

IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL J. NAVARRE'S EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RESIDENTS OF WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Daniel J. Navarre of West Bloomfield, Michigan, as he is honored by the West Bloomfield Optimist Club as its 2013 honoree. Each year, the West Bloomfield Optimist Club recognizes one of its members for their exceptional contributions to the community in fulfillment of the Optimist Creed.

The Optimist Creed states that one will think of only the best, work for only the best and expect only the best. Known as Dan to his friends, Daniel Navarre has made this creed a central tenet of his work, both in the West Bloomfield community and beyond. His commitment to giving the best of himself to his work is a principle that he executed every day in his twenty years of work at Wayne County Parks and Recreation.

After retiring from Wayne County as Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation in 1997, Dan brought the same level of passion and commitment to his friends and neighbors when he joined West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation in 1999. During his tenure, Dan has used his leadership position to advocate for and develop many projects that have improved the quality-of-life for Township residents. These projects include the development of Drake Sports Park, which has supported many local sports teams for youth and adults alike; and the redevelopment of Marshbank Park on Cass Lake, which has become a premier facility for the active lifestyle of Lakes Area residents. As part of his work on the Marshbank Park project, Dan was instrumental in acquiring the resources that allowed the Township to fully realize its vision of a space that could promote healthy living for local residents. These funds were also utilized by the Township to support the development of over six-and-a-half miles of multipurpose trails created from old rail lines.

In addition to his work for the people of West Bloomfield Township, Dan has been an active member of the West Bloomfield Optimist Club for many years and served as its President from 2005 to 2006. While serving as President, Dan worked with other Lakes Area residents to found the Lakes Area Optimist Club, which serves the youth and residents of several surrounding communities. Under his leadership and participation the Club has continued its robust support of local youth through its Youth Appreciation Breakfast, Essay Contest, Oratorical Contest, College Scholarship Program and many other programs it plans year-round.

Mr. Speaker, the strength and vibrancy of the communities we serve depend on the zeal and devotion of its residents to their friends, neighbors and our youth. Dan's service to the people of Southeast Michigan and his volunteer endeavors are a perfect example of this truth and it is fitting that he is being recognized by the West Bloomfield Optimist Club for his contributions that have encouraged the de-

velopment of our youth and made the West Bloomfield community a better place to live. I wish Dan and the West Bloomfield Optimists many years of future success and look forward to continuing to work together in pursuit of our common goal to build a vibrant community that fosters a successful future for our youth.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF AUGUST D. SINGLER, FORMER SHERIFF OF JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express gratitude to August D. Singler, former Sheriff of Jackson County, Oregon. Sheriff August David Singler was killed in the line of duty on April 23, 1913, the first law enforcement officer and only Sheriff in Jackson County to die in this tragic way. He lived with his family in Jacksonville, Oregon, in the "Wilson House" located directly behind the old Jackson County Courthouse/Jail when Jacksonville was the county seat. He was a very special individual who during his short tenure in law enforcement gave his life in service for the citizens of Jackson County and the State of Oregon. His place in history is recognized because of his selfless service to his community and respect for the rule of law.

August was born on May 28, 1876, in Millersburg, Indiana, and was one of 13 children of John and Susan Singler. At a later date the Singler family moved to South Bend, Indiana, where August met his future wife Rose Probst. They eventually married November 15, 1898 and made their home in South Bend, Indiana, where their first child was born. August watched the midwife during the birth of their first child and delivered the remainder of his eight children by himself. As the family and quest to support them grew, August decided to head west. As the adventurous soul that he was, he hitchhiked to Southern Oregon twice before he wired for his wife and three children who then came to Oregon by train. Shortly after arriving, August and Rose's fourth child was born.

August performed various small jobs including selling Singer sewing machines and patented medicines for the "Electric Medical Company." August was considered a "jack-of-all-trades," who would go to great lengths to feed and clothe his family. In late 1906, August purchased a small piece of land in Medford on Lozier Lane. Although he knew very little about building houses, he proceeded to erect a two story home for his family.

August was involved in many civic organizations including the Moose Lodge, Redmens, Woodsman of the World, Knights of Columbus, and a charter member of the Elks Lodge. Because of his extensive involvement he was known as a spirited man who gave much of himself and his time to the community.

In 1909 August was appointed Constable of the Medford District and served four years in this position. Upon his appointment, Singler's reputation as keeper of the peace surfaced quickly. His exploits were known from Sacramento to Portland. Singler tracked criminals

by horseback, railroad handcar, car, and buckboard—always seeming to capture the offenders. He was called a "Super Sleuth," nervy, imaginative, tough and yet a gentle soul. The citizenry jokingly called him Sherlock Holmes.

Throughout the years, people have heard about Lawmen of the West, yet none surpassed Singler in courage, innovation, and determination. Ironically most of his achievements were accomplished during his tenure as Constable of the Medford District in Jackson County. August was responsible for introducing the art of fingerprinting to Jackson County and was the first lawman to use bloodhounds in this area.

In 1912, August Singler decided to run for Sheriff of Jackson County Oregon to support the needs of his growing family. His campaign slogan read "Party I am Working For" and featured August, his wife Rose, and their eight children. An interesting sideline to the campaign came when August's friends sent a campaign card east to former President Theodore Roosevelt.

According to the Medford Mail Tribune's January 15, 1912, edition, President Roosevelt acknowledged receipt of the card with best wishes for August's success. He was successful in the primary election against a tough opponent, Mr. Emmitt Beesen, a descendent of a local pioneer family. In the general election, August defeated popular incumbent Sheriff Wilber Jones. August's term as sheriff began in January 1913. His term was relatively routine until April 22, 1913, when he was advised of the return of a 19-year-old desperado Lester Jones. His promising career as Sheriff was cut short that day as the result of the shootout with the fugitive Jones while the Sheriff was attempting to serve him with an arrest warrant.

In a classic scene out of the old West, August walked slowly toward the two room cabin in the hills southeast of Jacksonville. The young desperado suddenly opened fire. One bullet ploughed through both of the Sheriffs lungs and another through his right hand. As August fell to the ground he opened fired, emptying his weapon. Each of the six bullets hit the fugitive, and he died instantly. Sheriff August Singler passed the next morning April 23, 1913, leaving behind his beloved wife Rose and their 8 children all under the age of 13 years old. He was the first law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty in Jackson County and the only elected Sheriff.

On April 25, 1913, with businesses in the City of Medford closed and flags lowered to half-mast, the last tribute was paid to Sheriff August Singler. The funeral procession was 12 blocks long and so great were the crowds at the church that only half could be seated with hundreds standing along the funeral procession route. It was said to be the largest outpouring of public grief in Jackson County history.

It should be recognized that Sheriff Singler deserves a place in history. His pride for his community, concern for his neighbors, and leadership are still reflected in those who understand what it takes to preserve the peace. He was said to be a gentleman in every way, and carried himself in a way that demanded respect. May his name not be forgotten, but let him be placed among other recognized lawmen of the past. April 23, 2013, represents 100 years since his tragic and untimely death.