last two decades, Special Olympics Rhode Island has benefited from his talents in fiscal management, fundraising, public relations, personnel management, and compliance with accreditation requirements established by Special Olympics, Inc.

Without a doubt, Mike's greatest satisfaction has come from watching young children with intellectual disabilities defy stereotypes and low expectations. Witnessing the children develop into confident, productive members of society is one of the many motivations that have empowered Mike over the course of his career. Additionally, Mike has been the driving force behind the success that Special Olympics Rhode Island has enjoyed in its commitment to being an athlete-centered program. His enthusiasm and guidance has ensured that Special Olympics Rhode Island is one of the most innovative and dynamic sports organizations in the state.

Mike McGovern remains a true friend to all those whose lives are touched by a person with developmental disabilities. Special Olympians across Rhode Island will miss his dedication and devotion as an individual who truly exemplifies the true meaning of Special Olympics, sport, spirit, and splendor.

CLOUD AND LAKEVIEW HOSPITALS
BEING NAMED AMONGST THE
TOP 100 HOSPITALS BY THOMSON
REUTERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, to congratulate and honor St. Cloud Hospital and Lakeview Hospital in Stillwater, Minnesota for being named to the Top 100 Hospitals list by Thomson Reuters. The people of St. Cloud and Stillwater know how great their hospitals