

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF MARY JANE (POLLY) TETI

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mary Jane (Polly) Teti of Chester County, Pennsylvania on her retirement after 30 years of law enforcement service with the Tredyffrin Township Police Department.

Detective Teti began her law enforcement career in 1980 with the City of Coatesville Police Department. In 1982, she was hired by the Tredyffrin Police Department and in 1986 was named Officer of the Year. In 2000, Teti was promoted to Detective and specialized in sex crimes and child abuse cases. She has received numerous unit citations and merit awards for the investigations and arrests she has handled.

Detective Teti served as Defensive Tactics Instructor for the Tredyffrin Police Department in the PR24 Baton, ASP Baton and OC Spray. A trained Crisis Negotiator, she was instrumental in creating a team of negotiators to quell volatile situations through communications. Detective Teti became Team Leader for the Crisis Negotiators North Team for Chester County and served as Vice-President of the Delaware Valley Negotiators Association.

Mr. Speaker, in light of her years of exemplary service to his community and litany of sterling accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Detective Mary Jane (Polly) Teti for her invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SMALL  
CONDUIT HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT  
AND RURAL JOBS ACT  
OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2842) to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, as Co-Chair of the House Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, I support the responsible development of renewable energy wherever we can generate it—and that includes the development of small conduit hydropower at Bureau of Reclamation facilities.

What I cannot support is this legislation's blanket exemption from the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Conducting appropriate environmental reviews is not a barrier to the responsible development of our energy resources; it is a prerequisite for that development. Moreover, NEPA already gives federal agencies the authority to create categorical exemptions for projects that already meet statutory and regulatory criteria.

For that reason, I will be supporting the amendment offered by Rep. NAPOLITANO to

correct this defect in the underlying bill. If the NAPOLITANO amendment is not adopted, I will oppose final passage and urge my colleagues to do the same.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH  
BIRTHDAY OF MRS. HELEN  
MYERS LONG CORDELL

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and honor to extend my sincerest congratulations to Mrs. Helen Myers Long Cordell, a beloved citizen of Albany, Georgia, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Sunday, March 18, 2012. On this special and momentous day, she will be honored by her family and friends at a celebration at Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany.

Mrs. Cordell was born on March 18, 1912 in Chipley, Florida to Albert Addison Myers and Meddie Fryer Myers. She spent her early childhood in Chipley but after the sudden passing of her father, the family moved to Albany, Georgia in 1924 before then moving to Rome, Georgia.

Mrs. Cordell is a graduate of Rome High School and she received a bachelor's degree in education from Shorter College.

As an advocate for quality education for all of our Nation's children, Mrs. Cordell served as a teacher in Columbus, Georgia from 1933–1944; at Albany High School in Albany, Georgia from 1946–1959; and at Albany Vocational School from 1959–1968. She was very dedicated to her role of properly instructing young people and helping them to reach their full potential.

As a testimony to her endearing charisma and her devotion to her pupils, the students and faculty of Albany High School dedicated their annual yearbook, *The Thronateeska*, to her in 1955. She also actively participated in various educational associations and was a member of many community organizations including the Albany Garden Club and Gold Star Wives.

During World War II, she married Master Sergeant Wayne C. Long on October 9, 1943. Sadly, Master Sergeant Long was killed while serving his country at the Battle of the Bulge on December 20, 1944.

On October 19, 1968, she married Joel J. Cordell, the longtime Superintendent of Dougherty County Schools. They were happily married for many years before his passing in 1988.

Always active in her church, Mrs. Cordell was a dedicated member of First Baptist Church in Albany for many years. Following her marriage to Mr. Cordell, she became a longtime member of Sherwood Baptist Church, where she sang in the choir and held a leadership role in the activities of the church.

As fate would have it, I had the great pleasure of serving in the U.S. House of Representatives with Mrs. Cordell's nephew, former U.S. Congressman Earl Hutto, who dutifully represented Florida's 1st Congressional District from 1979 until his retirement in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Cordell, a beloved educator and inspiring fig-

ure, as she and her loved ones prepare to celebrate her 100th birthday. I commend her for her exceptional work of educating the generations of young people who have grown into teachers, entrepreneurs, and leaders and helped build a stronger foundation for Georgia and for our Nation.

Happy Birthday Mrs. Cordell! May God continue to bless you and may you have many, many more years of peace and happiness.

