

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RICHARD (RICK) PARSLEY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the late Richard Parsley. Rick passed away peacefully on July 25, 2011.

Rick was born in Atwater, California on November 30, 1949. He graduated from Atwater High School. He joined the Navy at the age of 17 and served his country with a tour of duty in Vietnam where he was awarded a bronze star.

Rick began a career as a local merchant but learned that business was not where his passion lied and he was a person who refused to live life without passion. In his late 30's, he set out to become an educator, where he found his calling. Rick spent many years as a dedicated teacher, principal and administrator.

Many people have said how Rick profoundly influenced their lives and they considered him to be their mentor. His pure passion for life inspired others to live the same way. Rick always encouraged others to strive for a better life. He lived a life of passion for the things he loved including spending time on the water in his boat with his friends and family.

Though Rick's life ended much too soon, it was a life complete in so many ways. He is survived by the love of his life, Mae Pierini; his daughter Lori and Lori's husband Jason; his son Jeff and Jeff's wife Jen; stepsons Santi and Michael; Michael's wife Azeb; stepdaughter Shelli and Shelli's husband Jason; his seven grandchildren: Maren, Madison, Santi, Gianni, Hanna, Maya, Lucca; and so many who called him a friend.

Mr. Speaker, the recognition that I am offering today before the House of Representatives for Richard Parsley is small compared to the contributions and impact he had on the lives of so many. He was truly an invaluable member of our community and an outstanding human being.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE BALTIC
AMERICAN FREEDOM LEAGUE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Baltic American Freedom League, an important national Baltic American organization. The Baltic American Freedom League (BAFL) was founded in February 1981 by Baltic American political activists in southern California to raise American consciousness about Baltic issues and to carry out specific and concrete goals and projects toward helping achieve

freedom for the Soviet occupied Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

In 1982, BAFL initiated a Congressional resolution asking President W. Reagan to designate June 14, 1982 as Baltic Freedom Day—reiterating U.S. non-recognition of the forcible and illegal incorporation of the Baltic Republics into the U.S.S.R. This Proclamation continued each year until the Baltic countries regained their independence in 1991.

Due to the combined efforts of BAFL, other Baltic organizations, and the Senate and House Baltic Caucuses, the Senate passed SCR 35 on May 19, 2005, and the House of Representatives unanimously adopted H.R. 128 on July 22, 2005; historic resolutions stating that “. . . it is the sense of Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation should issue a clear and unambiguous statement of admission and condemnation of the illegal occupation and annexation by the Soviet Union from 1940 to 1991 of the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the consequences of which will be significant increase in good will among the affected people”.

In February 1997, at the request of BAFL, a Baltic Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives was organized by me and my colleague, Congressman KUCINICH of Ohio. The Caucus currently has 55 House Members and has played and continues to play an important role in supporting Baltic issues.

Since November 17, 2008, the citizens of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have been able to travel to the U.S. without obtaining visas, thanks to BAFL and other Baltic organizations, and all those in Congress whose dedication and persistent work overcame strong opposition, and persuaded the U.S. to expand its Visa Waiver Program to include the Baltic countries.

I want to congratulate the Baltic American Freedom League and all its members, past and present, on this 30th anniversary celebration, and to join with other Members of this House in wishing them continued success for another 30 years and beyond.

H.R. 2671 CORRECTION OF
ORIGINAL COSPONSORS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, due to a clerical error, Representatives DAVID DREIER, MICHAEL BURGESS, and DENNIS KUCINICH were omitted from being Original Cosponsors of H.R. 2671, the CAL Undiagnosed Diseases Research and Collaboration Network Act of 2011, which was introduced on July 27, 2011. I would like to apologize for this clerical error and thank my colleagues for their support on this important piece of legislation. Additionally, I would like to extend Representative DREIER a special thank you for his support and role in developing this legislation.

CAPTAIN THOMAS HARPER HONORED WITH FRENCH CROSS OF MILITARY VALOR

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ocala's own Army National Guard Captain Thomas Harper of the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Captain Harper and the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces unit successfully provided security assistance for the French Foreign Legion in the Uzbeen Valley of Afghanistan.

He was among those soldiers separated from their unit by a mortar blast causing shrapnel to injure four of the five American soldiers and exposed to enemy fire.

Despite their injuries, Captain Harper and his comrades moved the severely injured to safety and repelled the attack for more than an hour until air support and medic helicopters arrived.

Captain Harper was among five National Guards and one active duty Special Forces soldiers honored with the French Croix de la Valeur Militaire (French Cross of Military Valor), an honor rarely bestowed on any soldier, especially those who are not French.

I join his family, Dr. Wayne Harper, Debbie Harper and sisters Chrissy and Lauren in sharing great pride in the accomplishments of this great American. For their bravery, I rise today Mr. Speaker to honor Captain Thomas Harper and his comrades for their service, and for the unwavering dedication shown to their country.

RICK CABLES TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rick Cables for both his established career with the United States Forest Service, and for being named director of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife.

Mr. Cables is a native Coloradan, and he grew up in Pueblo. In the early 1970s, Mr. Cables left Pueblo to attend Northern Arizona University, and in 1976 he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry, leading him to his first job in Arizona's Kaibab National Forest as a forestry technician.

Mr. Cables' work ethic led him throughout Arizona and New Mexico before he was promoted to be district ranger of Arizona's Apache-Sitgraves National Forest. As the district ranger, he oversaw the management of the campgrounds and trails, protected the local vegetation and wildlife, and served as the first point of contact for the forest service. Fourteen years later, Mr. Cables moved to Juneau, Alaska, to be the regional forester 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.

the Alaskan region, overseeing the two largest national forest systems in the U.S.

