

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING BRADLEY C.
KEENEY FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bradley Keeney, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bradley has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Bradley has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. It is with extreme pleasure that I commend the dedication Bradley has shown.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bradley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am proud to represent Bradley in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
BERNARD SIDNEY DITTMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Mr. Bernard Sidney Dittman, known as "Bernie" to his many friends and family, was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

Bernie purchased WABB-AM in Mobile, Alabama, in 1959. This station, previously owned by the Mobile Press-Register newspaper organization, first went on the air in 1948 with call letters that stand for "Alabama's Best Broadcasters."

One year later, Bernie moved to Mobile and completely changed the broadcast format of the station. His conversion of WABB from a country station to Top 40 propelled WABB to the position of the leading station in that format and one of the premiere stations anywhere along Alabama's Gulf Coast.

In 1973, Bernie took WABB in a new direction when the station added a new FM signal and began to broadcast a progressive rock format. At a time when most automobiles were not equipped with FM receivers, Bernie and his team ran an extensive series of on-air promotions encouraging the installation of low-cost FM receivers.

Under Bernie Dittman's leadership, WABB became one of the longest-running and most successful Top 40 radio stations in the United States.

The station has also spearheaded over the years the move to more equality in the hiring of on-air personalities and staff members. In fact, WABB was one of the first stations in south Alabama to hire both women and African-Americans for important announcer positions. WABB has also been a critical part of Mobile's emergency broadcast community and played a crucial role in providing information to listeners during Hurricane Frederic (1979) and Hurricane Ivan (2004). During Ivan, WABB was one of the few stations in the area able to transmit continuously during the storm without losing power. Following the end of the storm, the station also led the effort to collect and distribute relief material to neighboring States which had also been severely affected.

Aside from his professional obligations, Bernie ensured that WABB and its family of employees took an active role in the life of the Mobile community.

For the past 47 years, the station has operated the WABB Community Club Awards Program of Greater Mobile, which has provided over \$250,000 in financial awards to local civic, religious, and cultural institutions. Additionally, the station has been a 40-year sponsor of the Greater Gulf State Fair, a 35-year sponsor of the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, and a long-time sponsor of both the Senior Bowl and GMAC Bowl college football games.

Additionally, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Mobile, the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, the Mobile Ronald McDonald House and numerous other organizations advocating area youth have benefited tremendously from Bernie's leadership and community involvement. In fact, the area Toys for Tots program holds the record for the single largest toy collection anywhere in the United States, with over 100,000 toys collected—due in no small part to the efforts of Bernie and his entire team.

Bernie was a longtime member of the Alabama Broadcasters' Association and the National Association of Broadcasters and in 2000 was the recipient of the Greater Mobile Advertising Federation Silver Medal Award.

Mr. Speaker, there have been few individuals more important to the broadcast profession in Alabama or to the life of their local community than Bernie Dittman.

He was an outstanding example of the quality individuals who have devoted their lives to the field of broadcasting, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama.

Bernie Dittman loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife, Judith S. Dittman; his 3 daughters, Betsy Dittman, Stephanie Teichmer, and Marsha Scimo; his sister Sylvia Scott; and 3 grand-

children; as well as countless friends and loyal employees that he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEANETTE
ROBINSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeanette Robinson in recognition of her multiple accomplishments as a professional bowler.

Jeanette has been inducted into seven bowling halls of fame and is the only person to have attained this great honor. Her competition and coaching endeavors have allowed her to travel the world and work with the best players internationally. Jeanette has also bowled a competitive frame in 49 of 50 states.

Jeanette grew up in Flint, Michigan and picked up her first bowling ball in 1956 at age 28. By 1957, Jeanette was coaching youth and seniors in addition to running leagues and tournaments full-time. As the first known person to organize and promote national bowling tournaments for the deaf and the blind in 1958 and 1959, she laid the foundation for making bowling a sport for everyone.

As more coaching opportunities became available, Jeanette's travels increased, and she was chosen president of the Professional Women's Bowlers Association in 1965. She held this position for 10 years until stepping down in 1975. Under her leadership, the women's professional bowling tour grew exponentially.

Although Jeanette still bowls today, her true love is coaching and she currently holds the position of resident professional at The Orleans Bowling Center. Her work with the local Las Vegas high school leagues, professional tours and family bowlers at The Orleans is most rewarding because it is the legacy of her sport that she hopes to see passed on from generation to generation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Jeanette Robinson. Her lifetime contributions to the sport of bowling are truly commendable. I wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AUXILIARY TO BELLEVUE HOSPITAL CENTER, INC. ON THE OCCASION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Auxiliary to Bellevue Hospital Center, Inc., which is celebrating its 100th anniversary of service to the community. During that

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