

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO ALEX KAPITANSKI,  
THE FLAG MAN OF OCEANSIDE

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent whose efforts have touched thousands of Americans over the last seven decades. Mr. Alex Kapitanski, more commonly known as "The Flag Man," recently passed away on February 17, 2010. Mr. Kapitanski holds a great legacy not only in my district of California, but across the United States.

A fixture at civic events, Mr. Kapitanski embodied love of country with his passion in providing American and state flags for display at thousands of events from school graduations, to parades, to countless military services. A resident of Oceanside since 1950, Mr. Kapitanski once estimated that he provided flags to more than 37,000 events and hung more than 3.5 million flags. He once said, "I'll probably die with a flag in my hand."

His unwavering patriotism and commitment to his purpose has been recognized by presidents, generals and even Pope John Paul II. Just recently, Mr. Kapitanski, was honored in a special Presidents Day salute at the Oceanside Public Library and presented a proclamation from Oceanside Mayor Jim Wood with a film tribute and of course, plenty of flags on display.

Born on March 23, 1923, in West Rutland, Vermont, Mr. Kapitanski carried the spirit of the American flag from his early youth. His inspiration to begin collecting flags came from watching the superior conduct and community involvement of the legionnaires. At age 11, he hung his first flags by decorating the American Legion Post in his home town.

Mr. Kapitanski loved his country and served it with distinction at many levels. As a combat photographer during World War II, his primary mission was to go behind enemy lines to photograph enemy positions and gun emplacements. The military newspaper "Stars & Stripes" once featured a photo of him bringing in a German soldier he had captured behind the lines while photographing a position in Normandy. The photo was sent by wire service to nearly every newspaper in the United States and beyond. During this time, Mr. Kapitanski received numerous commendations and awards for his heroism including a Silver Star from General Dwight D. Eisenhower and a Bronze Star from General Courtney H. Hodges.

With a passion to teach the meaning and significance of our nation's flags to area youth, Mr. Kapitanski's work truly came from the heart. Although he is no longer with us, his spirit will live on in the youth he determinedly sought to inspire. In a 2007 interview he said, "My goal is to motivate the younger generation to preserve our freedom." He will certainly be remembered for his devotion to his work,

his strength of character, and his steadfast efforts to pass on his love of country and patriotism to upcoming generations.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to go to the Kapitanski family who will take up their father's cause to honor his memory. He is survived by four sons, Alex of Carlsbad, and Edwin, Albert and Allen of Oceanside; a daughter, Emilyann Ransom of Oceanside, and eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in paying tribute to the Flag Man, Mr. Alex Kapitanski, who will surely live as a symbol of the great work that can be done when we strive to achieve. He will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and the many Americans he inspired over his long and rich life.

IN HONOR OF THE SOUTHERN  
CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CON-  
FERENCE

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to rise today to honor the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) for their meaningful work and the imprint the organization has made on our nation. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference has a rich history and has played an important role throughout America's Civil Rights Movement.

The work of the SCLC is based on the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The SCLC ensures that his dream continues to come true across the nation. In Virginia's First Congressional District, Gloucester County is home to Holly Knoll, a true American treasure. Just recently I visited Holly Knoll, which is not only the birthplace of the United Negro College Fund, but is also the site of a giant 400 year-old Oak tree where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. penned his famous "I Have a Dream Speech." This groundbreaking speech was written to spark American drive and passion in order to overcome the struggle of freedom and equality for all of our nation's citizens.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was president of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) from 1957 to 1968, a precursor to the SCLC. At its first convention in Montgomery, AL in August 1957, the Southern Leadership Conference became the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The SCLC has perpetuated Dr. King's mission through their advocacy on education, leadership, voter registration, and civil rights issues.

Dr. King's dream is made a reality by the great efforts of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The hope for equality for children of all races, creeds, and backgrounds is a struggle which endures and one that the SCLC addresses by their continued work and faithfulness.

Dr. King challenged the nation on August 28, 1963 when he stated in his speech "We can never be satisfied." He also said, "My friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

Today I am honored to recognize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the collective efforts of its leadership and volunteers to make certain Dr. King's dream is a reality across the nation and throughout the world.

RECOGNITION OF ELFORD, INC.  
FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. MARY JO KILROY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elford, Inc. for a century of dedicated service to the Columbus area. Elford has remained true to its core values of integrity, consistency, and responsibility, while providing first-rate construction services to businesses, hospitals, schools, and other organizations throughout central Ohio.

In 1910, Edward "Pop" Elford founded Elford, Inc. with the goal of providing honest, high-quality service through dedicated construction professionals. One hundred years later, Elford has grown to over 200 employees while staying true to its roots by building lasting relationships through expert advice and guidance on each of their projects. The company's commitment to excellence has been recognized with numerous awards and honors including the City of Columbus EOC Prime Contractor of the Year, the Governor's Award for Excellence, the Association of General Contractors Build Ohio Award, and the American Subcontractors Association Outstanding Contractor Award.

In addition to providing superior project planning, general contracting, and building management services, Elford, Inc. has committed itself to improving the surrounding community. The company donates generously to many charitable and community-building organizations and the Elford employees carry on the values of this century-old construction company by donating their time to various causes including the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, local hospitals and health centers, Hospice, the Rotary Club of Columbus, and local teams and clubs that benefit Columbus' youth. Elford also strives to promote diversity within their business and partners with and mentors local minority and women-owned businesses.

For 100 years, the honesty, dedication, and commitment to excellence that characterized "Pop" Elford has carried on through the high-

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