

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STUDENT FEELINGS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I recently hosted at the Capitol a group of extraordinary students from Heritage Middle School located in my District in Maryville, Tennessee.

The very first time I visited the U.S. Capitol was as part of a school trip, and I know how impressionable such an experience can be to young people.

Following their visit, the students were asked by their teacher, Patricia Russell, to write a report on how their feelings about the Nation have changed since visiting Washington.

I encourage my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to read these very impressive essays.

“FREEDOM IS NOT FREE”

(By Lindsey Basham)

It always pains me to see people talk about how hard they have it. But in reality, a homeless person in America would be a middle-classed person in a third-world country. We take for granted all that we have, and the most important thing would be freedom. The only reason we have this freedom is because of our soldiers sacrificing their lives for ours. But where would we be without a leader? My personal favorite President is Abraham Lincoln because he was the only president out of sixteen at the time to do something about the most remorseful action America ever did—slavery. Because of these two reasons, I liked the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, and WWII Memorial the best.

There are many people who would rather others like them instead of sticking out of the crowd, but those people do not have what it takes to run one of the most powerful countries in the world. President Abraham Lincoln did though, and one of the noblest things this man ever did was create the Emancipation Proclamation. Even against half the country, he freed the slaves of the south once and for all. He said that a house divided against itself will not stand, yet he took an enormous risk with the Proclamation making the southern states angry. Lincoln believed that owning another human being went against the Declaration of Independence and he was not going to sit back and watch inhumanity happen to such innocence. Sadly, the sixteenth president of the United States was assassinated in a movie theater by a man named John Wilkes Booth. Even so, the legend of this famous president lives on in one of my favorite memorials in the USA capitol today.

Small children learn to count to one hundred, but many times they will trip up on the numbers afterward. Later on, they will have the skill to make to one thousand, but then again, they might mess up on their correct numbers after that high number. At around the age of ten, a person can count as high as he or she wishes, but the problem is pa-

tience. Even the most patient person will get bored after around ten thousand. The number 58,267 may seem like an ordinary, random number—a number higher than most of us are willing to count—but that number is the exact number of people who are commemorated on the Vietnam Memorial. That is a number that makes me appreciate being an American because I think about those people who fought for what we all take advantage of. The moment that precious freedom is taken away from us, we will regret being so easy going about it. “Freedom is not free” as said on the Korean War Memorial, is very scary at how true that statement is. Tens of thousands of people have died in each and every war our nation has endured and they knew what was bound to happen. It is only common sense that these people would be honored.

Four-thousand stars all representing one-hundred soldiers is one of the key things I saw at the World War II Memorial. On the day the Japanese planes flew over Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was a devastating day in American history. This was the day our country was launched into the Second World War. So many, many people fought and died during the years that followed the day of Pearl Harbor. As every war is, this war was as bloody as any and it makes me feel that there is a place for every single one of us. Some were destined to make that journey for the rest of us. And for all we know, a person who nobody has ever heard of could have cost us the winning of the war. Every person who is honored in those fountains and stars had a big role in a big part of history and deserve to be in one of the major memorials in Washington, D.C.

After all I have seen, I have come to appreciate the delicate balance of power and freedom our country has perfected. But I will always remember that freedom is not free, and sometimes it takes a noble person to stand up for man’s natural born freedom, and sometimes it takes more. Sometimes many lives are lost and much blood is shed on the soil. But, even though we are sometimes forced to do this, that does not mean we cannot commemorate these brave men, women, and—in my opinion—the best president this country has seen yet. Therefore, it seemed necessary to create the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, and World War II Memorial. I have come to love this country even more so than I already did.

DC TRIP ESSAY

(By Mackenzie Kindig)

“How has your appreciation of your American Heritage increased by taking this trip?” Many answers fill my mind as I read this question, and many experiences come to mind as well. But three places that have made me appreciate my country more is the Holocaust Museum, the Capitol Building, and Mt. Vernon.

The Holocaust Museum is truly a moving place to visit. Considering the Holocaust is my favorite period in history to learn about, I truly appreciated this museum and it’s contents. Reading and seeing all the exhibits at this museum made me realize how lucky I am to be an American. While a few times I cried, I was recognizing how well off we all are to be living in the United States. All of those 11 million people suffered, but we learned from it. I know our country and gov-

ernment would never let something that horrible happen to their American citizens. Also, the Holocaust is a very important topic to history, and this museum portrays it perfectly and is a great learning experience, especially to 8th graders.

