

IN HONOR OF GRAYCE BOGDEN
NOTEBOOM ARNOLD

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to acknowledge the inspiring life of Grayce Bogden Noteboom Arnold, a woman who made great contributions to cultural development in my district and to the community of Patagonia, Arizona.

Grayce Bogden Noteboom Arnold arrived in Patagonia in 1976. Her route to Arizona from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, took her first to Guadalajara, Mexico, where her husband, John Patton Arnold, had been commissioned by Popular Mechanics and the American Automobile Association to publish the first motor tourist guide of Mexico in the mid-1950s. Mexican President Luis Echevarria later recognized this guide as opening "the gateway" to motorized travel in Mexico.

Grayce and John also built one of the first prototype house cars (recreational vehicles) by converting a 1949 Ford panel truck, nicknamed "La Tortuga". When they returned to the United States from Guadalajara, Grayce, John and their two children, John David and Elaine, settled in Nogales, Arizona. Subsequently, they moved to Tucson where Janie was born and John Senior passed away in 1972. During all this time Grayce had been developing her artistic talent. She took sand cast candle lessons from famed Tucson artist Ted DeGrazia.

In 1976, Grayce moved into the Miner's Old Home in Patagonia, which had been built in 1905 as the residence for the chief mine engineer Mr. McDonald. The house was in very poor condition and was extensively remodeled to provide living quarters and ultimately became home to Grayce's Gift and Candle Shop and Museum. Grayce's reputation as an artist and entrepreneur flourished. Her contributions include designing Patagonia's first 3 postcards and her civic involvement to promote Patagonia as a tourist destination. Over the years, her notable business contacts included film stars Faye Dunaway and Joanna Cassidy.

Visitors to Grayce's shop see immediately that it is more than a place of business. It is part museum, art gallery, and gift and candle shop. They also receive a personalized guided tour and explanation of the artistic renderings. The guest book contains entries from thousands of people from all walks of life from around the world who have left their names and cheerful comments about their visit. Grayce's artistic collection includes her award-winning sand cast candle dioramas. The Tree Spirit, Cocoon, Desert Storm and other creative masks are the centerpiece of her artistic creations. Two of the masks have been featured on postcards which she designed. One of Grayce's greatest sculptures is her rendition of a Tarahumara man in traditional dress squatting in contemplation. At Grayce's you will find unique southwestern arts, crafts from indigenous Mexican cultures including the Tarahumara, Yaqui, and Seri Indians.

People who knew Grayce are inspired that a person of her age was so full of life, physically active and ran her own business until age 97. Grayce would be the first to tell you that age is irrelevant as she did belly dancing,

remarried and launched her artistic career in her 60s. She always told her children to never stop dreaming, to be creative and to help others.

Grayce has been an inspiration to all of us. She stands as a wonderful example of the significant contributions that women in the west make to the cultural and economic development of our communities.

HONORING SSGT LLOYD LEE ELLIOTT, USAF 8TH AIR FORCE—34TH BOMB GROUP

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend SSgt Lloyd Lee Elliott, USAF of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for his service to the United States of America.

SSgt Lloyd Lee Elliott, USAF, distinguished himself in service to our country from August 13th, 1943, to October 15th, 1945. SSgt Lloyd Lee Elliott served as a tail-gunner on a B-17 Bomber completing 33 missions over Germany.

There are many paths which are set before us in life, many times paths which are not desirable to pursue. Answering the call of his country, this young man followed the path before him not knowing if it would lead him safely back home. Believing in the freedom of the United States and in defending our rights, Staff Sergeant Elliott distinguished himself in service to our country.

Each person who has served our country has many experiences which can be shared. We share today with Staff Sergeant Elliott our thanks and our gratitude for his service. He is one of many who have sacrificed; answering the call to make the United States of America what it is today.

Once again, I want to commend SSgt Lloyd Lee Elliott, USAF.

POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, this month I proudly join the thousands of Polish Americans living in Chicago in a celebration of Polish history, culture, and pride during Polish American Heritage Month.

