

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BOB BRUNNER

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Robert E. Brunner of Illinois Tool Works in Elgin, Illinois, who recently was recognized by the Industrial Fasteners Institute with its first-ever Leadership Award for his tireless efforts on behalf of the fastener industry.

As many in this House know, the fastener industry is a vital part of our economy and fasteners are a basic building block of manufacturing. Billions of fasteners are used annually in the U.S. in automobiles, airplanes, tanks, ships, bridges, heavy equipment, and virtually every other manufactured product. Thousands of Americans are employed in hundreds of fastener manufacturing facilities throughout the nation, including my own district in Illinois.

In 1999, the industry and many of its key customers, guided by the leadership of Bob Brunner, came together to support innovative, dynamic legislation governing the regulation of fastener quality, H.R. 1183 of the 106th Congress. This legislation, which became P.L. 106-34, is the culmination of nearly ten years of efforts to regulate fastener quality without unduly hampering the industry's efforts to remain competitive and innovative.

As the IFI noted in the proclamation announcing Mr. Brunner's honor, this award "honors outstanding contributions by an individual who has provided direction, vision, and focus toward the timely resolution of strategic issues challenging the mechanical fastener industry and the many markets it serves."

Bob Brunner's leadership excellence in marshalling industry resources to focus on this critical issues helped ensure a successful, comprehensive, inclusive resolution to the matter. The fastener industry, Illinois Tool Works, the State of Illinois and the Nation have benefited from his energy and enthusiasm. This award and the recognition of this House are richly deserved.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT CHEN OF TAIWAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, May 20th will mark President Chen Shui-bian's first anniversary in office. Since his election the voters in Taiwan have continually given President Chen high marks for his performance. President Chen has continued to maintain a proactive stance on Taiwan's economy. He has ensured steady economic growth while minimizing the impact of the worldwide economic slowdown. Furthermore, President Chen has been busy strengthening relations

with allies and gaining new friends around the world. He has made it very clear that Taiwan genuinely desires a meaningful dialogue with the People's Republic of China—a dialogue to ensure peace in the Taiwan Strait.

President Chen has made great strides to solidify Taiwan's relations with the U.S.—a relationship that subscribes to the principles of freedom, democracy, human rights, peace, and prosperity. Through his efforts, the future of bilateral relations between Taiwan and the United States is bright.

I send my personal congratulations to the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan on this festive occasion.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF WALLA WALLA, WA

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend the City of Walla Walla, Washington, which recently received the 2001 Great American Main Street Award. Walla Walla is surrounded by onion fields and wineries within the 5th Congressional District in southeastern Washington State. Over the past several years, the city has improved itself, with such undertakings as the recent renovation of the historic Whitman Towers Building and the construction of the new airport terminal. However, no improvement is as evident as the revitalized downtown area.

The improvements to the downtown area could not have been made without the leadership of the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation which was founded in 1984. Under the leadership of Executive Director Timothy Bishop, Mayor Jerry Cummins, and the Board of Directors, as well as the tireless and determined efforts of the numerous volunteers, the Foundation brought a declining downtown back to life. Because of their efforts, 125 businesses opened or expanded, 800 jobs were created and storefront vacancies were reduced to 4 percent. This hard work was recognized and rewarded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as it issued Walla Walla one of only five Great American Main Street Awards for 2001.

The City of Walla Walla has a prestigious history that is worthy of preservation for future generations to embrace, and because of this preservation, a vibrant future will be enjoyed. I am proud of Walla Walla and am honored to represent this community.

A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO PROVIDE THAT ANCESTORS AND LINEAL DESCENDANTS OF PAST OR PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES SHALL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING WHETHER A VETERANS' ORGANIZATION IS EXEMPT FROM TAX

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from New York, Mr. RANGEL, together with a number of other colleagues, in introducing our bill to fix a current problem in the Internal Revenue Code regarding use of American Legion Post facilities by members and their families. That is, who qualifies as a "member" versus a guest, for purposes of unrelated business income and the exempt status of the Legion Posts. We do not believe Congress intended or contemplated that use of the facilities by families of the member would result in unrelated business income, or worse yet, the possibility of losing the Post's tax exemption under Section 501(c)(19).

