EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SOMETHING IS RIGHT WITH AMERICA—IN COLUMBIA, TN

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, we hear on every side today, loud and clear, about what is wrong with America. All too often the good that is being done never makes the news. May I tell you about the work being done by American Legion Post 19, Auxiliary Unit 19, the 40 & 8 and La Femmes in Columbia, TN?

Post 19, organized in the county on August 15, 1919, with 61 charter members, rose to a high of 1,270 members, and now stands at a membership of 933. From the very earliest days, this organization has been a driving force for good in the community. Men who served their country nobly in time of war returned home to assume leadership roles in the community.

Auxiliary Unit 19 was organized a year later, and membership stands now at 249. The oldest member is an active 94-year-old gold star mother, who lost a son in World War II, to a junior member, 2 years of age.

The 40 & 8 and La Femmes are also active. Let me begin with them. Five nursing scholarships, of $500.00 each, are given annually by this group. And during the past 2 years, a female veteran has been supported in nursing school in the amount of $3,000.00. The 40 & 8 engine is a familiar sight at all parades and fund raisers in this and adjoining counties. Many young children know how this organization got its name, if they know little else about American history. The veterans recycle aluminum cans to supplement their scholarship fund, which also helps the ecology by keeping the cans out of the landfill.

The American Legion may be best known in the community for their sponsorship of American Legion baseball. They support many teams annually, and this past year the Columbia team went all the way to the national finals. Boys in the program learn about sportsmanship, which helps them get along with people as they go forward with their lives.

Boy's State is also an important contribution to the Legion. Thirteen boys are sent by the Post to Boy's State where they learn about how our Government works. Many have gone on to become leaders in government as well as industry.

The Legion sponsors an oratorical contest annually, which is wonderful training for youngsters. And Post 19 hosted the State contest, after which members of Auxiliary Unit 19 provided a complementary lunch for those attending, many who had come from a great distance.

Scouting is also sponsored by Post 19, and many young men have gone on to become Eagle Scouts under the leadership of members of the post.

The post cares for veterans who are ill, or have fallen on hard times, and when veterans, whether or not members of the post, pass from this Earth and their families request it, provide military honors at their burial. There have been as many as four such funerals on a day, and the annual number is between 80 and 100, sad to say, the number is increasing as World War II veterans grow older.

Many, if not all, worthwhile charities find a sympathetic ear and a generous purse at Post 19. Their spacious meeting hall is used by many organizations. The Red Cross Bloodmobile is at the site monthly, and a recent fundraiser for the American Cancer Society was held there.

Post 19 is greatly enhanced by Auxiliary Unit 19. Many local, State, and national causes receive their wholehearted support. Americanism is promoted, especially in the schools. Essay contests are held and hundreds of classroom flags given each year. On Memorial Day, more than 1,000 flags are placed on graves of veterans.

Realizing the importance of education, Unit 19 gives an annual scholarship in the amount of $500. Many of the recipients would not have been able to further their education without this assistance, as would those who received the nursing scholarships. Members of the unit visit the elementary schools and read to the children. A gun safety program is being taught to elementary school students. Drugs are purchased for children whose parents have no insurance. Essay contests help children learn about their country. Many would otherwise get little instruction in American history. An outstanding Teacher of the Year is recognized by the unit, and a substantial sum is given each year to the Educational Foundation, which uses their funds to provide materials for the classroom not provided by the school system. Fourteen girls are sponsored to Girl's State.

As does the Legion, the auxiliary never turns a deaf ear on those seeking their support. Recently, it was learned that a local child who is suffering from cancer would attend Camp Horizon, if funding was found, and the unit voted unanimously to fund a scholarship in the amount of $386.00. This is only one example of their generosity.

Child and spousal abuse is a concern of all Americans, and unit 19 has generously supported a local home for battered women.

Monthly visits are made to VA hospitals, and approximately $2,500 spent on gifts, food, etc., annually. Monthly parties are also held at local nursing homes as well. At least $1,000.00 is spent locally on charities each year.

Realizing that the fear of crime is a leading concern of all citizens, unit 19 is focusing on crime prevention this year. Citizens are encouraged to form Neighborhood Watch organizations. Crime Prevention Call-In was featured on a local cable television station, under the leadership of the unit.

