

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING OFFICER NICHOLAS K. SLOAN: A MAN OF COURAGE

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 1, 2004*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Nicholas K. Sloan for exhibiting tremendous courage while serving with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. During his tenure with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, Officer Sloan's energy, commitment and dedication to his job made him an extraordinary benefit to the entire St. Louis community.

Officer Sloan knew at an early age that he wanted to become a police officer, just like his father. After graduating from the Police Academy, he honorably requested to be placed with the Eighth District so that he could make a difference in the inner city. Officer Sloan later earned a spot on the Eighth District Weed & Seed Unit which is a Department of Justice Initiative that assigns officers to help designated neighborhoods work on some of their worst problems, mainly centered on narcotics and firearm violations.

Quickly becoming "streetwise" and impressing his supervisors, he knew first hand who the "players" were in the community. He was instrumental in helping the unit compile a substantial amount of arrests and seizures. During his time, the unit was credited with 396 total arrests, recovering 123 firearms, seizing 31 vehicles and collecting \$35,901 under Asset Forfeiture guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Sloan was just 24 years old when he was killed in the line of duty while proudly and heroically serving the St. Louis community. His immense contribution to reducing crime in St. Louis, his bravery and his kindness will never be forgotten. It is with great privilege that I recognize Officer Nicholas K. Sloan today before Congress.

HONORING JOSEPH BOMMARITO

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 1, 2004*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Joseph Bommarito upon his retirement after 32 years of service to our community.

Since his family moved to Redford when he was just 10 years old, Joe has been a staple in our community. Before accepting the appointment as Deputy Supervisor in January of 1997, Joe served the Redford Township Police Department for 25 years in the capacities of patrolman, sergeant, lieutenant and inspector. Joe's impact was immediately felt as he successfully negotiated cost saving contracts and gave the Townhall a new look.

His wife, Carol, and his sons, Joseph, Tony, Michael and Bryan, should be extremely proud

of the undeniable mark he has left on the community. We at home will sorely miss and always benefit from his dedication and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Joseph Bommarito, upon his retirement as Deputy Supervisor of Redford Township, for his fine service to our community and our country.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING CHARLES DAVIS PALMER

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 1, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Brett and Emily Palmer are celebrating the arrival of their son, Charles Davis Palmer; and

Whereas, Charles Davis Palmer was born on the twenty-fourth Day of March, 2004 and weighed eight pounds and fifteen ounces; and

Whereas, Mr. And Mrs. Palmer are proud to welcome their new son into their home; and

Whereas, Charles Davis Palmer will be a blessed addition to his family, bringing love, joy and happiness for many years to come;

Therefore, I join with Members of Congress and Congressional Staff in celebrating with Brett and Emily Palmer and wishing Charles Davis Palmer a very Happy Birthday.

HONORING OFFICER GABRIEL KEITHLEY: DEDICATED TO SERVICE

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 1, 2004*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Gabriel Keithley for being extremely courageous and dedicated while serving with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Officer Keithley's strong work ethic and commitment to his job make him an extraordinary benefit to the entire St. Louis community.

Officer Keithley fulfilled his life's ambition when he was hired by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department in 2001. After graduating from the Police Academy, Officer Keithley was placed with the Eighth District where he gained the reputation of being a hard working and devoted officer. His endeavors have not gone unnoticed by his colleagues; in January of 2003 they voted Gabriel Keithley Officer of the Month. His supervisors later recommended him to the Eighth District Weed & Seed Unit. This is a Department of Justice Initiative that assigns officers to help designated neighborhoods work on some of their worst problems, mainly centered on narcotics and firearm violations.

Officer Keithley has been an immense asset to the Weed & Seed Unit. He has been instru-

mental in helping the unit compile a substantial amount of arrests and seizures. During his time, the unit was credited with 396 total arrests, recovering 123 firearms, seizing 31 vehicles and collecting \$35,901 under Asset Forfeiture guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Keithley recently exhibited exceptional bravery while in the line of fire. Having been critically wounded, he courageously fought back and forced an armed criminal to flee the scene. I am honored to recognize Officer Gabriel Keithley today before Congress.

PRESIDENT'S DAY

**HON. LAMAR S. SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 1, 2004*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last month America celebrated President's Day. In recognizing a generic holiday, though, perhaps we didn't take the time to focus on our first President, George Washington. A friend, advisor, constituent and cousin, Frates Seeligson of San Antonio, wrote an article for the San Antonio Express-News that conveys the greatness of the individual called, "First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen." I hope my colleagues and others will enjoy Mr. Seeligson's trenchant observations.

[From the San Antonio Express-News, Feb. 22, 2004]

OLYMPIAN IN WAR, SAGACIOUS IN PEACE

(By Frates Seeligson)

During the past three decades, knowledge and appreciation of George Washington have declined to an all-time low.

One survey has revealed that Washington's coverage in history textbooks has declined by 90 percent since the 1960s. One high school textbook has only a paragraph on George Washington but more than two pages on Marilyn Monroe.

For that reason, his birthday today is an appropriate time to remind ourselves about his wonderful contributions to America, which resulted in his being known as the "Father of his Country." It is even more appropriate at a time when we constantly are looking for role models.

Consider Washington's greatest services in the creation of our country:

For 8½ years, he commanded the Continental forces, which won our independence.

He presided over the constitutional convention that produced the document under which we live, and without his support it would not have been ratified.

He became the first president of the United States.

Washington was a magnificent horseman and looked every inch a general. He was one of the wealthiest men in America, yet he pledged his life, his future, his beloved Mount Vernon and his sacred honor to win our freedom. At one battle he stopped his retreating army, turned them around and fought the British to a draw.

The Marquis de Lafayette described the effect of Washington's arrival on the tired, discouraged, beaten men: "His presence stopped

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