

HONORING SERGEANT PATRICIA
ORISINI

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Patricia A. Orisini for her life of service to our country and her strong leadership of the Wounded Warrior Program. As the Program's first director, Sergeant Orisini took a new idea and transformed it into a life-changing opportunity for our nation's veterans.

Sergeant Orisini joined the United States Marine Corps in 1975. After 24 years of active duty and a combined three decades of service, she obtained the highest grade of an enlisted Marine—the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. She has represented our men and women in uniform through her work with the Department of Veterans Affairs and with the American Legion. Re-called to active duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom, she built and managed a "medical hold" program designed to assist injured reservists.

Sergeant Orisini's experience culminated with her outstanding guidance of the Wounded Warrior Program. After joining the Program only eight years ago, she retires having helped 182 wounded and disabled veterans become Wounded Warrior Fellows, over 100 of who have either returned to college or become full time employees with a Congressional office and other government agencies.

Sergeant Orisini, who earned her bachelor's degree by studying in the evenings while on active duty, holds affiliations with the Foreign Joint Services NCO Association, Disabled American Veterans, Women Marines Association, Marine Corps League and the National Italian American Foundation. Through her hard work and visionary leadership, she is a model American and public servant.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this special occasion as we celebrate the life and career of Sergeant Patricia A. Orisini and her faithful service to our country.

RECOGNIZING BLACK POETRY DAY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Black Poetry Day which is celebrated on October 17th. Jupiter Hammon, a slave and poet who was born in my home state of New York on this day in 1711, was the first African American writer whose work was published in the United States.

First recognized in 1985, we celebrate Black Poetry Day to honor past and present poets such as Langston Hughes, Phillis Wheatley, Frank X. Walker and Maya Angelou. The works of these and many more authors provide our students insight into both poetry and United States history.

While not officially recognized as a holiday, SUNY Plattsburgh recognizes Black Poetry Day each year with a ceremony and a guest speaker. This event gives credence to the hard work and dedication of African Americans

who have overcome adversity to express themselves through poetry.

Thank you to SUNY Plattsburgh for your commitment to honoring this day by hosting events in celebration year after year. I want to wish you great success at this year's event.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, October 10 is Taiwan's national day—also known as Double Ten Day. The United States and Taiwan have a strong relationship. Taiwan is a good friend and ally. I congratulate Taiwan on its national day.

We also need to be standing by Taiwan and supporting its efforts to be a responsible member of the international community. The International Civil Aviation Organization or "ICAO" is a UN agency to ensure the safety of planes that fly around the world. But even though it is less than a week away, there has been no indication that Taiwan will be able to participate in ICAO's 39th Triennial Assembly on September 27. Three years ago, Taiwan was invited by the then-ICAO Council President to attend as a guest, but that invitation was no guarantee that Taiwan could keep attending. Congress passed a law three years ago encouraging ICAO to give Taiwan observer status. Giving Taiwan such status would contribute to the success of ICAO's mission to address aviation security threats through effective international cooperation.

As our 9th-largest trading partner in 2015, Taiwan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership is a no-brainer. It would boost our trade relationship with Taiwan and would make the overall impact of TPP even better for Americans. To provide greater protection for investors in both countries, we should also work on completing a Bilateral Investment Agreement with Taiwan. In all, trade is an important part of our relationship with Taiwan and I hope my colleagues will join me in advocating for these steps.

Again, I wish the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day. And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN ON
THEIR 105TH NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the people of Taiwan on their 105th National Day, which is October 10th, and take a moment to emphasize the significance of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship to both of our nations.

Taiwan is a faithful friend of the United States and an important strategic partner, promoting peace and stability in the region through our shared values of democracy and respect for human rights. Our economic ties continue to expand to our mutual benefit.

On this National Day, I also want to highlight the importance of the Taiwan Relations

Act of 1979, which serves as the basis for our relationship. I am proud to say that the United States continues to build relations with Taiwan.

I am honored to travel to Taiwan on this joyous occasion and congratulate our ally. I look forward to the continuation of friendship and cooperation between the governments and citizens of the United States and Taiwan.

HONORING ART IBLETO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Art Ibleto's lifetime of achievements and generous service to our community upon his 90th birthday.

Mr. Ibleto was born in the town of Sesta Godano in Northern Italy on October 2, 1926. As a young man, he fought with resistance groups against Fascism and Nazi Germany.

After valiantly serving his home country, Mr. Ibleto immigrated to the United States and decided to settle in Sonoma County in 1949 calling it "one of the most beautiful places on earth." He began working in Sonoma's fields as a vegetable picker, mechanic and truck driver, and soon fell in love with Vicki Ghiradelli whom he married in 1951. The couple soon began to live their own American Dream and bought their first home together in 1961. They developed their own farm soon thereafter to raise hogs, cattle, and potatoes. They later added a Christmas tree farm, a vineyard and real estate on their property.

Mr. Ibleto founded the Spaghetti Palace at the Sonoma County Fair as a United Lodges, Sons of Italy project in 1974. What began as a project soon became an institutional landmark. The success of his Spaghetti Palace inspired Mr. Ibleto to pursue a career of supplying locals with his own line of Italian cuisine and catering inspired by traditional Italian methods. Today, Art's booming business is well known throughout California and local residents affectionately refer to him as the "Pasta King."

Art is a cook, grape grower, winemaker and a constant source of pride for our community in Sonoma County. In the last few years, Mr. Ibleto's charity pasta feeds have raised over \$500,000 to support a wide range of causes from local animal shelters to survivors of a terrible Highway 101 accident.

Mr. Speaker, Art Ibleto has not only led a successful career in agriculture, but he has become a culinary and community leader of legendary proportions. He is a true friend of our community and a good friend of mine. Mr. Ibleto's work and philanthropy have left an indelible mark on Sonoma County and California, and it is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 22, 2016, I was absent