

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING PEBBLEBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an exceptional high school choir in my district, Pebblebrook High School Performing Arts Chamber Choir of Mabelton, Georgia, which has been chosen to perform at New York City's legendary Carnegie Hall on March 20, 2009.

Pebblebrook High School Performing Arts Chamber Choir was selected out of dozens of high school choirs across the country for this performance. The concert will feature 200 students from four states, and is the capstone of Carnegie Hall's yearlong National High School Choral Festival. The concert will be conducted by Dr. Craig Jessop, esteemed Director of the Utah State University Music Department and former director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, who has been working with the choirs and their conductors throughout the year. Apart from their world-renowned performances, Carnegie Hall brings innovative music education programs to students across the nation. I am delighted that these young constituents have been given this opportunity.

Led by George Case, the Pebblebrook High School Performing Arts Chamber Choir performs works from all periods of classical music with a strong emphasis on 20th- and 21st-century compositions with a focus on choral/orchestral masterworks. The Choir has shared the stage with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Cobb Symphony Orchestra, and has entered numerous competitions and adjudications at which they have consistently received superior ratings and awards. Choir members are actively involved in extracurricular performances and are given the opportunity to work with top professionals in the arts from the Atlanta area and throughout the United States.

I am honored to have one of the four schools in the nation chosen for the Carnegie Hall National High School Choral Festival residing in my Georgia district. They should be proud not only of their musical achievement, but their embodiment of the quality musical education the State of Georgia provides. I commend these students and their leaders for their success, and wish them the best of luck on March 20 when they perform at Carnegie Hall.

IN HONOR OF JUSTICE SEAN
RYAN; SUPREME COURT JUDGE
OF IRELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Justice Sean Ryan, High Court and Supreme Court Judge

of Ireland, as I welcome him to Cleveland, Ohio on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2009.

For the past thirty years, attorneys Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon have organized the St. Patrick's Day Party and Parade—a joyous event that brings people together in the heart of Cleveland. This treasured event promotes and preserves the rich traditions of their beloved Irish homeland. As in years past, downtown Cleveland will once again spring to life as a sea of green and the spirited sound of drums and bagpipes wind their way along Euclid Avenue. This enchanted day promises old friendships renewed, the discovery of new ones, and the spirit of all those joining together to celebrate Irish culture.

Justice Sean Ryan studied in Dublin at University College and at Dublin & King University where he studied law. After being called to the Bar in 1972, Justice Ryan practiced as junior counsel in the South Eastern Circuit of Ireland until 1983, when he was appointed to Senior Counsel. For the next twenty years, Justice Ryan worked diligently in Ireland's High Court and Supreme Court on a wide range of cases and issues, including constitutional law, law of torts, criminal law and administrative law. Since 2001, Justice Ryan has focused his energy and expertise on investigating cases of child abuse and working as an advocate for victims of child abuse.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Justice Sean Ryan, as we welcome him to Cleveland on St. Patrick's Day. Please also join me in recognition of Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon for organizing this wondrous St. Patrick's Day Celebration again this year, as they have for the past thirty years. “Ni dheanfaidh smaoineamh an treabhadh duit—You'll never plough a field by turning it over in your mind” Old Irish Proverb.

A TRIBUTE TO TRACYE RAWLS- MARTIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tracye Rawls-Martin, proud daughter of Henry Sr. and Shirley M. Rawls, wife of Arnold V “Woody” Martin, stepmother to Britt'ney D. Clarence and “Nana T” to Woody's oldest daughters' son, Charles Lovell 3rd.

Tracye Rawls-Martin, MS ATC is a Certified Athletic Trainer and one of 5 African American Athletic Training Education Program Directors in the United States. She is “mother”, advisor and professor to more than 16 Athletic Training Students within the BS/MS Degree Program in Athletic Training & Sports Sciences at Long Island University Brooklyn Campus. She began her academic career as a Dance Education major and progressed to a Pre-Physical Therapy major and fell in love with an Athletic

Training major. After completing two semesters in the Pre-Physical Therapy program at Kingsborough Community College, she decided it was time to move on to a more exciting and productive field—the field of Athletic Training and Sports Sciences. The field of Athletic Trainers was made for her because it is designed for Health Care Professionals who specialize in prevention, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses that occur to athletes and the physically active. All Certified Athletic Trainers must have at least a bachelor's degree in athletic training, which is an allied health profession, must pass a comprehensive exam before earning the ATC credential, must keep knowledge and skills current by participating in continuing education and must adhere to standards of professional practice set by a national certifying agency.

