

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 2006 TENNESSEE STATE GOSPEL SINGING CONVENTION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2006 Tennessee State Gospel Singing Convention. For 72 years, this convention has been celebrating the State's rich gospel singing tradition. This year, the two-day event will be held in Carthage, TN, which I am proud to represent in this esteemed body.

This statewide convention began in 1934 with the goal of honoring Tennessee's historical roots in the gospel movement. By building on traditions of county music festivals, the convention drew a crowd of more than 6,000 people just 4 years later.

Since then, the festival has drawn several noted performers from across Tennessee and surrounding States. Along with quality entertainment, the convention also boasts a string of acclaimed leaders, including Sergeant Alvin C. York, who once served as vice president of the convention.

Today, the Tennessee State Gospel Singing Convention draws hundreds of people and continues to honor the tradition of gospel music in Tennessee. I am sure this year's convention will be a wonderful event and I commend all involved for their commitment to preserving Tennessee culture.

IN HONOR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PINE CITY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to recognize the First Baptist Church of Pine City which will celebrate its 100th anniversary this August. This is a significant milestone for a church community dedicated to fellowship and service.

The First Baptist Church of Pine City was founded in 1906 under the guidance of Rev. John Smith. The congregation spent the first decade worshiping in temporary locations throughout Pine City, including a brush harbor on Rev. Smith's farm, the Beaten School, and even an old house. The church community finally bought land for a church on November 4, 1916 from Parker C. and Georgia Ewans for just \$10.00. Once the sale was finalized, the congregation came together to build a church, pitching in to cut down trees and haul lumber from the saw mill.

When the congregation outgrew this facility in 1954, the community came together once again to build the current First Baptist Church of Pine City. Members raised money for the new building by selling dinner plates on Sun-

days after the church service, donating daily salaries earned by picking cotton in the fields, and even raffling off a bale of cotton. The congregation has made many improvements to the church over the years and looks forward to continuing these improvements in the future.

A total of 21 preachers have served the First Baptist Church of Pine City over the last 100 years including the current pastor, Rev. I.E. Holland, Sr., who has led the community in worship for 22 years. On August 13, 2006, the First Baptist Church of Pine City will gather to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their church community. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the congregation on this important day and sending our best wishes for many more years of worship and service to the Lord.

TRIBUTE TO AUSTIN COUNTY REPUBLICANS

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the great County of Austin in my home State of Texas.

There are few places in our great Nation where the people of one county take such pride and interest in their politics and the issues which affect their lives. Austin County is one of those few and special places.

I am particularly fortunate to represent the Republicans of Austin County. It is from this special group of people that I am able to gain insight and perspective on the issues we deal with everyday right here in our Nation's Capitol.

This exceptional community of loyal Americans strongly supports America's efforts against terrorism, both at home and abroad in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Republicans of Austin County also respect the traditional and American values that we work so hard to protect here in Washington.

In Austin County, they know marriage is between one man and one woman, and they know the words "Under God" belong in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag which flies over our great land.

Austin County Republicans also appreciate and understand the need to secure America's borders. I know when we discuss real ways to solidify the security of our borders, this Congress has the full support of the Austin County GOP.

I know we have their backing when we explore ways to stop the growing problem of illegal immigrants breaking into our Nation.

And, I know the elected leaders of our land have the support of Austin County Republicans when we pass laws aimed at providing legal citizens with America's social services, and not those in our Nation illegally.

But it's not just about immigration and protecting America's values.

The Republicans of Austin County are a fiscally sound and smart bunch of men and women who care very deeply about America's financial welfare. This is why we have their full support for tax cuts which keep more money in American pockets, and their support for legislation that has added more than 5 million new jobs to our economy.

Mr. Speaker, when we pass legislation to help make our Nation more secure and prosperous, we are doing so for people like my friends in Austin County, TX.

When we develop new and cheaper ways to power our homes and cars as we have in this Congress, we are doing so for people like those living in Austin County.

So Mr. Speaker, it is my hope you will join me tonight in honoring those hard working and God fearing people of Austin County, TX's GOP.

Each day they work very hard to help the Members of this body keep the United States a secure and prosperous nation, and for that they deserve our continued appreciation.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I voted in favor of H. Res. 921. The recent attacks against the State of Israel should be condemned and terrorists and their state sponsors should be held accountable. I supported this resolution because I believe that Israel, as a sovereign democratic state, has the right to defend herself against aggression. Furthermore, the attacks on Israel came from Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, lands from which Israel had withdrawn in the interests of peace.

However, I do have deep concerns about the scale of the Israeli response. I mourn the loss of life among all the suffering peoples of the region. We must actively work towards a peaceful solution to this crisis.

I do not believe that my vote in favor of this resolution provides President Bush with the authority to take direct military action against Lebanon, Syria, Iran or any other nation involved and my vote should not be interpreted as a vote in favor of such action. I insist that the President seek congressional approval if at any point he intends to take military action.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to record my rollcall vote 397. Due to a fender

• 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.

bender on my way to votes, I was unable to record my rollcall votes 400–402. Had I been present I would have voted “yes” on all votes.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2006 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2006 recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. This medal—created in 1986—aply named for Ellis Island, an enduring symbol of the diversity that characterizes our great Nation, commemorates and recognizes Americans of all ethnic backgrounds who have made significant contributions through their own perseverance and sacrifice to our society and culture. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), representing more than 250 organizations that span the spectrum of ethnic heritages, cultures and religions. Since 1986, approximately 1,700 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including six American Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders. Collectively they represent a remarkable fraternity of individuals who have distinguished themselves as outstanding human beings and exemplary citizens of the United States. In addition, NECO awards one International Ellis Island Medal of Honor each year. This year's international honoree was Martin J. Sullivan, President and Chief Executive Officer of American International Group, Inc. Mr. Sullivan is British.

