

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING STANLEY KOSTA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise Stanley Kosta, a veteran of World War II who was recently honored by the Republic of France with its highest military decoration, the French Legion of Honor. He was named "Chevalier", or Knight, in the National Order of the Legion of Honor and presented with the medal at the French Consulate in San Francisco on January 23, 2012.

The Republic of France is awarding this prestigious honor to United States veterans who helped in the liberation of France in WWII during one of four major campaigns: Normandy, Southern France, Northern France, and the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge).

Born on May 5, 1917 in San Francisco, California, Mr. Kosta was 26 years old when he was drafted into the United States Army in July 1943. Serving in the 9th Infantry Division, 47th Infantry Regiment, he landed in Normandy in July 1944 about a month after D-Day. For the next nine months he advanced through France, Belgium, and Germany serving as a radio operator on and near the front lines.

He fought courageously in the battle of Saint-Lo and to strategic victory in another key-town in Normandy, Falaise. From there his division crossed the Marne River, just east of Paris for the Ardennes Counteroffensive, also known as the Battle of the Bulge, which was one of the largest and bloodiest of WWII. On January 30, 1944, his unit crossed the Rhine River to enter Germany. Shortly thereafter, he became ill during combat and was sent to a hospital in England.

After the war, Mr. Kosta settled in the West End neighborhood of San Rafael, California. After 35 years of marriage his first wife passed away. Eventually, he found happiness again and remarried. He has two amazing sons, one a former police captain from San Rafael, and the other an artist in Denmark.

Few people discover a lifelong passion at an early age and find time to enjoy it daily, but Stanley was introduced to the accordion by the age of 9 and to this day he plays regularly. Unable to read sheet music, he can still play over 300 songs.

From a young age, he always knew he wanted a job doing physical labor. He was not one cut out for an office. Growing up during the Great Depression, he dropped out of high school during the 11th grade to find a job. He took several odds jobs including selling papers, passing out theater fliers, and constructing mannequins. After the war, he worked for several breweries in San Francisco, California, including Acme, Burgermeister, and Rainier.

In 2004, sixty years after the liberation of France, the Republic of France started recognizing the service of United States Veterans of

WWII for their part in the liberation. Mr. Kosta is joined by several other WWII veterans from Marin and Sonoma Counties who have received the French Legion of Honor and they are: Mr. Reginald Alexander of Kenwood, CA (deceased); Mr. Marion Grohoski of Santa Rosa, CA; Mr. Earl Shanken of San Rafael, CA; Mr. John Thomson of Santa Rosa (recently deceased); and Mr. Gerard Cormier of Corte Madera. Many veterans have applications pending, but even more did not live to see this day.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and awe that I extend my gratitude to Mr. Kosta and his comrades for their service to the United States of America during WWII.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Ms. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National History Day, a year-long academic program in the humanities focused on historical research for 6th to 12th grade students. On Monday, February 13, 2012, President Obama awarded National History Day with the prestigious 2011 National Humanities Medal. The White House recognized this program as one that "inspires in American students a passion for history," and today it is our privilege to echo this commendation.

In doing so, we congratulate Dr. Cathy Gorn, Executive Director of National History Day, the entire National History Day Staff, its board, and its honorary advisory council on their distinguished service. It is quite uncommon for a program—rather than an individual—to win this prominent medal, and it is clear this program is deserving of our acknowledgement.

The National History Day program invites students to conduct primary historical research in libraries, archives, museums, and historic sites. Their analysis ultimately results in original conclusions that culminate in papers, websites, exhibits, performances, and documentaries. These products are then entered into local, state, and national competitions.

Each year, more than half a million elementary and secondary school students participate in this not-for-profit program. The organization operates in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, as well as U.S. territories and is currently in the process of expanding internationally.

