

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. CHARLOTTE LANDRETH-MELVILLE ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish Ms. Charlotte Landreth-Melville, a resident of historic Bristol Borough in my home of Bucks County, Pennsylvania a Happy Birthday as she turns 90 on June 25th.

During her 90 years, Charlotte has seen sixteen U.S. presidents take the oath of office, has honorably served her country in World War II as a member of the Women Marines, has traveled the world, and has started her own small business. Charlotte has enjoyed quite a healthy, exciting life.

Over the course of her life, she has climbed to the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, trekked through the Sahara Desert, lived on a houseboat in India and bicycled all across Europe. One way or another, she still managed to find time to remain active in her local community as a contributor to the Bristol Pilot Newspaper.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to speak on Charlotte's behalf today, and I wish her the very best on this momentous occasion. Charlotte's free spirit and dedication to her country and community make her a perfect role model in today's society. I wish her many more years of good health, success and happiness.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING CAREER OF RETIRING RED CROSS OFFICIAL ARMOND MASCELLI

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a son of southwestern Pennsylvania and a tremendous public servant.

In 1971, a young man named Armond Mascelli took the advice of his Scranton college professor and went to work for the American Red Cross. Four decades later, after a distinguished career of philanthropic work that has taken him to many different parts of the world, Armond is set to retire from the Red Cross as Vice President for Disaster Operations.

Over the last 41 years, Armond has served on and directed numerous disaster relief operations throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Central America and the U.S. Virgin Islands. He has also served on Red Cross assignments in South Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Turkey and Guam.

Over his long career, there have been many significant disasters and Armond remembers them all, particularly the Johnstown, PA, flood of 1977.

Any school child from my district can tell you about the Great Johnstown Flood of 1889 caused by a dam failure which resulted in the release of 20 million tons of water into Johnstown. The flood killed more than 2,200 people and was the first major disaster relief effort handled by the American Red Cross, led by Clara Barton.

But on July 20, 1977, a line of severe thunderstorms moved slowly over Johnstown,

dropping a foot of rain on the city in only 12 hours. Small streams overflowed and several dams failed, causing history to repeat itself. Water tore through highways, homes, factories and stores.

The death toll would eventually reach 85 as a result of the flood. Property damage reached about \$300 million. Hundreds were left homeless. Our town was once again reminded of its tragic history, opening old wounds and inflicting new ones. But not all of the stories from this flood were sad.

The Red Cross and many other non-profit agencies, State and Federal Governments, and private individuals rushed to help with the relief efforts. Armond Mascelli was a young Red Cross disaster worker who had been assigned to the Johnstown relief operation for more than a month when he met a young and attractive Johnstown girl who was volunteering for the Red Cross in the operations. Armond and Kathy Lenzi were married 2 years later.

Armond was also assigned to the Three Mile Island nuclear disaster near Harrisburg, PA, in 1979, and was part of the task force at Indiantown Gap near Lebanon, PA, helping the more than 19,000 refugees brought there during the Cuban Boat Lift in 1980 and 1981.

Armond has been part of the Red Cross response to a number of major national and international disasters over the past four decades, including hurricanes Hugo, Andrew, Mitch and Katrina, the Loma Prieta and North Ridge earthquakes and the 1993 flooding in the Midwest. When the floods from Irene ravaged our State last year, Armond was in the Red Cross Disaster Operations Center coordinating the response.

When asked if it was ever difficult to stay in a field that witnesses so much devastation and sadness, he said the good work the Red Cross does was motivation to stay in the job.

"Disaster is unfair, heartbreaking," he said. "Working for the Red Cross is an opportunity to provide assistance to those in need. I've met a ton of real interesting people—good people—through my years with Red Cross.

"The people I work with really believe in the principles of the Red Cross, the mission," he said. "And our volunteers—they amaze me. It's neighbor helping neighbor. People in this country want to help when something happens, it's part of their makeup.

"Part of being with the Red Cross is to make it better. I'm passing this to someone else for them to make improvements," Mascelli said. "The Red Cross is always looking to the future, to change, to improve. We're an old organization, but we're still relevant. I attribute that to our mission, our volunteers and adapting to meet the changing needs of those we serve."

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Armond on his upcoming retirement and salute his great service to our Nation and to the American Red Cross. He and his wife Kathy have my best wishes as they transition into a new phase of their life together.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF "TAPS"

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the writing of

"Taps," a song I have worked tirelessly here in Congress to recognize as the National Song of Remembrance for those who have served our country.

Much like "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "The Stars and Stripes Forever," which were born from the winds of war, "Taps" shares a similar history. In July 1862, following the Seven Days battles, Union General Daniel Butterfield and bugler Oliver Willcox Norton created "Taps" at Berkley Plantation, Virginia, as a way to signal the end of daily military activities. Since that time, "Taps" has become known throughout the United States as part of the military honors accorded at funerals, memorial services, and wreath ceremonies held for members of the uniformed services and veterans who have faithfully served our nation during times of war and peace.

The designation of "Taps" as the National Song of Remembrance is timely because the 150th anniversary of the writing of "Taps" will be observed with events culminating this month, June 2012, with a rededication of the Taps Monument at Berkley Plantation, Virginia. I am proud that the House of Representatives passed this language as a tribute to honor those that have fallen in service of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the following amendments to H.R. 5325 because I was attending an official event in my home state of Minnesota with President Obama.

On rollcall vote 306, I would have voted "no" on the Scalise Amendment.

On rollcall vote 307, I would have voted "no" on the King Amendment.

On rollcall vote 308, I would have voted "yes" on the Moran Amendment.

On rollcall vote 309, I would have voted "no" on the Hultgren Amendment.

On rollcall vote 310, I would have voted "no" on the Chaffetz Amendment.

On rollcall vote 311, I would have voted "no" on the McClintock Amendment.

On rollcall vote 312, I would have voted "yes" on the Kaptur Amendment.

On rollcall vote 313, I would have voted "yes" on the Tonko Amendment.

On rollcall vote 314, I would have voted "yes" on the Hahn Amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE ADRIAN CITY BAND ON THEIR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Adrian City Band as they celebrate their 175th year of providing musical entertainment to the community of Adrian, Michigan.

The Adrian City Band is one of the oldest continuously organized city bands in the