

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MARK MCGWIRE

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at a time when America needed a distraction from Washington scandals, hurricanes, and global economic crises, St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Mark McGwire lifted our spirits and made us forget our troubles. For his achievements on and off the baseball field, Mark McGwire deserves our praise and admiration. We all share in the pride felt by his parents, Dr. John and Ginger McGwire, who were long time residents of Claremont, California.

The people of California feel a special bond with this son of the San Gabriel Valley. Born in Pomona and raised in Claremont, McGwire graduated from Damien High School where he was recruited by the University of Southern California as a pitcher. At USC, McGwire gave up pitching to become an everyday player. Like Babe Ruth, McGwire has become one of the most feared hitters in the major league. This year, his 70 home runs shattered the 37-year-old mark set by Roger Maris. McGwire also had a .752 slugging average, the highest average since 1927. He had 162 walks, which is the second most intentional walks in a season. To put that in perspective, in 1961 Roger Maris drew only 94 walks and never received an intentional walk.

Besides his accomplishments on the baseball diamond, McGwire is an all-star off the field. He is a devoted father, and the images of him hugging his son, Matt, after home run #62 brought tears to many eyes. In 1987, McGwire had a chance to lead the American League in home runs as a rookie, but instead he sat out the end of the season to be there for his son's birth. His love for children is extraordinary. Last year, McGwire pledged \$3 million to his foundation which helps sexually abused children. While in Oakland, he regularly wore wristbands with the pictures of missing children so viewers could see them on television. After awarding McGwire with their Sportsman of the Year award last year, The Sporting News President James Nuckols appropriately commented, "the quantity and sheer power of Mark's home runs have put him in a class of his own, but his moving example of selflessness and loyalty have made him equally unique."

Baseball historians may view Mark McGwire's legacy as the greatest home run hitter of all time. McGwire has hit a home run every 11.3 at bats, which is the lowest ratio by a major leaguer—lower than Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, Willie Mays, and Harmon Killebrew. Or, his legacy may be this year's 70 home runs which may never be surpassed. However, Mr. Speaker, I believe McGwire's legacy should be the tremendous inspiration that he provides. As he described in a recent interview, "for all the bad things that are going on in the world, for a short period of time, [I

was] putting a lot of smiles on people's faces." To be sure, Mark McGwire has been an inspiration to all of us. He is the pride of the San Gabriel Valley.

COMMEMORATING RINGWOOD MANOR

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to Ringwood Manor, an historic home in Ringwood, New Jersey, that has come to be a symbol of the area's unique heritage and history. I would also like to offer my congratulations to the Ringwood Women's Club and the Friends of Ringwood Manor, two civic organizations that have helped preserve Ringwood Manor and keep it open to the public as an historic site. Their initiative and leadership have made them role models for the nation.

An elegant, 51-room mansion at the center of a 33,000-acre estate in Passaic County, Ringwood Manor served for two centuries as the home of the owners of the iron mines that were once the focus of the region's economy. Those huge mining operations made Ringwood the center of munitions production for U.S. forces in every major armed conflict from the French and Indian Wars to World War I. Ringwood Manor and the surrounding town of Ringwood have a place in our national history that should be recognized. The mines are gone but Ringwood Manor still stands, reminding residents of the area and tourists alike of Ringwood's place in history.

Established in 1740, Ringwood was a center of iron making and munitions making from Colonial days. Three ironmasters oversaw the bustling operations over the years leading up to the Revolutionary War but the last, Robert Erskine, was destined to play a major role in the creation of the United States. Erskine had run the Ringwood mines for seven years when, in 1777, General George Washington appointed him as Geographer and Surveyor General of the Continental Army. In this important role as our nation's army's first geographer, he and his staff produced nearly 300 highly detailed maps. These maps played a major role in leading the colonies' troops to victory over the British. The Robert Erskine Militia performs ceremonial functions in modern-day Ringwood as a tribute to this early prominent citizen.

The next prominent head of the mines was Martin J. Ryerson, who built the original portions of the existing manor house in 1807. (The original manor house burned in 1742.) Ryerson, who built a three-story home of 10 rooms decorated in Federal style, left Ringwood Manor to his sons. They, in turn, sold the house and surrounding 33,000 acres to Peter Cooper in 1854 for \$100,000. Cooper and his business partner, Abram S. Hewitt,

operated 32 working mines as Cooper Hewitt and Co.—and were two of the most important industrialists who transformed our nation's economy during the 19th Century.

In 1855, Hewitt married Cooper's daughter and the couple made Ringwood Manor their country home. Between 1864 and 1879, they greatly expanded the house, bringing it to a total of 51 rooms. Included were 28 bedrooms, 24 fireplaces, 13 bathrooms and 250 windows.

The Hewitts left the house to their children, who donated it to the State of New Jersey in 1936. The state opened the home to the public in 1939.

The present structures standing at Ringwood Manor reflect the period from 1854 to 1936, when the Hewitt family lived there. Among the many unusual features are gardens inspired by the grounds of the Palace of Versailles.

Ringwood Manor has been preserved and kept open to the public through the efforts of two private civic organizations in addition to the State of New Jersey—the Ringwood Women's Club and the Friends of Ringwood Manor. Ringwood Manor is one of the many projects undertaken by the Women's Club, which also works closely with the Ringwood Public Library, local schools and projects such as planting flowers at local shopping centers. The Friends of Ringwood Manor provide a wide variety of volunteer services at the Manor, from gardening to administration. Both these organizations deserve our thanks.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask our colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Ringwood Manor and these outstanding community leaders for this important contribution to maintaining the history of our great nation. As U.S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. wrote in *New York Trust Co. v. Eisner*, "A page of history is worth a volume of logic."

SOUND ADVICE FROM AN ALLY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from the South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hong Soon-young, in which he asks for the support of the U.S. Congress as his country seeks to manage the difficult relationship with North Korea.

Minister Hong specifically asks for the continued backing of the U.S. Congress for the South's policy of engagement with the North. He also notes that the 1994 Geneva Framework Agreement, while not perfect, has played "an effective and useful role" in dealing with the challenge posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

In perhaps the letter's key sentence, he requests that the House of Representatives continue to support implementation of this agreement so as to give the North no excuse for backing out of its obligations under the accord.

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