

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. NORTON HURD  
OF DELTAVILLE, VIRGINIA

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD the accomplishments of Mr. Norton Hurd of Deltaville, Virginia.

Mr. Hurd, whose grandfather fought at the Battle of Gettysburg, grew up in Deltaville, Virginia, and attended Lynchburg College, studying history while playing varsity tennis, baseball, and basketball. After graduating from Lynchburg, Mr. Norton became a teacher and coach at Amelia High School before signing up for the U.S. Naval Air Reserve in 1941. After receiving his flight wings in May 1942, Ensign Hurd was stationed in Minneapolis, training pilots in open-cockpit planes in the frigid temperatures of Minnesota. He, however, longed for combat.

Ensign Hurd repeatedly asked his skipper for a transfer, telling him "I don't want to tell my grandchildren, when the war is over, that I fought the battle of Minneapolis." After flight training sessions in New Jersey and Massachusetts, Lieutenant Hurd found himself aboard the legendary aircraft carrier *Wasp*, heading for Guam. Lt. Hurd was a member of the Hell Razors, and flew in the first group of Navy planes to bomb Tokyo. After surviving a showdown with a Japanese fighter near Chi-Chi Jima, one of his engines failed, and he crashed into the Pacific within 100 yards of the *Wasp*. After being rescued, Lt. Hurd was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, given to those who distinguish themselves by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight.

After returning home from the Pacific, Mr. Hurd opened Hurd's Home Appliances in Deltaville in January 1946, figuring that after the war everyone would need appliances. In 1947 he married Alvine Taylor, and they have three children together, Myra, Jack, and Michael. Mr. Norton is a charter member of the Middlesex Lions Club, has served as presidents of the Deltaville Community Association and the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, and for 25 years was on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Middlesex, First Virginia Bank. He is also a member of the fire department and rescue squad, and has been inducted into the Lynchburg College Hall of Fame. Mr. Hurd is an outstanding athlete, gentleman, and asset to Virginia, and is loved by everyone who knows him.

I would like to submit for the RECORD a recent article about Mr. Hurd in the Baysplash, entitled "Hell Razor: Staying Still's Been the One Thing Norman Hurd of Deltaville Can't Do." I recommend my colleagues in the House of Representatives to read about this fine American in the First District of Virginia.

HELL RAZOR: STAYING STILL'S BEEN THE ONE  
THING NORTON HURD OF DELTAVILLE CAN'T DO  
(By Capt. Bob Cerullo)

As a young lad, Norton Hurd, now nearing 90, loved to sit with his grandfather on the porch of the home his grandfather built after the Civil War. He recalled the day his grandfather "gave me a dime to stay still and not say a word for ten minutes because I was always jumping and carrying on."

His grandfather, Jesse C. Hurd, had been shot in the leg at the Battle of Gettysburg. When the Civil War ended he arrived in Deltaville and did logging work, fell in love with the place, became a carpenter, built several homes including his own, and fell in love again, marrying Ida Harrow of Deltaville.

Their son (and Norton's father), Jesse W. Hurd, married Mabel Norton, also of Deltaville. Jesse W. loved farming and eventually opened a grocery store to sell the crops he grew. Young Norton worked the crops, milked the cows, gathered eggs, tended the store and dreamed about baseball. Ted Williams was his hero, and there is a family legend that Norton's first words were, "Throw it here."

Norton, who didn't share his father's love of farming, attended Lynchburg College, studied history, and played varsity tennis, basketball and baseball. After graduation he was a teacher and coach at Amelia High School, and he recalls coaching a student named Monte Kennedy, who went on to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

#### TRAINING FOR COMBAT

With the drums of war beating in Europe, it was only a matter of time before Norton faced being drafted, probably into the infantry. "I had played a lot of baseball and I had played every position, at one time or another, except catching," he said. "I have not had any desire to be a catcher. So I said, 'I think I would really rather be up there pitching than down there catching'." Determined to be a pilot, the gangly young teacher signed up with the U.S. Naval Air Reserve, Air Corps. A few weeks later he reported to Anacostia, MD, for a physical, where doctors found he was underweight, had a cold and was running a fever; they told him to go home, stay still, rest and eat. Staying still was the hardest part, and after consuming dozens of bananas and quarts of milk he was back in three days, both heavier and fever-free.

By August of 1941 he was flying an open-cockpit N2S Starman bi-plane, and with seven hours of in-flight training he was transferred to Jacksonville, Florida, where he got his wings in May of 1942. Ensign Hurd was then stationed in Minneapolis, where he trained pilots in freezing cold open-cockpit planes for two winters. "It got so cold up at 5,000 feet that you couldn't stay in the air for more than 30 minutes," he said. "The Red Cross ladies knitted ski masks for us, but it was cold." There were several close calls when a student panicked and he had to take over the controls to avoid crashing the plane.

