

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR,  
1995

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 1995, we pay homage to the 2,403 Americans killed at Pearl Harbor. Both Congress and the President have resolved that this date shall be designated as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day." The most effective way we can honor the memory of those Americans who were killed in battle is to encourage future generations of Americans to remember the tragedy and the significance of that day. On December 8, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt appeared before a joint session of Congress asking that "a state of war" be declared against the Imperial Government of Japan.

. . . But always will our whole Nation remember the character of the onslaught against us . . . The American people in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory . . . [We] will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us . . . With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounding determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, and on December 8, the Japanese launched unprovoked attacks against Pearl Harbor, Malaya, Hong Kong, Guam, the Philippine Islands, Wake Island, and Midway Island.

At 0755 that fateful morning, waves of Japanese planes descended upon Pearl Harbor, bombing and strafing American planes and the Pacific fleet. In less than 2 hours, the attack was over.

The Japanese left behind a scene of destruction and carnage unparalleled in the history of the United States. Of the 96 ships present in the harbor that day, 3 were destroyed and 16 were severely damaged. The U.S.S. *Arizona* exploded and sank within 9 minutes, killing 1,103 sailors and Marines. When the smoke cleared that day 2,403 Americans were dead and 1,178 were wounded. Fifteen Medals of Honor were awarded, as well as 51 Navy Crosses, one Distinguished Flying Cross, and 53 Silver Stars.

On that day, boys became men, and men became heroes. Their courage came naturally and they reacted instinctively, knowing full well that America would ultimately succeed due to the nobility of their cause.

Never in the history of our fledgling republic has such a reprehensible act been perpetrated against innocent victims in a country not at war.

Never in the history of the United States has a country deceived another by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

Never in history of a constitutional government has this degree of treachery been com-

mitted against a military objective in a country not at war. These were truly dastardly and cowardly acts by the Imperial Government of Japan.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, however, was not a complete success. Their main targets, the aircraft carriers U.S.S. *Lexington*, *Enterprise* and *Saratoga*, were absent during the assault. The Japanese, as well, failed to destroy both repair and strategic oil storage facilities on the island, without which the Pacific fleet would have been forced to withdraw to the west coast of the United States.

History has established that wealth alone offers no protection against aggression. Success in war depends upon the character of its citizens and the quality of its leadership, not the sum total of its wealth.

No nation on Earth has ever been overwhelmed for a lack of it, and the nobility of the character of its citizens has produced a legacy of magnanimity for generations to come. It is for them, America's future, that we apply the lessons of the past.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was the defining moment in the consolidation of the American spirit. Pearl Harbor was our rally point producing our single-minded resolve toward victory. That resolve made us unyielding in war, and today sustains our aspirations for lasting peace. The energized and unleashed power of America turned the tide of battle in the Pacific, resulting in a continuous procession of pulverizing defeats against the Imperial Government of Japan.

Since Pearl Harbor, America has never stood alone. Beside us stand nations deeply committed to freedom, democracy, and a free market environment—nations including our former enemies Japan, Germany and Russia. This unity of purpose continues to inspire us in the cause of peace among nations.

As we commensurate "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day," let us never forget the memory of those Americans who sacrificed their lives in the defense of freedom and democracy, and let us always recall, with deep respect, those individual acts of heroism and valor demonstrated by men and women who defended America 55 years ago today.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PAUL  
CSONKA

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great Floridian, Paul Csonka, who passed away this last Friday at the age of 90. Paul was a distinctive individual who led a remarkably full life. His life centered around his love for music and his desire to enrich the lives of those around him with his knowledge.

One of his early professional achievements was cofounding the Salzburg Opera Festival in

pre-War II Austria. He was actively involved in this project until the Nazi regime took over his homeland. With nothing but his love of music and the clothes on his back, he fled to Cuba in 1938. There, Paul was able to continue his cultural endeavors, and share his fervor with the people of Cuba.

Once again, he was forced to leave all of his worldly possessions behind as he fled Cuba after Fidel Castro took over. But it was his art that truly mattered, and this is what he brought with him to south Florida. After settling in Palm Beach, Paul ushered in a period of increased cultural awareness. He served as the creative director of the Civic Opera of the Palm Beaches which eventually evolved into the Palm Beach Opera. The opera thrived under his direction as he singlehandedly defined the opera scene in Palm Beach. After leaving the Palm Beach Opera in 1983, his presence in the cultural community persisted. He continued working with music students and produced a series of music programs at a variety of retirement communities. He received a honorary degree from New York University as a tribute to his contribution to the music world.

While he was renowned for his musical talents, he will be remembered most for his character and humanity. His experiences and personality made him larger than life and his charisma was infectious. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the life of Paul Csonka.

THE BEST SMALL TOWN IN  
AMERICA

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Essex, CT, on being named the Best Small Town in America by author Norman Crampton. Mr. Crampton's book, "The 100 Best Small Towns in America," recognizes Essex for qualities its residents, and people across Connecticut, have appreciated for many years. The residents, officials, and business people of the community should be very proud of this honor, which acknowledges their commitment to their community.

Mr. Crampton ranked towns across the Nation using several criteria, including per capita income, crime rate, public school expenditure per pupil, and percentage of population with a bachelor's degree. While every survey seeking to rate communities relies on similar factors, the author also considered community efforts to provide housing to all income groups and to encourage residents to play an active role in town affairs.

In the final analysis, Essex rose above every other small town in America to be named No. 1. Since settlers first came to the area in the mid-1600's, Essex, which encompasses the villages of Centerbrook, Ivoryton, and Essex, has distinguished itself. For much

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