By Congressional charter, only veterans who served during specifically designated wars may become "members" of the American Legion. Section 501(c)(19) requires only that 75% of the members be current or former members of the Armed Forces, and substantially all the other members are cadets, spouses, widows or widowers of past or present members. The IRS says substantially all is 90 percent. The Legion has many programs, such as the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), as well as programs involving youth and family support groups. All are designed to further the purposes for which the exemption was granted.

The Post is a family gathering place for many social and patriotic activities. As a result, many family members of numerous generations attend these events. Some relatives are specifically treated as members, others are not. Also questions arise as to the status of the members in the SAL, as well as relatives not specifically covered in regulations, i.e. great grandparents, great grandchildren, etc., and whether they are perhaps "associate or social members, and if they count for the 90% test. The answers could determine the extent of unrelated business taxable income as well as exempt status. This is not an issue regarding true guests, i.e. unrelated individuals who are, and must be, accompanied by a member. Nor is any substantive change contemplated regarding the sale of life and health insurance to members as provided in Section 512(a)(4). That section would be amended to conform the definition to Congressional charter members and their dependents.

Our bill would eliminate these potential issues by providing that the definition of

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

"member" for purposes of the exemption status and unrelated business income would be expanded to include "ancestors or lineal descendants of the member" (i.e. past or present member of the Armed Services meeting the Congressional charter definition).

We believe this change is not only fair, but recognizes the original intent of Congress, and the fact that more distant relatives of the member will come into existence over time. We hope our colleagues will join us in cosponsoring this legislation. Thank you.

HONORING KENTUCKY NURSES

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the thousands of men and women in Kentucky who have dedicated themselves to that most noble of endeavors: nursing. Every day, nurses—both in Kentucky and across the nation—sacrifice themselves to the causes of caring, of healing, and of loving. By tending to the sick and easing suffering, nurses play a tremendously vital role in the medical profession and our society at large.

We can all recall a time when a nurse became a crucial figure in our lives. When any one of us has been ill or trying to care for a sick loved one, nurses have always been there to provide help. Whether in a strictly medical capacity—mending a bone or administering medicines—or to offer reassurance, a shoulder to cry on, or an anchor of calm in the chaos and upheaval that we all know illness can cause, it seems that nurses perform a thousand and one duties to ensure that pain and suffering are washed away.

Since time immemorial, nurses have been on the front lines of the fight against sickness, but today that fight grows harder. Newly discovered illnesses, an increasing population, and an explosion in the demand for emergency care have all come together to force nurses to assume more and more responsibilities, while, at the same time, they must continue to strive to gain ground in the war against suffering. I understand these issues, and want to give my thanks to nurses across America for maintaining the same unflagging generosity that has characterized the profession in the past. During National Nurses Week this May, I want to especially recognize Kentucky Nurses, those men and women who, day after day, give of themselves to so many people in the Bluegrass State. I hope you will join me in honoring nurses for their commitment to helping others feel better.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING HOMER MAYOR MARY ALICE BELLARDINI

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the work of a tireless village mayor in New York's 25th Congressional District, Mayor Mary Alice Bellardini of the Village of Homer. Mayor Bellardini retired as Mayor on

March 31st after fourteen years at the village's helm. Prior to her initial election as mayor in March 1987, she served as a Cortland County Legislator for almost seven years.

During her tenure, the Village of Homer prospered. She is credited with renewing the village's historical preservation and planning efforts, improving its public water system, expanding economic development efforts and beautifying the Main Street corridor, establishing weekly summer band concerts on the village green, improving public safety operations, and reopening the Water Street bridge as a pedestrian walkway.

