PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, on January 24, 2002, I inadvertently missed a vote because of an electrical failure in my office which caused the buzzer system to malfunction. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on this important legislation which amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish fixed interest rates for student and parent borrowers.

SIXTH GRADE ALL-STAR BASKETBALL EXCHANGE

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of thirteen of my young constituents, and in recognition of the organizers of the Thirty-seventh Annual Potomac, Maryland/Windsor Locks, Connecticut sixth Grade All-Star Basketball Exchange, which took place this past weekend, February 1–3.

For the past thirty-seven years, the best sixth grade basketball players from Potomac, MD and Windsor Locks, CT have met to compete and to forge friendships that span 300 miles of Atlantic coastline. The exchange began in 1965 when two gentlemen, an Allegheny Airline pilot from Maryland and a Bradley Airport manager from Connecticut made a friendly bet on whose sixth grade basketball team was better. Every year since, parents and children from Potomac and Windsor Locks have contributed memories to the history of the exchange. This year, the weekend culminated in a Saturday night showdown at the MCI center, here in Washington. I can proudly announce to you that the game was won by the team from Potomac. The big weekend followed a January trip to the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts, where the boys got a chance to learn about the history and development of the game.

The Potomac team, coached by Rick Brown, consisted of Jamie Bloom, A.J. Brown, Brian Casey, Ben Chernow, Matt Grady, Mike Giannangeli, Ian Hendrie, Kyle Moshkin, Matt Nunez, Brendan Oldham, Colter Phillips, Blake Toll, and Ezra Weisel. The Connecticut team was coached by Mike Heneghan and Mike Barile. The team's players were Kevin Barile, Spencer Bernard, Kyle Cirillo, Bryan Doherty, Jose Forbes, Ryan Gilbert, Kevin Landry, Steve McVey, Geoff Oliveira, Tyler Pepin, Tim Quagliarolli and Matt Wadsworth.

In these days when the term ''National Unity'' seems to be heard on a daily basis, these boys and their parents have bridged a geographic gap and come together on the basketball court. While this tradition has been wonderful for each of its thirty-seven years, this year it serves a special role in reminding us all that while our country is vast and diverse, we need not a national tragedy to bring us together, but instead only a common interest.

I am proud of these athletic young constituents, their parents, and all those who have gone before them to make this anniversary possible. Please join me in applauding these young people, and in wishing the organizers the best of luck in continuing to bring together the sixth graders of Maryland and Connecticut.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITMENT OF KAREN PAPASODORA-COCHRANE

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, last week, the President in his state of the union address called upon all Americans to reveal the better side of their nature and to take time to contribute to their communities through a variety of volunteer activities. I rise today to honor a Chesapeake, Virginia woman who heeded that call long before it was made.

Karen Papasodora-Cochrane is an attorney and mediator, a loving wife and mother for four. But, she is also an active member of her community, volunteering her time, energy, and skills to a variety of causes. Since moving to Chesapeake in 1989, Karen has volunteered to help her neighbors most in need of assistance. She has offered her time raising money for the Chesapeake Care Free Clinic, serving meals to the homeless, and working at the Clothing Closet and Food Pantry at Kempsville Presbyterian Church. Karen has also given of her legal skills, providing pro bono services at the Chesapeake Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court to help victims of domestic violence and supervising a free legal clinic in a low-income community.

Furthermore, Karen has been an active participant in the civic process that keeps our democracy moving at its most basic levels. She has been an active member and leader in the Republican Party of Chesapeake and the Central Chesapeake Republican Women's Club for many years. Later this month, she will be honored by her colleagues for this commitment as Chesapeake's Grassroots Volunteer of the Year. I can hardly imagine anyone who is more deserving of this award.

We can all learn from her commitment and dedication to the principle of public service. I am honored to know her and to have had the privilege of working by her side for the betterment of the city I call home. Her energy has been an inspiration, and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to share her spirit with this chamber today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES HANSEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of Charles Hansen, a Colorado newspaperman and visionary whose life and dedication to his community is being inducted and honored by the Colorado Business Hall of Fame. Though Charles has passed away, I am honored today to bring his good deeds and contributions to light before this body of Congress. Charles began his career in journalism and later was instrumental in establishing the gathering of the West's most precious resource, water.

As a young newspaperman, Charles came to the town of Greeley, Colorado in hopes of furthering his career in journalism. His first job was working as a part-time reporter/editor for the Greeley Tribune, where he covered stories throughout the Western Slope of Colorado. Several years later, he bought several small local newspapers and combined their resources and created the ''Greeley Republican.'' He further merged his resources with the Greeley Tribune in 1913 and successfully operated both endeavors as publisher and eventually as President of the ''Greeley Tribune Republican Publishing Co.''

Charles Hansen was a great cultural contributor to the region and was instrumental in bringing well known musicians and talent to the area. He was responsible for establishing the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, which enticed symphony orchestras from New York and Los Angeles to visit the state, as well as bringing in notables such as the John Philip Sousa Marching Band. As a member of his community, he was active in the Greeley Chamber of Commerce and dedicated his time and energy to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy Districts. It was for his dedication to bringing water to the plains from the mountains that Charles will be most remembered.

As any Westerner knows, water is our most precious resource. The water in our state not only satisfies our human requirements, but also is necessary to provide moisture for our agricultural industries. Charles, well aware of the need for this resource, lobbied Congress on behalf of the region and secured funding for what came to be known as the Colorado-Big Thompson Water Diversion Project. The project not only satisfied northern Colorado's water needs but also became a model for aspiring agricultural communities throughout the world. His contributions to the project were later honored when a portion of the canal was named in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I have risen today to pay tribute to a patriarch of the State of Colorado. Charles Hansen dedicated his life to improving his fellow Coloradan's lives through contributions to his community, commitment to quality journalism, and dedication to providing his region with its most precious resource. I would like to take this time to congratulate his family on Charles' recent award and let them know that all his fellow Coloradans have benefited from his vision and sacrifice, which had made the region strong and viable today.

AMERICAN MACHINIST MAGAZINE'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of American Machinist magazine's 125th Anniversary, the oldest metalworking publication in existence.