Students walk away from National History Day with a wealth of information as well as invaluable research, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. The program has been called "one of the nation's most successful educational efforts in the humanities." In fact, studies have shown that the college and career-ready skills that students acquire through participation in National History Day have resulted in substantially improved performance

on standardized tests across all subjects, including science and math.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize National History Day and to associate myself with its noble cause. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this tremendous program in order to demonstrate our gratitude and to encourage the continuation of its good works.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES MADE BY NANCY DEMBOWSKI

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of a distinguished State Representative, former Mayor and outstanding citizen, Nancy Dembowski of Knox, Indiana. Ms. Dembowski used her background in radio broadcasting to launch a career in public service that has been notable for her ability to communicate with her constituents and understand their concerns. State Representative Dembowski's dedication to community service and her life as the spouse of a steelworker have made her an effective spokesperson for the interests of average working Hoosiers.

Ms. Dembowski began her public life in 1984 as a member of the Starke County Council where her tireless efforts earned her the Starke County Citizen of the Year Award in 1990. After two terms on the Council, she served three terms as mayor of Knox during which her plans for economic development brought 1100 jobs to the area. Also during her service as Mayor, the City of Knox received two Achievement Awards from the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, a tribute to her efforts to build the Knox Community Center and renovate the historic Gateway Depot.

Ms. Dembowski served as a Senator in the Indiana State Senate from 2002 to 2004 and then moved to the State House in 2006 where she served as the Majority Caucus Chair. While serving in state government, she has championed local education, economic development, pro-life issues and the fight against domestic and child abuses.

As if holding public office was not contribution enough, Ms. Dembowski is also an active member of the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, and Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. She has been the President of the Starke County Junior Achievement Board, Secretary of the Starke County Youth Club, Chair of Starke United and a member of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees. She is a former member of the Starke County Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, where she helped inaugurate a plan to build the Phoenix House, a safe haven for families escaping abuse.

Despite her many professional successes, Ms. Dembowski values most her 43 years of

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marriage to the late Ed Dembowski, her three children, Michael, Rebecca and Patrick and her eight grandchildren.

It is with great pride and honor that I rise on behalf of the citizens of Indiana to salute not only State Representative Nancy Dembowski's personal achievements and her contributions to our community, but also the generosity, courage and spirit that made her a remarkable public servant and a dear friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANDREA
GORMAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Andrea Gorman for her tireless advocacy for Social Security. Ms. Gorman is a long-time constituent of mine and a leader within the Local 1584 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in the East Bay. She has triumphed over adversity, and her story is a compelling reason to protect Social Security.

As a child in the 1940s, Andrea suffered the loss of her father; her mother unable to financially care for her eight children was forced to surrender Andrea and her siblings to an orphanage and foster homes. Fortunately a safety net was there and Andrea's family qualified for Social Security survivor benefits, which would reunite her with her siblings and their mother. Her first encounter with Social Security saved her family; her second, her home.

Forty-five years later, after fighting for her right to work among the men in the male dominated machinist industry, Ms. Gorman was injured on the job and unable to work. She required Social Security disability benefits in order to survive and keep a roof over her head. Once again Andrea was grateful to a social program she calls "her guardian angel".

Now retired, Andrea continues to advocate for the protection of Social Security and she is a trustee for Local 1584. Andrea's life is a leading example of why Social Security is one of our nation's most vital safety net programs and why we must protect it.

I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing a woman who has overcome adversity and life's struggles through determination, bravery, and hard work. I urge my colleagues to take Andrea's story to heart and work to protect Social Security for future generations.

HONORING CHIEF MICHAEL
FALESE

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to congratulate Bartlett Fire Protection District Chief Michael Falese on being named the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association's "Chief of the Year."

Chief Falese began his career of service and commitment to the community with the Elgin Fire Department in 1983, where he rose

to the rank of Fire Chief, and remained until 2007. In 2010, Falese became a Fire Chief at Bartlett Fire Protection District.

