

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RETIRING CHAU-  
TAUQUA COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
MARK THOMAS

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, for the past eight years, Chautauqua County government has been led by one of the singularly intelligent, committed and respected public officials in New York State. Mr. Speaker, today I rise today to honor Mark Thomas, whose service as Chautauqua County Executive will be concluded on December 31, 2005.

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. Thomas 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 Chautauqua County.

Mark is the type of person who leaves a lasting impact on his community. For many years, as a candidate and as an elected leader, Mark's efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a permanent impression not only on the county itself but on its residents. His face, voice, opinions and successes were and still are a staple in Chautauqua County. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work and issues that Mr. Thomas uncovered during his campaign and during his tenure.

A true testimony to Mark can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives he touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do. His campaign was full of energy and enthusiasm. I have no doubt that good things are still to come from Mark; he is a truly dedicated and determined person.

As a state legislator from 1998 to 2004, I knew Mark Thomas well. Quietly, without a lot of fanfare, Mark Thomas trudged the halls in Albany working diligently for the reform of the Medicaid program, which has threatened to cripple county governments throughout New York State. In 2004, New York State began what is hoped to be a long process of providing Medicaid relief to local governments. No elected leader in New York State is more responsible for that success than is Mark Thomas.

I had the opportunity to get to know Mark even better in 2004, when we competed against one another in a primary election for the Democratic Party's nomination for this congressional seat. Throughout that campaign, I always said that if I couldn't win, I wanted Mark Thomas to win, because Mark is a true believer, someone who believes that government is in place to help people, and to help make one's area a better place to live, work and raise a family. During that campaign, I was consistently amazed at the level of respect that the people of Chautauqua County had for him. During my first year in Congress, Mark and I have worked together closely on a

number of projects important to Chautauqua County, and my respect for him, his dear wife Elaine and his family only continues to grow.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank Mark Thomas. Mark has shown me the way in Chautauqua County, and I will forever be grateful to him for that gift.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mark Thomas is one of those people and that is why I rise to honor him and his service to this community.

HONORING THE GOVERNMENT  
STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 175TH  
YEAR

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Government Street Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its 175th year.

Government Street Presbyterian Church has been a vital partner of the city of Mobile and the State of Alabama. The church was founded in 1831, and the present sanctuary was built in 1836. For 166 years, this congregation has been worshipping God from the same location. Designated a National Landmark, the oldest sanctuary in Mobile is one of the most beautiful buildings in the city.

True to its mission to glorify God, the congregation of the Government Street Presbyterian Church uses its resources and opportunities to provide hope, comfort, instruction, and inspiration to all people so that they may become followers of Jesus Christ.

For the past twenty years, the Government Street Presbyterian Church has lovingly served the people of Mobile through its Coffee Club and Meals on Wheels, providing 35,000 meals annually to the homeless and poor. Members are also actively involved through urban ministries, international ministries, Baytreat ministries, worship, education, and fellowship.

It is my sincere hope that the Government Street Presbyterian Church will continue to be such a source of inspiration, hope, and comfort to Mobilians for another 175 years, and I rise today to salute this congregation and the many contributions they have made toward the betterment of south Alabama.

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SERVICE OF  
EDWARD E. NICHOLS

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to recognize my constituent, Mr. Edward E.

Nichols of Purcellville, Virginia, who has served the town of Purcellville in some capacity for the last 55 years. During his dedicated service to the people of Purcellville and Loudoun County, Mr. Nichols served 20 years on the Purcellville Town Council, 8 years on the Planning Commission, 5 years on the Board of Zoning Appeals, as well as on numerous other advisory committees.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Nichols' contributions to the Purcellville community. Mr. Nichols's father opened "Nichols Hardware" which has been in business for 91 years. Even today Ed's son Ted is part-owner of the family business. Mr. Nichols and his wife Meg have raised two sons, one daughter, and are the proud grandparents of seven and also have one great granddaughter. Mr. Nichols should be commended on raising an exceptional family while continually remaining actively involved in his community. Today, at 86 years-old, Mr. Nichols continues to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals, and shows tremendous passion for serving the people of Purcellville.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF  
LUCAS SCOTT WAGNER

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Matt and Kate Wagner of Columbus, Georgia, on the birth of their new baby son. Lucas Scott Wagner was born on December 15, 2005 at 1:29 PM, weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Luke has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing.

HONORING KEN LASKER FOR HIS  
CAMPAIGN TO BECOME CHAU-  
TAUQUA COUNTY DISTRICT AT-  
TORNEY

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ken Lasker, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the Chautauqua County District Attorney.

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. Lasker 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 Chautauqua County.

Ken is one of those people that leave a huge impact on his community. For many

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

years, both as a candidate or as an attorney at the law firm, Burgett and Robbins, his efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a lasting impression not only on the county itself but on its residents. His face, voice, opinions and successes were and still are a staple in Chautauqua County. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work and issues that Mr. Lasker uncovered during his campaign.

