

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF TED SMITH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Ted Smith, a life-long resident of Chautauqua County and a truly remarkable man.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TED SMITH

(By Manley J. Anderson)

Two well-known local public figures have shared their thoughts about R. Theodore "Ted" Smith who was an integral part of their lives for several years. Those paying remembrance and tribute to their late, long-time colleague are Joseph Gerace Sr., New York State Supreme Court Justice now serving as a judicial hearing officer; and Dr. Gregory T. DeCinque, Jamestown Community College president speaking for the area's academic community.

Gerace said he and Smith campaigned together years ago for the Chautauqua County Legislature, representing the Busti/North Harmony area. "Ted in just about every respect was one of the most outstanding people I've ever met," the jurist said. "He was the kind of public official we wish we had in all positions: honest, straightforward and caring about the community."

"He was Mr. Environment," Gerace said, "and I feel we may still be waiting for the sewer districts except for Ted Smith, who also was known as Mr. Integrity. We campaigned together for the Chautauqua County Legislature, knocking on doors, and Ted took on a county-wide assignment with the landfill, closing open dumps and developing a solid waste plan that was the envy of the area and so effective the private sector wanted to buy it."

The jurist closed with, "He was an all-around guy with a great sense of humor. He was truly the Mark Twain of our era and he always used humor to make the best of a situation." "It is with deep sadness that I share with you that Ted Smith passed away late yesterday (Thursday) at Hamot Medical Center as the result of a heart attack he suffered Sunday evening," DeCinque said.

"Ted was among the early faculty who established JCC as the premiere community college in New York," he said. "Whether as a faculty member, founding dean of the Cattaraugus County Campus, dean of academic affairs, or retiree, Ted's contributions to JCC are legend."

DeCinque continued with, "Ted led JCC through the development phase of many academic programs as well as the growth of our Cattaraugus County Campus, our outreach into Pennsylvania, and our Dunkirk center."

The academician pointed out, "Ted was recognized with the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1975 and the JCC Foundation's John D. Hamilton Award in 2001. He is among the select few to receive these highest honors associated with the college."

DeCinque went on with, "Ted was highly regarded throughout the state both as an educator and a political leader. His service on the Chautauqua County Legislature led to

many improvements within the county, and I know he will be remembered as one of the best legislators we have had in Chautauqua County."

He continued with, "Following Ted's retirement, he returned to the classroom and continued his love affair with teaching. I had the privilege of participating in many of Ted's Student Success Seminars where I witnessed the relationship he was able to develop with students. In addition to teaching in his retirement, Ted carries out a number of research assignments for us that resulted in establishment of several of our newest academic programs including professional piloting, occupational therapy, and dental hygiene."

DeCinque said, "On a personal note, Ted was always there to provide me with insight and wisdom, and he often would send me short notes from Busti or Florida that were always on target and helpful. I will miss that guidance." The college leader said, "JCC and our larger community have lost a dear friend and colleague, and our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Pat and the entire Smith family." He closed with, "Information on services for Ted will be shared with you as it becomes available."

Ted was a man who fully understood how to live to its fullest and that, Mr. Speaker, is why I rise to honor him today.

IN MEMORY OF CPT SANDOR L. GORDON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the death of CPT Sandor Lebron Gordon in a tragic car accident on Sunday, November 27, 2005, our State lost a true South Carolina hero.

Captain Gordon led a selfless life, demonstrated by his commitment to his family and his country. The son of Reverend and Mrs. Sammie L. Gordon of Orangeburg, SC, Gordon grew up in a home where love, hard work and concern for others were cherished and honored. It was these characteristics that made him successful in life.

As a husband, his wife and college sweetheart, the former Angela Nicole Strong called him her "very best friend." His son James praised his father for the love and concern he gave him and his little brother Simeon. My son Alan and the men of the 3d of the 178th Field Artillery Battalion who served with Captain Gordon in Iraq said of him "Sandor always had a smile to share, an ear to listen, and a hand to shake. He was a selfless humanitarian who volunteered to leave the safety of his base to take school supplies, clothes, food and water to the neediest Iraqi children living nearby."

Captain Gordon was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, the NAACP, and was voted "Top 20 under 40 Midlands Successful Businessmen" for the year 2005. A

respected small businessman, Captain Gordon made the financial sacrifice to answer his Nation's call to duty in December 2003, and upon returning from Iraq a year later was awarded the prestigious Bronze Star Medal.

His family, friends, and the Iraqi children he lovingly helped will remember Captain Gordon for his selfless dedication to them, our country, and a free Iraq. He is deeply missed by all who knew him.

The Wilson family extends its deepest sympathy to the Gordon family.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA: WHERE ARE WE NOW AND WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 7, I chaired a hearing on the current human rights situation in Burma, and what the U.S. and the international community can and must do to improve that situation.

After 40 years of brutal military dictatorships, the human rights situation in Burma is frightening. That nation's current military junta, in power for over 17 years, is an abysmal failure on every conceivable level.

It has ruined a beautiful and naturally rich land. According to the State Department's most recent Human Rights Country Report:

More than 4 decades of economic mismanagement and endemic corruption have resulted in widespread poverty, poor health care, declining education levels, poor infrastructure, and continuously deteriorating economic conditions. During the year, poor economic policymaking, lingering consequences of the 2003 private banking sector collapse, and the economic consequences of international sanctions further weakened the economy. The estimated annual per capita income was approximately \$225. Most of the population of more than 50 million live in rural areas at subsistence levels.

The Heritage Foundation ranked Iran and North Korea as the only countries with more restrictive economies than that of Burma.

But economic misery is probably the least of the problems faced by Burma's long-suffering people.

Citizens still did not have the right to criticize or change their government . . . Security forces continued to carry out extrajudicial killings. Disappearances continued, and security forces raped, tortured, beat, and otherwise abused prisoners and detainees. Citizens were subjected to arbitrary arrest without appeal.—2004 STATE DEPARTMENT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.

There are more than 1,100 political prisoners in Burma, who are abused and tortured. Seven are reported to have died in custody last year, and just last month a 38-year-old democratic activist died in custody due to inadequate medical attention.

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