MARGARITO CANO "GUNNY"  
VASQUEZ

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Margarito Cano "Gunny" Vasquez. For many years, we have worked side by side to help improve the quality of life for many Veterans and their families around the Houston area. Mr. Vasquez passed away on February 24th and on March 1st, the Houston Chronicle printed his obituary written by Pedro Pinto. In honor of Mr. Vasquez, I would like to submit the text into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Margarito Cano "Gunny" Vasquez, who worked with programs helping military veterans and their families, has died of liver cancer. He was 77.

Vasquez was a member of countless organizations, including Veterans Incarcerated, which helped imprisoned veterans get their lives in order.

"He helped incarcerated, disabled, and homeless veterans," his son, Monte Vasquez, 33, said. In a 2005 interview with the Chronicle, Vasquez said he wanted his incarcerated brothers to come out and be productive.

"My hope is to die as an honorable Marine, that I tried to do what I could for veterans," he said then. He died on Feb. 24.

Vasquez also worked for Kids with Disabilities First, an organization dedicated to helping veterans' children with Down syndrome.

Vasquez also was instrumental with efforts to rename an East End street after Navy veteran Cesar Chavez and acquire the Houston Veterans Memorial Park, family and friends said.

Vasquez was born on July 20, 1934, in Bastrop. After a couple of years in the Army, he found his niche with the Marines.

"Any Marine was his brother; his loyalty and love was with the Marine Corps," said his son, Monte. "If he could have served his whole life there, he would have."

He got his nickname for having retired as a gunnery sergeant.

"He instilled a lot of Marine in us," said his daughter Margie Vasquez Lopez, 44. "When we were little, he taught us how to starch our clothes Marine style."

The family was proud of his volunteering, she said, but didn't know he'd helped so many people.

"When he passed away, we learned how devoted and recognized he was," she said. "We had people calling us who we didn't even know."

A prayer service will be at 9:30 a.m. Friday in Compean Funeral Home, 2102 Broadway. Burial will follow at Houston National Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Consuelo, and six children, Debra Ann, Margie, Michelle, Michael, Martin and Monte.

With great sorrow, I honor Margarito Cano "Gunny" Vasquez for his efforts to improve

not only the lives of Veterans, but their families as well. His efforts to help so many will be greatly missed.

# RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF FRANCIS RUSCIO

## HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Francis Ruscio of Chester County, Pennsylvania on his retirement after 23 years of law enforcement service with the Tredyffrin Township Police Department.

Corporal Ruscio began his law enforcement career in 1979 when, at 20 years old, he was hired as a police officer by the City of Coatesville Police Department. He participated in 3 major drug investigations and raids with county, state and federal agencies in 1981, 1987 and 1988. Corporal Ruscio also served as Acting Detective Sergeant of Coatesville PD from May thru September 1988.

Corporal Ruscio was hired by the Tredyffrin Township Police Department in September 1988 and served in the Department until his retirement in December 2011. He served as Tredyffrin's DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) instructor from 1997–2003, presenting programs to middle school students in Tredyffrin/Easttown School District, Valley Forge Middle School, Woodlynne School and The Crossroads School.

Promoted to the rank of Corporal in 2003, Ruscio lives with his wife Sandy in Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his years of exemplary service to his community and litany of sterling accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Corporal Francis Ruscio for his invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

# CELEBRATING THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA'S BICENTENNIAL

## HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial of The Hibernian Society of Savannah, Georgia.

The Hibernian Society of Savannah originated in 1812 as a society of gentlemen to come to the aid of Irish immigrants in the area. One year later they held the first St. Patrick's Day celebration in Savannah at the Independent Presbyterian Church. In 1824, they invited all of the Irishmen of Savannah to join in on a parade which would become the first St. Patrick's Day parade in Savannah's history.

Their role in the history of Savannah and its people has developed greatly over the years. They have been addressed in the past by notable speakers such as President Taft in 1912 and President Franklin D. Roosevelt by radio in 1937. President Truman addressed the body in 1952 at their 150th Anniversary Dinner

and President Carter addressed their Anniversary Dinner in 1978. Since its inception, these notable figures have recognized the actions and donations of the society for the greater good of the people of Savannah.

The scope of their efforts evolved from just the Irish community to the community of Savannah as a whole. They are very active through The Hibernian Society of Savannah Foundation, Inc. in their charitable contributions to the community. These organizations they support include some local schools as well as the Empty Stocking Fund, the Inner City Night Shelter and the Salvation Army among others.

A rich heritage and strong personal ties to the city and the community have ensured that the The Hibernian Society will continue to play a vital role for those in need in Savannah. What once started as a society of Irishmen helping Irish immigrants in need has transformed into a body whose positive impact can be seen everywhere around the City of Savannah.

I commend The Hibernian Society of Savannah, Georgia for their contributions to the people of Savannah and would like to congratulate them on their bicentennial celebration and their rich and continued history in the area.

