

96 hours of arriving in Kuwait they pulled their first mission—not an easy feat. Often, they drove Humvees mounted with .50 caliber machine guns, escorting vital equipment throughout Iraq. The unit logged some 2.3 million miles in the 13 months they were overseas.

I am very proud of the safety and performance record of the 1175th. They served with distinction by implementing the largest track vehicle movement since World War II not once, but twice in the matter of a few months, while training in the U.S. They also had the best safety record and operational readiness status of the other 15 plus transportation companies working in Iraq/Kuwait.

Iraq is hot, dry, and dusty. Sometimes temperatures reached upwards of 135 to 140 degrees. Knowing the numerous dangers and environment it surprised me to read and hear statements from soldiers such as Sergeant Tommy Adcock say, "Our Country has taken care of us, now it's payback time."

It is sad that the 1175th lost two of its own. Staff Sergeant Nathan Jerome Bailey and Staff Sergeant David Leroy Lyod lost their lives defending a country they cared so deeply about. We need to remember that our countrymen are making the ultimate sacrifice in defense of this country. These men and women have served honorably and with distinction. What makes our country so great are all of the brave Americans that step up and defend this great nation. For that I say thank you and God Bless.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the following votes on Tuesday, September 21, 2004, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 457: I would have voted "yea" on the Van Hollen amendment, which prevents OMB from spending any funds to implement the A-76 rewrite changes that were finalized on May 29 regarding federal employees and contractors.

Rollcall vote 458: I would have voted "yea" on the Sanders amendment. This amendment prohibits the use of funds to assist in overturning *Cooper v. IBM*—on July 31, 2003, a federal court ruled that IBM's cash balance pension plan violates federal anti-age discrimination law. This amendment protects U.S. workers who have been negatively impacted by age-discrimination cash balance pension conversions.

Rollcall vote 459: I would have voted "yea" on the Norton amendment. This amendment prohibits the use of funds in the bill to enter into or renew any contract for a high deductible health plan under the federal employees health benefit plan that does not require enrollees to remain enrolled in such plan for at least 3 consecutive years from the date of initial enrollment.

Rollcall vote 460: I would have voted "yea" on the Davis (FL) amendment, which would prohibit the use of funds in the bill to enforce new restrictions on travel to Cuba for the purpose of visiting relatives.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WOMEN ATHLETES AT THE 2004 SUMMER OLYMPICS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the amazing achievements of the women athletes at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece. In particular, I want to celebrate the success of the United States Women's Soccer Team, who made us proud by winning a gold medal at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece, beating Brazil 2-1 in overtime, on August 26, 2004.

These women have become some of the most famous athletic role models on earth. They have taught our children that if you work hard and you believe in yourself, you can accomplish anything. Indeed, these women are helping to fundamentally change perceptions about athletics. It is no surprise that our little girls look up to these strong, motivated women for inspiration. But to also see little boys wearing jerseys emblazoned with the names of their favorite women players is a wonderful sight.

I would especially like to recognize Abby Wambach, who is from my district in Rochester, New York. When she scored the goal that secured the gold medal, nowhere in the world cheered louder than Rochester. In addition, every other woman on the Olympic soccer team also deserves our recognition and congratulations: Shannon Boxx, Brandi Chastain, Joy Fawcett, Julie Foudy, Mia Hamm, Angela Hucles, Kristine Lilly, Kristin Luckenbill, Kate Markgraf, Heather Mitts, Heather O'Reilly, Cindy Parlow, Christie Rampone, Cat Reddick, Briana Scurry, Lindsay Tarpley, and Aly Wagner.

As a testament to the power of these women, their fan appreciation tour, which kicks off in Rochester, on September 25, sold out all 14,000 seats in just minutes. I have introduced a resolution in Congress, H. Res. 373, which supports the reestablishment of the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA). Hopefully, some day the WUSA will return, to give these amazing female athletes the professional athletic opportunities in the United States they so deeply deserve.

Thank you to all the women Olympic athletes for transforming the lives and attitudes of today's young women, and for those of generations to come. We all know that girls who compete in sports perform better in school, are physically healthier and have a stronger self-esteem. Our girls have learned that sweat is sexy, brawn is beautiful and a little dirt never hurt anyone. You have truly given us all a whole lot more to celebrate, work hard for and dream about.

HONORING TOM VIOLANTE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Tom Violante, founder and owner of Holiday Market in Royal Oak, Michigan in a celebra-

tion of the Market's fifty years as a community landmark.

When Holiday Market opened in 1954, it was a small store up the street from its present location and in some respects it was like many other small grocers so common in those days. It sold the basics and had a meat counter with a very few employees.

But there was from the beginning a major difference: the owner, Tom Violante. He took a personal interest in every customer who walked through the door. He wanted every customer to be satisfied with service, price, and quality. Those who stopped at that small business place can remember Tom at the meat counter, friendly and eager to meet a customer's wishes. In these efforts he was actively joined by his wife Janet.

He also possessed a strong business acumen. When opportunities arose to move down the street and expand into much larger quarters, he took the leap. Today Holiday Market provides an adventure in shopping for an imaginative variety of quality products.

The next generation of his family has taken an increased interest. They have sustained the Violante touch of warm friendliness and superior service.

As busy as Tom Violante was, whether as the cog in a small operation and later as his enterprise grew, and no matter how involved he and his wife Janet were in raising their growing family, Tom and Janet have possessed a strong community and civic involvement.

Tom's community interest was exemplified in his service on the Oak Park Board of Education, the Oak Park Citizens School Finance Committee, President of the Frost Elementary School PTA, and the Oak Park Boosters Club. Many have been the beneficiaries of Tom and Janet Violante's civic interest. Their support of local charitable organizations include the Royal Oak Lions Club, the Royal Oak Boys and Girls Club, William Beaumont Hospital's Speech Therapy Program and Leader Dogs for the Blind and Hearing Impaired, among others.

Mr. Speaker, as Tom Violante is "roasted" at the celebration on September 23, in Royal Oak, Michigan, I add my personal gratitude to a remarkable man who has given so much to make his community a better place for all of us. I ask my colleagues to join in congratulating Holiday Market on its golden anniversary and in wishing Tom Violante, his wife Janet, their five children and fourteen grandchildren good health and happiness, and continued success.

75TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE TO THE CALIFORNIA MARITIME ACADEMY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the California Maritime Academy as it celebrates its 75th anniversary.

The California Maritime Academy was founded in 1929 under the name of the "California Nautical School" and was located in Tiburon, and is the third oldest active maritime