

HONORING THE OCCOQUAN
WATERSHED COALITION

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Occoquan Watershed Coalition (OWC) of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Established in 1994, the Occoquan Watershed Coalition is a nonpartisan, broad-based citizens group that works to improve communication and expand dialogue regarding major issues concerning the Springfield District portion of this environmentally sensitive region.

The coalition actively works with the Virginia General Assembly, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and citizen and homeowner associations to protect and improve both the environment and the quality of life of the area's residents. Specific examples of the OWC's efforts include their involvement in the closure of the Lorton Prison Complex and subsequent redevelopment of the area. The coalition also closely monitored numerous transportation decisions including the refurbishment of the Yates Ford Bridge and paving of Yates Ford Road.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Occoquan Watershed Coalition for 10 years of dedicated service to its community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the OWC's past accomplishments and in wishing the program continued success in the many years to come.

HONORING CORPORAL JOHN T.
OLSON

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Marine Corporal John T. Olson of Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Corporal Olson was killed by enemy action while conducting combat operations on 21 February in Nassir Wa Al Salam, Iraq. It was Corporal Olson's third tour of duty in Iraq.

He graduated from boot camp from the San Diego Marine Corps Depot in 2002 and was deployed to Iraq in January 2003 for his first tour. His third tour of duty was with the Alpha Truck Company, Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division.

John Olson was a graduate of the Elk Grove High School, Class of 2001, graduating six months early. He was a student at Harper Community College when 9/11 changed his life, he enlisted shortly afterward and was deployed to his first tour in Iraq. At the time of his death, he was driving a truck just outside his base when a bomb exploded. He died while medics tried to save him.

Corporal Olson was a young man of 21 when he made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country. Our deepest sympathies go to his beloved family—his mother Diana, his father John R, and his sister Courtney—as well as to his other family and friends. The entire community joins in mourning John's loss.

We honor the memory of Corporal John T. Olson and the dedication and bravery with

which he served our Nation and the people of Iraq.

IN HONOR OF THE WORK OF
PROFESSOR JOHN MONTGOMERY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished work of Professor John J. Montgomery, a native Californian who was a pioneer of early aeronautics from 1882 until 1911.

Professor Montgomery made many distinguished advances in the field of aerodynamics and fluid mechanics. In 1883, he designed, constructed, and flew a glider 600 feet at Otay Mesa, California, achieving the very first controlled flight of heavier-than-air, fixed winged craft in history. This was quite a remarkable feat, as Professor Montgomery relied only upon his superb knowledge of fluid mechanics and his scientific observations of birds.

In 1893, after many more years of exploration and reflection, Professor Montgomery attended several conferences where he was able to share his findings with the world. Audiences were captivated by his writings describing fluid mechanics and his initial flight experiments. His original manuscript, aptly titled "Soaring Flight," contained some of the world's earliest understanding of fluid dynamics and is now proudly displayed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC.

As Professor Montgomery's interest and knowledge in fluid mechanics grew, he continued to explore the abilities of larger aircraft. Professor Montgomery was exhilarated by these larger models, and when inspired to fly, he retreated to the beautiful Leonard Ranch in Aptos, California, here in the 17th district.

In 1903 Professor Montgomery reached a breakthrough and built a full-scale version of his tandem wing design. He quickly began testing the abilities of his new machine by flying it like a kite, performing load carrying tests, practicing vertical drop launch, and equilibrium and control tests. He continued to conduct these tests and manned flight experiments in the spring and summer of 1904.

In the winter of 1904–1905, Montgomery was ready to display the skills of his new craft in a spectacular new way. Montgomery hoisted his craft high into the air with the aid of a hot air balloon. Montgomery then trained a circus acrobat and a professional parachutist, Daniel J. Maloney, the delicate skills required to steer the aircraft. In March, 1905 in Aptos, the hot air balloon hoisted the glider and Mr. Maloney, high into the air. Audiences then were treated to the show of a lifetime. Mr. Maloney darted upward and downward, carving circles and figure eights. The new aircraft was an absolute sensation, with the longest flight lasting an astonishing eighteen minutes and covering a distance greater than two miles. Truly this was the very first flight of its kind, and Montgomery's "aeroplane" set lasting altitude and endurance tests that served as a testament to Professor Montgomery's genius.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the achievement of this fine gentleman on this day, March 19, 2005, the Centennial Celebra-

tion of his "Soaring Flight". Professor Montgomery will always be remembered for his ceaseless devotion to aerospace science and his many contributions to the Santa Cruz County community in the 20th century. Though no longer with us, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize such a unique and fascinating individual.

TRIBUTE TO THE TURTLE CREEK
CHORALE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the Turtle Creek Chorale, of Dallas, Texas. The TCC held their first performance in April of 1980 with only 70 members. Through the idea of "the power of harmony," their commitment to the community and the leadership skills of Artistic Directors like Dr. Timothy Seelig, the chorale has exploded to over 200 singing members.

The TCC performs an annual series in Dallas at the Meyerson Symphony Hall, along with traveling around the United States, Canada, and many locations in Europe. In addition to more than 100,000 hours of rehearsal, and over 50 yearly benefit performances, the TCC also participates in numerous community service projects.

The TCC has many accomplishments, such as their collaboration with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation with the creation of the much respected Sing for the Cure: A Proclamation of Hope, narrated by Maya Angelou. In addition, they produced and performed the world premier of Song of Wisdom from Old Turtle that was based on the award winning book Old Turtle. A portion of all the recording proceeds benefited St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The TCC has also performed for the inaugurations of Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk and Texas Governor Ann Richards.

The dedicated members of TCC have excelled in their mission to entertain, educate, unite, and uplift audiences through music distinguished for its innovation, diversity and artistic excellence.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in acknowledging the honorable works of Turtle Creek Chorale for their 25th Anniversary.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF SEGUIN MAYOR BETTY ANN
MATTHIES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize distinguished civic service of Seguin Mayor Betty Ann Matthies.

Betty Ann Matthies is a native of Guadalupe County. She graduated from Seguin High School, and attended the University of Texas at Austin. She graduated from the Steton School of Nursing in Austin in 1976, and received her Certificate in Health Care Administration from Trinity University in 1978.