

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUTS OF THE
USA

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in celebration of the 85th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the USA. The Girl Scouts of the USA, since its inception in 1912, has stood for the highest principles of honesty, fairness, and service to others.

Juliette Gordon Low registered the first group of 18 Girl Scouts on March 12, 1912, in Savannah, GA—conceiving the idea from England's Sir Robert Baden-Powell, who in 1911 had founded an organization called the Boy Scouts.

The birth of the Girl Scouts of the USA in the early part of this century introduced unprecedented opportunities for girls to expand their lives. While girls and women in those years were unable to break into traditionally male activities, sports, fields of academics and jobs, the Girl Scouts of the USA handbook in 1913 included instructions on how to fly an airplane.

The Girl Scouts sisterhood gained enormous popularity in the years to follow, leading to its incorporation in Washington, DC, on June 10, 1915, its first nationally organized cookie sale in 1936, and its chartering by the U.S. Congress on March 16, 1950.

In the decades since then, the Girl Scouts of the USA has grown to nearly 3½ million members—2.6 million Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts, and 827,000 adult volunteer leaders, consultants, board members, and staff specialists. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton serves as its National Honorary President. A total of 174 million boxes of Girl Scout cookies sold last year for \$435 million, to support activities of 331 local councils established nationwide. The Girl Scouts of the USA has enjoyed tremendous success.

We must continue to support and acknowledge the value of an organization that teaches a young girl through its basic law to do her best, to be honest, to be fair, to help where she is needed, to be cheerful, to be friendly and considerate, to be a sister to every Girl Scout, to respect authority, to use resources wisely, to protect and improve the world around her, and to show respect for herself and others through her words and actions.

These responsibilities in Girl Scout Law and words in the Girl Scout Promise to "serve God and my country" have prevailed throughout the 85 years of its organization, despite new challenges marked by evolving times. In cities such as Milwaukee, Honolulu, and here in Washington DC. Girl Scout troops are having an incredible impact on the lives of girls. Today's Girl Scouts are taught duty and obligation to others and themselves, and are offered opportunities to do so through a broad range of activities. Girl Scouts each week are participating in positive activities to discover the worlds of science, the arts, the outdoors, and people—as well as to find their ability to excel in these worlds.

The Girl Scouts of the USA will continue to mean for millions of our girls a source of friendship, a positive creed by which to live, and endless opportunities at self-discovery.

Happy 85th birthday, Girl Scouts of the USA. I wish you many more to come.

"DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND
BEYOND"

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce for the RECORD a script written by Mr. William "Jamie" O'Brien, a constituent of mine from Buckhannon, WV. This script was West Virginia's winning entry into the Veterans of Foreign Wars—Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest.

Jamie's script does a tremendous job of blending the history of our country with examples of the shortcomings of other types of government to explain why, "Democracy, against all other forms of government, is above and beyond." I encourage my colleagues to keep Jamie's script in mind as we seek to find effective solutions to the problems that currently face our Nation.

"DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND"

(By William O'Brien)

As I watched the sun set upon the Pennsylvania battlefield, I could see the men charging forth over the crest of the hill. Valor raging in their eyes. The name Gettysburg itself carries a foreboding presence, but being there to witness the landscape is an eye opening experience. This place is one example, of many, where brave men laid down their lives for the protection of the precious institution democracy.

Throughout the history of the United States, we have strived to protect freedom and be an example of democracy at work. When the very existence of the nation was threatened in the 1860's, President Lincoln's main objective was not the Emancipation Proclamation or to punish the South for its defiance. His chief war aim was to preserve the Union. Lincoln knew that the war would shape us into a new nation. When Lincoln visited the Gettysburg battlefield to dedicate a cemetery, he included in his remarks an eloquent description of democracy—"a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Just down the road from the battlefield is the Eisenhower farm. Eisenhower worked his whole life for the cause of peace. He served his country in the struggle against the Nazi party in World War II. After all his military accomplishments he returned to his homeland and retired to this spot in Pennsylvania. As president of the United States and as leader of the free world, "IKE" returned here—bringing many world leaders. The leader of the communist USSR, Nikita Khrushchev, viewed and walked this same ground. The communist leader's famous phrase, "we shall bury you," is now only ashes.

Democracy, being derived from the highlights of other governments, is the best form of government. A monarchy is too naive, to think that one person can rule a diverse group of people. It's strong suit is that it puts one person at the head so things can get done quickly. Totalitarianism is not good for an advancing society. If the government controlled all aspects of life creativity would be lost. The government has the responsibility, however, to control the safety of its people. The tyrannical power of a dictator does not allow people to be free in their own homes.

At any time, their life can be expended. They have no rights. Yet, the maintaining of an army for defense and the war is essential. For these reasons, democracy is above all forms of government.

The protection of the people and their rights are two of democracy's greatest assets. But most important is how apt the government is to change. Our government is not defined by the time in which it was developed. It's molded by the present. The United States Constitution is a living document. The soldier at Gettysburg, President Lincoln, and General Eisenhower, all fought to preserve the Constitution and what it stands for. Depending on what is needed by the people, our government provides. Our democracy has lasted for over two hundred years, while other governments have fallen to the wayside. Democracy goes beyond all forms of government.

I have no fear that when I reach adulthood, democracy will be able to provide for me. We shall shape it for ourselves. Because democracy, against all other forms of government, is above and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY MANCINO

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, at its most recent convention, the Communications Workers of America elected as vice president of its district I, Larry Mancino.

District I is the largest jurisdiction in CWA in terms of membership, with nearly 100,000 dues payers residing in the States spanning the area between New Jersey and Maine.

I take special pride in Larry's election because he is not only a native of the Empire State, but also was born in Brooklyn.

Most significant, Larry Mancino brings a proven track record to the position of vice president, having served for more than 30 years as an effective and enlightened labor leader.

After completing military duty in the Air Force, he began work as a communications technician with the Western Union Telegraph Co. In 1966, Larry assisted the CWA by becoming the collective bargaining representative for the 4,000 employees of Western Union. Six years later, he was appointed to CWA's national staff. He later advanced to director of the union's downstate region, including New York City.

Most noteworthy, Larry was promoted in 1991 to assistant to Morton Bahr, the president of CWA. A responsibility that Larry carried out diligently and successfully until his election as vice president of district I.

Mr. Speaker, Larry Mancino is not only eminently qualified to be vice president of CWA but he and the world's largest telecommunications union are a nearly perfect match.

The CWA is a prime example of an outstanding "public citizen" in our pluralistic society, an organization that enhances the quality of life of all Americans. It is an activist organization with grassroots rank-and-file members residing in all 50 States and in each of the 435 congressional districts.

I am pleased that the leadership of CWA's district I is in the hands of Larry Mancino. He is an invaluable asset not only to CWA but also to working families throughout the Nation.