The combination of dance education & athletic performance was a winning combination for her personality because she loves helping people, teaching, watching and participating in sports. In addition to nurturing her students through academic requirements for the program, she has had the honor and privilege of working with over 1000 athletes worldwide; high school, junior college, division one collegiate athletes, semi professional and professional. Her current responsibilities as Director of Athletic Training Education Programs at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus include teaching (18 credit hours teaching a variety of sports medicine topics which include risk management, injury prevention, orthopedic examination & diagnosis, medical conditions and disabilities, acute care of injuries and illnesses, therapeutic modalities, conditioning, rehabilitation exercise and pharmacology, psychosocial intervention and referral, nutritional aspect of injuries and illnesses and health care administration), administrative (direct and administer BS/MS Degree Program and Advanced Master's Degree program in Athletic Training and Sports Sciences, maintain guidelines and standards set forth by the accrediting agency, work with the Clinical Coordinator to establish and maintain affiliations, conduct and publish research/scholarly activities in areas of expertise, advise students, develop and implement internal/external marketing strategies for the Athletic Training Education Programs, assist in the recruitment of faculty, continue to encourage good citizenship and professional conduct among all students and faculty so as to promote the best interest of athletic trainers, maintain continuing education credits, participate/coordinate and conduct committees within the Division, School of health Professions, the University and the Brooklyn Committee), service (active member with the local, regional and national athletic training organizations, Athletic Training Students Club/Members and Faculty noted on national website, Instructor for American Heart Association, Book reviewer for Lippincott Williams and Wilkin publishing company, participant in several health events for children, i.e. TEAM L.I.U.—Teenagers Educated About Asthma Management).

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

In addition, Tracye Rawls-Martin is an entrepreneur and a top executive for one of the world's largest direct selling telecommunications providers. On a part time basis she has reached the first earned executive position in the company. She is well on her way to helping hundreds and thousands of individuals achieve financial freedom and continue to live our their life long dreams whether it be to have more time with their families or to explore the beaches of the world.

Tracye will continue to pursue her passions and would like to contribute her success to the Lord, her family and her students. She will not rest until she has fulfilled her life's long mission—to take care of children of all ages, to feed them, clothe them, teach them and love them; in the end to develop a place they can call home and a place they can always return to a "University for Children."

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DETECTIVE LESTER J. NERI

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant in Chester County, Pennsylvania, who has retired after 33 years of loyal service in law enforcement.

Detective Lester J. Neri started his career in 1975 with the Springfield Township Police Department and faithfully served the Tredyffrin Township Police Department for the last 27 years.

Detective Neri earned the respect of fellow officers and supervisors with his outstanding leadership and analytical skills over the course of his distinguished career.

He has been a tremendous asset to the department due to his wide range of skills, including crisis negotiations, homicide investigations, undercover investigative techniques and fingerprint processing.

Despite retiring in December, Detective Neri continues to serve the 42,000 men and women who pin on a badge each day in his position as State President of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Order of Police.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the outstanding service and dedication of Detective Lester J. Neri, and all those who take an oath to serve and protect their communities.

TRIBUTE TO THE GERMANTOWN BULLDOGS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a championship team from Germantown, Illinois.

The Germantown Bulldogs beat Mt. Vernon-St. Mary 35–32 to clinch the 2009 Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association Class S state championship. The Bulldogs brought home the trophy after finishing the season with a stellar 28–1 record.

To win the title, the Bulldogs built an early lead, then had to hold off an intense second-half rally, but they showed poise under pressure, and held on to get the win.

I want to congratulate Coach Gerard Alpers and his assistant coach, Jeff Lampe, on their fine work with this group of student athletes. I also want to extend my congratulations to the members of the 2008–2009 Germantown Bulldogs state championship boys basketball team: Seth Haake, Nick Hitpas, Jalen Albers, Drew Foppe, Grant Haake, Kevin Haar, Kyle Kohnen, Brandon Becker, Mitchell Langenhorst, Christian Kohnen, Kyler Scheer, Jordan Lampe and Travis Wuebbels.

This outstanding group of young men represented themselves, their school, families and community in a first-rate fashion. It is my privilege to congratulate them on a job well done.

