EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GULFPORT, FLORIDA POLICE CHIEF G. CURT WILLOCKS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to G. Curt Willocks, the Police Chief of Gulfport, Florida, who retires after 18 years of service to the people of Gulfport and 38 years in law enforcement.

Chief Willocks was selected to lead the Gulfport Police Department in January 1991 and since then made his priority the development of modern professional standards in law enforcement. Under his leadership, the department earned state accreditation in 2000 and was re-accredited in 2003. He also led a department-wide effort to incorporate the newest technologies into the force's daily work. This includes bringing to Gulfport in-car, digital video recorders and computers.

Chief Willocks also worked hard to improve the process for selecting and training new officers, ensuring that all officers received training that exceeded the state's minimum requirements, and raising the education standards for applicants. More than one-third of all Gulfport officers have a bachelor's degree.

Before coming to Gulfport, Chief Willocks served for 20 years on the Boca Raton, Florida police force, retiring there as Deputy Chief. He has been active in many local and statewide law enforcement organizations, including serving as President of the Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Association, Chairman of the Pinellas County Police Standards Council, Director of the Florida Police Chief's Association, as a member of the Commission for Florida's Law Enforcement Accreditation, and on the Policy Board for the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute.

Madam Speaker, Chief Willocks has served our community and our state well. He has instilled pride and the highest standards in the officers who protect our residents, their families and their places of work with dedication and professionalism. It is my hope that my colleagues join me today in thanking Chief G. Curt Willocks for a job well done.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE MCAULIFFE-SHEPARD DISCOVERY CENTER

HON. PAUL W. HODES

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord, New Hampshire today on its official opening. The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center honors two of New Hampshire's pioneers—Christa McAuliffe, the winner of the NASA Teacher in Space Project, and Alan Shepard, the first American in space. The incredible courage and curiosity of these two Granite Staters allowed for them to reach for the stars.

Christa McAuliffe taught middle school and high school students at Rundlett Junior High, Bow Memorial Middle School, and Concord High School between 1978 and 1985. On July 19, 1985, she was selected from a field of roughly 11,000 applicants to participate in NASA's Teacher in Space Project. Christa McAuliffe's mission on the flight was to teach schoolchildren lessons from space, and to encourage students to pursue careers in science and mathematics. Sadly, in 1986, her life was cut tragically short in the *Challenger* disaster, but her legacy of teaching children is remembered by her quote, "I touch the future. I teach."

Christa McAuliffe's incredible commitment to teaching is being honored by the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center. This interactive center will be the first air and space center in New England. The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center honors her life as well as her dedication to education.

On May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard piloted the *Freedom 7* mission and became the first American to travel into space. Alan Shepard also commanded the *Apollo 14* mission, and was the fifth person to walk on the moon. Following his incredible work with NASA for over 13 years, he has been honored in many different ways including the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, two NASA Distinguished Service Medals, the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal, Naval Astronaut Wings, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center is another wonderful way to honor his service to our country.

I would also like to applaud the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center's dedication to green building and energy efficiency. According to the Department of Energy, buildings are responsible for 39% of U.S. carbon emissions per year and account for 39% of U.S. primary energy use. By incorporating natural lighting and energy efficient HVAC systems, the Center is helping decrease total carbon emission. It also highlights how important it is for all of us to preserve our energy, resources and planet.

The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center is a great opportunity for Concord and New Hampshire to have a facility that can be a national leader in introducing the next generation to space exploration and provide a valuable education resource to both students and teachers in science, math, engineering, and technology. Education is one of the best investments we can make for our children. It provides an increasingly important advantage in the workplace and helps our students to succeed in the 21st Century. Education, and science, math, engineering, and technology education in particular, should be within the reach of all children. The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center helps us towards that goal.

I am honored and humbled by the incredible legacy of these two astronauts from New Hampshire, and congratulate the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center on its grand opening.

A TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST AARON DRAKE SANDLIN

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Specialist Aaron Drake Sandlin, a constituent of the Sixth District of Georgia and one of the many Americans who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces with honor and valor.

MY SOLDIER—ONLY YESTERDAY

(By T. Maxwell Sandlin)

Only yesterday—the pregnancy test was positive
And your mom's face glowed
Then you were born healthy
And my pride showed—only yesterday.
Only yesterday—late feedings kept us up nights
And you ooed and cooed at Christmas lights,
As in your car seat you saw the sights—only yesterday.
Only yesterday—I snapped your picture
As you slept like a log;
With a little stuffed toy
Called Brownie Dog—only yesterday.
Only yesterday—selling popcorn for the Scouts
Day after day you went all out.
We shed a tear—the both of us,
As you got on that yellow bus—only yesterday.
Only yesterday—crayon artwork on refrigerator
Drawn by the masterpiece that I would later
Share with the nation in a cause greater;
But, we didn't know it then—only yesterday.
Only yesterday—along a river at a family camp
As you got to know cousins, uncles and aunts,
And those veteran uncles in the firelight glow,
Their WWII stories told—only yesterday.
Only yesterday—we faced the coming teenage years
With their pitfalls, trials and fears.
You grew so fast you stripped your gears—only yesterday!
Only yesterday—driving in your first used car,
The leash got longer
And you drove far
I saw you son as a rising star:
Becoming a man—only yesterday
Only yesterday—you were bringing us papers from Sunday School
And memorizing the Golden Rule.
Hiking these mountains and swimming in pools.
You can't be grown. . . . it was only yesterday!!