

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. SAMUEL OGNIBENE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Samuel Ognibene. Mr. Ognibene served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Ellicott Town Justice.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Ognibene served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Ognibene is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to him today.

HONORING K-12 EDUCATORS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the 10,000 school teachers in Southern Arizona, and for K-12 teachers across the Nation. I am honored to stand up here today, during National Teacher Appreciation Week, to recognize how tirelessly these men and women work to educate all of our children.

We have an organization in Southern Arizona that works every day to remind everyone of just how much K-12 teachers contribute to the economic and societal well-being of all of our communities. Tucson Values Teachers is not quite 2 years old, but it has made great strides in getting the word out about the value of teachers. And more than that, the organization has been working very hard to ease the economic burden so many of our teachers face in trying to raise families on salaries that are too small.

During this week, we all need to stop and think about how much more we need to do to support our K-12 teachers. More than 50% of all beginning teachers leave the profession within the first five years. Salary is one part of the problem, but the lack of support, mentoring and adequate classroom supplies and assistance are also critical factors.

It is time for our Nation to elevate the teaching profession to new levels of respect and remuneration. Teachers literally hold our future in their hands—they are the ones who, every day, stand in front of our children, working hard to instill in each one of them the knowl-

edge, curiosity and commitment to community that they will need to become our future leaders.

Let's get behind our teachers—let's follow the lead of Tucson Values Teachers. Let's all work together toward an America that Values Teachers. When teachers are paid and revered as much as our top athletes, we will live in a nation that leads all others in innovation, creativity and achievement.

ARNOLD JOHN JACOBS

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr. Arnold John Jacobs, of Forked River, NJ, for his dedicated and tireless service to the United States of America. For his heroism during WWII, Mr. Jacobs is rightfully being honored with the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation Badge and the Philippine Liberation Medal on May 8, 2010.

Mr. Jacobs was born in Philadelphia in 1918 and enlisted in the United States Navy at the age of 17. For the next few years, he honorably served aboard the USS *Nitro* and the USS *Davis* (DD-395). In November 1942, he put the USS *Phillip* (DD-498) into commission and served throughout WWII until receiving an honorable discharge in November 1945. As an active member of Squadron #22, he participated in 23 offensive operations in 26 months during the war and helped in the Philippine liberation campaign.

We, as a nation, are indebted to Mr. Arnold John Jacobs for his honorable service and for the sacrifices he made in protecting our country. I am proud to honor him today and hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating this honorable man for his outstanding contributions to the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAUL REUTER

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a recently departed constituent, Mr. Paul Reuter, a proud WWII veteran, family man and kind soul well thought of by all who knew him.

Born in 1920 in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, Paul enlisted in the Army Air Corps right out of high school, serving as a radio operator on B-18 and B-17 aircraft. He was soon transferred to the 14th Bomb Squadron located in the Philippine Islands. When the Japanese

bombed the Philippines after Pearl Harbor, Mr. Reuter and his fellow soldiers at Clark Air Field were captured and forced to take part in the infamous Bataan Death March across the island as prisoners of war. They spent five weeks in the notorious Tabayas Road detail during which an estimated 18,000 men died while being forced to cut a road through the mosquito and snake infested jungle with little food, rest or water.

After Bataan, Mr. Reuter spent over three years in Japanese prison camps, forced to perform slave labor in Japan's Seitetsu Steel Plant. Upon his liberation on September 9, 1945, shortly after the bombing of Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, Mr. Reuter weighed a mere 90 pounds. He credited his ability to avoid starvation due to growing up during the Depression. Nothing his captors fed him, which included bug infested rice, was too rich for his pallet. Through this dark time, his deep religious convictions, love of country and desire to be reunited with his family kept him mentally strong, if not physically.

Even after such sacrifice, Mr. Reuter's passion to serve and protect his country remained undiminished. He would go on to serve in the military for 15 more years, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant. In 1960, he hung up his fatigues for good, but shortly thereafter joined NASA. A strong believer in the value of an education, Paul went to school at night to earn his associates degree in Applied Science, a path he likely would have taken earlier but for the war. At NASA, Mr. Reuter got a front row seat for history and one of America's proudest moments, serving as part of the team that helped put the first man on the moon.

Following his retirement from NASA, after 40 years of government service, Paul turned his focus to helping his fellow veterans, the "Battling Bastards of Bataan." He served as an officer with the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, an organization which fought for Bataan veterans' rights and sought to serve as a reminder that "the precepts of courage, devotion to duty and sacrifice displayed by the men and women of Bataan, both Filipino and American, have not and will not become outmoded." In the 1980's, Paul received his long overdue Bronze Star for combat, along with a Purple Heart.

Over the years, Mr. Reuter has been quoted extensively in books, interviewed on television and participated in any number of history specials recalling his wartime experiences.

A dedicated husband and father, he and his wife Nickolena were married 62 years until her passing in 2008. They were proud parents to five children, grandparents to 12 grandchildren, and Paul was about to be blessed with his fourth great grandchild.

Mr. Reuter left us on April 16, 2010 at the age of 89. He was a man who lived enough for five men, never forgetting to show appreciation for those around him, dedicated to the common good for all.

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