

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF MARK W. LIBELL

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and dedication of Mark William Libell, a member of my staff who is leaving my office to pursue the next phase in his career.

Mark grew up in Alabama and received his bachelor's degree in History from Maryville College in East Tennessee. After getting his start on the Senate side of the Hill, Mark returned to school to pursue a J.D. at the University of Alabama, which he completed in 2 years.

Mark was drawn to the pace and promise of Washington at a young age. With a love of American history, Mark grew up reading the stories of our Nation's leaders. In fact, I think he has the record in my office for the number of books he requested from the Library of Congress. His commitment to public service is evident in his work and has earned the respect of his colleagues.

As the Senior Legislative Assistant in my office, Mark was a valuable resource to me and my staff. His broad knowledge of policy, his appreciation for the rules of the House, and his enthusiasm for the job helped me to advance my legislative priorities and better serve my constituents.

While Mark's work-related contributions have been greatly valued, his sheer presence in the office will be sorely missed. Mark was always one of the first in the office to grab lunch, usually around 11:30 a.m. His choice of food was always a topic of discussion in the office as the aroma filled the air, whether fish from the cafeteria or Chinese food.

Madam Speaker, there is no question that Mark's character of thoughtfulness, dry humor, and fun spirit is strong and will be missed by all.

Mark, I thank you for your service and wish you the best of luck in the future and in your new position.

DEEPEST SYMPATHIES FOR INDIA
AND AFGHANISTAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my deepest sympathies for the people of India and Afghanistan after a cowardly homicide bomb attack outside the Indian Embassy in Kabul this morning. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families who have lost loved ones. As the former co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans and current co-chair of the Afghanistan Caucus, I am personally concerned.

These bloodthirsty attacks are a clear sign that we face a determined enemy. But our fight in Afghanistan not just against terrorist elements like Al Qaeda who murdered Americans on September 11. We face a larger threat to the people and to the stability of the

entire region especially our longtime partner Pakistan.

We need to heed the advice of our commanders on the ground who are requesting more reinforcements and more resources. We need to implement a strategy that will capture or kill those responsible for terrorist acts as well as destroy their financial and logistical networks. We must ensure they will not find a safe haven anywhere from which to plot. I join with Republican Whip ERIC CANTOR to urge Democrats and Republicans to uphold President Barack Obama's campaign pledge to protect American families by defeating terrorists in Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK STELLA

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is with joy that I rise today in tribute to Mr. Frank Stella, an icon of Metropolitan Detroit, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on October 30, 2009.

A successful entrepreneur and eternal philanthropist, Mr. Stella embodies the American Dream. The son of Italian immigrants, he bravely served in the U.S. Army Air Forces during the Second World War and founded the F.D. Stella Products Company, a food service distributor, in 1946. His company is today a preeminent national supplier and designer of restaurant equipment.

Over the past six decades, Mr. Stella has not just built a business in Detroit: he has built a legacy in service to the community. His involvement spans prominent educational and medical institutions, civic and business organizations, and charitable and political causes. He has served as a Board Member to the University of Detroit—Mercy for more than two decades, in addition to the Board of Directors for the Detroit Medical Center, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Club of Detroit, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, and the National Italian American Foundation of Washington, D.C., among many, many others. The impact of his philanthropy was recognized by five of our country's presidents and three of our state's governors.

Frank Stella has received many awards, though none can fully capture his contributions to the public and private arenas. His catalogue of honors only begins to highlight the gratitude of those he has served: Mr. Stella was awarded the decoration of 'Grande Ufficiale,' the Government of Italy's highest honor; named 'Michigander of the Year' by the Detroit News and 'Executive of the Year' by the Detroit Executive Association; received the George Romney Award for Lifetime Achievement in Volunteerism, the Urban League Warrior Award, and the Bnai Brith Award, to name just a very few; and was granted three honorary doctorates.

As he turns 90, and is joined by his family, friends, and colleagues in celebration, Mr. Stella is unsurprisingly choosing to honor this landmark occasion with a fundraiser for four of his favorite charities—the National Italian American Foundation Scholarship Fund, Orders of the Sons of Italy in America, Italian Language Inter-cultural Alliance, and Boys Town of Italy. These charities proudly cele-

brate Italian-American culture while inspiring new generations of civic involvement and generosity, fitting tributes to Mr. Stella's continued work.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Frank Stella for his lifetime of service and dedication. I wish Mr. Stella a joyous 90th year full of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUNSHINE SLOPERS SKI CLUB

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Sunshine Slopers Ski Club, the first African-American ski club in the state of Florida.