This year, Polish Americans celebrate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Poles to America's first settlement in Jamestown, Virginia. The first five Polish settlers traveled to Jamestown aboard the English ship, the Mary and Margaret, at the invitation of Captain John Smith and the London Company. They arrived on October 1, 1608 and distinguished themselves as America's first tradesmen. Poles, alongside other ethnic groups, were among the pioneers who helped to establish this country as the land of hope and opportunity. Their work ethic helped create the foundations of modern America.

The celebration of this milestone coincides with another important historical landmark: the

90th anniversary of the reinstatement of Polish independence. In 1918, after 123 years of occupation and generations of struggle by the Polish people, Poland reappeared on the map of Europe after World War I.

The United States is grateful to Poland for its friendship and commitment to the democratic ideals of liberty and human rights. Poland is a strong ally of the United States, and I am dedicated to continuing the strong record of cultural and economic ties between our two nations.

My hometown of Chicago has a thriving and active Polish American community. Madam Speaker, I am honored to join the citizens of my district, as well as those of Polish descent around the country in recognizing, remembering, and celebrating Polish American Heritage Month.

CONGRATULATING PREVENT
BLINDNESS WISCONSIN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Prevent Blindness Wisconsin and to celebrate its 50th anniversary of service. Prevent Blindness is a non-profit, volunteer organization that has provided free vision screenings for over five million Wisconsin children and adults since 1958.

This year alone, Prevent Blindness Wisconsin recruited, trained, and certified nearly 2,000 volunteers who helped screen more than 220,000 children and 3,000 adults statewide. Through their hard work, they were able to help diagnose hundreds of children who suffered from significant vision abnormalities, which, left untreated, could have resulted in permanent vision loss.

Prevent Blindness has a wonderful history of helping children from families in need, at-risk adults, and the community to help screen, treat, and prevent vision problems from worsening. Their volunteers join together with local eye-care professionals to ensure that these children can get the treatment they need to protect their vision.

On behalf of all who have benefited from its efforts, I would like to thank Prevent Blindness Wisconsin for all of its work for children, adults, and families in Wisconsin. I congratulate Prevent Blindness Wisconsin on 50 years of service and wish everyone who makes their work possible a joyous anniversary celebration.

HONORING JEFF MILLER,
FOUNDER OF HONOR AIR

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeff Miller, a small business owner and son of a World War II veteran from Hendersonville, North Carolina. Mr. Miller is one of the founders of Honor Air, which enables hundreds of World War II veterans the chance to travel to Washington, DC to see the National

World War II Memorial that was built to honor the 16 million Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and Merchant Mariners who served our Nation during World War II.

With the strong belief that everything good in his life is because of these courageous veterans, Mr. Miller began a campaign to send every World War II veteran from Henderson County to Washington, DC to see the memorial, which opened in 2004. World War II veterans who had not already been to the memorial and had physical or financial limitations were offered the chance to take the trip. The community came together to raise the money to fund the project. Many community groups, businesses and individuals contributed to this project, allowing these brave veterans to travel to Washington to see the memorial that was built in their honor. Mr. Miller, the Honor Air volunteers and contributors have all given something back to those for whom the debt can never be repaid. By the time it makes its last flight, 625 veterans from Hendersonville, NC will have made the Honor Air trip.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in expressing my appreciation and admiration for Jeff Miller, who made it possible for so many of our veterans to have the opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial.

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT RESEARCH
INSTITUTE 30TH ANNIVERSARY—
TRIBUTE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, among the key areas of jurisdiction for the Education and Labor Committee are employee benefits—specifically, retirement and health benefits—that are so important to the economic security of American workers. Over the years, Congress has passed various laws designed to protect and strengthen the health and pension benefit programs that millions of American workers and retirees depend on.

Congress needs timely and objective data in order to determine and ensure that these critical programs are delivering needed benefits. When Government data is not available, one of the most valuable resources we have to help us understand what is happening in these areas is the nonpartisan and nonprofit Employee Benefit Research Institute, EBRI, which marks its 30th anniversary this year.

EBRI is a rare organization in Washington: It does not take policy positions and it does not lobby—its mission is to provide objective, accurate, reliable research. One of the reasons its work gets attention and is respected is because EBRI does not have an ideological agenda and it does not try to “spin” the numbers. Because EBRI is a non-advocacy organization, legislators on both sides of the aisle can use its work with confidence.