The Capitol Building was among the first places we visited. The beautiful architecture is just a plus, and meeting so many important people that work for the country is truly an honor. Seeing the Capitol Building and knowing more in depth how our government works has increased my appreciation for our country, because I know in places like Egypt and Iraq they are not nearly as lucky as us to have a well organized government. I enjoyed meeting Representative Duncan and knowing the people of east Tennessee are in good hands. As well as the government, the Capitol Building contains beautiful paintings and honorable sculptures from all states.

Mt. Vernon was home to our first president, which alone is a great honor to be able to visit. But also it was built in the 1700s. I love the architecture and layout of the house, as well as the estate itself with the gardens and slave quarters. George Washington was an amazing president, and to be allowed to step into his personal home that he actually lived in is breathtaking. Mt. Vernon not only increased my appreciation of our country, but also our technology and government. Experiencing George Washington’s burial site brought tears to my eyes, because I feel closer to him in a way of seeing his home. I appreciate Mr. Washington because he was our first president, and a very amazing one at that. Mt. Vernon also shows Americans how citizens lived in the 1700s, and I believe that is a tremendously important experience.

Washington DC has increased my appreciation of being an American citizen because of the Holocaust Museum, the Capitol Building, and Mt. Vernon. DC is a very educational trip that I believe everyone should experience at least once.

DC ESSAY

(By Garrett Headrick)

After going on the trip to Washington DC my appreciation of my American heritage has increased. The World War II, Vietnam War, and Lincoln memorial has made an impact on me the most.

Firstly, I was moved by the World War II memorial. After visiting the memorial and seeing all of the gold stars on the wall representing the people who have died for us. The people who have fought for us in World War II do not get enough credit for what they did for their country. It is hard to imagine what our country would be like without the freedom we have now. This is why the World War II memorial has increased appreciation of my American heritage.

Secondly, the Vietnam War memorial made me think more about what the soldiers have done for our country. While at the memorial it was quiet. Nobody dared to talk higher than a whisper. The respect to the Vietnam War memorial amazed me. I would like to know more about the memorial.

Lastly, to imagine standing in one of the greatest president’s memorial is amazing. If one was to think on what Lincoln did for America is mind boggling. If it was not for Lincoln there would be a Union and a Confederate still today. To make a memorial for

• 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.

him, I think, is definitely necessary. The Lincoln memorial was very fascinating.

In conclusion, my appreciation for my American heritage has increased after going to Washington, DC. The World War II, Vietnam War, and Lincoln memorial are very interesting.

DC ESSAY

(By Kayla Kirkland)

Seeing Washington, DC isn't just understanding and appreciating our heritage, it also makes you proud. My conclusion of this is thanks to being able to go inside the Capitol building, seeing the memorials of our heroes, and going through the Holocaust Museum.

Being able to go into the Capitol building is more than words. I did not fully understand how much our government is ran by the people until we were able to go in there. Meeting John Duncan was an honor. It was neat how he would take time out of his day to meet the people he represents. The input we have is real, it is seeing our future and past evolve together.

Next, walking through our heroes memorials was inspirational. I saw that people died fighting and making this country free. My personal favorite was the World War II Memorial. The stars in the water were in awe. Every star was for one hundred souls and human beings that defend our land to insure our future.

Third of all, two words . . . Holocaust Museum. People do not understand how good Americans have it. We could be in a government with a dictator whom murders millions of innocent people. We are not though. This is because our founding fathers did not want that, and some of them died to insure us "We Are America." We, our Country, has it more than better compared to other countries.

I give thanks of being able to go inside the capitol building, see the memorials of our heroes, and go through the Holocaust Museum. ". . . And so my fellow Americans, Ask what your country can do for you; Ask what you can do for your country."

DC ESSAY

(By Michaela Hearon)

My trip to Washington DC has increased my appreciation of my American heritage because of the monuments, the American History Museum, and Arlington National Cemetery

First, the monuments made me appreciate living in America. They recognize all the people that served in the different wars and some of our past presidents. The two monuments that really touched me were the Vietnam Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. The Vietnam Memorial was very sad seeing all the names of the people who had died. I personally can't imagine losing one of my loved ones in a war. The Korean War Memorial showed the emotions of the men in that war. They did a great job making both of these memorials; I will never forget them.