Skiing, a sport that is an exhilarating activity that allows individuals and families to enjoy a natural environment and participate in physical activity, may seem uncommon for residents in the State of Florida. Yet, the Sunshine Slopers Ski Club prospered throughout the last 20 years into a popular and successful club that positively impacts African-American communities through programs that provide opportunities for adults and youth to participate in recreational and competitive skiing.

On June 28, 1989, the first organizational meeting of the Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was held at the North Dade Regional Library in Miami Gardens, Florida. Subsequent meetings were held at the same location while the group developed a club logo, selected club colors, and elected officers. By September 5, 1989, the club was established with 36 charter members and was accepted as a developmental club of the Eastern Region of the NBS. The Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was incorporated on October 2, 1989, thereby becoming the first African-American ski club in the State of Florida. Soon thereafter, the officers began to get the club active through involvement in ski-better workshops and attending eastern regional board meetings.

The groups first trips were: Beech Mountain, North Carolina; Snowshoe, West Virginia; Lake Tahoe, Nevada, Mini-Summit, and Smugglers Notch, Vermont, Winterfest. On March 22, 1990, during the American Challenge Cup Mini-Summit at Heavenly Ski Resort in Lake Tahoe, the Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was officially accepted into the National Brotherhood of Skiers by the national president Paul Ray, national membership director Naomi Bryson and eastern region vice president Jeanie Polk. Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was recognized by Polk as the fastest growing club in the country. At the end of its first year, membership was approximately 140 which included singles, married couples and children. Currently, there are about 200 members of the club.

The Sunshine Slopers strongly supports the NBS' key focus of finding and developing Olympic caliber skiers. Their focus is one of a kind, and fosters assertiveness, self-actualization, and self-determination. Additionally, they aim to develop leaders that are a benefit to various communities. The NBS provides funding to its youth programs in support of young athletes who otherwise would not have the opportunity or financial resources to ski competitively or recreationally.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding Sunshine Slopers Ski Club as it celebrates 20 years of synonymous and exceptional experience to the sport of skiing—which in turn offers unique opportunities to allow all Floridians and Americans a chance to be together outside and enjoy the season. I appreciate this opportunity to congratulate Sunshine Slopers Ski Club before the United States House of Representatives.

**OBAMA, THE ECONOMY AND
COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following article entitled "Obama, the Economy and Community Colleges." This article was printed in the Bergen Record on September 15, 2009: [From the Bergen Record, Sept. 15, 2009]

**OBAMA, THE ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY
COLLEGES**

(By G. Jeremiah Ryan)

If most experts are to be believed, the recession has bottomed out and we are about to begin the process of rebuilding our economy. While this is good news, it is hardly comforting to the thousands of New Jerseyans who are out of work or underemployed.

That's because although business activity is starting to pick up, job creation isn't. In fact, the same experts who are predicting the start of an economic rebound readily admit that the labor market will continue to deteriorate well into next year, and they expect the unemployment rate to hit double digits.

The question, then, is: What can we do to prevent further erosion in the job market and jump-start employment? President Obama answered that question back in July when, in a major public policy address, he unveiled a plan to spend \$12 billion over the next 10 years to help the nation's community colleges train people for the jobs that will be needed in tomorrow's economy.

PARTNERSHIP

By looking to community colleges for help, the president is harnessing a job-training infrastructure that already exists. No need to reinvent the wheel. Two-year colleges have been preparing students for employment for as long as they have existed. More recently, they have taken the lead in partnering with government agencies to provide customized job training for businesses in their communities.

Bergen Community College and the Bergen County Workforce Improvement Board came together this summer to help supermarket retailer Whole Foods train 300 of its employees at stores in Paramus and Edgewater. The board helped arrange a \$1 million training grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, while the college developed training budgets and schedules, and located instructors for computer courses, as well as for classes in customer service and basic supervision.

Obama is not the only one to recognize the value of community colleges. The public has, too. This fall, many two-year colleges saw sharp increases in enrollment. As of the first day of classes, Bergen Community College had enrolled 16,769 students, a 17 percent increase over last year.