EBRI also has important educational initiatives, in particular its “Chose to Save” program, which has produced and distributed award-winning public service announcements designed to help Americans wake up to the need for saving. This campaign also provides

valuable tools so workers can quickly and easily determine a “Ballpark Estimate” of how much they need to save, and gives them pointers on how to start saving and where to go for help.

EBRI was created partly as a result of the enactment in 1974 of ERISA, the major Federal law governing health and retirement benefits, because employers needed objective, reliable information about benefit trends. Much has changed since then, both in the benefits that American workers receive, and in the Federal laws that govern those benefits. EBRI’s work has helped lawmakers, plan sponsors, workers, and the news media understand current trends and how proposed legislative changes are likely to affect the benefits system.

EBRI has been guided by Dallas Salisbury, its president and chief executive officer. Mr. Salisbury has been an important analyst and contributor to national public policy decision making on employee benefits. His thoughtful and often prescient analyses have aided lawmakers throughout the years.

EBRI’s research provides information that is critical to the decisions made by public policymakers. As EBRI celebrates its 30th anniversary, I want to thank them for decades of quality work. We look forward to their continued research and analysis in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF U.S. NAVY PETTY OFFICER
MATTHEW J. O’BRYANT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember the life and courageous service of United States Navy Petty Officer Third Class Matthew J. O’Byrant.

Petty Officer O’Byrant was killed in a terrorist attack at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, a cowardly act that claimed the lives of 53 people including two members of our country’s armed forces. Matthew was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from Islamabad.

A native of Theodore, AL, Matthew O’Byrant excelled in the ROTC program at Theodore High School and was assigned to Navy Information Operations Command at Fort Meade, MD, as a cryptologic technician.

As a cryptologic technician, Petty Officer O’Byrant was in charge of maintaining the advanced communications and technological equipment so vital to America’s success in 21st century warfare.

Petty Officer O’Byrant’s brother, along with two of his cousins, had enlisted to serve in the Navy. Coming from a Navy family, Petty Officer O’Byrant was deployed to Pakistan for only 30 days before the blast that took his life. At his funeral, Matthew’s brother, Lawrence, remembered him by saying, “There were four of us in the Navy. Well, there’s three of us now. I guess there will always be four of us because he will always be in the Navy.”

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take a moment to reflect upon the many things that have helped to make this the greatest country on the face of the planet. And to that end, we must acknowledge that soldiers, sail-

ors, airmen, and marines like Petty Officer O’Byrant deserve the highest praise for their unselfish service and, in this particular case, for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, I hope you and my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Petty Officer Matthew O’Byrant. We should also remember his wife, Bridgett O’Byrant; his parents, Barbara and Tommy O’Byrant; his two sisters, Janet O’Byrant and Nancy O’Byrant; his brother, Lawrence O’Byrant; and his other relatives and many friends.

Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

May Matthew rest in peace. He was without question a true American hero.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE
TERRY EVERETT ON
THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, TERRY came to the U.S. House of Representatives a successful businessman and is now heading back to Alabama as a successful congressman. No one doubts that TERRY knows the values of a hard day’s work. He’s been a farmer, an Air Force specialist, a small business owner and newsman. He served the people of Alabama’s second district, stretching from Autauga down to Dothan, for the last 16 years with that same work ethic, and they have benefited from his service.

TERRY came to Congress as an intelligence expert from his days in the Air Force and an agriculture expert from his days on the farm—skills he put to good use sitting on the Agriculture, Armed Services and Select Intelligence committees.

I’m going to miss TERRY when Congress reconvenes next year. The whole House will miss his work ethic, keen insight and ability to get things done. His retirement is a blow to those in Washington that know and rely on him, but if anyone deserves our thanks for a job well done it is certainly my friend and longtime colleague TERRY EVERETT.

AUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR THE
NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM LAW
INSTITUTE FOR VICTIMS UNDER
CRIME VICTIMS LEGAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS AS PART OF
THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT OF
1984

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3641, “A bill to authorize funding for the National Crime Victim Law Institute to provide support for victims of crime under Crime Victims Legal Assistance Programs as a part of the Victims of