Secondly, the American History Museum made me appreciate my American heritage. This museum showed all kinds of things that have happened in America. I loved seeing the section about the different wars, the section of all our presidents, and the first ladies dresses. The section of the wars showed some cool objects from the wars, my favorite was seeing all the original guns and swords. The President section had facts about all of our presidents, my favorite president is Ronald Reagan. The first ladies dresses were beautiful and I like how they have those their so the public can see them. I enjoyed the American History Museum; it made me appreciate my American heritage.

Thirdly, The Arlington National Cemetery made me thankful for all of the men and

women that gave their lives in the wars. There are so many people that are buried there that gave their lives for Americas freedoms. That makes me thankful for them to have enough courage to fight for what they believe in. We Americans are so blessed to live in the greatest country in the world. So, we need to remember the ones that gave their lives, and the ones that have served and are still serving. The Arlington National Cemetery made me thankful for all the ones that have and are still serving in the wars.

In Conclusion, my trip to Washington DC has increased my appreciation of my American heritage because of the monuments, the American History Museum, and Arlington National Cemetery. I am so blessed and proud to live in the United States of America.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOCAL 702 OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of Local 702 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), headquartered in West Frankfort, Illinois.

In 1911, the labor movement in the United States was in a period of rapid growth. Our economy was beginning its shift from agriculture to manufacturing and more of the population was becoming concentrated in metropolitan areas. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, in 1911, tragically exposed unsafe working conditions and provided fuel for the rise of organized labor. Also in 1911, a small group of electrical workers near Herrin, Illinois, petitioned the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for a charter.

The founders of Local 702 wanted the pay and working conditions of those in the electrical trade to be commensurate with those of other skilled craftsmen and they knew the only way to accomplish this was to organize. They quickly began the task of working with area utility companies, and the first recorded bargaining contract was dated January 31, 1917, with the Central Illinois Public Service Company.

During the Great Depression, as our Nation struggled with record levels of unemployment, many members of Local 702 were out of work for prolonged periods. In a display of solidarity, the working members of Local 702 accepted an assessment on their wages that provided relief funding for their unemployed brothers. Loans from Local 702 provided a critical lifeline during the 1930's and some are still being retired today.

IBEW Local 702 considers itself to be a progressive, active local. From its founding as a bargaining unit for electrical workers, Local 702 has expanded to represent workers in many different fields, including manufacturing, instrument technicians, broadcast engineers, and nursing. While the primary focus of the local is the representation of its members, they are also vested in being a positive influence within their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members

of Local 702 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary and to wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING THE PELICAN CHAPTER OF ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Pelican Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors, located in the City of Baton Rouge in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Pelican Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors has voluntarily constructed two new restroom facilities for the Istrouma Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America to celebrate 100 Years of Scouting.

The facilities were constructed at the Avondale Scout Retreat in Clinton, La. to help improve the experiences of the 11,000 plus youths served by the Istrouma Area Council each year. Under the direction of leading contractor, The Lemoine Company, numerous volunteers from their company and other members of the ABC, the Pelican Chapter has dedicated countless hours and numerous resources to building these facilities, which were completed in October. Each facility encompasses over 1,550 sq. ft. and features modern appliances, providing a critical improvement to the comfort and convenience offered to campers.

The Istrouma Area Council is the largest Boy Scout Council in the state of Louisiana, serving a 13 Parish area and providing nearly \$2 million of free services to the community. By providing leadership training and advancement programs, the Istrouma Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America has helped build the future leaders of this nation for nearly a century, and continues to serve the state of Louisiana. I can only hope that these new facilities that were made possible by the generosity of the ABC Pelican Chapter will allow the Istrouma Area Council to continue their legacy of stewardship for another 100 successful years.

LINDA LOPEZ CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and hard work of Ms. Linda Lopez of Merced, California. Not only is Ms. Lopez a treasured member of my staff, she is a tireless advocate and community leader in the 18th Congressional District.

Born in New Mexico, Linda moved to California's Central Valley in 1955 where she attended public school in Madera and then later college at Stanford University. She has been involved in civil rights and social justice work for over 40 years and is considered among the influential Latinos in the Central Valley.