Hurd, impatient for combat, kept asking his skipper for a transfer, and the skipper in turn asked him if he knew what he was saying, and why he wanted to be reassigned. "Well, I joined because I thought there was going to be a fight," Hurd told him. "I don't

want to tell my grandchildren, when the war is over, that I fought the battle of Minneapolis." Three months later he was in Wildwood, NJ, where he trained to fly Curtiss SB2C dive bombers; pilots nicknamed the cumbersome plane "The Beast." Next, at Otis Field in Massachusetts, he learned to land a plane on an aircraft carrier. "The first time I went out there to land I had to find the carrier and make three landings to qualify," he said. "The Navy figured if you could land on one of the little carriers then you could land on anything. I looked down at that carrier and it really looked to me like a wooden roof shingle floating in the sea. I made it."

#### THE HELL RAZORS

Sent to Maui, Hurd reported aboard the legendary aircraft carrier *Wasp*, steaming for Guam. He was a member of the infamous air group known as the Hell Razors, and flew in the first group of Navy planes to bomb Tokyo. On a flight over Chi-Chi Jima, a Japanese communication center near Iwo Jima, he was jumped by a Japanese fighter, which he shot down, then, within about a hundred yards of landing back on the *Wasp*, he engine failed and Lt. Hurd plowed into the sea.

It was February, the churning sea water was cold, and the plane hit the water hard, "My head hit the cockpit. I was momentarily stunned," he said. "When a fighter goes in it goes down in the water, then comes back up. The water came over my head. I thought I was sinking so I jumped out of the cockpit and crawled out on the wing. Then the plane came up. I swam back to try to get the lifeboat that I knew was stored under the pilot's seat."

Pilots sometimes debated about whether one could be sucked down when a plane ditched, Hurd recalled, and "I didn't think it was time to settle that debate right there, so I ran off the wing again and jumped overboard. My head was bleeding. All I had was a Mae West life preserver, a dye marker and a whistle. I was treading water and blowing the whistle. In the waves, one minute I could see the carrier going away; in the next I couldn't see anything. I was bleeding and thinking about the sharks. It finally hit me that there was no place to swim to. Finally I saw a destroyer coming. Then, God, I am standing in the water blowing my whistle. It steamed right on past me. Then finally it backed up. They threw me a rope and wanted me to climb up it. I was so weak I couldn't do it. Then they threw me a net and pulled me up and put me in sick bay.

"They sewed up my head, then took me up on deck to be transferred back to the *Wasp*. The transfer basket from the *Wasp* arrived with ten gallons of ice cream aboard. Then they put me in the transfer basket and sent me back over the raging sea to the *Wasp*. So I figure I am worth ten gallons of ice cream."

Hurd was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, given to those who distinguish themselves by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight, as evidenced by voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty.

#### BACK HOME

Undecided about what to do after the war, Hurd said he thought about sailing a boat around the world but couldn't find any of his friends who were "crazy enough" to go with

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

him. He headed to Deltaville to relax and contemplate a career, but the future was decided for him. His father had sold his grocery business for \$5,000, which he used to buy a store for Norton. "When I came home my dad said, 'I got a place'," he recalled. "My father never wanted me to leave home. Dad was a hard worker and expected the same from me." In January of 1946 Norton opened Hurd's Home Appliances, figuring that everyone would need appliances after the war. With his father's help he obtained credit and a stock of scarce home appliances, and had more customers than stock.

In 1947 he married Alvine Taylor, daughter of the founder of Taylor's Restaurant, still a Deltaville landmark. "When I came home from the war and saw Alvine Taylor, I knew she was the most attractive young woman I had ever seen anywhere," he said. "We were married two years later." They have three children: Myra Wall and Jack Hurd run Hurd's Hardware, and Michael, a former prosecutor, is an attorney in Deltaville; his office is in the renovated old store once run by Norton and his father. Jack and his wife live in the old Hurd home built by his great grandfather, Jesse C.; Michael and his wife live in a home Norton built in 1953.

Norton, a charter member and later resident of the Middlesex Lions Club, also has served as president of the Deltaville Community Association and the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, and for 25 years was on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Middlesex, First Virginia Bank. A member of the fire department and rescue squad, he has been a member of the Phillippi Christian Church since he was 12 and has served as a deacon, board member and elder. He is perhaps best known as a baseball coach and player, and once played with the Deltaville Deltas. He also has been inducted into the Lynchburg College Hall of Fame.

Hurd retired from his business in 1981, at age 65, but still is actively involved. While Jack now manages the store, Norton's often there on Saturdays and other days when Jack is off. Since he retired he has found more time to golf, often playing 36 holes straight.

Of his many awards and wartime memorabilia, he seems to treasure most a tattered copy of the Amelia High School yearbook compiled by his former students and dedicated to him. A copy was sent to him while he was fighting in the Pacific. He considers it perhaps his proudest possession.