These are but a few of the good things being done by a group of veterans and their wives, sisters, and daughters. Will you not agree with me that something is right with America in Columbia, TN?

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER WARREN NEAL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I have concluded after years of public service and personal experience that the lifeblood of a stable and effective community is mutual cooperation. Today I am pleased to acknowledge a process of mutual cooperation that has served the Borough of Brooklyn and the community of Canarsie very well. I am referring to the relationship between the Canarsie Volunteer Ambulance Corp. and the work of police officer Warren Neal, community affairs officer of the 69th Precinct which encompasses the Canarsie community.

The Canarsie Volunteer Ambulance Corp. provides free emergency medical care and is funded solely through donations from the Canarsie community. Officer Neal, a professional with 28 years of experience, is being honored by the corporation for his distinguished and dedicated service. Mr. Neal embarked on his law enforcement career in 1968 with the New York City Police Department, assigned to the Times Square area. He was later transferred to Canarsie and served as a patrol officer and was subsequently assigned to be the auxiliary police coordinator. Officer Neal was promoted to Community Affairs Officer for doing an effective job in recruiting and training auxiliary police officers. In that capacity he has represented the precinct at local civic, fraternal, religious and educational events conducted within the Canarsie community. His selfless efforts have endeared him to the numerous Canarsie residents.

Officer Neal is a dedicated family man and has been married to his wife Patricia for 36 years. They have three children, James, Michael, and Suzanne, and five grandchildren.

I am pleased to acknowledge to two community success stories that are mutually linked. The Canarsie Volunteer Ambulance Corp. and its relationship with Officer Warren Neal has been a fruitful relationship that has nothing but positive results. I am pleased to highlight this exceptional example of community cooperation.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS TEACHING

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge, Linda Lee Hydar, Linda Marie Kralina, and Kathleen M. Vielhaber in recognition of their 1995 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching Program, administered by the National Science Foundation, is designed to recognize and reward outstanding teachers from elementary and secondary schools. These teachers serve as models for their colleagues in many important areas. At the same time, through such awards, they are able to increase the visibility and rewards of teaching in hopes of encouraging high quality individuals to enter and remain in the educational field.

In addition to the individual recognition that Ms. Hydar, Ms. Kralina, and Ms. Vielhaber receive, the school at which each teaches will be given a $7,500 grant from the National Science Foundation. These funds are to be used under the direction of the recipients to continue their excellent work in educating our Nation's children.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to pay tribute to these fine teachers, and commend them upon their efforts in ensuring the next generation of quality foundation from where they can pursue their ambitions. I join the National Science Foundation in honoring the excellent work that each of these three teachers has been able to accomplish.

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS EMPLOYMENT REGISTRATION ACT OF 1996

HON. HARRY JOHNSTON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers Employment Registration Act of 1996. This bill will establish a national clearinghouse to assist in background checks on applicants for law enforcement jobs. The bill is a companion to S. 484, introduced by my colleague in the other body, Senator BOB GRAHAM.

This legislation will establish a national data bank providing quick and accurate information regarding an officer's prior employment history. Maintained by the Department of Justice, it will be accessible to law enforcement agencies to assist in background checks of those seeking employment.

The intent of this legislation is to help prevent what have been commonly known as ''Rogue Cops''. These are police officers who have been dismissed or have been forced to resign from previous positions but conceal their employment history in job applications. Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner James T. Moore said, ''Experience has shown that, after being found guilty of misconduct, many problem officers resign or are fired, only to seek police jobs elsewhere.''

The clearinghouse will simply be a pointer file, maintaining basic information on all certified officers, including name, date of birth, Social Security number, and dates of employment. To protect the rights of officers, it would not contain information relating to causes of dismissal. The potential employer would still hold primary responsibility for conducting a thorough background check, but this measure will mean officers could no longer conceal their prior employment history simply by moving from one State to another.

The 1990 beating death of Bobby Jewett in West Palm Beach is a devastating example of the consequences of concealed records. Once the employment histories of the two officers involved in the death were uncovered, it was revealed that they had gone through four States and eight different law enforcement agencies. Much of this had been left out of their job applications.