I have always regarded Mayor Bellardini as a strong partner in my work in Cortland County. Married to Harry Bellardini, the former Cortland County Republican Party Chairman, Mayor Bellardini is a proud Republican though always anxious to work in a bipartisan manner on behalf of her constituents. She has worked especially close with Democratic Village Trustee Virginia "Ginny" Swartwout—a twenty-six year veteran of village government, who also deserves special recognition for service to her community as she retires from her post this year.

Besides her work on behalf of the people of Homer, Mayor Bellardini is committed to community service. She served as President of the New York State Conference of Mayors from 1995 through 1996. She still holds positions on the Boards of Directors for numerous organizations, including Alliance Bank, Central New York Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Excellus, Inc., the Home Store, and the Cortland County Business Development Corporation. Last year, Governor George Pataki named Mayor Bellardini to serve on a select Advisory Committee to the Quality Communities Interagency Task Force for New York State.

A lifelong Cortland County area resident, Mayor Bellardini has three children and five grandchildren. Though Mary Alice believes that it's time for "a fresh face and new blood" in the village Mayor's Office, I am certain that her accomplishments and dedication as Mayor of Homer will live on for generations to come.

I congratulate her on her retirement from public life, thank her for her over twenty years of service as an elected official, and wish her well in all of life's future pursuits. Her daily presence and involvement at village offices will certainly be missed.

THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATORS (SPC)

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize and honor the 50th anniversary of the Society of Professional Communicators (SPC).

The Society of Professional Communicators began in 1951 as the Worcester County Editor's Council. The original purpose of this group was to improve their internal publications by sharing ideas with one another. They also intended to promote the benefits of the free enterprise system. As the media, technology, and the roles of its members began to change, so did the organization's name. Today SPC consists of a variety of profes-

sionals including photographers, freelance writers, graphic designers, and web managers. This energetic and dynamic organization joins together to exchange ideas and information while keeping pace with new trends. The organization has also expanded its role through community service projects, which include book collections for homeless children, food drives for the community pantry, and journal-writing workshops for women in recovery.

As the SPC celebrates its anniversary on May 8, this organization will be looking forward to the next 50 years of energy and growth both personally and professionally. Mr. Speaker, the Society of Professional Communicators should be celebrated for its years of dedication to improve society and its communities.

HONORING JAN DOETS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jan Doets for his lifetime commitment to the tourism industry and his role as a goodwill ambassador for America.

Jan Doets has been a leader and innovator in the tourism industry throughout his 40 year career, making him an invaluable resource to his colleagues and a strong force in the tourism community. Jan has a wide variety of talents, but has specialized exclusively in American travel arrangements for the last 20 years. He has been responsible for sending over 150,000 people to California to appreciate the beauty of our state.

Jan Doets is truly the epitome of an entrepreneur. Already a successful member of the tourism community in the Netherlands, he was the first direct seller of tours from the Netherlands to the United States. It comes as no surprise then that after the American component of his business was founded, he and his wife Sietske watched their business flourish. Jan was so successful that in 1983 he was known as Mr. America #1 in the tourism community.

In 1990, Jan renamed his business Jan Doets American Tours and it has continued to grow as he constantly adds new services and tours of the United States. Jan and his daughter Elske have traveled thousands of miles experiencing the country so that he might share his knowledge with others who wish to explore America. He has sent over a quarter billion dollars to the United States in business, and has been a frequent visitor to Mariposa County and Yosemite National Park. Throughout Jan's career he has shown deep ties, commitment and partnership with our country, communities and individual county visitor bureaus. He has made it his lifetime goal to share the best that America has to offer with his fellow citizens of the Netherlands. Jan has truly been a significant force in bringing the United States and the Netherlands closer together.

As Jan Doets retires we not only honor his lifetime commitment to the tourism industry, but also his unparalleled generosity, strength and dedication to his work and loved ones. Jan Doets has truly left his mark on our community forever.