A true testimony to Ken can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives he touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do. His campaign was full of energy and enthusiasm. I have no doubt that good things are still to come from Ken, he is a truly dedicated and determined person.

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

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 630, I would vote to put the House on record as opposed to torture of prisoners held by the U.S. government.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### RECOGNIZING MS. OLGA WAGNER'S VOLUNTEER WORK AT OVERLEA-FULLERTON SENIOR CENTER

### HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Ms. Olga Wagner for her superior volunteer work at the Overlea-Fullerton Senior Center in Baltimore, Maryland. She has been a loyal aide to the center for close to thirty years; brightening the days of many seniors with her "four hugs a day" rule: a rule in which she must hug at minimum, four people everyday.

Ms. Wagner donates her time on Mondays and Fridays with the federally sponsored, 'Eating Together' lunch by preparing food and serving meals. She also contributes to the community by cashing-in bingo cards during games.

The Overlea-Fullerton Senior Center is a place for seniors, sixty and over, to gather taking advantage of activities and services such as line dancing, ceramics, painting, aerobics and much more. It is one of eighteen nationally accredited senior centers operated by the Baltimore County Department of Aging.

Because of the dependability Ms. Wagner has shown over the years, she was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame on the twenty seventh of October, two-thousand five. Inductees are recognized statewide for their substantial volunteer work which ulti-

mately benefits the community at large. Ms. Wagner's dedication to improving the lives of seniors in her community is commendable and is a true testament to her character.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise before you today to recognize the good deeds of Ms. Olga Wagner. Her contribution to seniors in the Overlea-Fullerton community is greatly appreciated and worthy of great praise.

#### HONORING SCOTT TUCKER

### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to recognize Scott Tucker for his leadership and extraordinary service to the City of San Francisco as he prepares to step down as District Manager of Customer Service and Sales of the San Francisco District of the U.S. Postal Service. Throughout his distinguished career with the Postal Service, he proved the San Francisco District leads the nation in postal quality control systems and customer service.

Scott joined the Postal Service in 1968 as a letter carrier in Hanford, California, and will bring his career to a close in January 2006. He was appointed District Manager in 1992, and has since earned the Postmaster General Award, the second highest award given to postal executives.

A business administration student at College of Sequoias, Sonoma State, Fresno State and Dartmouth College in Massachusetts, Scott used his education everyday supervising a workforce of 10,400 employees. Scott's career is a shining example of excellence in commitment and service.

Throughout his 23 years as District Manager, Scott worked to raise awareness of the multi-cultural groups within our District by establishing a Women's Council, an African American Council, an Asian American/Pacific Island Council and a Hispanic Council. These efforts earned him the Diversity Achievement Award from the Bay Area Federal Executive Board.

With the daunting responsibility of delivering 10 million pieces of mail to three million customers daily throughout northwest California, Scott was largely responsible for our City's reputation as having one of the best on-time mail services of any metropolitan area in the nation. Scott was generous with his time and expertise to assist my District Office staff with constituent concerns.

Scott was instrumental in making the Lunar New Year commemorative stamp series a reality. His close partnership with San Francisco's Asian American community helped produce a spectacular series of stamps for our City to take pride in, and for the rest of the nation to admire and enjoy. As Executive Chair of United Way's Combined Federal Campaign in the Bay Area for two years, Scott was honored for his leadership and tremendous success.

Scott's leadership and dedication remain an inspiration to all who knew and admired him. I join his friends and colleagues in sending best wishes for a well-deserved retirement and many years of health and happiness.

#### HONORING LORI CORNELL FOR HER CAMPAIGN TO BECOME CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY CLERK

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lori Cornell, a resident of Chautauqua County for her quest to become the Chautauqua County Clerk.

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. Ms. Cornell traveled that path with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of Chautauqua County.

Lori is one of those people that leave a huge impact on her community. For many years, both as a candidate or as the District Director for Assemblyman Bill Parment, her efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a lasting impression not only on the county itself but on its residents. Her face, voice, opinions and successes were and still are a staple in Chautauqua County. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work and issues that Ms. Cornell uncovered during her campaign.

A true testimony to Lori can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives she touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do. Her campaign was full of energy and enthusiasm. I have no doubt that good things are still to come from Lori, she is a truly dedicated and determined person.

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

#### CONGRATULATING MR. WILLIAM W. WYNNE, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLE

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. William W. Wynne, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement after serving south Alabama for nearly 30 years. I also rise to congratulate him on his appointment to the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles.

A Mobile native, Mr. Wynne has served as a U.S. Probation Officer for the Southern District of Alabama, a district encompassing 13 counties in southwest Alabama, since 1976. He has served as the district's Chief U.S. Probation Officer since 1988. A nationally recognized leader, Mr. Wynne has overseen the district's advances in court management and automation. His tireless work led to the development of the Internal Operating Policy on Disposition of Criminal Cases in his district.