EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT A POSTAGE STAMP SHOULD BE ISSUED RECOGNIZING THE ISLAMIC HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill which expresses the sense of the Congress that a postage stamp should be issued recognizing the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Muslims are a growing and vibrant part of our community. They are our friends, neighbors, doctors, and merchants. Ramadan occurs during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar when all Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. Observing Ramadan is one of the ''five pillars of Islam'' and all Muslims, except children, pregnant and nursing mothers, and the sick are expected to abstain from food and drink during the day.

Another pillar of the Islamic faith is the hajj, or the pilgrimage to Mecca. This period commemorates when Muslims believe the Koran was revealed to the prophet Muhammad from the Archangel Gabriel. Therefore, many Muslims try to read the entire Koran during Ramadan.

During Ramadan, in addition to fasting and studying the Koran, observing Muslims recite special prayers, donate money to the poor, and seek forgiveness from those whom they may have wronged. Such practices nurture self-discipline and compassion, rejuvenate faith, and help Muslims earn merit for the afterlife.

In return, Muslims believe that God will cleanse our sins at the beginning of Eid al-Fitr, a festive three-day celebration that marks the end of Ramadan. Muslims believe that Eid signifies a new beginning, a second chance to lead more righteous lives.

I am proud to represent the Muslim-Americans who have chosen to live and work in Northern Virginia. Muslim-Americans have strong family values which they renew with their families and friends during Ramadan. Muslim-Americans contribute to our diverse community with their hard work, academic achievements, and entrepreneurial spirit. Their sense of discipline, obedience, and community during Ramadan is inspiring to all of us.

For these reasons, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution which would express the sense of Congress that a postage stamp should be issued to celebrate Ramadan.

CONGRATULATING MATTIE SHARKEY, OF SIKESTON, MISSOURI, ON HER RECOGNITION BY THE ''DAUGHTERS OF SUNSET''

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 13, 1999, Mattie Sharkey is being honored by the Sikeston, MO, ''Daughters of Sunset'' at their 15th Annual Recognition Program. I would like to extend my congratulations to Mattie who has shown a life-long commitment to her family, her community and her church.

Mattie is the daughter of the late John and Eliza Ross. She was born in Grenada, MS, on December 21, 1900. She grew up on a farm and her education was limited to the 4th grade because she had to work in the fields. She has two sisters and one brother.

In 1924, Mattie moved to Swan Lake, MS. There she married Nathaniel Sharkey, and they are the parents of five girls. In 1929, the family moved to Portageville, MO. They purchased a farm located on River Road near Point Pleasant. In 1936, Mattie's husband passed away. Mattie continued to live and work on the River Road farm with her children. The girls attended school and went to high school in New Madrid, MO. After the girls left home, Mattie moved to the town of Portageville, where she was active at Zion Rock Baptist Church. Mattie also has been active in her community as a member of the NAACP and the 4–H Club and as a volunteer at the community center where she worked with girls.

Mattie's daughters have made sure that she has had an opportunity to travel. Some of the places she has traveled include Hawaii, Bahamas Island, California, Mexico, Canada, Niagara Falls, New York and Chicago. Mattie currently lives in Sikeston, MO with her daughter, Eliza Strickland.

Congratulations Mattie, on your recognition by the ''Daughters of Sunset.'' May you, your loved ones, and the people of Sikeston continue to be blessed with your thoughtful dedication to family and community.

HONORING THE BRAVERY OF WORLD WAR I VETERAN JOHN PAINTER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the Nation's last surviving World War I veterans, Mr. John George Painter, a 111-year-old native of Jackson County, TN.

Mr. Painter fought heroically on the battlefields of France as a member of the U.S. Army during a horrible war. His actions earned him honorary membership in the American Society of the French Legion of Honor. He was also presented France's prestigious Order of the Legion of Honor for his role in helping France defeat its enemies.

As our country prepares to celebrate Veterans Day, I would like to congratulate Mr. Painter for his military service and for a job well done. Mr. Painter and other veterans certainly have the undying gratitude of the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO JAN DUCKWORTH—A GREAT AMERICAN AND FRIEND TO MANY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Senators BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL and WAYNE ALLARD, and Representatives JOEL HEFLEY, BOB SCHAFFER, DIANE DEGETTE, MARK UDALL, and THOMAS TANCREDO, I would like to honor the life of a dear friend, loyal civic servant and one of Colorado's leading ladies, Jan Duckworth. Tragically, the world lost Jan earlier this week when her plane, bound for Cairo, Egypt, crashed just off the coast of Massachusetts.

But even as we mourn her tragic and untimely passing, everyone who has had the privilege of knowing Jan can take comfort in the memory of her remarkable life.

Since 1978, Jan worked diligently and with great distinction in the Colorado House of Representatives. In the beginning, she was responsible for the distribution of bills and their related documents to members and their staff in the Capitol. It was not long thereafter that Jan's good work was recognized by her superiors who, in turn, promoted her through the ranks of the House administrative staff. At the time of her death, Jan was serving as the House's Chief Assignable Clerk. In addition to attending to the important business of the Colorado House, Jan also took tremendous pride in training new staff on the legislative process and new member training and orientation.

Of the many accolades bestowed upon Jan during her time in the Colorado House of Representatives, none could ever fully capture the breadth of her service to this esteemed body. For Jan's service extended far beyond the dictates of any job description: she worked the chamber, telling a joke to those weary of debate; disarming the embattled with her quick wit; adding an element of warmth and hospitality to a place that, at times, could be cool with confrontation. These are the memories of Jan that colleagues, friends, and family will cling to during this difficult time and throughout the rest of our lives.

Although her professional accomplishments will long be remembered and admired, those who knew Jan well will remember her, above