# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE KATYN FOREST MASSACRE

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2000*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre, sixty-one years after the horrible tragedy.

On September 17, 1939, Poland was invaded by Soviet-Russian troops. At the time, Poland was boldly and courageously fighting an invasion by Nazi Germany. Because Polish troops were over extended fighting the Germans, they were unable to stop the communist troops. In an area called the Katyn Forest, Soviet troops proceeded to murder Polish soldiers from all branches of the military, as well as justice and administrative officials. An estimated 21,000 died. This horrible tragedy is known as the Katyn Forest Massacre.

On September 16, 2000, at 12:00 PM, the Polish American Congress, the Katyn Forest Massacre Memorial Committee, and the Siberian Society of Florida will sponsor a memorial service in Jersey City, New Jersey, in honor of the victims.

Today, I honor the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre. I commend them for their courage and sacrifice. They fought against terrible aggression; and they not only fought for their own freedom, but for the world's freedom, as well—freedom that many of us enjoy today.

I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre. And I ask that we also honor their sacrifice for freedom.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE MINGO JOB CORPS FIRE FIGHTING TEAMS

### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2000*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the courageous actions of a group of my constituents over the August recess. The Mingo Job Corps Center of Puxico, Missouri sent four crews out West to help fight the forest fires during what has turned out to be one of our nation's worst fire seasons ever.

These brave men and women went through intense training, and jumped in with both feet to help put out fires that have engulfed much of the Rocky Mountains. They spent time in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah. The Mingo crews, who are between the ages of 18 and 24, never knew the people whose homes and livelihoods they were protecting, yet they spent several weeks risking their lives on their behalf. A few of these folks even went back a second time when they had the opportunity. I commend the following people for their bravery:

Bob Waldner, Nicholas Copeland, Wendell Clinton, Grant Potts, Ronnie Coates, Brad Cason, Dewayne Bell, Todd Simpson, Joe King, Chris Kerr, Terrance Cooper, John Thomas, Amber DeWalt, Justin Armstrong, Brian Foster, Kendall Monroe, Chris Elam, William Arnold, Bryan Meyer, Chad Curtis, Craig Tash, Tom Galvin.

Sunni Lawson, Jerl Henry, Nathan Zimmerman, William LaChance, Darrell Reynolds, Dana Nimrod, John Bressler, James Parker, James Brantley, Robbie Parratt, Jacob Wegenka, Ivie Rush, Vincent Dawson, Kathleen Knowles, Jesse Horn, Scott Clayton, Steven Yokel, Bridget Jackson, Daniel Sneckenberg, Brandon Keyser, Pam Denkins, Sarah Degrande.

David Hogue, Robbie Parratt, Jason Wilhite, James Brantley, Don Riggle, Neil Ayers, David Grobe, Ryan Simino, Willie Jones, Douglas Phillips, Franklin McLean, Anthony Neal, Lori Moore, Keith Colville, Justin Shields, Jerermy Thompson, Angie Hammond, Billy Pratt, James Fritts, Jonathan McClenton, Gary Pogue, Rob Barth.

Thank you for your courageous and selfless acts. I salute you.

## TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT DREWES

### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2000*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished American and proud Californian, Dr. Robert Drewes, in recognition of his extraordinary courage in saving the life of Abby Csaplar.

In April, 2000, Dr. Robert Drewes was leading a 24 member California Academy of Sciences trip to Africa. One stop on the trip was the 360-foot high Victoria Falls where the accident occurred. Abby Csaplar was attempting to take a photograph of the Falls when she slipped on a rock and fell over the edge. She grabbed onto a bush, which prevented her immediate death and stopped her fall.

Dr. Robert Drewes instantly dropped his pack and climbed down the side of the cliff in order to assist Abby Csaplar. Once he reached her, he supported her weight and helped her sit on a small six-inch ledge until help arrived. Victoria Falls park rangers brought a rope that was first secured to Abby Csaplar and then Dr. Robert Drewes, pulling them to safety. Dr. Robert Drewes acted selflessly and with great courage, reacting in a moment with extreme courage and saving the life of another individual.

It is fitting that Dr. Drewes is being honored for this extraordinary act of bravery, and I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in honoring this great and good man. We are indeed a better county, a better Country and a better people because of him.

## BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL WINNER

### HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2000*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratualte Mira Mesa High School in Mira Mesa and its leaders, Principal, Rachel Flanagan and Superintendent, Alan Bersin. Mira Mesa has been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2000. I am proud to inform my colleagues that my district had an amazing record of eleven schools selected for that prestigious honor this year. I would also like to note that the Academy of Our Lady of Peace right outside my district in San Diego County was also named a Blue Ribbon School. I applaud the educators, students and communities in each of the San Diego County schools who pulled together in pursuit of educational excellence.

Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized as some of the nation's most successful institutions, and they are exemplary models for achieving educational excellence throughout the nation. Not only have they demonstrated excellence in academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum, but they have demonstrated exceptional levels of community and parental involvement, high student achievement levels and strong safety and discipline.

After schools are nominated by state education agencies for the Blue Ribbon award, they undergo a rigorous review of their programs, plans and activities. That is followed with visits by educational experts for evaluation. Ultimately, those schools which best demonstrate strong leadership, clear vision and mission, excellent teaching and curriculum, policies and practices that keep the schools safe for learning, family involvement and evidence of high standards are selected for this prestigious award. I am pleased that they are now receiving the national recognition they are due.

As school and community leaders head to Washington for the Department of Education awards ceremony, I want to thank them once again for a job well done. More satisfying than any award, these leaders will have the lifelong satisfaction of having provided the best education possible and a better future for thousands of children. I am proud of what they have achieved, and want to share their achievements so that more people benefit from their accomplishments. I ask that a summary of Mira Mesa High School's superior work be included in the RECORD:

Mira Mesa High School (MMHS) is located in the Mira Mesa community of San Diego, California. MMHS has 18.3 and an 89.7 stability rate. Of the 2,262 students enrolled, 768 are registered in the free/reduced lunch program. MMHS boasts a daily attendance rate of 96.2%. The dropout rate is currently 0.03 per 100 students for grades 9–12. MMHS has