In 2000, Mr. Cables moved back to Colorado to serve as the regional forester for the Rocky Mountain region. Throughout the past 11 years, Mr. Cables served the Rocky Mountain region, working with both local and federal officials to enhance the productivity of the Rocky Mountains. In June of 2011, Mr. Cables was named to be the director of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, a position he called a "dream job."

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Rick Cables and his outstanding career in conservation and forestry. I look forward to witnessing him continue to bring the same success he has brought to the communities he served throughout the U.S. to the state of Colorado.

HONORING STANLEY WELCH ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Stanley Welch, a member of my staff who has been with me from the beginning, as he retires after almost twenty-eight years of federal service. Stanley has dedicated a lifetime to public service and has served the New Haven community in a variety of capacities—all of which have enriched the City and improved the quality of life for its residents.

Stanley has been a member of my staff for more than twenty years, though I have known him for much longer. We first met during Frank Logue's first campaign for Mayor where he was involved in coordinating the roving canvass—a get out the vote initiative that is used by candidates throughout New Haven still today. When I was first elected to Congress, I asked Stan to join my team and he was an invaluable resource as we started up the District Office, hired staff, and began our work in constituent services. Stanley understood the importance of constituent services in the District and, over the years, he has been a mentor to many new staff members—offering them guidance and support as they began their own careers in federal service. As Deputy District Director and casework supervisor he has played an integral role in ensuring that the District Office has run smoothly and that our constituents have had access to federal resources and assistance in resolving issues with federal agencies. Stanley himself worked on issues concerning veterans and over the course of his career he developed an expertise in this area. His presence in my office will certainly be missed.

Born in upstate New York and raised in the greater Boston area, Stanley came to New Haven in 1962. In the nearly five decades since he came to our community, Stanley's work has touched the lives of thousands. He was a teacher in the New Haven public school system, a case manager with the City of New Haven's Department of Human Services, vocational counselor with the Greater New Haven Opportunities Industrial Center as well as the Director of a Connecticut State shel-

tered workshop for mentally challenged adults, Director and Education Coordinator of the Vanguard Teen Center in Newhallville, and served as the first Director of the Community Action Agency of New Haven. Stanley began his career in federal service with my predecessor, Congressman Bruce Morrison, and has spent nearly thirty years assisting the people of Connecticut's 3rd Congressional District with difficulties they have had with federal agencies. In each of these endeavors, Stanley was looking to make a difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

In addition to his professional contributions to the community, Stanley has also dedicated innumerable hours to local civic and service organizations. For more than twenty years he has served on the Board of Directors of Columbus House, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the homeless and those at risk of homelessness, as well as the Hill Development Corporation, a local non-profit organization dedicated to the revitalization of New Haven's Hill neighborhood. He has also been involved with the United Way Campaign cabinet and was the first Chairman of the Combined Federal Campaign of Western Central Connecticut. Stanley has been recognized by a myriad of organizations for his efforts on their behalf including MaKela Incorporated, the Marine Cadets of America, Youth Business Enterprises, the Greater New Haven Youth Continuum, the Hamden Black Democratic Club, and Casa Otonal.

It is not often that you find an individual who dedicates so much of themselves to serving others. Throughout his professional career and in his personal time, Stanley has sought every opportunity to do just that. On a more personal note, Stanley is not just a member of my staff—he is family. I cannot thank him enough for all that he has done over the years. Today, as he celebrates his retirement, I am proud to extend my very best wishes to Stanley, his companion of more than twenty years, Linda Thorpe; his five sons Stanley, Jr., Jordon, Julian, Kwad, and Jamal; as well as his fifteen grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. I wish them all the best for many more years of health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 323 I was unable to cast my vote on the House floor because I was ill. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE COMMUNITY
SERVICE ETHIC OF RALPH NILLES

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Ralph Nilles. Ralph is a friend of North Carolina and the High Country whose tireless volunteerism is an inspirational testament to his concern for others and his community.

Ever since he retired in North Carolina's High Country, he has dedicated his retirement years to volunteering for almost every local organization that was doing good things for the community. One of the characteristics people admire most about Ralph is how he never shies away from hard work—he knows the value of a hard day's work, especially when it is given to help others in need.

Although his health has declined recently and taken him from the volunteer work he loved so much, his legacy is strong. He is known as Mr. Volunteer, as the man who will do what it takes to get the job done. From his work with the Foscoe Grandfather Mountain Community Center to his unflagging support for so many good causes, Ralph is the kind of person that every American community loves to call their own.

That's why I'm so proud to honor him today for his many years of selfless service and his countless hours of work on behalf of so many deserving organizations. Ralph is a one-of-kind man who has made an indelible mark on his community and I'm confident he has inspired many to follow in his footsteps of volunteerism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 7, 2011, I mistakenly voted "no" on Rollcall No. 522—Cole of Oklahoma Amendment No. 4, an amendment to H.R. 2219, Department of Defense Appropriations Act. The amendment stated that none of the funds made available by the underlying bill may be used to implement any rule, regulation, or Executive Order regarding the disclosure of political contributions that takes effect on or after the date of enactment of the underlying bill. I intended to vote "yes" on Rollcall No. 522.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMART
ELECTRONICS ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Smart Electronics Act.

The Smart Electronics Act is an effort to reduce the amount of energy consumed by consumer electronic devices. Electronic gadgets already account for about 15 percent of household electricity consumption, and as these gadgets proliferate, their energy use continues to grow.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that by 2030, new electronic gadgets will triple their energy consumption to 1,700 terawatt hours, the equivalent of the home electricity consumption of the U.S. and Japan combined. According to the IEA, the international community will have to build over 15,000 wind turbines (or 200 nuclear power plants) to power all the TVs, iPods, PCs and other home electronics expected to be