RECOGNIZING PLIGHT OF TIBETAN PEOPLE ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DALAI LAMA'S EXILE

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, a wave of protests began in Lhasa and swept across the Tibetan Plateau. In the time since, the Chinese government has pursued policies that demonstrate a failure to live up to its commitments to its ethnic minority citizens—commitments that are well-documented and unmistakable. Chinese law includes protections for the distinctive culture, language and identity of ethnic minority citizens. China's Regional Ethnic Autonomy Law, for example, guarantees ethnic minorities the "right to administer their internal affairs." Specifically, the term "regional ethnic autonomy," as the law itself defines it, "reflects the state's full respect for ethnic minorities' right to administer their internal affairs." Over the past year, the actions of the Chinese government have reflected neither "the state's full respect" of ethnic minority rights, nor of human rights standards recognized in both Chinese and international law.

On January 19, 2009, the People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region established a new holiday called "Serfs' Emancipation Day." As the Congressional-Executive Commission on China has reported, this new holiday commemorates the March 28, 1959, Chinese government decree that dissolved the Dalai Lama's Lhasa-based Tibetan government. The Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region People's Congress said the new holiday would "strengthen Tibetans' patriotism." He also said that officials had met to "ensure that all people mark the occasion with festivities." Chinese officials have required Tibetans to celebrate the end of the Dalai Lama's government, and, by implication, his departure from Tibet fifty years ago. This is how the Chinese government demonstrates its commitment to "the state's full respect for ethnic minorities' right to administer their internal affairs."

For the last several weeks, international media organizations have reported that Chinese authorities have been closing Tibetan

areas to foreign reporters and travelers. Last month, China's Central Propaganda Bureau and State Ethnic Affairs Commission publicized a document titled "An Outline Concerning Propaganda Education on the Party and State's Ethnic Policy." As the Congressional-Executive Commission on China has reported, this document calls for resisting "international hostile forces raising the banner of such things as 'ethnicity,' 'religion,' and 'human rights' to carry out westernization and separatist activities toward our country." Let us be absolutely clear: Tibetan grievances exist not as a result of foreign influence. Tibetan grievances exist for one reason and one reason only: in spite of what the Chinese government has written in its laws, in practice it has created an ethnic autonomy system that denies fundamental rights to ethnic minorities. This could not be clearer than it has become over the last year.

The time for change is now. I repeat today what I stated in this chamber nearly one year ago: protest activity that results in the destruction of property or death of anyone, whether Tibetan or non-Tibetan, is unacceptable in any context. But the harshness with which the Chinese government has handled affairs over the last year across the Tibetan plateau and in other ethnic minority regions of China—harshness that Chinese officials have sought to justify as being necessary to preserve stability—has revealed instead a level of hostility toward China's ethnic minority citizens not seen in decades, and has heightened fears for Tibetans, Uyghurs, and other ethnic minority peoples in China.

The Congressional-Executive Commission on China has tracked policies that undercut protections for ethnic minority languages that are stipulated in Chinese law. Measures to promote Mandarin-focused "bilingual" education in schools in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, for example, have resulted in language requirements that disadvantage ethnic minority teachers. These and other job hiring and labor practices are part of a broader set of policies that restrict ethnic minority rights, and that illustrate the Chinese government's failure to abide by commitments as set forth in China's own Constitution and laws. Article 4 of the Chinese Constitution and Article 9 of China's Regional Ethnic Autonomy Law, for example, both forbid discrimination based on ethnicity. Article 12 of China's Labor Law and Article 3 of China's new Employment Promotion Law state that job applicants shall not face discrimination in job hiring based on factors including ethnicity, and Article 28 of China's new Employment Contract Law states that all ethnicities enjoy equal labor rights.

The Chinese government seems to protect some aspects of ethnic minority rights in communities that are not perceived to challenge state policies. But shortcomings in both the substance and the implementation of Chinese policies toward ethnic minorities prevent ethnic minority citizens from fully enjoying the rights that the Chinese government itself plainly and openly has said are guaranteed under China's own laws, and under international legal standards. A wide range of public policy areas today present challenges that are pressing and real, but concerns in other policy areas do not eclipse the Chinese government's abuses of law and its ongoing violations of the fundamental rights of Tibetans, Uyghurs and other ethnic minority citizens of China, and of Han Chinese citizens as well.