

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILL" BALSER

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, William "Bill" Balser was elected to the high office of Department Commander of Ohio on Sunday, July 10, 2005; and

Whereas, William "Bill" Balser is a 30 year member of the American Legion Post 85, where he has held many offices including Post Commander and Finance Officer; and

Whereas, William "Bill" Balser has exemplified the meaning of successful civic duty through his unselfish role to serve the greater good of the Ohio Valley; and

Whereas, William "Bill" Balser recently celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife Trudy and is the loving father of 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in recognizing William "Bill" Balser for his longtime dedication to the residents and children of Ohio's 18th district.

## CONGRATULATING COOKE COUNTY 4-H DAIRY JUDGING TEAM

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding performance of the Cooke County 4-H dairy judging team. The team consists of Ben Wyrick, Josh Zimmerer, Cletus Fuhrmann and Amber Fuhrmann.

4-H is a community of more than seven million young people across America learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. The four "H"s represent the "Head" which stands for clearer thinking and decision-making; "Heart" which stands for greater loyalty, strong personal values, positive self concept, concern for others; "Hands" which stands for larger service, workforce preparedness, useful skills, science and technology literacy; and "Health" which stands for better living, healthy life-styles.

After winning the Texas State 4-H dairy judging contest, the team is headed to Wisconsin for the national contest. The challenge before the team is to distinguish between various breeds of dairy cows, with each contestant judging four classes of four cows. After placing the cows, contestants then present their reasoning before a judge.

I am very proud to recognize these 4-H members today, and I wish them great luck. Their persistence and commitment should serve as an inspiration to us all.

## CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER MIAMI CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INC.

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Greater Miami Chapter of the Links, Inc. on their 50th year of outstanding commitment to community service. The ceremonies recognizing this important milestone will be held on Sunday, October 16, 2005 at Florida Memorial University.

The Greater Miami Chapter was chartered on Saturday, November 5, 1955 when founding members Maude Maude K. Reid, Mayme E. Williams, and Susie W. Francis brought together 15 other charter members for an installation ceremony at the Carver Hotel in Liberty City.

During its 50th anniversary celebrations, the chapter will honor seven honorees: charter member Susie W. Francis, Frances J. Chambers, Gwendolyn H. Welters, Dorothy H. Fields, Ph.D., Castell V. Bryant, Ed.D., Regina J. Frazier, and Senator Frederica S. Wilson.

The Greater Miami Chapter lists among its many accomplishments programs that bolster the arts, promote awareness of international issues and multicultural events, and assist young people in reaching their full potential.

Nationally, The Links' organization has grown to 275 chapters and approximately 11,000 members who reside in 42 states, the District of Columbia, the Bahamas, Germany and South Africa.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years after their founding, the members of the Greater Miami Chapters of The Links, Inc. are a powerful force for change in the South Florida Community. I thank them for all of their efforts, and wish them another successful 50 years of making a positive impact in the lives of others.

## TRIBUTE TO JEFF CHRISTENSEN

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Jeff Christensen, a National Park Service Ranger who tragically lost his life July 29, 2005, while on a backcountry patrol in the Mummy Range area of the majestic Rocky Mountain National Park in Northern Colorado.

Throughout his four seasons of service as a ranger with the National Park Service, Jeff was undoubtedly at home in the midst of some of our country's most scenic and significant park land. I am very grateful for the dedication

and enthusiasm Jeff displayed while serving our Nation in this capacity. He will be profoundly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

Jeff once remarked to a friend, "You know, if I ever die while at work in the mountains, do not cry for me because you will know that I died doing what I love." I pray that Jeff's family and friends will take solace in Jeff's passion for the job he so deeply loved.

I extend my sincere gratitude for the hundreds of concerned citizens who joined in an exhaustive 8 day search for Jeff. The heroic efforts exhibited by members of the National Park Service and countless volunteers have not gone unnoticed.

To Jeff's parents, Dale and Chris Christensen, and his many friends and family members, I express the heart-felt sympathies of a community that shares in their loss. May my colleagues join in celebrating the life and service of Mr. Jeff Christensen.

## HONORING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF ED AND HARRIET NIEMIEC

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed and Harriet Niemiec on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Ed and Harriet both grew up in the Back of the Yards neighborhood in Chicago. They knew each other as kids, even though they attended different schools. Eventually Ed and Harriet became engaged and then married on November 6, 1955. They had their only child, Ed, Jr. in August of 1956.

Following in his parent's footsteps, Ed, Jr. and his wife Maria have been married for twenty-seven years. They have two children, Mark and Christina.

Besides an active involvement with their family, Ed and Harriet have many hobbies. Ed spends a lot of time taking care of his yard and tending to his flowers. According to his son, one would be hard pressed to find a blade of grass out of place or a visible weed. Harriet is a consummate volunteer and organizer. Her philanthropies started while she was working at Dry Storage where running the football pools spilled over into organizing senior trips, church functions and working at Christ Hospital as a "Pink Lady."

Ed and Harriet are fine examples as parents and are wonderful role models as grandparents. I would like to extend my best wishes to Ed and Harriet as they and their family celebrates their 50th anniversary.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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