

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF MS. GLADYS ADINA ABRAHAM

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Gladys Adina Abraham on the most special and significant occasion of the renaming of the Kirwan Terrace School in her honor.

When historians look at the success story of the U.S. Virgin Islands in the 20th century—from islands purchased for \$25 million in 1917 and said to be not worth the price, and its labeling as a “poorhouse” by a visiting President, to the modern thriving American Caribbean metropolis, with its urban center and suburbs, a thriving middle class and a university fulfilling its function for more than 40 years as one of the magnets and engines for socioeconomic progress in the region—the heroes who will be undoubtedly identified, are the 20th century Virgin Islands teachers. I am amazed and inspired by their accomplishments against the odds of geographical location and lack of resources at that time and the legacy they continue to create today. These educators, both men and women, on all three islands that comprise the U.S. Virgin Islands encouraged their students to strive for the best. It is this spirit, personified by the life service and contribution of Ms. Gladys Dina Abraham, which we honor.

Ms. Abraham received her Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Elementary Education from New York University, was awarded a Fulbright scholarship in 1956 to study sociology in India, and received a Masters of Arts in Psychology from Columbia University in 1962. Like others in her generation, Ms. Abraham could have taken her degrees from our islands’ educational institutions and been better remunerated elsewhere. Instead, she returned home and shared her expertise with the children of the Virgin Islands; enlarging their world, expanding their horizons and inspiring their pursuit of knowledge as she served as teacher and later principal at Sibilly, Lockhart and first at Kirwan Terrace Elementary School.

From the inception, Ms. Abraham established a standard of excellence in education with far less funding, essentially no technology and less educational training and certifications than are required today. Her standards produced students who became governors, legislators, church, business and civic leaders. Our community owes a debt of gratitude to Ms. Abraham, and others like her, who taught our children well and gave them a stake in the future of the Virgin Islands.

Kirwan Terrace School was originally named for a former Member of Congress who was instrumental in providing funding to build the neighborhood in which the school now sits. And while we did right to honor Congressman Kirwan—as in almost everything else we have received in our history—the school came about because of the insistence and advocacy of the community; in particular, the urging of the mothers. We thank them and Ms. Abraham for inspiring us and generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that on behalf of my family, staff and the 109th Congress that I extend my profound congratula-

tions and thanks to Ms. Abraham on the renaming of the Kirwan Terrace School in her honor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5385) making appropriations for the military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, the Military Quality of Life-Veteran’s Administration appropriations bill we are voting on today is not nearly as good a bill as it should have been. I will support it today, but I’m very disappointed in the Republican leadership’s priorities reflected in this legislation.

The House Armed Services Committee, on which I sit, authorized these projects in the authorization bill that the House passed earlier this month. The Administration budget also requested these 20 projects, all of which are conventional military construction projects—things like hangars, barracks and unit headquarters.

To try to square the military priorities funded in this bill with the budget resolution the Republican leadership forced through the House, the Appropriations Committee used budget gimmickry to designate \$507 million for 20 routine military construction projects as an ‘emergency’ so that this funding would not count against the bill’s allocation.

Those in the Republican leadership concerned more about finding money for tax cuts than for our troops decided to cut these military construction projects today. Because of the projects’ ‘emergency’ funding status, Republicans chose to strike all \$507 million.

Regardless of whether or not they are labeled as ‘emergency funding,’ for bookkeeping reasons, they are valid and needed projects, selected through long-term planning exercises developed by the services, vetted through the Administration, and requested by the President.

The fact that the Republican budget put tax cuts ahead of the needs of our troops strikes me as backward and wrong. These are military priorities as defined by the President of the United States, and the majority chose to ignore them. They want to have it both ways—to say they support the troops, but also to be able to cut taxes for wealthy Americans. If this isn’t a good example of how this approach doesn’t work, I don’t know what is.

TRIBUTE TO HARRISBURG HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS BOYS TRACK TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harrisburg High School Bulldogs Boys Track Team. The Bulldogs won their Sectional Track Meet on May 19, 2006 by a substantial margin.

Continuing their tradition of success, this is the Bulldogs’ seventh consecutive team sectional track title. The Bulldogs finished first in the 4 x 100 relay, 100 meter dash, 4 x 200 relay, 400 meter dash and 4 x 400 relay. The Bulldogs team members also had many personal best times.

It is my pleasure to congratulate Coach Clint Simpson and the Bulldogs Track Team which includes Alex Maddox, Brett Brachaer, Caleb Joyner, Tony Cossette, Michael Woning, Nick Bebout, Madison Medley, Blake Fitts, Aaron Winters, Kyle Alexander, Luke Ragan, Dustin Moulton, Michael Muggee, Logan Cummysky, Mitchell Berry, Jake Stevers, Nick King, John Fuller, Jacob Sais, and Jeremy Martin on their success. I wish the Bulldogs continued success as they compete at the Illinois High School Athletic Association State Track and Field Tournament.

Again, congratulations!

RECOGNIZING BRIAN J. SHRYOCK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian J. Shryock, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Brian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brian J. Shryock for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CHIEF DEPUTY
SHERIFF DELAYNE D. OTT

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a dedicated protector of our community, Chief Deputy Sheriff Delayne D. Ott.

Deputy Sheriff Ott joined the LaPorte County Sheriff’s Department on January 15, 1967