

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO FORMER
CONGRESSMAN EARL LEE HOGAN

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on Sunday night, June 3, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives lost one of its own, a distinguished gentleman from Southern Indiana. Former Congressman Earl Lee Hogan passed away Sunday evening, leaving behind a notable career of public service to Hoosiers. Born in 1920 in Hope, Indiana, Earl Hogan represented the Ninth District of southern Indiana from 1959 to 1961. As a young man, Congressman Hogan served his country as a bombardier on a B-17 in the Air Force, from 1940 to 1945. During his Air Force career, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, and Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters. Congressman Hogan had a long career in law enforcement in Bartholomew County, serving first as deputy sheriff and then sheriff. Following his congressional service, Congressman Hogan took several positions focusing on rural development and agricultural issues. I thank Congressman Hogan and his family for their commitment and dedication to public service and all that they have given to the people of Southern Indiana. Congressman Hogan will be missed, but he leaves behind a record of service that speaks volumes about this honorable man.

BENJAMIN JAMES DUDDY FOR
THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Duddy, 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 444, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Benjamin has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Senior Patrol, Den Chief, and Troop Scribe. Ryan is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. His tribal name is Little Silent Stalking Snowy Owl. Ben is also a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Benjamin constructed over 160 feet of fencing around a fishing pond. This safety fencing was erected to allow handicapped campers access to enjoy the pond and minimize the danger of accidentally entering the water. The project included distribution of 4 tons of gravel and recon-

structing trail access to the pond. All of Benjamin's hard work took place at the Tall Oaks Youth Camp in Linwood, Kansas.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Benjamin Duddy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, last month the House of Representatives voted on important legislation including VA health care bills, lobbying reform legislation, and amendments to the fiscal year 2007 supplemental appropriations bill.

During the consideration of these bills, I was in Minnesota to attend the funeral Mass for my uncle, Frank Oberstar.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on the motion to recommit to H.R. 1100 (rollcall vote 408); I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1100 (rollcall vote 409); I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 67, "Veterans Outreach Improvement Act" (rollcall vote 410); I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 612, "Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act" (rollcall vote 411); I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1470, "Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act" (rollcall vote 412); I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2199 "Traumatic Brain Injury Health Enhancement and Long-Term Support Act" (rollcall vote 413); I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2239, "Early Access to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits Act" (rollcall vote 414).

I would have voted "aye" to order the previous question on H. Res. 427 (rollcall vote 415); I would have voted "aye" to approve H. Res. 427 (rollcall vote 416). I would have voted "aye" to order the previous question on H. Res. 438 (rollcall vote 417), and I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 438 (rollcall vote 418).

I would have voted "nay" on the Smith motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 2317 (rollcall vote 419); I would have voted "aye" on passage on H.R. 2317 (rollcall vote 420); I would have voted "aye" on the Conyers amendment to H.R. 2316 (rollcall vote 421); I would have voted "aye" on the Chabot motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 2318 (rollcall vote 422); I would have voted "aye" on passage on H.R. 2316 (rollcall vote 423).

Because of my strong support for important and necessary funding for VA health care; necessary assistance for the Gulf region and U.S. farmers, and my support for an increase in the minimum wage, I would have voted "aye" on House Amendment 1 to H.R. 2206, the fiscal year 2007 supplemental appropriations bill (rollcall vote 424). Because House

Amendment 2 to H.R. 2206 failed to provide reasonable accountability provisions to measure the Administration's Iraq policy, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 425.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KIRTI DESAI

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take the time to recognize the most recent achievement of an outstanding member of the New Jersey community, Mr. Kirti Desai. In a ceremony on Ellis Island on Saturday May 12, 2007, NECO presented Mr. Desai with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor recognizes individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds who have successfully maintained their cultural heritage and traditions while making outstanding achievements in their communities, personal lives, and professional endeavors. Since 1986 the Ellis Island Medal of Honor has been sponsored by NECO, a non-profit organization with a mission "to honor our diverse Past, to advocate for positive change in the Present, and to build strong leaders for the Future."

For over twenty years U.S. Presidents, artists, athletes, businessmen, entrepreneurs, and humanitarians have been recognized with this prestigious award. In receiving this award, Mr. Desai ranks among an impressive list of past medalist recipients ranging from former President Bill Clinton to famed athlete Muhammad Ali. With his own list of notable achievements, Mr. Desai is well deserved in finding a place among these outstanding Americans.

Mr. Kirti Desai, better known as Kenny, is the President, CEO, and founder of TAK Group of Companies. With a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, a hard-work ethic, and unstoppable determination, Mr. Desai built his business from the ground up. Mr. Desai continued to expand his business into a conglomerate encompassing an increasing number of markets, eventually forming TAK Construction, TAK International, TAK Realty and Investment Company, and Sycamore Manor.

While it is one thing to establish a business, it is quite another to receive continuous recognition for its quality and success. In this regard, Mr. Desai's companies have been recognized with the New York and New Jersey Port Authority's Construction Company of the Year Award and SBA Construction Award from Washington, D.C. under the Clinton Administration. Successful businesses such as these result from exceptional qualities of the individuals behind them.

As an active member of a number of various philanthropic organizations, Mr. Desai is as relentless in his commitment to his community as he is to his business companies. Somewhere between managing his business

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