

WISHING A HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish the membership of the Organization of Chinese Americans a healthy and happy New Year for the year 4703, the year of the Rooster.

The New Year is a time for reflection and thanksgiving for the joys of life and loved ones and I am thankful for the richness that this organization brings to my region. Chinese Americans have made great contributions to Western Pennsylvania and to our nation as a whole and I am very honored for this opportunity to wish them the best year yet in 4703.

I encourage my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in wishing the members of the Organization of Chinese Americans a very happy and prosperous New Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, because US Airways canceled my flight into Washington, DC on February 8, 2005, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote no. 20, on agreeing to H. Res. 46; for rollcall vote no. 21, on agreeing to H.R. 315, the John Milton Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse Designation Act; and, for rollcall vote no. 22, on agreeing to H.R. 548, the Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse Designation Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote no. 20, "yes" on rollcall vote no. 21, and "yes" on rollcall vote no. 22.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the House Chamber for votes on February 8, 2005, as I was attending the memorial services of a constituent, Corporal Harry Swain, IV of Millville, New Jersey, who died as the result of hostile action in Iraq. If I were present for votes on this day, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall #20, "yea" on Rollcall #21, and "yea" on Rollcall #22.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 243, FOUNDED IN LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the present and past mem-

bers, leaders, and sponsors of Boy Scout Troop 243, founded in Lafayette, California, on the 50th Anniversary of the Troop.

Boy Scouting touches us all at some point in our lives—as troop members, parent volunteers, civic supporters, or simply as residents of our communities where we see the achievements of local Boy Scouts as upstanding models for our youth.

If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a platoon of parents to serve a Boy Scout troop. Nationally, there are close to one million Boy Scouts served by over half a million adult volunteers—on average, more than one adult for every two Scouts.

Troop 243 has a rich history of local leadership. The founding sponsor was a committee of the Burton School, St. Mary's Orchards, and St. Mary's Estate Home Improvement Association. The first Scoutmaster, H. T. McBride, was followed in 1959 by J.J. DuFosee. In 1965, Harry Wiser served as Scoutmaster when the Lafayette Christian Church became Troop sponsor.

Troop growth took off in 1988 when John Coleman, a 1974 Troop 243 Eagle Scout, took over as Scoutmaster, initiating numerous outdoor activities including 50-mile hikes, snow skiing, summer camping, river rafting, and a 100-mile bicycle trip over Mt. Lassen.

The program of varied outdoor activities, including canoeing in Minnesota, continued under Scoutmaster Terry Campbell in 1994. Then in 1996 John Coleman returned, adding new Troop experiences, including a sailing expedition to Catalina Island.

Throughout the 50-year life of Troop 243, generations of Boy Scouts have taken on Good Deeds projects as good community members and civic representatives. Scouts and parents donate many hours cleaning up local creeks and trails. This year the Troop raised over 22,000 pounds of food for the local food bank!

Mr. Speaker, I honor the 50 years of accomplishments of members, leaders, and sponsors of Troop 243. I am very proud to represent Troop 243 in Congress and I congratulate them on their achievements.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE GRUETT

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congress, to acknowledge George Gruett, a man who has devoted his life to his country and to his community at large. Currently, he serves the Mississippi valley as the Executive Vice President of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association, a post he has held since 1980.

Mr. Gruett was born and raised in West Tennessee and while he has always been a part of the Mississippi valley, he has served his country bravely outside American borders. After completing his training with the Aviation Cadet Training, United States Army Air Corps, he flew with the 12th Air Force in the European Theatre of Operations in WWII.

After the war, Mr. Gruett obtained a degree in civil engineering and worked as a civilian employee of the Corp of Engineers. Upon his retirement in 1978 after 35 years of service,

he was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award and was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1991; awards befitting his commitment and his abilities. He retired from the Corp of Engineers to take up his position with the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association.

In addition to an impressive record of public service, Mr. Gruett remains active in his church and community. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, the Scottish Rite Shrine, American Legion and the Society of American Military Engineers.

In light of recent natural disasters, I can't help but think of our own corner of the world and how thankful I am for people like George Gruett, who have worked with such dedication to foster flood control, bank stabilization, drainage and navigation; everyone of them integral to the survival of our area both economically and physically. On behalf of the Congress, I thank George for his dedication and congratulate him for his years of skilled service to his country.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLARD D. SMALL

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Willard D. Small of Fair Bluff, North Carolina for his 48 years of service as councilman to the citizens of Fair Bluff in Columbus County. Mr. Small's tenure as councilman is the longest in North Carolina, and his work has made a tremendous difference in the town and the community.

Samuel Logan Bringle, the legendary leader in the Salvation Army, once said some very important words that reflect the character and life of Willard Small. He said, "The final estimate of a man will show that history cares not one iota about the title he has carried or the rank he has borne, but only about the quality of his deeds and the character of his heart." Indeed, Willard has reflected this through his sacrifice and commitment.

From his service as the Fair Bluff Town Councilman to local businessman to Director for the Cape Fear Farm Credit to Trustee for both Southeastern Community College and Campbell University to member of the Columbus County Economic Development Commission to active member of the Fair Bluff Baptist Church to devoted husband, father, and friend, Willard Small has truly been a foundation on which Fair Bluff and Columbus County have continued to thrive. Service to others has been the embodiment of his life—service that sets a path for others to follow and that we all should emulate.

As we celebrate Presidents' Day this month, let each of us remember the words of a great President, Thomas Jefferson, who said, "To do our fellow man the most good, we must lead where we can, follow where we cannot, and still go with him, always watching for that favorable moment to help him another step forward!"

We thank Willard, on behalf of the citizens of Fair Bluff, Columbus County, and the State of North Carolina, for always looking for that favorable moment and for always helping his