# HONORING WILLIAM MITCHELL

## HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the following is a speech given by the former Mayor of South Windsor, John Mitchell, to honor his brother, William Mitchell, for being recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Foundation. These two brothers are united in their love of public service and a willingness to give back to their community. It has been an honor to know them both. John's tribute to his brother offers only a brief glimpse into his many contributions.

Billy is affectionately known to friends and family as "Big," and we call him this because of his big heart, and for always being a big help to anyone who asks. Congratulations Big, and thank you, John, for the following remarks:

In the words of that great S.W. Rotarian and philosopher Robert J. Ignagni, "This is the main event!" Thank you all for coming and being a part of this great evening to honor my baby brother Billy.

For everything and everyone there is a beginning, and this is the way it unfolds . . .

Billy, was the 5th child of 6, born to Joseph and Katie Mitchell. We had 3 older sisters and my father was ready to jump off the Buckley bridge. He always wanted a son and then he got his wish, 3 more children, all 3 boys.

Now, years ago, think about it, our mom gave birth to six children—all in the house wherever we lived at the time. Two girls born in Pennsylvania, 1 in New Britain, Billy and myself in Manchester and Joey in East Hartford. There really wasn't a need for hospitals during this period in our Nation's health care system, but somehow it worked.

Now, if you have ever been poor, it is quite likely, you will remember it. Believe me, you will remember it!

Growing up in East Hartford on Tolland Street during World War II was an experi-

ence for six siblings. Coal was the method that most people used to heat their homes, and our father delivered coal. At our yard there were piles of coal, sometimes as tall as this beautiful restaurant. And for many, many of our young growing years, we would climb those piles of coal and slide and tumble down those huge piles. The neighbors often thought mom had 3 white daughters and 3 black sons, we were the only minorities at the time on Tolland St.

Ice skating was great fun in the winter time, the wooded area across the railroad tracks would contain little locked up areas of frozen ponds that were great for skating all over. Often as our feet grew and the skates didn't we would cut off the front of the skates to accommodate the growth of our feet. Everyone was poor but nobody knew it. Many of you in this room won't remember, except for Kenny Jackson, this is the World War II era, everything is in short supply, gas, soap powder, butter. You name it, it probably was tough to get. Often our family would sit together on the front porch during the air raids at night because Pratt and Whitney was considered a prime target. Wardens would be running up and down the street making sure all lights were out. There were national guard bunkers with guardsmen living in them on the Long Hill Golf Course and on Goodwin Street almost in our back yard, frightening times for kids. And guess what, the Germans do arrive in a sub in Hancock Point, Maine, right where Della lived at the time, and a number of them go walking up Main Street in suits, they were going to infiltrate the area. They are promptly apprehended because they just didn't fit into the local area. Nobody in that part of Maine owned a suit! Talk about not doing your homework!

But we survived it all, and by 1952 the family moved to S.W. where the base of Billy's operations for business is today. Back then it was called North Foster Rd., it was a gravel road and we quickly fit in to our new surroundings by working in the tobacco fields and man were they all over town. After Billy graduated Ellsworth High School, he worked for the family business known as Mitchell Fuel and Trucking and after the coal business died, Billy and Joey started Mitchell Trucking and Mitchell Excavators. Billy became active in town joining the SW Volunteer Fire Dept. and was recently recognized for his service of 50 years and he still to this day, is chairman of the board of fire commissioners. During this period I will never forget 3 incredible fires in town. The Industronic's building on Sullivan Ave., the Pyrofax Propane fire on Rt. #5, and the Fishman Building on Chapel Rd. As the Pyrofax fire was raging, I was standing out in the middle of Rt #5 as huge propane tanks were burning out of control and I saw Billy jump into a piece of heavy equipment and cut a path so the fire trucks could get closer with their suppressants and as the fires burned out of control, one large piece of metal debris landed a short distance from me. I thought how incredibly brave he was, or was he just plain dumb. Needless to say, he survived and this act of bravery did help diminish that huge and dangerous fire more quickly.

Years ago, the trucking business was thriving and Billy actually used to drive a ten-wheeler, Billy calls me around 6:30 a.m., "Johnny could you get a couple of shovels and meet me at the intersection of Crane Road and Wapping Wood Road in Ellington, I said sure, I'll be right there as soon as I can." Now picture this in your mind, Billy's big 10 wheeler is laying over on it's side, gravel all over and I arrive with two small shovels. If ever there was to be a defining moment in our lives, this was it, I knew it, I absolutely knew that I would forever be