

HONORING SONITROL SECURITY SYSTEMS ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sonitrol, an electronic security company located in Buffalo, NY, that marked its 30th anniversary on August 1, 2006. I am pleased to be able to join with President David P. Jones and Vice President Paul A. Nickel to celebrate their success and commitment to providing comprehensive security solutions to businesses in Western New York.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Nickel brought Sonitrol Security Systems to life in 1976 when they relocated to Buffalo, NY, from Connecticut. They began their business in the basement of what is now known as the HSBC building in downtown Buffalo. Working day and night handling both the sales and the installation of their security systems, Mr. Jones and Mr. Nickel grew the company and began to acquire other alarm companies in the process.

Sonitrol Security Systems uses unique "Verified Alarm Technology" that results in high apprehension rates and low false alarm rates in the security alarm industry. Sonitrol has used "Verified Audio Intrusion Detection" for several years and will soon introduce "Verified Video Intrusion Detection" to further enhance the quality of service that they provide their business customers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in Congress to please join me in wishing David P. Jones, Paul A. Nickel and the employees of Sonitrol Security Systems continued success in the security business. I am confident that they will remain an invaluable security company, employer and partner in Western New York for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE END-OF-ACTIVE SERVICE OF STAFF SERGEANT CLAIRE J. BUFFINGTON, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 7 years that SSG Claire Buffington has served in the United States Marine Corps.

Coming to the United States from Scotland, Great Britain, Staff Sergeant Buffington is a true patriot who has significantly contributed to the defense of our Nation. Staff Sergeant Buffington enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in June 1999, and was assigned to the Fourth Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Center, Parris Island, SC. She graduated as company honor graduate and received a meritorious promotion to the rank of private first class. She subsequently attended Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, NC, and Supply School at Camp Johnson, NC.

Private First Class Buffington's first assignment was to the Second Marine Division's Supply section at Camp Lejeune, where she served as a supply clerk. She was promoted

to the rank of lance corporal and then transferred to the Second Marine Division Headquarters Battalion supply section where she served as a supply clerk and platoon sergeant. During this assignment, she earned meritorious promotion to the rank of corporal in July 2001, completed Corporal's Leadership Course, and then earned meritorious promotion to sergeant in November 2001. Sergeant Buffington also graduated from the Marine Corps Marksmanship Instructor's Course and served as pistol and rifle requalification coach for Headquarters Battalion, 2d Marine Division.

In June 2003, Sergeant Buffington was assigned to the House Liaison Office, Office of Legislative Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps, as the administrative clerk, and was promoted to staff sergeant on February 12, 2006. In her current capacity, Staff Sergeant Buffington has faithfully served the 435 members of the 106th, 107th, 108th and 109th Congresses as a member of the Marine Corps' House of Representatives Liaison Office. Staff Sergeant Buffington has been responsible for directing and organizing many congressional and staff delegations around the world, as well as numerous congressional events on Capitol Hill. Her attention to detail in every event she participates has made a positive impact on the relationship between the Congress and the Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, few can match the dedication and Esprit de Corps that Claire Buffington has shown over her 7 years of service to Corps and country. I wish Claire and her husband Tony continued success in their future endeavors. Many thanks Staff Sergeant Buffington, our Nation has benefited from your outstanding leadership.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KELLY PURCELL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kelly Purcell, the former Director of Federal Government Affairs for the California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues. She passed away on Tuesday, August 1, 2006.

Kelly earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Social Behavior from the University of California, Irvine. In addition, she earned a Master's degree in Psychology from Pepperdine University, and another Master's in Political Management from George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management. Kelly's academic achievements and experience were of great value as she advanced her career.

In October of 2003, Kelly became the Federal Legislative Affairs Manager for the California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues. She was quickly promoted to serve as Acting Director of Federal Government Affairs in September of 2004, and became Director in February of 2005. In her position, she served California and Nevada credit unions by overseeing Congressional and regulatory advocacy programs.

Kelly attended the Credit Union National Association Government Affairs Conference in

February of this year. At the event, she met with legislators on Capitol Hill to update them on important issues including the effects of the Rallies for Credit Unions, the importance of local union movements, and the progress of the Credit Union Regulatory Improvements Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by the unexpected loss of such a young and ambitious woman. Kelly's hard work brought passion and enthusiasm to the California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues through her advocacy efforts in Nevada, California, Washington, D.C., and nationwide. She will be deeply missed.

CONGRATULATING MYCHAL BLACK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mychal Black of Lewisville, Texas, on receiving the venerated 2006 Presidential Freedom Scholarship. As a recipient of this prestigious award, she is recognized for her outstanding leadership and commitment to servicing of her community and its residents.

The Presidential Freedom Scholarship program, sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service and administered by Learn and Serve America, honors select high school juniors and seniors, displaying exceptional service and citizenship, with a \$1,000 scholarship to the college of their choice. To be eligible for nomination, individuals must have completed at least 100 hours of community service and receive the recommendation of their high school.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere congratulations to Mychal Black on receiving this award and commend her dedication and desire to help her school, community and country.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT HARTWIG OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Hartwig, the Zephyrhills Fire Chief who recently retired following 32 years of service. Chief Hartwig began his career in 1974 as the first paid firefighter with the Zephyrhills Fire Department, and then rose through the ranks to become a driver engineer, captain, assistant chief and finally chief in 1983.

Chief Hartwig was instrumental in the construction of a second fire station. The new station included administrative offices and doubled the size of the department. He helped secure various grants to enhance the department's functionality and offset the city's budget. Chief Hartwig also entered into a joint venture between the city and Florida Hospital of Zephyrhills to initiate a Wellness/Fitness Program for all Zephyrhills fire rescue personnel.

Holding an A.A. degree from Hillsborough Community College, Chief Hartwig achieved