

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF LYNN ROGERS, PRESIDENT OF THE DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 1996*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as founder and cochairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus [CFSI], I have had the distinct pleasure of traveling across the country and speaking to fire service organizations of every kind. In all my journeys, I cannot recall an organization that captures the spirit of the American fire services like the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association [DVFA].

At the end of this month, the entire Delaware volunteer fire service will assemble at Rehoboth Beach for its second annual conference and 76th anniversary. The purpose of the event is to reflect on a successful year of achievements and look ahead to the challenges facing them. There were many achievements which can be attributed to the tireless work of DVFA president, Mr. Lynn Rogers.

Like most volunteer firefighters, Lynn wears many hats. A successful businessman, fire chief and family man, Lynn has successfully balanced his time to ensure that the things most important to him receive the attention they deserve. In addition, he has played an important role within the fire service at the national level through his support of the Congressional Fire Services Institute.

To put it simply, Lynn Rogers is the quintessential volunteer. When CFSI had 15,000 dinner invitations to stuff, Lynn recruited over 100 friends and family members from Milton, DE and surrounding communities to help with the task. When the institute reserved a ballroom to accommodate 2,000 attendees for the Eighth Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner, Lynn responded by bringing the largest delegation of fire service leaders to the event. And throughout his tenure as president of DVFA, Lynn graciously responded to calls for assistance, gladly providing whatever help he could to CFSI.

When my Delaware colleagues speak of their fire service as the State's third political party, they do so out of respect and admiration for the men and women who contribute their time and energy to public safety. I hold them in the same high esteem, and offer my congratulations to Lynn Rogers, the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association and the Ladies Auxiliary for a successful year.

HONORING MACMURRAY COLLEGE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ON OCTOBER 13, 1996

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 1996*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to MacMurray College of Jacksonville, IL. MacMurray College is celebrating its sesquicentennial anniversary and will be closing out its year-long celebration on October 12 and 13, 1996, in conjunction with its homecoming weekend.

MacMurray College was founded in 1846 as a small, liberal arts school. At that time, it was an all women's college; a brother school was formed in 1955. The two were merged in 1969, making MacMurray the coeducational school that it is today. For the past 150 years, it has given all of its students a broad-based and well-rounded education and has done a tremendous job preparing our children for the rigors of the real world.

MacMurray's small size and its 13-to-1 student-faculty ratio have given its students an opportunity to receive a highly personalized education, and to really form a close and lasting bond with their instructors. This is especially meaningful to me because of my teaching background. I understand how much students can benefit from forming close relationships with their instructors, an opportunity which is readily available at MacMurray.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to say that I represent this college and its students as a Member of Congress. It is institutions like MacMurray that help our children learn, grow, and become leaders, both in our own communities and throughout the country and the world. I hope that all of you will join me in congratulating the faculty, students, employees, and graduates of MacMurray College for all of their accomplishments and milestones reached during their first 150 years of existence, and I know you will all join me in wishing them well during the next 150.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL SIMPSON, WINNER OF THE OKLAHOMA VOICE OF DEMOCRACY ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 1996*

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast script writing contest. The contest theme this year was "Answering America's Call." I am proud to report that Michael Simpson was named the Oklahoma State winner and he is from my district in Tulsa, OK.

Michael Simpson, a senior at Nathan Hale High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Simpson. He plans a career in engineering. Mike was sponsored by VFW Post 577 in Tulsa, OK.

It is with great pride that I submit for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the winning essay written by Mr. Michael Simpson of Tulsa, OK.

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Michael Simpson)

I know some people feel my generation isn't up to the challenge that will soon be bestowed upon us. I believe we are.

While developing my thoughts on this theme I tried to determine what my audience would like to hear. After much consideration and soul searching, I decided that I must speak from my heart . . . especially after a story my granddad told me.

Recently, while visiting with a young man, my granddad mentioned something about the Korean War. The young man, with a puzzled look on his face said, "The Korean War? Wasn't that a television show?" My granddad kind of chuckled, and then, with a sad look on his face said to me, "30,000 fatalities and this kid thought it was a television program."

I realized then what an awesome responsibility my generation faces; the stewardship of this great nation and the legacy entrusted to us.

Our values should define what we want to achieve in our lives and we are effective only when our actions are in line with those values. To that end, I have devised three personal goals that I invite my generation to adopt.

These include:

First, and foremost, taking responsibility; second, getting an education; and third, being a hero. Allow me to elaborate a little on each of these goals.

My first goal is taking responsibility. Each of us need to be responsible for our own actions . . . we need to vote, serve jury duty and provide for the children we bring into this world.

Everyone has an excuse these days. In general, society seems to be a broken record; I grew up poor, I came from a broken family, I'm the wrong gender. It's never-ending. Need I go on?

Now don't misunderstand, these are serious elements to overcome, but we cannot allow them to hinder our success. Stop making excuses . . . and start making choices. Stop pointing fingers . . . and start making a difference. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, "The choices we make are ultimately our responsibility."

My second goal is getting an education. Education is something that can never be taken from you. It is an asset that cannot be stolen. Years ago, it was possible for a person with a ninth-grade education to start in the company mail room, work hard, and eventually become president. Those days are gone. Hard work just isn't enough anymore.

Today's technology demands a higher level of education in order to survive and thrive. Not only does it prepare you for the work force, it also provides the tools needed to be a good citizen. Knowledge of current events, politics and economics are necessities in our ever-expanding global environment.

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