Two-year colleges are also preparing students to join the workforce in a relatively

short period of time. Labor market experts believe that in the future there will be a strong supply of jobs for people who have two-year degrees or occupational certificates. In fact, these so-called "middle-skill" jobs—nurses, hotel managers, paralegals, etc.—make up about 50 percent of the labor market in New Jersey and pay above-average salaries. A licensed practical nurse, for example, earned a median salary of \$46,800 in 2006, well above the \$35,838 median salary for all occupations in New Jersey that year.

FLEXIBILITY

To have a lasting impact on the economy, it will be important to prepare students for jobs in industries that are growing and have a future. A hallmark of county colleges has been their ability and willingness to add courses of study that are in demand by the communities they serve. This year, Bergen Community College added nine more degree programs in subjects such as non-profit management, homeland security, fire science and sports management. When you add them to the existing curricula, Bergen students have 140 programs of study to choose from, each leading to a rewarding career.

Obama's speech was a beginning, a recognition that the path to improving employment must include community colleges. Many details need to be worked out, but we have the know-how and experience to help people get back to work.

G. Jeremiah Ryan is president of Bergen Community College in Paramus.

**HONORING CHIEF WILLIAM "DUB"
WARRIOR OF BRACKETTVILLE,
TEXAS**

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize Chief William "Dub" Warrior of Brackettville, Texas, a Historian and Seminole-Negro Indian descendant of the John Horse Band, and commemorate the distinguished service and loyalty of the Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts to the United States Army.

Following the Civil War, the Army was called into west Texas to defend settlements and travelers against retaliation raids from displaced Apache and Comanche Indians. However, they lacked the ability to track down and stop them. The Army needed experienced Indian fighters who knew the rugged terrain and were as skilled as their opponents at surviving and fighting in the desert borderlands. Thus, in 1870 the fearless Seminole-Negro Indians were recruited from Mexico as U.S. Army scouts. They were highly regarded and praised by their commanders for being excellent trackers, hunters and marksmen, and experts at hand-to-hand combat. During twenty-six expeditions they engaged in twelve battles without losing a single scout, and their bravery earned four scouts the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Therefore Madam Speaker it is my great pleasure to rise and announce in honor of these esteemed persons that the greater Washington, DC chapter of the 9th and 10th Horse Calvary Association, in partnership with the Army Freedom Team Salute and St. Elizabeth's Hospital of Washington, DC, has planned a Seminole-Negro Indian Recognition

Ceremony for today, Friday, October 9, 2009 in the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Chapel. Chief William "Dub" Warrior will be the keynote speaker for this event. He is the descendant of Tony Warrior, who collaborated with and assisted John Horse, leader of the Seminole-Negro Indians, in the movement of their tribe from Indian Territory to slavery-prohibited Mexico. Chief Warrior's grandfather, Carolina Warrior, and great grandfather, Bill Warrior, were members of the revered U.S. Army scouts.

**TESTIMONIAL RECOGNIZING MS.
LUCY BECKHAM AS THE 2010 NA-
TIONAL SECONDARY PRINCIPAL
OF THE YEAR**

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 08, 2009

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to extend my congratulations to Ms. Lucy Beckham of Wando High School in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina on her selection as the 2010 National Secondary Principal of the Year.

This distinction, presented by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, is a most deserving recognition of her leadership and dedication to the students entrusted to her.

The National Principal of the Year program began in 1993 and was established to honor those education administrators that have set the highest example for their peers.

Ms. Beckham's contributions and sense-of-purpose extend beyond the campus of Wando to so many areas including her church and numerous community activities.

I am certain that all of the faculty and staff at Wando are proud to have her at the helm, and as the grandparent of a Wando student, speaking for all the families of the greater Charleston area, we congratulate her for being No. 1 at Wando and for now being No. 1 in the Nation.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE "WATER
TRANSFER FACILITATION ACT
OF 2009"**

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, yesterday with Congressman CARDOZA I introduced the "Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009." Given the overwhelming water user support we received for this bill, I am submitting additional letters in connection with this bill.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
WATER AUTHORITY,

San Joaquin Valley, CA, October 5, 2009.

Re Support for Transfer Legislation for the Central Valley Project.

Hon. JIM COSTA,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors), we thank you for introducing transfer legislation for the Central Valley Project (CVP)