

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF GEORGE H. MCCOY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride as we commemorate the 65th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy, I rise to celebrate the extraordinary service of World War II veteran George H. McCoy.

On June 6, 1944 George, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, and countless other veterans of the Normandy campaign, demonstrated their remarkable courage and devotion to the great cause of freedom.

In recognition of his selfless service, the President of the French Republic awarded George McCoy the "Chevalier" rank of the Legion of Honor, equivalent to knighthood, the highest decoration assigned by the Legion.

The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by person of "eminent merit" in military or civil life.

To this day George continues his camaraderie with America's bravest through his membership in the West Seneca American Legion Post #735, Amvets Post #8113, and the Harvey D. Morin VFW Post #2940.

Just as France has recognized Mr. McCoy's exceptional service, acknowledgement it is fitting and appropriate from this good and grateful nation.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to honor George McCoy, a man who with courage and humility has contributed to the liberties we are so fortunate to enjoy. George's bravery is admirable and inspiring and I am pleased to acknowledge his service on this, the 65th Anniversary of Normandy's invasion.

RECOGNITION OF LA CHATELAINES VETERAN'S DAY SALUTE ON D-DAY

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stan and Gigi Wielezynski on the 65th anniversary of D-Day. Stan, a native of Normandy, France, and his wife Gigi have never forgotten the courage and sacrifice of the Americans who liberated France from Nazi occupation during World War II. They are the owners of several Columbus area restaurants named La Chatelaine. For fifteen years, in order to express their gratitude and to recognize the U.S. Allied Forces involved in the invasion on the shores of Normandy, Stan and Gigi Wielezynski have opened their doors to World War II veterans and offered them a complimentary French meal.

The Wielezynskis take great pride in this event by having their employees come to work dressed in military apparel, carrying authentic World War II helmets, and celebrating with flag-shaped cakes and music of the 1940s. Additionally, they decorate the restaurant with jeeps, parachutes, and other World War II memorabilia.

Recently, the couple received a letter from Marion Gray, an 83-year-old veteran from the 29th Infantry, stating that his one dream was to say a final goodbye to the friends he lost in Normandy. Marion had been working as a bagger at the local store to save money for his trip. However, upon receipt of the letter, the Wielezynskis generously donated an entire weeklong all-expense paid trip to Normandy for Marion and his wife Ruth.

Madam Speaker, on this 65th anniversary of D-Day, I would like to commend Stan and Gigi Wielezynski for their enormous generosity to the Grays as well as the hundreds of other World War II veterans and for their love of their adopted country.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES PROGRAM AND THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT (LSTA)

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of an issue which affects the educational well-being of each of us, and in particular, our children — funding for federal library programs, particularly the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

As you may know, research has shown that students in schools with well-stocked libraries and highly qualified, state-certified school librarians have higher levels of academic achievement than students who do not have the same benefits. Furthermore, many school libraries have become sophisticated 21st century learning environments, offering a full range of print and electronic resources, but today only 60 percent of school libraries have full-time, state-certified school library media specialists on staff. Unfortunately, due to the constraints that school administrators must confront when faced with limited resources, library resource budgets are often utilized to make up for shortfalls in other areas.

To remedy this situation, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) authorized funding for libraries through the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program. While the purpose of the program was primarily to encourage reading and improve literacy, it also allocated funding for acquiring up-to-date school library media resources, acquiring and using advanced technology, facilitating Internet

links and other resource sharing networks among schools and libraries, providing professional development for school library media specialists, and providing students with access to school libraries during nonschool hours. In recognizing the tremendous benefits of library and research technology, the inclusion of this important provision in NCLB represented a significant step towards the creation of a truly 21st century education system. Unfortunately, like many provisions of NCLB, this initiative has been underfunded.

As you may also be aware, state libraries rely greatly on the funds provided through LSTA, which is the only federal program devoted exclusively to libraries, to support statewide initiatives and provide funds to public, school, academic, research, and special libraries through subgrants. The requirement of a state match also helps stimulate additional investment in the program, as approximately three to four state and local dollars are invested for every one federal dollar.

I have long been a strong supporter of funding for library programs, particularly the LSTA state program and the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program, because of the educational opportunities that these programs help provide and the important role that they play in expanding access to information resources and services for learning in all types of libraries for individuals of all ages. I would respectfully encourage my colleagues in the House to work together in a bipartisan manner to see that, as the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations process moves forward, federal library programs receive the support they need to continue helping state and local library programs maintain a high level of quality and service.

RECOGNIZING OF THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK OF THE USS "LIBERTY"

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on June 8, 1967, the USS *Liberty* was patrolling the waters of the Mediterranean when Israeli planes and torpedo boats attacked the ship. I rise today to pay a special tribute to those who lost their lives and the survivors of this attack on the 42nd Anniversary.

Shortly before the Six-Day War began, the USS *Liberty* was ordered to proceed to the eastern Mediterranean to perform an electronic intelligence collection mission. On June 8th, air and naval forces of Israel attacked the ship without warning.

Of a crew of 294 officers and men the ship suffered 34 killed in action and 173 wounded in action. The ship itself, a \$40 million state-of-the-art signals intelligence platform, was so badly damaged that it never sailed on an operational mission again and was sold in

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