

PARKROSE CENTENNIAL

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Parkrose, Oregon on your Centennial.

Founded by Italian, Dutch, and German farmers in the late 1890s, the community of Parkrose was incorporated by its business community in 1911 and quickly faced the challenges of rapid growth.

By the 1920s, the farmland that supplied nearby Portland with much of its food was developed into motels, serving the travelers that traveled from the Columbia Gorge into the "big city". Next came housing developments, changing the landscape even more. In the 1960s, the newly constructed Banfield freeway attracted motorists off of Sandy Boulevard, Parkrose's main thoroughfare.

By the time of annexation by the City of Portland in 1980, Parkrose had faced challenges as great as any part of the metropolitan area. Throughout, Parkrose has fought to retain its identity, as well as its farmland, and have kept its schools an important focal point for the community.

In more recent years, Parkrose has rediscovered its past, celebrating many rich traditions. From its schools and businesses to its community gardens, parks, local farms, and thriving Farmers Market, the residents of Parkrose continue to shape their community into one that will be treasured and celebrated 100 years from now.

I offer my congratulations to the good citizens of Parkrose, Oregon as they begin their next century.

**HONORING THE FAIRFIELD
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**
HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department, located in Essex County, New Jersey, as it celebrates 100 years of dedicated volunteer service to the Township of Fairfield.

The Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department, formerly the Township of Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department, was founded in 1911, with the help of a handful of residents. The very first firehouse in the township was built in 1912, on the lands given to the department by a generous donor. Unfortunately, the building burned in 1915. Due to a lack of necessary firefighting equipment, the department was helpless to combat the flames.

After the devastating fire, the department assumed a somewhat inactive status until a group of citizens reorganized in 1924 and erected a new firehouse in 1925 at the site of the old structure. To finance its new building, a \$1500 mortgage was assumed. In 1927, the township's first fire truck, a 1926 Day-Elder Pumper, was purchased. Three years later the township purchased the truck to help alleviate the department's costs. Since that time, the township has purchased all necessary equipment used by the fire department.

In 1948, the Day-Elder was retired and replaced by a new 1948 GMC Pumper. Subsequently in 1952, the Township purchased a second GMC 1000 gallon Pumper. These two vehicles were housed at town hall, the location of the present day municipal building and Firehouse No. 1. In 1964, the department acquired a FWD four wheel drive GMC 1000 GPM Pumper, "Old Engine 3." Then, in the spring of 1970, the present Firehouse No. 2 located on Plymouth Street was constructed and dedicated.

Continuing through the rapid growth of the town and the fire department, March 1974 brought the addition of the new 1500 GPM Hahn Pumper, Engine 4. Three years later, in September 1977, the nearly 30 year old GMC's were retired and replaced by two new twin Hahn 1500 GPM Custom Pumpers, Engines 1 and 2, rounding the arsenal to 4 modern pieces of apparatus.

In 1981, the members of the department designed and constructed a new Firemen's Recreation and Training Hall on land received from the town, adjacent to the Plymouth Street Firehouse. The organization sold the old firehouse which still stands today, now occupied by a privately owned business.

Three years later, the department purchased a 1984 LT1 100-foot Ladder Tower with a 1500 GPM pump. This vehicle was added to the Township's firefighting capabilities in response to the rapid growth of larger office buildings and multi-floor hotels. After 30 years of service, Old Engine 3 was soon replaced with a new Pierce 2000 GPM custom built Pumper. This engine represented the epitome of modern firefighting, with a fully enclosed cab, up-to-date radio equipment and computerized pump controls. The department also purchased a 1995 GMC Suburban Incident Command Vehicle, complete with radio equipment; enabling the department to directly communicate with any of the surrounding fire departments, State Police, West Essex First Aid Squad, paramedics and NorthStar Medical Helicopter.

Rounding off its modern arsenal of firefighting apparatus, the two 1976 Hahns were retired and replaced with twin Pierce 2000 GPM Custom Pumper Engines 1 and 2. Both trucks came with safety features and capabilities that far outperform the old equipment, including fully enclosed 6 seat cabs and computerized pump controls. The latest piece of apparatus replaced the first ladder truck with a 2005 Pierce 100 foot ladder tower with the newest technology.

Due to the high volume of industry, waterways and major highways, the department's duties have increased from basic firefighting to extra services including vehicle extrications and water rescue that demands not only the purchasing of specialized equipment but also many extra training hours. As an all-volunteer department, the members give their own time and sacrifice their safety for the good of their community and mutual aid to surrounding towns. Many members have surpassed 50 years of volunteer service to the department and for that they are commended.

From past to present the Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department has worked through many hard times, experienced its share of success and tragedies, and has developed and grown right along with the community it serves. Its past and present members should feel pride to be part of such a group of dedicated individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Fairfield Fire Department as it celebrates 100 years of volunteer service.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE
GILLIS E. POWELL, SR.**
HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life of northwest Florida's beloved Judge Gillis E. Powell, Sr.

Over the course of his life, Judge Powell was a fixture in the northwest Florida community. His family was one of the first families to settle in Crestview, and his mother was a founding member of the First Presbyterian Church of Crestview. Judge Powell's assiduous work ethic was apparent when he began working as a delivery boy at Sullivan's Grocery Store at the young age of 12. In 1938, Judge Powell graduated from Crestview High School and went on to study business administration at the University of Florida (UF).

Judge Powell was also a true patriot, and when his country called him to duty during World War II, he responded with honor and distinction. In 1942, as a Second Lieutenant, he was one of only five officers from his squadron chosen to attend intelligence training at Yale University. While training at Yale, he married his childhood sweetheart, Avis Elizabeth Moore. After finishing his intelligence training, Judge Powell served as an intelligence officer in north Africa, rising to the rank of Major and becoming a squadron commander. During his military career, he was recognized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt for his role in preparing for the Big Three Conference between President Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin in Tehran, Iran.

After fulfilling his service commitment, Judge Powell returned to Florida with his wife, Avis, where he finished his bachelor's degree at UF, before earning his law degree from UF's College of Law. Judge Powell had a true aptitude for business and passion for law. He started his first business near UF—The Tackle Box—which started as a small bait shop and has grown over the course of 60 years into a large sporting goods store.

In 1951, he returned to his native Crestview to establish his own law firm. During his accomplished legal career, he served in his private practice and as an Assistant State Attorney, before being appointed in 1971 to serve as Circuit Judge in the First Judicial Circuit of Florida. He served as a Circuit Judge until he retired from the bench in 1977, when he returned to private practice with his oldest son, Gill. Over the years, the law firm of Powell, Powell & Powell grew to include his daughter, Ava, and younger son, Dixie; as well as his granddaughter, Lacey and her husband, James; his granddaughter, Ginny; and his grandson, Gillis E. Powell III. In 1991, while serving as the City Attorney for City of Niceville, Judge Powell argued and won a case before the United States Supreme Court and was featured on NBC's "Today Show." Judge Powell remained active in his law practice until his recent retirement at the age of 87.