

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THANK YOU TO SOLDIERS OF 2-116TH FIELD ARTILLERY

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2004*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to members of the 2-116th Field Artillery. These soldiers, many from my district, were mobilized in late January 2003 and, upon completion of the appropriate training, departed for Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit moved into Baghdad and later served in Ar Ramadi, where it provided support to the 1st Battalion. The 2-116th soldiers performed missions including escort, guard duty on the Euphrates River, force protection, fire support, and patrols, all while helping to train members of the Iraqi police force.

These brave Americans have served their country with pride and honor. This country owes its freedom to these soldiers and the ones who came before them. Now, so do the citizens of Iraq. After nearly a year of deployment, the 2-116th has accomplished its mission, and it is my humble honor to welcome them home.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT ELIU MIERSANDOVAL

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2004*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district. On January 31, 2004, Sgt. Eliu Miersandoval, born Abi Mier, of San Clemente, California, was killed in action in Kirkuk, Iraq. Today I would ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Eliu was born on June 26, 1976, in Durango, Mexico, to Pascual and Estella Mier, who currently reside in Pomona, California. Eliu went to high school at San Clemente High, and after graduating he joined the Army in 1996 for great future opportunities and to travel. In 1999, he was sent to Fort Hood, Texas, and was later promoted to Sergeant in the 4th Infantry Division. He was a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic in what is the most technically advanced combat division in the Army. It was the 4th Infantry Division that participated in the capture of Saddam Hussein.

Eliu is remembered as an outstanding athlete and talented musician. More importantly, he was a loving husband to his wife Amanda and a proud father to his son Adrian.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country, we realize that this history is comprised of men and women like Eliu who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and

democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. My thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice go out to his wife and family. There are no words that can relieve their pain.

His wife and family have all given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one. Their loss is part of a larger effort to give the Iraqi people and all people around the world the opportunity to live in freedom and without fear. I hope they know that their son and the sacrifice he made will not be forgotten.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2004*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I was attending to a family emergency and missed the following recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall No. 19; "yes" on Rollcall No. 20; and "yes" on Rollcall No. 21.

THANK YOU TO SOLDIERS OF COMPANY A 2-124TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2004*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to members of Company A 2-124th Infantry Regiment. These soldiers were mobilized in December 2003 and, upon completion of the appropriate training, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After securing Patriot Batteries in Bahrain and Qatar, Company A advanced into Kuwait and then Iraq in April 2003, where the unit provided force protection and fixed-site security. Later, the soldiers attached to several active duty units, including a military police battalion, the 4th Infantry Division, and a Stryker brigade near Balad.

These brave Americans have served their country with pride and honor. This country owes its freedom to these soldiers and the ones who came before them. Now, so do the citizens of Iraq. After over a year of deployment, Company A 2-124th has accomplished its mission, and it is my humble honor to welcome them home.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANNE HART

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2004*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of my constituents who has unselfishly helped and enriched the lives of many of our Nation's veterans, Mrs. Anne Hart.

For the past 10 years, Anne has worked tirelessly and unselfishly as a volunteer within the Office of Veterans' Affairs in Pensacola where she volunteers over 50 hours a week helping veterans file claims. She has been an extremely valuable asset to the VA office and officers with whom she has worked alongside.

Anne's husband was shot down in Vietnam in 1972 and was listed as missing in action until 1978. As a widow with six young children, she confronted the Federal government in 1986 by challenging their identification of her husband from the remains that were found.

At the time, she was unknowingly preparing herself to later help fight for several veterans who have served their country with honor and courage. Anne's struggles have earned her much respect among veterans, who have described her as having a heart of an angel.

Other than helping veterans in need within the Veterans' Affairs office, Anne has come to the aid of many homeless veterans who were persuaded by her influence to abandon the notion of "giving up." She even drove one veteran over 75 miles to his mother's funeral in Alabama.

Anne's job has been to keep veterans' records in order, effectively by making sure all of the facts are quickly verified in order to help facilitate a sometimes difficult claims process. Her faithful service of acting as a sounding board for thousands of veterans has made her a guardian angel to many of the bravest veterans that our country will ever know.

Many veterans, who travel from hundreds of miles to see her, have walked away with the feeling that "someone really cares."

Anne is strongly supportive of her government and feels that her obligation is to make sure that they do things the right way.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize this special lady with a big heart, Anne Hart, for the example she has set for our country and for northwest Florida. I offer my sincere thanks for all that she has done for northwest Florida and the United States of America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO I.J. CAMPBELL

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2004*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to I.J. Campbell, who received

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

the Community Luminary Award from DTE Energy Foundation for his exemplary volunteerism.

I.J. Campbell's commitment of service "illuminates" the community and shines as a selfless example for others to follow. A humble yet enthusiastic man, his infectious passion for helping those in need stretches a lifetime of professional and volunteer experience. While working as the chairman of the United Way Community Services' Macomb Advisory Council and administrator for cities Community Development Block Grant Program, he donates his time off to a number of community organizations, including the Hope Network, a housing provider for people with mental disabilities, and the Macomb Homeless Coalition.

I.J.'s sense of obligation to help those in need motivates him to work on programs such as Macomb's Prescription Resource Network, Metro Detroit's Promise, a national movement to provide services to disadvantaged children, and the Macomb County Warming Center. Dedicated to strengthening the fabric of our community, he supports programs that develop the potential of residents, institutions and infrastructures.

In January, 2002, the Archdiocese of Detroit awarded I.J. with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King "Keep the Dream Alive" award for his work with organizations such as Interfaith Center for Racial Injustice and the National Conference for Community and Justice Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding I.J. Campbell for his efforts to make this world a better place. It is truly fitting that I.J. received the Community Luminary Award, for he serves as a shining example of what a committed community activist can accomplish and a light of hope to all he comes in contact with.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2004*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to clarify the reason for my absence from this Chamber on January 27, January 28, February 3, and February 4, 2004. I was at my home in Florida recovering from elbow surgery and, unfortunately, was unable to place votes on those days.

