

RECOGNIZING CHARLES M. WINFREY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles M. Winfrey 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 82, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Charles 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 Charles M. Winfrey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE 217TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 217th anniversary of the United States Marshals Service, our Nation's oldest Federal law enforcement agency. The men and women who proudly wear "America's Star" have been involved in some of the most historic events in our Nation's history, and I am proud to commend them on this significant occasion.

The first 13 United States Marshals were appointed by President George Washington in 1789 with their primary mission being to support the Federal courts. As times changed, so did the mission of the U.S. Marshals Service. However, they have answered the call to duty without exception.

In the early years, U.S. marshals and deputy U.S. marshals executed warrants, distributed presidential proclamations, protected the president, registered enemy aliens in times of war, pursued counterfeiters, and helped conduct the national census. The Marshals Service maintained law and order in the "Wild West," kept the trains rolling during the Pullman strike, and enforced the 18th amendment during Prohibition.

On November 14, 1960, four deputy U.S. marshals accompanied 6-year old Ruby Bridges to elementary school after a Federal judge ordered the desegregation of the New Orleans public school system. In 1962, when James Meredith sought to legally become the first black person to attend the University of Mississippi, the duty of upholding the Federal law allowing him to do so fell upon the shoulders of 127 deputy marshals from all over the country. They acted with the highest degree of professionalism and honor during this turbulent season in civil rights history.

Their accomplishments in recent decades are too numerous to cite, but extraordinary in

their commitment to law and order. The U.S. Marshals provided security to 18 airports in the hours and days following the attacks on 9/11, played an instrumental role in the "D.C. sniper" investigation, were deployed to the gulf coast after Hurricane Katrina, and provided security for the trials of Oklahoma bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh and Al-Qaeda conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui.

Over the past 217 years, the Marshals Service has grown and evolved into a modern law enforcement agency, still charged with protecting the Federal judiciary, but also apprehending dangerous fugitives, conducting protective operations, ensuring the security of witnesses and their dependents, providing for the custody and transportation of Federal prisoners, managing the Federal Government's seized asset program, and conducting special operations as required by the Attorney General. No other law enforcement agency has as many diverse missions as the U.S. Marshals Service. Among their most innovative efforts is their newly created Fugitive Safe Surrender Initiative, a unique fugitive apprehension program that has already netted the peaceful surrender of hundreds of fugitives across this country in a community coordinated and faith-based environment.

Every day, deputy U.S. marshals carry out complex and life-threatening missions with integrity, skill, and valor. I commend Director John Clark and the 5,000 men and women of the Marshals Service, who are justifiably proud of their agency and their history. I am proud of them as well, and appreciate their contribution to this Nation as they celebrate their 217th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ARMENIA

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Republic of Armenia's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union.

On September 21, 1991, one of the world's oldest and most historically significant civilizations was able to re-establish their place among the autonomous nations of the world by declaring its independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The founding of the Republic of Armenia was an historic event that exemplifies the strength and perseverance of a people in pursuit of freedom and self-determination through democracy.

Armenia's road to independence was not easy. Enduring centuries of foreign domination, the genocide against its people in the early 20th century, and suffering through seven decades of totalitarian dictatorship did not discourage the Armenian people. In the face of oppression, the Armenian people never wavered in their pursuit to secure freedom and a democratic nation of their own.

Since its independence, Armenia has emerged as a viable, vibrant society and has played an important role in stabilizing the South Caucasus region. Armenia continues to be a trusted partner of the United States in a strategically important area of the world, a re-

gional leader in political and economic reform, and a nation committed to the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, today, on the 15th anniversary of Armenia's independence, I rise to celebrate the determination of a people who refused to relent in their quest for freedom.

HONORING LYLE VAN HOUTEN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Lyle Van Houten, former mayor of Dearborn Heights, MI, and to mourn him upon his passing at age 77.

For over seven decades, Lyle dedicated his life to public service and bettering the lives of others. As an integral member of the community, Lyle was first elected to the Dearborn Heights City Council in 1967, where he served until he was elected Mayor in 1986. Upon completion of his mayorship in 1993, he continued to strengthen the Michigan Republican Party, serving as Republican Committee chairman of the 16th and 15th congressional districts.

Moreover, during his distinguished career, he was appointed to the Michigan Judges Retirement Board of Directors by past Governor John Engler, and also served as a member of the Dearborn Heights Kiwanis Club and the Divine Child Men's Club, among other community organizations. Throughout his years, Lyle established a legacy of benevolence, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the community.

On September 7, 2006, after a 4-year battle with cancer, Lyle passed away. He will be remembered as a confident and patriotic American, who served his country with honor and dedication. To his wife, Mary; his children Julie Panetta and her husband Mark, L. Carter, Jr. and his wife Pamela, John, and Margaret; his grandchildren Ellen, Susan, and Nicolas; his sister Jean Linderman; and to everyone who knew and loved him, he was a noble statesman who will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, during his lifetime, Lyle Van Houten enriched the lives of everyone around him. As we bid farewell to this extraordinary individual, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his legendary service to our community and country.

TRIBUTE TO COMMODORE JOHN BARRY

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, the Fairfield County Ancient Order of Hibernians celebrated the official recognition of Commodore John Barry as the First Flag Officer of the United States Navy. In 2005, the House passed, and the President signed into law, H.J. Res. 38, which made this recognition official, and I was proud to support this legislation. I am happy to submit the text of Master Chief Richard Iannucci's informative address