

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF MARK W. LIBELL

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and dedication of Mark William Libell, a member of my staff who is leaving my office to pursue the next phase in his career.

Mark grew up in Alabama and received his bachelor's degree in History from Maryville College in East Tennessee. After getting his start on the Senate side of the Hill, Mark returned to school to pursue a J.D. at the University of Alabama, which he completed in 2 years.

Mark was drawn to the pace and promise of Washington at a young age. With a love of American history, Mark grew up reading the stories of our Nation's leaders. In fact, I think he has the record in my office for the number of books he requested from the Library of Congress. His commitment to public service is evident in his work and has earned the respect of his colleagues.

As the Senior Legislative Assistant in my office, Mark was a valuable resource to me and my staff. His broad knowledge of policy, his appreciation for the rules of the House, and his enthusiasm for the job helped me to advance my legislative priorities and better serve my constituents.

While Mark's work-related contributions have been greatly valued, his sheer presence in the office will be sorely missed. Mark was always one of the first in the office to grab lunch, usually around 11:30 a.m. His choice of food was always a topic of discussion in the office as the aroma filled the air, whether fish from the cafeteria or Chinese food.

Madam Speaker, there is no question that Mark's character of thoughtfulness, dry humor, and fun spirit is strong and will be missed by all.

Mark, I thank you for your service and wish you the best of luck in the future and in your new position.

DEEPEST SYMPATHIES FOR INDIA
AND AFGHANISTAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my deepest sympathies for the people of India and Afghanistan after a cowardly homicide bomb attack outside the Indian Embassy in Kabul this morning. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families who have lost loved ones. As the former co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans and current co-chair of the Afghanistan Caucus, I am personally concerned.

These bloodthirsty attacks are a clear sign that we face a determined enemy. But our fight in Afghanistan not just against terrorist elements like Al Qaeda who murdered Americans on September 11. We face a larger threat to the people and to the stability of the

entire region especially our longtime partner Pakistan.

We need to heed the advice of our commanders on the ground who are requesting more reinforcements and more resources. We need to implement a strategy that will capture or kill those responsible for terrorist acts as well as destroy their financial and logistical networks. We must ensure they will not find a safe haven anywhere from which to plot. I join with Republican Whip ERIC CANTOR to urge Democrats and Republicans to uphold President Barack Obama's campaign pledge to protect American families by defeating terrorists in Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK STELLA

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is with joy that I rise today in tribute to Mr. Frank Stella, an icon of Metropolitan Detroit, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on October 30, 2009.

A successful entrepreneur and eternal philanthropist, Mr. Stella embodies the American Dream. The son of Italian immigrants, he bravely served in the U.S. Army Air Forces during the Second World War and founded the F.D. Stella Products Company, a food service distributor, in 1946. His company is today a preeminent national supplier and designer of restaurant equipment.

Over the past six decades, Mr. Stella has not just built a business in Detroit: he has built a legacy in service to the community. His involvement spans prominent educational and medical institutions, civic and business organizations, and charitable and political causes. He has served as a Board Member to the University of Detroit—Mercy for more than two decades, in addition to the Board of Directors for the Detroit Medical Center, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Club of Detroit, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, and the National Italian American Foundation of Washington, D.C., among many, many others. The impact of his philanthropy was recognized by five of our country's presidents and three of our state's governors.

Frank Stella has received many awards, though none can fully capture his contributions to the public and private arenas. His catalogue of honors only begins to highlight the gratitude of those he has served: Mr. Stella was awarded the decoration of 'Grande Ufficiale,' the Government of Italy's highest honor; named 'Michigander of the Year' by the Detroit News and 'Executive of the Year' by the Detroit Executive Association; received the George Romney Award for Lifetime Achievement in Volunteerism, the Urban League Warrior Award, and the Bnai Brith Award, to name just a very few; and was granted three honorary doctorates.

As he turns 90, and is joined by his family, friends, and colleagues in celebration, Mr. Stella is unsurprisingly choosing to honor this landmark occasion with a fundraiser for four of his favorite charities—the National Italian American Foundation Scholarship Fund, Orders of the Sons of Italy in America, Italian Language Inter-cultural Alliance, and Boys Town of Italy. These charities proudly cele-

brate Italian-American culture while inspiring new generations of civic involvement and generosity, fitting tributes to Mr. Stella's continued work.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Frank Stella for his lifetime of service and dedication. I wish Mr. Stella a joyous 90th year full of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUNSHINE SLOPERS SKI CLUB

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Sunshine Slopers Ski Club, the first African-American ski club in the state of Florida.

Skiing, a sport that is an exhilarating activity that allows individuals and families to enjoy a natural environment and participate in physical activity, may seem uncommon for residents in the State of Florida. Yet, the Sunshine Slopers Ski Club prospered throughout the last 20 years into a popular and successful club that positively impacts African-American communities through programs that provide opportunities for adults and youth to participate in recreational and competitive skiing.

On June 28, 1989, the first organizational meeting of the Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was held at the North Dade Regional Library in Miami Gardens, Florida. Subsequent meetings were held at the same location while the group developed a club logo, selected club colors, and elected officers. By September 5, 1989, the club was established with 36 charter members and was accepted as a developmental club of the Eastern Region of the NBS. The Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was incorporated on October 2, 1989, thereby becoming the first African-American ski club in the State of Florida. Soon thereafter, the officers began to get the club active through involvement in ski-better workshops and attending eastern regional board meetings.

The groups first trips were: Beech Mountain, North Carolina; Snowshoe, West Virginia; Lake Tahoe, Nevada, Mini-Summit, and Smugglers Notch, Vermont, Winterfest. On March 22, 1990, during the American Challenge Cup Mini-Summit at Heavenly Ski Resort in Lake Tahoe, the Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was officially accepted into the National Brotherhood of Skiers by the national president Paul Ray, national membership director Naomi Bryson and eastern region vice president Jeanie Polk. Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was recognized by Polk as the fastest growing club in the country. At the end of its first year, membership was approximately 140 which included singles, married couples and children. Currently, there are about 200 members of the club.

The Sunshine Slopers strongly supports the NBS' key focus of finding and developing Olympic caliber skiers. Their focus is one of a kind, and fosters assertiveness, self-actualization, and self-determination. Additionally, they aim to develop leaders that are a benefit to various communities. The NBS provides funding to its youth programs in support of young athletes who otherwise would not have the opportunity or financial resources to ski competitively or recreationally.