

Jennifer Roberts, generalist/early childhood, West Gate Elementary School;

Connie Schumacher, social studies-history/early adolescence, Stonewall Middle School;

Judy Swank, library media/early childhood through young adulthood, Swans Creek Elementary School;

Laura Whitman, English as a second language/early adolescence through young adulthood, Potomac High School.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending these teachers for their commitment to education and professional development. Prince William County Public Schools delivers a world class education with the help of teachers like these who make excellence a system-wide standard.

MARINE CORPORAL NICHOLAS
UZENSKI

HON. SCOTT MURPHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the solemn duty to report the tragic passing of Marine Cpl Nicholas Uzenski. Corporal Uzenski was taken from us on January 11, 2010, in an ambush by insurgents in Southern Afghanistan.

Corporal Uzenski was a member of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, Bravo Company, based in Okinawa, Japan. A beloved son, grandson, brother, friend, and soldier, Corporal Uzenski will be sorely missed by the entire Franklin community, and a grateful nation whose freedom he fought to protect.

Just 21 years old, Corporal Uzenski followed in the footsteps of his father and uncle in joining the Marines. It was his lifelong dream to serve the nation he loved and defend the ideals for which he gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Corporal Uzenski is survived by his mother Lisa, his father William, stepmother Rebakah, and six siblings. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Uzenski family during this difficult time.

As we stand on this floor and debate the important issues of our time, let us never forget the true cost of the freedoms that we so often take for granted.

HONORING WILLIE BRANDON ON A
LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Willie Brandon, an admired and respected citizen of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, who lived and worked up until the age of 103. My hometown was saddened by Willie's passing on January 5, 2010.

He was known for his kind heart, his wealth of knowledge, and his optimistic outlook on life. People said he would brighten their day just by talking with him for a few minutes. He expressed his admiration of Murfreesboro by knowing its history backward and forward, and

his wisdom was conveyed through his past experiences and stories. Willie was considered a role model and friend to many.

He began his life in Readyville, Tennessee, with his parents, Charles and Jimmie Brandon, and his sister, Lizzie. His parents were sharecroppers, but his father became a janitor when they moved to Illinois. At the age of 12, Willie dropped out of school to work and help support the family.

For the next 91 years, Willie never quit working. He worked as a cook at the James K. Polk Hotel, City Café, Sewart Air Force Base, Lamb's Grill, and Po Folks Restaurant. He also picked blackberries, cut timber, and mowed grass. Willie took pride in his work, and his dedication was an inspiration to his coworkers.

Over the last 30 years of his life, Willie was the keeper of the Rutherford County courthouse, a historical place many people pass through for business or sight-seeing. Willie could tell very personal stories about the courthouse and his family's history—150 years ago, his own grandfather, a slave, helped to build the courthouse and was later sold there.

Willie's legacy lives on through his daughter, stepson, three granddaughters, two great-granddaughters and one great-great granddaughter. Supporting them through his continued employment is a testament to how much he loved them.

Willie Brandon's life had a significant impact on everyone he met. He lifted their spirits, shared his wisdom, and gave them hope. He will always be remembered as an institution in Rutherford County and a luminary to all of his friends and family.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF DAWN PHILLIPS-HERTZ, GEN-
ERAL COUNSEL TO THE MICHIGAN
PRESS ASSOCIATION

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to recognize the retirement of Dawn Phillips-Hertz.

Dawn has served as General Counsel to the Michigan Press Association for nearly 30 years, offering free legal advice to anybody from the more than 300 newspapers in Michigan, including those located within Michigan's Second Congressional District.

Journalists throughout the state admired her for gracefully offering a hotline to answer tough questions with thoughtful and accurate answers to any number of open government questions.

She was committed to the cause of freedom of the press, and was a staunch advocate and aggressive defender of it.

Her knowledge of the Freedom of Information Act and all laws pertaining to open government meetings helped countless reporters, editors and publishers to fulfill their duty of providing citizens with information necessary for them to know the activities of their elected representatives and other government officials.

She helped countless editors and reporters from committing troublesome mistakes whenever it was necessary, fully understanding at times intense deadline pressure.

She also helped elected officials understand potential pitfalls in introducing or voting upon legislation that would impact the public's right to know.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Phillips-Hertz on her retirement following a successful career in supporting journalism endeavors in Michigan.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
NOVATO

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with pleasure today to congratulate the City of Novato, California, on the fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation.

Novatans are rightfully proud of their community, which has tripled in size since its founding without losing the warm, small-town atmosphere that makes it a charming place to live. As the city has grown from an agricultural settlement to a destination in its own right, residents have kept their focus on the qualities that make Novato unique—strong sense of community, attachment to the natural surroundings, and an appreciation of the region's vibrant and diverse history.

Indeed, the history of Novato long predates its formal establishment half a century ago. Hundreds of years before the arrival of the Spanish, the Coast Miwok inhabited the area around Novato, valuing it for many of the same reasons that Novatans do today. The city's warm summers, tranquil hills, and fertile soil make it a unique corner of Marin County.

Early European settlers realized this as well, and Novato quickly became the site of some of Alta California's early Mexican land grants, including the 1839 Rancho Novato grant that later gave the city its name. It was also during this time that another Novato rancho became one of the first in the region to experiment with growing wine grapes, an industry that has since contributed so much to the identity and economy of our region. After California joined the United States, Novato grew into a more diverse agricultural hub, attracting Portuguese and Swiss-Italian pioneers to farm the land.

Since the 1930's, however, Novato has had to adapt to dramatic changes. During the Great Depression, as local farms struggled to survive, construction began on what would become Hamilton Air Force Base. The Base served as a critical center for defense and pilot training on the Pacific Coast, both during and after the Second World War. The city subsequently began a process of rapid development, attracting tens of thousands of new residents.

In face of this change, Novatans chose to incorporate in 1960 (with 72 percent of voters in favor) in order to take control over their collective future. They adopted their first General Plan in 1966 and have worked together ever since to maintain what matters to them. For instance, many of the structures that arose in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are preserved in modern Novato as a treasured part of the community's heritage. The downtown area, first subdivided in 1888, still recalls its original spirit as a rural outpost far removed from the cares of urban life.