

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, every year since 1963, when President John F. Kennedy officially established Older Americans Month, May has served as an opportunity to recognize the needs and contributions of older American communities across the country. This year's theme, "Aging Well, Living Well" offers us an opportunity to reflect on the shifting needs of seniors and to highlight the issues that contribute to improving seniors' quality of life.

In the last 100 years, the number of Americans 65 or over increased more than tenfold, and the growing number of racially and ethnically diverse communities continues to contribute to the unique character of American seniors. As a member of the Congressional Older Americans Caucus, I am well aware of the unique needs of our older population, especially in terms of accessing affordable health care, prescription drugs, and securing Social Security.

The Federal Government created the Medicare and Social Security program in order to guarantee that after a lifetime of working and paying into the system, retired Americans would have access to health care coverage and retiree benefits. I remain committed to strengthening and preserving these programs, which have allowed generations of retirees to live with dignity and integrity.

As a member of the Universal Health Care Task Force, I continue to work to ensure that health care is available and affordable for all Americans. We must be cautious of risky privatization schemes that could reduce access to affordable health care or Social Security benefits. Aging well and living well mean that health care, prescription drugs, and Social Security must be made affordable and accessible for all American seniors.

In recognition of Older Americans Month, I commend our nation's seniors for their many contributions to our society and I will continue to fight to protect and improve American seniors' quality of life.

IN RECOGNITION OF WALTER CRONKITE RECEIVING THE HARRY S TRUMAN GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Walter Cronkite, recipient of the 2004 Harry S Truman Good Neighbor Award. In 1953, longtime friends arranged an

annual birthday luncheon for the then-retired 33rd President of the United States, Harry S Truman. After his death in 1972, the birthday celebration was continued in his honor through a local foundation established to continue to pay tribute to his virtues of courage and leadership. Each year, the Harry S Truman Good Neighbor Award Foundation recognizes the national and international ideals of President Truman and preserves his memory by honoring such local individuals and encouraging young people to pursue international study.

This year, the foundation has selected Walter Cronkite to the prestigious Good Neighbor Award in recognition of his outstanding career in broadcasting. For more than 60 years Americans nightly received unbiased and factual national and international wisdom from the golden voice of Walter Cronkite. This Northwest Missourian brought us reports from the European theater in World War II and reported on the Nuremberg trials. His insights to the turbulent 60's awakened us to civil rights and human rights issues. He comforted us through the grief of three assassinations in that same decade, reporting the dreadful news to a shocked nation with his characteristic insight and somber vision. When President John F. Kennedy was struck down in November of 1963, followed by the murder of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. just before Palm Sunday in 1968, and then-Senator Robert Kennedy's killing on the eve of his California primary victory in June of the same year, the loss of these great leaders was all but unbearable, were it not for the constant and reassuring presence of Walter Cronkite, reaching out to us with straightforward and thoughtful news reporting.

Walter Cronkite became a war correspondent again in the late 60's when he reported to a divided country on Vietnam. Following the Tet offensive in January 1968, often considered a turning point in the war, Cronkite visited the war torn country and called for diplomatic negotiations to end the stalemate. By then, the tide of public opinion had begun to turn against the war and President Lyndon B. Johnson announced that he would not seek reelection in March of that year. The decade ended on a high note, however, when the first manned spacecraft was sent to the moon and Walter Cronkite reported the launch with his infamous, "Go Baby, Go." On July 20, 1969, he shared the moon landing with an awestruck nation in what some called "Walter to Walter" coverage on CBS news. He provided continuous coverage for the almost 30 hours it took Apollo XI to complete its mission.

The 70's brought political scandal and Walter Cronkite reported to the nation with accuracy and balance from June 17, 1972, the morning after the Watergate breakin, through August 8, 1974, when Richard M. Nixon became the first President of the United States to resign from office because of scandal. Walter Cronkite's incredible career included interviews with international heads of state, while keeping the nation informed of worldwide events, as well as audiences with every U.S.

President since Harry Truman. He officially retired in 1981, but we are grateful that he continues to work on documentaries and programs for broadcast on PBS and the Discovery and Learning Channels.

The news has become the information tool that informs, stimulates interest, evokes debate, and ultimately protects our democracy. Walter Cronkite's dedication to his professional career is exemplary for its objective reporting, credibility, and his trademark delivery that has made an American icon.

President Truman's high regard of Walter Cronkite is reflected best in a letter to Mr. Raymond E. Dix, President of the Ohio Newspaper Association on January 1, 1966.

DEAR MR. DIX: I was glad to have your letter informing me of the contemplated presentation of the Distinguished Service to Journalism Award to Walter Cronkite. I know of no one more worthy of being so honored by a jury of his peers. For one who has had some slight exposure to the press—the spoken and the written—with some misadventures and collisions along the way, I continue to have a healthy respect for that all important free institution.

Here and there, over a span of time, some of the practitioners in that estate manage to rise to a special place of their own and become a force in their own right. Walter Cronkite looms large in that category and I always associate him with the quality of never failing credibility.

Please give Walter my warm personal greetings.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S TRUMAN.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in warm congratulations to our native son, Walter Cronkite, for receiving the Harry S Truman Good Neighbor Award for his outstanding contribution to journalism and his "neverfailing credibility." As a role model, he has inspired individuals like me to fight the good fight for a just cause, secure in the knowledge that armed with the facts and the passion for what is right and just, one can make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you, Walter Cronkite.

HONORING THE SUN-REPORTER NEWS JOURNAL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the Sun-Reporter, one of this country's most respected African American newspapers, on the occasion of their 60th anniversary. The Sun-Reporter serves as an indispensable voice for the African American community in the San Francisco Bay Area and across the Nation.

The Sun-Reporter was founded in 1944 at a time when African Americans were relocating to the Bay Area in large numbers to work in the wartime shipyards. Founded by Thomas C. Fleming, a brilliant journalist, the paper

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