It's unlikely Norton Hurd will earn any more dimes, as he did from his grandfather, for sitting still. That never was something he liked to do.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LAUNCH OF NATIONAL HEPATITIS B AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Hepatitis B Foundation, which is located in my state of Pennsylvania, as well as all the groups involved in the "AIM for the B" campaign which seeks to raise awareness for chronic hepatitis B. The "AIM for the B" campaign has been working over the past 3 years to encourage communities most impacted by the chronic hepatitis B virus, including Asian Americans, to seek treatment for the disease, and to prioritize the disease as a serious health issue in the U.S. and I commend them for this noble goal.

In the United States, approximately one out of every 10 Asian Americans is chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus, resulting in more than half of the chronic hepatitis B cases and half of the deaths resulting from chronic hepatitis B infection. Today, only a small percentage of diagnosed chronic hepatitis B patients are being actively managed for their disease. Every year, approximately one million people worldwide die from chronic hepatitis B because they are diagnosed past the point where medical care and intervention can be effective.

In December, I, along with Congressman MIKE HONDA, introduced H.R. 4550, the National Hepatitis B Act, which included strategies for expanded vaccination programs, primary and secondary preventive education and training, surveillance and early detection, and research. I want to thank Congressman HONDA for his tireless efforts on behalf of this issue and my 21 colleagues who have already recognized the importance of this legislation and are currently cosponsors of this bill. I encourage my colleagues to be a part of the solution to this terrible and silent disease and sign on to co-sponsor this important legislation.

Today, Congressman HONDA and I along with representatives from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), patient advocacy organizations, physicians and patients joined together at a Congressional Briefing in the Rayburn House Office Building hosted by the "AIM for the B" campaign to kick off National Hepatitis B Awareness Week. The week will educate communities, patients and families about chronic hepatitis B through events held across the country. The briefing was designed to increase knowledge of chronic hepatitis B as a serious health issue in the United States and to emphasize the importance of increasing diagnosis, screening and treatment. The briefing allowed us to communicate the potential consequences of chronic hepatitis B and to lay out actions needed to increase treatment rates for this extremely infectious disease.

I want to take this opportunity to especially recognize the Hepatitis B Foundation based in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. As a representative of Pennsylvania, I am pleased to support this national non-profit organization solely dedicated to the global problem of hepatitis B. The foundation was founded in 1991, with the support of Dr. Baruch Blumberg, who won the Nobel Prize for his discovery of the hepatitis B virus. In just 10 years, the Hepatitis B Foundation has grown from a grassroots effort into a national non-profit organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B.

As we begin National Hepatitis B Awareness week, I urge my colleagues to reflect on the severity of hepatitis B and take steps to educate, raise awareness about and put an end to this disease. Together, we can make a difference in addressing this U.S. and global public health issue.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR.  
NIRANJAN S. SHAH

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Niranjana S. Shah, a prominent Indian-American businessman, activist, and philanthropist, who was one of the few selected to receive the prestigious 2006 Ellis Island Medals of Honor. This award is presented to influential leaders of various fields and ethnic backgrounds who contribute greatly to American society. Established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the heritage of those groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic and extraordinary individual achievement. Past medalists include six U.S. Presidents as well as Nobel Prize winners and leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports and government.

As a young man growing up in India, Mr. Shah was an academic standout obtaining his bachelor's degree in engineering from Sardar Patel University. After the completion of his studies in India he was given the opportunity to pursue a Master's degree in the United States, a big move for a young man from India. With the support of his family and his village, Mr. Shah left India for America and successfully obtained his Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Mississippi. After receiving his Master's degree he supplemented his engineering education with the Harvard Business School Executive Management program. With this incredible wealth of education a lack of opportunities still existed for a young Indian. So Mr. Shah went forward with his own American dream and decided to go it on his own and create what is now a thriving engineering firm. He is well known in his adopted hometown of Chicago for his engineering success. Any American who has flown through O'Hare International Airport, or has attended a convention at McCormick Place has seen first hand the work of Niranjana Shah and his engineering firm.

The spirit of making a better life was not limited to just himself but pushed him to provide assistance to those less fortunate than himself. Mr. Shah's generosity was extended to small villages in India and he has worked tirelessly to create a better U.S. Indo relationship. Mr. Shah is one of the few Americans who was also recognized this winter by the President of India through the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award, the highest Indian civilian award to be given to people of Indian origin, to recognize the contributions of the Indian Diaspora to India.

Mr. Speaker, Niranjana is an asset to the United States and his efforts are deserving of this prestigious award. Mr. Shah fully embodies the commitment and values that the Ellis Island Medal of Honor represents. Mr. Shah will receive this honor joined by his loving wife Pratima, and his two children Smita and Ajay. It is an honor for me to recognize this great American today.