

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AWARENESS DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, in the Tenth Congressional District of Michigan, which I have the privilege to represent, the personnel at Selfridge Air National Guard Base have served in the defense of the United States for over 80 years.

Selfridge is one of the Nation's oldest and most historic military installations. It is named after Lt. Thomas Etholen Selfridge. Lieutenant Selfridge was the first military officer to pilot a heavier-than-air, engine-driven aircraft. While flying with Orville Wright on September 17, 1908, Lieutenant Selfridge, unfortunately, became the first officer to meet his death in powered flight. Wright survived only after a lengthy stay in the hospital.

Pilots began training at Selfridge Field only 2 weeks after it was activated as a military installation in 1917. This was just 3 months after the United States entered World War I. In 1947, when the Air Force became a separate service, Selfridge Field became Selfridge Air Force Base. It had grown from a 640-acre leased parcel of land to a permanent 3,600-acre base.

In 1971 the base was transferred to the Michigan Air National Guard and received its current name. It is the home of many diversified units. Team Selfridge takes pride in being the only Reserve forces base to have permanently assigned units from all five of the uniformed services: Air Force (Air National Guard & Air Force Reserve), Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

The Team Selfridge community paid tribute to the Government officials who support Selfridge Air National Guard base. Selfridge had depended on the flexibility and support of Government officials since 1917.

Reserve forces comprise more than half of our Nation's defense capability and are essential to national security. These citizen-soldiers

train vigorously and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their active duty counterparts in order to be ready to meet the Nation's call at a moment's notice.

Our Reserve forces will play an even greater and more diverse role in the times ahead. It is through the vital support of America's Government officials that the Reserves will be able to bolster the Nation's security.

August 8, 1997, should be remembered as Michigan Government Officials Day. I urge my colleagues to continue their support and express their gratitude to the men and women of our Michigan Reserve forces.

A TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN SHERMAN

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, every now and then in my position as a Congressman, I have the privilege of honoring those people out there whose performance day in and day out improves the quality of life for an entire neighborhood or school or community. I call these people our "silent heroes." That's because they do their job without remiss and all too often without the accolades they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to bring your attention to one such hero today, Mrs. Carolyn Sherman of Nassau, NY, in my congressional district. She has been a faithful employee of the Nassau Free Library for 40 years now and has done more than her share in making the Nassau area of New York a great place to live and raise a family.

I say that because what could be more critical to any community and especially its young people, than a library. And there's something even more special about a public library that just seems so American. It embodies the free exchange of ideas and intellectual freedom that has allowed this country to thrive and has been the beacon drawing millions from distant lands throughout our history.

Now, how does Mrs. Sherman fit into all this? Easy. For 40 years now, she has played an active role in helping others to expand their minds, be it a child forming his or her sentences, or a business owner researching the latest trends and technologies that might allow their business to expand and put someone else to work.

During her tenure, Carolyn has guided the library through many changes. She expanded the hours from 12 to the present 22 hours per week. She founded the book selection committee, a version of which remains today for the selection of children's books. She instituted Children's Story Hour in 1959 soon followed by a special children's corner of the library. In 1961, under her leadership, the library joined the Upper Hudson Library System, a State-sponsored service for small libraries which allows for interlibrary loans and a variety of other services. Carolyn founded the Friends of the Library, a volunteer auxiliary group which supports library events including fund raising activities.

In the 1970's, after several years of planning and labor, Carolyn coordinated the expansion of the physical facility. Through outstanding community support, the project was completed without encumbering debt.

In 1982, Carolyn received the Marian Mosher Award for Library of the Year in New York State. This award is given to an outstanding small community librarian. As you know, Mr. Speaker, organizing and directing such a rapid and enormous change can be both exhilarating and frustrating. But she had a vision of a facility that would better serve all aspects of her community and the persistence to carry it through. Now that's what it takes to get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people based on what they return to their community. By that measure, Carolyn Sherman is a truly great American. I ask you Mr. Speaker, and all Members of the House to rise with me now in tribute to her and her outstanding record of public service. She has certainly earned it.

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