When the immigrant station at Ellis Island, New York, opened on January 1, 1892, it admitted 700 immigrants into the United States on just its first day of operation. By the time the center closed in 1954, 17 million immigrants had passed through its doors. The Ellis Island administration and staff, on average, processed up to 5,000 people per day. Many of these newcomers had little or no knowledge of English, hardly any money, and many arrived with only the clothes on their backs. They arrived risking their lives in exchange for freedom and a better way of life.

I, once again, commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation. As Rosemarie Taglione, Executive Director of NECO, so eloquently said in connection with this year's awards ceremony: “NECO's message of tolerance and harmony among diverse ethnic groups is, perhaps, even more important today than it was 20 years ago.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all of the 2006 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor.

Elizabeth Agbajian, Cesar Baez, Vartkes Barsam, Harry E. Bovay, Jr., Dawn Bryan, Fredy Bush, Joseph R. Calabrese, M.D., Tykya Camaras, Charles Carey, Edmund N. Carpenter II, Josip Cermin, Vahan Chamlian, Yong Jin Chang, George Chimples, Benjamin B. Choi, Esq., Dr. Deepak Chopra, Maxine Chou, Richard Corkery, Frank Corvino, Rita Cosby, John R. Costantino, Robert E. Courtney, Esq., Ed Cox, Long Deng, Vlade Divac, Kathleen M. Donahue, Ali Ebrahimi, George Elias Jr., Nijad Fares, BG Margrit M. Farmer, Lu-Jean Feng, MD, Siegfried Fischbacher, Col. David Fitzgerald, Aldo G. Frustaci, Esq., Fred Grapstein, C. Joseph Grignaffini, Sang-Ki Han, William Hanna, Richard Hayden, Roy Horn, Mori Hosseini, Jirair S. Hovnanian, Irwin Jacobs, Chief Joanne Jaffe, Thomas F. Kane, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Charles Evans Kilbourne III, Kwang Sung Kim, Peter Koo, Nat LaCour, Shau-wai Lam, Dean Lampros, Thomas D. Lee, Hon. John Lehman, George G. Makris, Roberta Mann, Hon. Rafi Manoukian, Col. Rick Martin, Ronald Martino, Jamie Masada, Fariborz Maseeh, Martin G. McGuinn, Dr. Navin C. Mehta, Jose Mejia, Edward Miller, Hamid Moghadam, VADM Kevin J. Moran, Dr. Navin Nanda, Luke Nasta, Frank Newell, MD, William C. Norris, Antranig M. Ouzoonian, Dinesh Patel, Hon. Tim Pawlenty, RADM David Pekoske, Fred Pezeshkan, Mark Pigott, Robert Price, Hon. Thomas Ridge, Imelda Roberts, Col. Angela Salinas, Frank Sciame, Niranjan Shah, John Shall, Thomas Nunziato Shannon, Jr., Dr. Hosein Shokouh-Amiri, Dr. Grace Shu, Dr. William T. Smith, Bruce A. Smith, Lewis T. Smoak Esq., Klaus-Peter Statz, Mitchell Steinhouse, Michael Stern, Martin J. Sullivan, Ramon M. Tallaj, MD, Dr. William Tansey III, Michael Tong, Rev. Nicholas Triantafilou, Lester Trilla, Manny Villafana, and Walter Wang.

CELEBRATING HUGO,
MINNESOTA'S CENTENNIAL

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the city of Hugo, Minnesota, located in my district.

Originally settled on a small plot of land in the 1850s, the town of Hugo was formally established in 1906 around a railroad and a post office.

Although its beginnings were modest, by 1917, this small town, populated by residents who made their living cutting and hauling wood to the railroad, had its own hotel, store, and school, and had begun to build its reputation for quality agriculture.

One hundred years later, Hugo has remained true to its roots, and is still known for its commitment to its rich farmland.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the residents of Hugo in celebrating its first one hundred years. It is solid communities like this which make Minnesota great.

WELCOMING IRAQI PRIME MINISTER AL-MALIKI TO WASHINGTON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, just 3½ years ago, Iraq was controlled by a brutal dictator who killed an average of 300 people a day. Iraq has now been liberated, and a fledgling democracy has taken root. The Iraqi people—in the face of terrorist threats—turned out in droves to ratify a constitution and elect their representatives. Today, this Congress and the American people have heard from the democratically elected leader of Iraq, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

I am grateful for the Prime Minister's address, as I appreciate his message of hope and progress. The training of Iraqi Security Forces is advancing rapidly. The parliamentary cabinet has been completed. Iraq has become a civil society.

Having visited Iraq six times, I have witnessed firsthand the progress being made. While there is still a long road ahead, the United States will continue to stand with the Iraqi people which protects American families. We will together make Iraq the graveyard of terrorists.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

COMPETITION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the value of competition in our Department of Defense acquisition process. Without competition in the acquisition process we have no choices. Without competition, innovation does not exist. Without competition we have no bargaining position relative to costs. Without competition the capability of our military stagnates.

Some would argue that we must protect our industrial base. I would suggest that competition does that very thing. We live in a global economy and, when U.S. industry does not produce competitive products, our industrial base suffers. It is true in virtually every industry.

If we are to continue to procure the best military equipment for best value the taxpayer dollar can afford, we must preserve the competitive process. In today's global economy that means we must not shy away from our allies' participation. Rather we should learn the lessons of the commercial sector and embrace the value of their partnership.

Ultimately, what does competition mean? It means a fair and open competition through an objective, quantifiable process. Secretary Rumsfeld for 6 years has espoused a capabilities based acquisition process. It is time to execute those words and follow the documented process.

Air refueling is the key enabler to our global military might and we need to get the competition for the KC-135 Replacement program