

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 512, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## HONORING THE MARINES OF LIMA COMPANY FOR THEIR SERVICE IN IRAQ

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the brave Marines of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment who returned home to Columbus, Ohio this morning after deploying for ten months, eight of which they spent in Iraq.

This reserve Marine Corps infantry unit, which is composed of young men from all walks of life, left home, family, career, and college to respond with honor and courage to the call of service issued by our great nation. Lima Company served in western Iraq in Haditha, in al Anbar Province, one of the most dangerous and insurgent-infested areas of the entire country. They pursued their mission to seek out and engage insurgents in their strongholds to reduce the terrorists' ability to disrupt Iraq's new democratically elected government.

Central Ohioans could not be more proud of their service. These brave young Marines participated in operations "Matador," "New Market" and "Quick Strike," conducting house to house searches for weapons and terrorists. Lima Company engaged in direct combat with the enemy and performed with great honor and distinction fighting side by side with our active duty troops.

It is often said that freedom is not free. Nobody knows the truth of this statement better than the Marines and their families of Lima Company. In the performance of their duties, Lima Company suffered grievous casualties. 16 Marines lost their lives, and 34 Marines were wounded.

I am grateful to the Marines of Lima Company who put themselves in harm's way to make our country safer, and to make the world a better place. I urge my fellow Americans and this Congress to never forget the debt we owe these young heroes and their families. Now that they have returned, they need our help as much as ever to heal from their wounds, to reconnect with their families and resume their lives. And in the case of those families whose Marine did not return home, they need our support and prayers as they face each new day without the one they loved.

We must all work together to help these Marines and their families as they return to civilian life. To the Department of Veterans Affairs, I say give these heroes the best care possible. I ask employers to give these young Marines a chance to serve in your organizations. I urge the people of Central Ohio to help the families of the fallen. Finally to the brave Marines of Lima Company, I simply say thank you and God bless you for your service to our country.

## RECOGNIZING BOWATER'S CATAWBA OPERATIONS

**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Bowater's Catawba Operations, the largest coated paper manufacturing facility in North America. The plant makes paper used in magazines, flyers, inserts, and coupons, and I am proud to say that it is located in my congressional district.

Fifty years ago, when Bowater chose the site for a paper-making plant on the Catawba River in York County, South Carolina, a special session of our General Assembly was called to amend the state constitution so that Bowater, then a British firm, could purchase unlimited timberland acreage.

That plant site has proven its worth many times in the years since then. Now, Bowater's Catawba Operation has been recognized for meeting and surpassing world-class standards in manufacturing, employee programs, community outreach, and environmental stewardship.

The Catawba plant employs 1,000 associates. Most live in York, Chester, and Lancaster counties. And they are the reason that the Catawba plant won Industry Week's 2005 Best Plant competition, one of just 10 plants out of 220 nominated. They are also the reason that Catawba plant was named South Carolina's Manufacturer of the Year for 2004 by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

Industry Week calls the plant a "pacesetter" that will "continue to lead the way in the future."

Bowater's Catawba Operations recently undertook major capital improvements, including the construction of a \$175 million state-of-the-art kraft-pulping mill, along with a \$106 million paper machine conversion. Both were completed while the mill maintained a full 24-hour production schedule.

The plant's associates and managers not only work hard and smart, they work safely—recently reaching a significant safety milestone by working four million hours without a disabling or lost time injury.

It comes as no surprise to us in South Carolina why the Catawba plant is second to none in its class.

As the editors of Industry Week put it in honoring the Catawba plant and the nine other "Best Plants": "These plants produce different products from one another, operate different machinery, rely on a host of different improvement methods, and face different competitive challenges in their quests to excel at the jobs they do. What they share, however, is a vision of excellence by design, not by accident. They hire the right people and train them well, and they focus continually on improvement. They have leadership that encourages input from all employees and employees who take up the challenge; and they look outside their four walls to their upstream and downstream partners in their efforts to be the best."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Bowater's Catawba Plant and its outstanding associates, and honored to call them today to the attention of the House.

## RECOGNIZING THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RAUL RODRIGUEZ

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Raul Rodriguez for his work to improve the quality of life in the U.S.-Mexico border region as he prepares to end his tenure as the Managing Director of the North American Development Bank.

The NADBank is jointly operated by the United States and Mexico, financing and developing needed environmental projects in the border region, such as water and wastewater treatment plants. Raul has guided the expanding NADBank since October of 2000.

Under Raul's leadership, the NADBank has grown dramatically. It now provides over \$703 million in financing and assistance for 89 infrastructure projects in the U.S.-Mexico border region, including technical and financial assistance projects in border communities that would not otherwise have been feasible.

The North American Development Bank is assisting on a set of projects whose total cost is estimated at over \$2.4 billion, a level of investment that may have been impossible to achieve if not for the efforts of the NADBank.

Prior to joining the NADBank, Raul was the Executive Director of the Mexican Foreign Trade Bank, and he served as Mexico's Trade Commissioner in Canada during the NAFTA negotiations. Raul also served as a professor for several years.

Thanks in large part to the contributions of Raul Rodriguez, the NADBank is more able to make a positive impact in the border region than many could have ever imagined. I thank Mr. Rodriguez today for his hard work and dedication, and I wish him the best as he continues to serve our border community.

## HONORING ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LANCASTER, OHIO

**HON. DAVID L. HOBSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Ohio, for 1 celebrating its 200th anniversary as a congregation on October 16, 2005.

The history of St. Peter's began in 1804, when a traveling preacher, the Reverend Johannes Stauch, visited Lancaster. A year later, Reverend William Forster was sent to the territory by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania to preach throughout the area, most notably in Fairfield and Perry Counties. The result was the founding of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is the oldest existing Lutheran congregation in the State of Ohio.

For several years, the church had no regular place of worship. A parcel of land was secured on the banks of the Old Canal, and a cornerstone for the log cabin church was laid in 1819. The congregation worshipped at this site until 1832, when a brick building was constructed as a new home for the church. And