This legislation has the support of both national law enforcement organizations and local authorities. Few agencies have the personnel and resources to conduct thorough background checks on police applications. A nationwide data base is needed.

TRIBUTE TO THE CAREER OF WILLIAM THOMAS HART

HON. SAM GIBBONS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, Dedication. Integrity. Professionalism. Wisdom. Humility.

These are attributes that we hold in high esteem and seek in those who lead us. It is reassuring to recognize some of these attributes in individuals; it is remarkable when we can recognize all of them in a single individual. I would like to take a few moments to tell you about William Thomas Hart, one such individual.

This month marks the second anniversary of the signing of this century's most comprehensive multilateral trade agreements, the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT]. It also marks the first April since 1949 that the U.S. Government will not be able to call upon the expertise of William Thomas Hart.

For over 53 years Mr. Hart has served this country, first as a young naval officer in World War II, then as an outstanding civil servant. In July 1948, Mr. Hart joined the staff of the U.S. Tariff Commission, now the U.S. International Trade Commission, beginning a distinguished career of public service in the trade field that would span almost 50 years before his retirement in February 1996.

Mr. Hart specialize in the somewhat arcane but critically important area of tariff negotiations. He most recently served as the U.S. International Trade Commission's [ITC] Director of the Office of Executive and International Liaison, responsible for planning and directing the ITC's activities in support of U.S. trade agreement negotiations and implementation. During his years of service he advised U.S. trade negotiations in all of the principal rounds of multilateral negotiations conducted under the GATT. He was also a key adviser in the negotiation of the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement, the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement, and the North American Free Trade Agreement. His wise counsel and encyclopedic knowledge of events, both large and small, in the field of international trade have been sought out by innumerable government officials and business executives both here and abroad.

Not only did Mr. Hart provide invaluable advice during the course of negotiations, but when the trade negotiators' work concluded, Mr. Hart's most lasting contributions began. For example, after the hundreds of trade negotiators gathered in Geneva for the signing of the Uruguay round agreements had congratulated themselves on their success and returned to their capitals, Mr. Hart and a small number of his colleagues turned to the critical task of translating the political results of the negotiations into tangible benefits for U.S. businesses, workers, and consumers. Mr. Hart was personally responsible for the production, under very stringent deadlines, of almost 2,500 pages of documentation necessary to record our international tariff commitments and update our tariff schedules. Mr. Hart meticulously checked and cross-checked every line of information in these documents to ensure the United States commitments were accurately represented and new tariff rates properly calculated. This is but one example of the dedication and professionalism that Mr. Hart exhibited throughout his long career.

Mr. Hart's contributions and the critical support he provided to the agencies responsible for U.S. trade policy have been recognized by the President's trade representatives from Christian Herter, the first Special Trade Representative, to Mickey Kantor. The ITC also recognized the exceptional talents and dedicated public service of Mr. Hart by twice awarding him that agency's highest honor, The Commissioners' Award for Exceptional Service.

Mr. Hart's service to his country and to his fellow citizens deserves our recognition and our praise. Bill, congratulations on your retirement. You did you job well, and you did it with care and pride and warmth. Your sense of honor, as well as your vast historical knowledge of trade negotiations, will be greatly missed. Your career serves as a fine example for your colleagues and for the generations of Government employees who will follow in your path.

A GOOD MAN

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the American chorus of praise for Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and to join my colleagues in expressing our profound sorrow at the loss of his life in the plan crash in Croatia. And I also take this time to let the Nation know that a constituent of mine, Air Force Staff Sgt. Gerald V. Aldrich, of Louisville, IL, was a member of the crew and also perished in that terrible crash.

Because of that, the 19th district of Illinois was touched as much as any other in the Nation by the news from that rugged mountainside in a nation torn apart by civil war and cultural strife.

Unexplainable tragedies inevitably take with them outstanding people who are a credit to their families, friends, and communities. Certainly that is true with Sergeant Aldrich and Secretary Brown.

I have talked with the Aldrich family at length, and know that they are extraordinarily proud of their fine son. He entered the military shortly after graduating from high school and fashioned a career that was clearly taking him to leadership positions in the Air Force. On