For the past two years, Falese has served as one of the Illinois fire service representatives sent to Washington D.C. to discuss Illinois fire service issues with elected officials. He has also served as a member of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) Board of Directors for the last two years and will become IFCA's President this coming October. In a large scale train derailment that took place last November, which involved more than 30 local, state, and federal agencies, Falese exhibited strong leadership as in command of the response.

Falese continues to devote his time to the community. He is currently President-elect of the Bartlett Rotary Club. He has made sure that the Fire District is represented at every U.S. troop homecoming in Bartlett. He is an esteemed partner to the Village of Bartlett, DuPage County, and Hanover and Wayne Townships.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Chief Michael Falese for this highly-respected distinction.

HONORING DOROTHY BERTUCCI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dorothy Bertucci, a leading citizen of Petaluma, CA, who passed away February 23, 2012. She died peacefully at home at the age of 93 after a lifetime in her hometown where she was best known for her promotion of libraries and her kind spirit.

Dorothy was born in Petaluma, at home. Her parents, the prominent Mattei family, owned a men's clothing store downtown, not far from the house. She attended St. Vincent de Paul High school and graduated from UC Berkeley (Cal) in 1941. With a degree in library science and history, she then worked in the libraries at both Cal and UCLA.

Later at Cal, she also met her husband Andy Bertucci. In 1949, the two went to a Cal game on a blind date, married in 1950, and enjoyed a 49-year marriage. Andy worked in the family clothing store, and the couple raised their four children in Petaluma. After Andy's retirement in 1977, the two traveled together frequently and enjoyed many games of golf till Andy's death in 1999.

Dorothy was active in the City, including its political campaigns, but libraries were her true mission. She knew libraries represented the heart of the community, a place where everyone had access to information and a gateway into the magic of reading. She was a librarian and a member of the Library Board of Trustees in Petaluma as well as serving on the Sonoma County Library Commission and the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners (including a stint as President).

Straightforward, dedicated, and optimistic, she was the ideal person to help in the campaign for a bond measure for a new library in Petaluma. It passed in 1976 on the fourth try, with Dorothy championing the effort all the way. In 1974, she was honored as Petaluma's Citizen of the Year for her involvement.

Dorothy is survived by her four children John, Paul, Tom, and Ann and their partners as well as three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, citizens like Dorothy Bertucci remind us what caring people can accomplish for their communities. Please join me in honoring her life and accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DOUG
SUTHERLAND

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and accomplishments of Mr. Doug Sutherland, an alumnus of the University of Wisconsin—Superior.

Doug is one of the most accomplished athletes in the history of the school and was recently named to the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) All-Time Team in football. He has also been chosen recently as a member of the inaugural class of the WIAC Hall of Fame.

In 1970, Doug was chosen in the 14th round of the NFL Draft by the New Orleans Saints. He went on to have a 13-year career with the Saints, the Minnesota Vikings and the Seattle Seahawks. He appeared in three Super Bowls with the Vikings and, in 2010, was named one of the 50 greatest Vikings.

In addition to distinguishing himself on the football field, Doug was a six-time conference champion in track and field throwing events and participated in three National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics meets.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to help recognize Doug's incredible athletic record and ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him on his accomplishments.

OUR HERITAGE FORESTS: AN
AMERICAN LEGACY

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article, which is authored by my friend Jason Hartke, and discusses the important role of our nation's Roadless Areas. Roadless Areas protect 58.5 million acres of pristine wild forests and provide clean drinking water to over 60 million Americans.

OUR HERITAGE FORESTS: AN AMERICAN
LEGACY

(By Jason Hartke)

"If there is one thing that should unite us as a country across generations, parties, an time, it is love of the land." President Clinton made this remark at the National Arboretum on January 5, 2001, where he announced the Roadless Area Conservation Rule which protected the last, best wild lands in the nation. This initiative encompassed 58.5 million acres of forests in 39 states. Combining this accomplishment with the 22 National Monuments that he designated and protected, President Clinton left office having saved more land in the contiguous United States than any administration since Theodore Roosevelt.