

RECOGNIZING CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SHERIFF WARREN E. RUPF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY and Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI to recognize Contra Costa County Sheriff Warren E. Rupf and congratulate him as he approaches his well earned retirement after serving for 45 years in law enforcement. Sheriff Rupf has had an outstanding career in public service and his tenure demonstrates his lifelong commitment to the citizens and communities of Contra Costa County.

Warren graduated from the FBI National Academy and National Executive Institute in 1965 following 4 years of honorable service to our country in the United States Marine Corps. Upon his graduation, he began working as a deputy sheriff in the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office. Since that time, Warren has served in virtually every rank within the department and is currently the longest serving member of the agency. In 1979, Warren was appointed to assistant sheriff and served in that position until he was appointed Sheriff in 1992. Over the span of his career, the Sheriffs Department has grown to an agency of over 1,200 employees and a budget of \$170 million.

As an active resident of Contra Costa County, Warren has held leadership positions in several law enforcement and community service organizations. He has served as chairman of both the California Commission on Boating and Waterways and the Contra Costa Police Chiefs' Association. In addition to these distinguished posts he also served on the board of directors for the Suicide and Crisis Intervention, Contra Costa County District Fair, and the California State Sheriff's Association. Currently Warren serves as president of the Micki Rainey Scholarship fund and is active with the Bay Counties Peace Officers' Association.

Over the span of his 45-year career, Warren has received numerous awards of distinction including the 1995 Peace Officer of the Year Award from the Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California, the 1998 Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America, and the "Making a Difference" Community Award in May of 2000 from the Assistance League of Diablo Valley.

Madam Speaker, we invite our colleagues to join us in honoring Sheriff Warren Rupf for his dedicated service to the people of California, the Bay Area, and especially to the residents of Contra Costa County. We are pleased to join with his family, colleagues, and friends in congratulating Warren for a long and highly successful career and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LAWRENCE "LARRY" HARRINGTON

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and achievements of Lawrence "Larry" Harrington of Crystal Falls, MI. As a local elected official and community leader for many years, Larry performed his civic duties with the utmost commitment and professionalism while serving as a mentor to many young people in the community looking to become involved in local issues. Larry was also a good friend of mine.

Early on, Larry understood the value of hard work. During World War II, General Motors representatives arrived in Iron County to recruit new hires for their plants around Michigan. Larry moved to Flint, MI, and worked at General Motors for 16 years and also attended the General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) to study industrial management.

In 1969, Larry moved back home to Crystal Falls to serve the residents of Michigan by working in the Forest Fire Division of the Department of Natural Resources. Larry served as a fire officer where he assisted foresters and forest techs. He was also responsible for assisting with law enforcement, fisheries, wildlife and engineering operations. Towards the end of his career, Larry oversaw the snowmobile and off road vehicle program in the western three counties of the Upper Peninsula. Larry retired from the State of Michigan after 21 years of diligent service to the state and his fellow residents.

Larry's passion for service to his community did not end with retirement. Larry was elected Iron County commissioner for District 4 in 1992 and held that position until 2008. He also served as the Iron County board chairman from 1998 to 2002. During his tenure, Larry made it a priority to build positive relationships with his colleagues, even those who disagreed with his positions. Larry knew that his community would be best served by local leaders who worked together to find consensus on the issues, and he strived to ensure that a constructive environment was present in all business concerning Iron County.

Larry also served on various committees throughout his public career, including the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department, the Iron County Parks and Recreation Committee and the Michigan Association of Counties' Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Committee. Larry was elected to the Michigan Association of Counties' board of directors, where he advocated for legislative positions on behalf of Iron County residents.

Larry was married to his wife Shelby for over 50 years and had two children, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Madam Speaker, Lawrence "Larry" Harrington devoted his life to serving the people of Iron County and the State of Michigan, before he passed away in May. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and honoring his lifetime of commitment and hard work.

HONORING MR. JON GRESLEY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Oakland Housing Authority Executive Director Jon Gresley for his extraordinary career of public service and leadership on the occasion of his retirement. Known for his innovative vision of affordable housing, his steadfast commitment to those in need, and his talent for creating and sustaining important relationships among his staff, colleagues and community, Mr. Gresley has touched thousands of lives through his work in the Bay Area.

Three decades ago, Mr. Jon Gresley turned a temporary assignment with the Oakland Housing Authority, OHA, into what has become a transformative legacy for our city's public housing. Under Mr. Gresley's excellent leadership during the past 32 years, OHA has achieved success through effective partnerships and offers a groundbreaking combination of services, safety and choice for its residents.

The award-winning OHA, which celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2008, operates—directly or indirectly through partners and affiliates—about 4,000 affordable housing units and administers more than 11,000 Section 8 Vouchers. In keeping with Mr. Gresley's commitment to teamwork and ingenuity, OHA has formed a collaborative model that is an example within the affordable housing industry nationwide. Additionally, OHA is one of only a handful of housing authorities in the United States that has its own police department.

As a key architect of OHA's participation in the HOPE VI and Moving to Work, MTW, program applications to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Gresley helped to make OHA one of only 35 housing authorities in the Nation to receive special MTW designation. This designation has resulted in increased flexibility and opportunities for the Authority. OHA also obtained four HOPE VI grants, which allowed it to remodel nearly 400 rental units, and rebuild and expand 394 dilapidated public housing units into 939 units of self-sustaining, mixed-income developments. As can be seen at developments such as Tassafaronga, Mandela Gateway and Lion Creek Crossings, the creation, preservation, expansion and enhancement of affordable housing has defined Mr. Gresley's OHA tenure.

Widely respected in his field, Mr. Gresley was sought after by leading groups such as the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, NAHRO, and the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, CLPHA, where he serves as Treasurer. His talents were also put to use as a presenter to various congressional committees, as well as the Federal Reserve Bank.

I personally appreciate Jon's vigilance and his wisdom. I could always count on Jon whenever I needed good information to present to Congress regarding public housing. He has been a tremendous asset, not only to the 9th Congressional District, but to the entire country.

Throughout his career, Mr. Gresley has been praised for his strategy, strong leadership, integrity and compassion. His work has