

ACKNOWLEDGING THE SERVICE OF
MR. JIM DION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, at the complicated intersection of housing, poverty and community development issues, one man has shined as a guiding light. Mr. Jim Dion, assistant executive director for Housing Operations at the King County Housing Authority, has devoted his life to ensuring that our low-income neighbors—be they families, victims of domestic violence, seniors or people with disabilities—live in high quality affordable housing. After three decades of distinguished public service in King County, WA, Mr. Dion is about to retire. He is a living testament to the power that a single individual possesses to help provide quality affordable housing opportunities, build communities, encourage self-sufficiency and protect the dignity of people with limited resources, while safeguarding the public trust.

The child of a minister father and a social worker mother, Mr. Dion undoubtedly acquired a keen sense of public service from an early age. Perhaps that explains his rise through the ranks from a property manager overseeing 700 units of family and elderly public housing in 1974 to a senior executive currently administering more than 4,300 units of housing as well as rental subsidies for 8,200 additional households.

During his career, Mr. Dion expanded the housing safety net in King County through a number of additional Federal and local programs and by partnering with nonprofit organizations to provide on-site services to residents.

Mr. Dion also worked diligently to promote acceptance of low-income housing in several high-cost suburban cities such as Bellevue, Redmond, and Kirkland, areas of the county with excellent job bases. Mr. Dion's involvement in this initiative, along with the well-managed, well-maintained housing he oversaw, paved the way for favorable community response to low-income housing in affluent areas and continues to ensure that living in these cities is a viable option for struggling families.

While administering housing for more than 12,500 households is a staggering enough accomplishment in itself, Mr. Dion did so as a model of efficiency and effectiveness. Since HUD has had an evaluation process in effect, Mr. Dion led his staff to achieve HUD's highest ratings for both KCHA's section 8 and public housing programs, reflecting his hard work and his commitment to the families and individuals he served.

Awards from industry housing organizations for KCHA programs and properties under Mr. Dion's jurisdiction have been practically commonplace.

Mr. Dion also tackled issues beyond the scope of "bricks and sticks." With his strong belief in the ability of people to overcome difficult circumstances with appropriate support, Mr. Dion is credited for laying the foundation of what is now the Resident Services Department at the housing authority.

Mr. Dion's commitment to public service did not stop with King County. For most of his 30-year career, he has also been an active mem-

ber of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials, serving on its Housing Committee and its Board of Governors at the national level, as well as in various positions of leadership at the regional and chapter levels. His unparalleled grasp of the regulatory process made him a truly respected voice on Capitol Hill.

Home is where we raise our children. Home is where we hope to age in the company of our friends and family. Home is where vulnerable individuals and families can maintain their dignity and gain a foothold in self-sufficiency. Through Mr. Dion's thoughtful, compassionate leadership, thousands of people have improved the quality of their lives because they had a good, safe home.

As the sun sets on his career, it is only fitting that we acknowledge the 30 extraordinary years of Mr. Dion's dedicated public service. My sincere congratulations to Mr. Dion, whose calm, reasoned approach to ensuring quality housing and services for our most vulnerable residents has forever instilled in his colleagues at the King County Housing Authority and in Washington's congressional delegation the importance of providing the best possible support to families and individuals in need. He leaves a legacy of hard work, compassion and high standards that serves as an example to us all.

HONORING MICHAEL EAKER ON
HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED
TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 7

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Eaker, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected representative to the seventh legislative district in the Chautauqua County legislature. Although Mr. Eaker was not able to realize his dream he has been able to make an impact on other's lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Eaker traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 7.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Eaker is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to submit for the RECORD the following commentary written by Keith Burris which appeared in the Journal Inquirer on November 21, 2005. It is one of the most thoughtful and

accurate commentaries on the plan for action in Iraq proposed by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA). I agree wholeheartedly with his conclusion, "JOHN MURTHA is trying to save lives now. He is right. And courageous. And the loyal friend of those who fight."

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

(By Keith C. Burris)

Everyone knows that public support for the president's war in Iraq has eroded. We know it not only because we read the newspapers and their reports about the polls but because so many of us are a part of that erosion.

After 9/11, most of us were capable of a knee-jerk reaction. Most Americans felt, "We have been attacked; we cannot just sit back and wait for the next attack." Most Americans supported attacking Afghanistan, because, to the extent that there was a Terrorist Central, that was it.

Invading Iraq was a tougher sell.

But Americans were inclined to trust their government, even though the memory of the Vietnam War was fresh in our minds.

That was a war in which thousands of young soldiers fought bravely and some 50,000 died. They were told, and we were told, that they fought for freedom; to contain communism; and, to paraphrase what was then being taught senior officers at the Army War College: If we fought the bad guys over there, we might not have to fight them over here.

Today, the young men and women fighting in Iraq are told the exact same things, and the nation is today told the exact same things, except that the word terrorism may be substituted for communism.

Our leaders went into Vietnam with good, even noble intentions: To "help those people" and to give them what we have—freedom and democracy. But our leaders didn't know enough about the history or the culture of the region. They didn't have a clear political or military objective. They didn't have adequate military power to subdue the country. So they got bogged down in a civil war in which they could not be sure about their allies and they sent our soldiers to fight a guerrilla war in which tactics were as unfocused as strategy and mission.

And then they began to lie.

The newest Nixon tapes show that the president actually instructed his aides and the military to lie. Our government broadened the war—into Cambodia. It told us it didn't. It got caught in the lie. And then the Nixon administration told the Congress and the public our troops were out when they were not. It's easy, explained the commander-in-chief to his deputies—we say one thing and do another.

Indeed, the entire war was based on what is now called "false intelligence." President Lyndon Johnson told the Senate that an American ship had been fired on in the Tonkin Gulf.

It hadn't been.

The final stage was flag waving: President Johnson, President Nixon, and their allies and aides said that people who suggested we had to correct this massive, tragic mistake—negotiate a political end and get the troops out—were demoralizing our troops and aiding and abetting the enemy.

In other words, they were treasonous.

Don't criticize the war effort while there are men in the field, we were told.

But if the war was not criticized, and a correction of course was not made while the war was going on, and the president would not or could not exert sufficient military effort to win the war, how would the war ever end?

It could only end as it did. By sputtering out. But with ultimate Viet Cong victory