As such, please let the RECORD show that I would have voted as follows:

H. Res. 507: yes  
 H. Res. 157: yes  
 H.R. 2264: yes  
 H.J. Res. 84: yes  
 H. Res. 274: yes  
 H.R. 3724: yes  
 H.R. 3030, final passage: yes; Scott amendment No. 1: no; Scott amendment No. 2: no; Woolsey amendment: no  
 H.R. 1385: yes  
 H.R. 3493: yes  
 S. 610: yes  
 S. 1920, final passage: yes; Sensenbrenner amendment: yes; Baldwin substitute: no; motion to recommit: no.

### A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING CHRISTINE IRENE MIKROPOULOS

### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Christine Irene Mikropoulos has devoted her life to serving others through her membership in the St. John's Episcopal Angels Program and her work with Warren Hospital; and

Whereas, Christine works with elderly patients, bringing her warm and personal touch to these individuals who are spending their time in a hospital setting; and

Whereas, Christine is a committed volunteer with the Guardian Angels program, providing clothing, shoes, books and other essential items to children of military personnel and children whose parents are incarcerated; and

Whereas, Christine has ceaselessly given of herself to others, always placing the interests of those in need ahead of her own;

Therefore, I join with the entire 18th Congressional District in thanking Christine Irene Mikropoulos for her dedication to improving the lives of those around her.

### TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL "SOX" WALSETH, JR.

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the legacy after the passing of a good man and fine coach, Russell "Sox" Walseth, Jr. "Sox" was a member of the University of Colorado family as a student, athlete and coach. With the university "Sox" coached both the men's and women's basketball. He holds the distinction of the winningest coach in CU men's basketball history but also holds the highest winning percentage of any coach in the history of the University of Colorado.

His contribution to the University and the community was great and he will clearly be missed by family, friends and fans.

For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching several items from the (Boulder, Colorado) Daily Camera.

[From the Daily Camera, Jan. 29, 2004]

RUSSELL M. "SOX" WALSETH, JR.

Russell M. "Sox" Walseth, Jr. of Boulder died Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2004, of natural causes in Boulder. He was 77.

The son of Russell M. Walseth and Marie J. Gehan Walseth, he was born April 6, 1926, in Aberdeen, S.D. He married Eleanor Hahn on Oct. 9, 1953, in Denver. She died on Oct. 6, 1997. He married Joan Mabee Funk on July 19, 2002 in Boulder.

He graduated from Pierre High School in Pierre, S.D. He earned a bachelor of science degree and a master's degree in education from the University of Colorado.

He was enlisted in the Navy during and after World War II from 1944 to 1946.

Mr. Walseth spent 38 years at CU, starting as an athlete in the 1940s when he lettered a combined six times in both basketball and baseball.

He became head men's basketball coach prior to the 1956-57 season and coached the

next 20 Buffalo teams. The winningest coach in CU men's basketball history with a 261-245 record, the Buffs won three Big Eight titles under his direction, in 1961-62, 1962-63 and 1968-69. He was the Big Eight Conference coach of the year on five occasions. All three of his Big Eight champion teams represented the conference in the NCAA regional tournaments. Eventual NCAA champion Cincinnati eliminated the Buffs in the first two appearances, while his third tourney team may have represented his best coaching job in his tenure as he piloted a sophomore-dominated team to the league title and NCAA berth.

He retired from coaching in the spring of 1976 and remained on in an administrative position with the athletic department. But four years later in 1980, and CU hit with budget woes, athletic director Eddie Crowder asked him if he would come out of retirement to help the program to which he had devoted much of his adult life. Sox answered that call and coached the CU women's team between 1980 and 1983, compiling an impressive 77-21 record. That mark included his 43-0 record at home, and earned coach of the year accolades one time.

Mr. Walseth was the first and one of the few men to have coached both the men's and women's programs at the same NCAA school. The basketball floor at Coors Events/Conference Center is named after him. In 1998, he was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, and four years later, he was a member for the fourth class inducted into CU's Athletic Hall of Fame.

He was a member of Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church of Boulder. He received five Basketball Hall of Fame Awards, two from Colorado and three from South Dakota. He was also the recipient of the Robert Stearns Award on June 8, 1967.

Survivors include his wife of Boulder; two sons, Joe Walseth of Denver and Nick Walseth of Boulder; one daughter, Cynthia Axley of Arvada; and four grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, 2312 14th St., Boulder. The Rev. Daniel Flaherty of St. Louis Catholic Church of Louisville and the Rev. William E. Dreslin of Sacred Heart of Jesus will be co-celebrants.

Contributions may be made in his name to the CU Foundation, in care of Russell "Sox" Walseth Scholarship Fund, 369 University Campus Box, Boulder, CO 80309.

M.P. Murphy & Associates Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

#### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Following are highlights of Russell "Sox" Walseth's career:

Played on CU's 1946 NCAA Tournament basketball team.

Coached three Big Eight championship men's teams.

Took three Buff men's teams to the NCAA Tournament.

Named Big Eight coach of the year on five occasions.

Retired after 20 years as the winningest coach in CU men's history, with a record of 261-245.

Named CU's women's coach in 1980, becoming the first to coach men's and women's teams at the same NCAA school.

Took the CU women's team to back-to-back national tournament appearances.

Compiled a 77-21 record as the women's coach, the best winning percentage of any coach in CU history.

Basketball floor at Coors Events Center named in his honor in 1996.

Inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 1998.