

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NAVY
NURSE CORPS ON THEIR 90TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize the men and women who have honorably served in the United States Navy Nurse Corps. On May 13 of this year, the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps will celebrate their ninetieth anniversary of dedicated service to our country.

Established by an act of Congress in 1908, the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps has played an integral role in the day-to-day medical operations of the United States Navy. Serving in both times to conflict and peace, the men and women of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps have bravely provided the highest level of medical assistance.

Beginning as a small, dedicated collection of twenty women, the Navy Nurse Corps quickly grew in numbers to support the expanding needs of the military. During World War I, the Nurse Corps totaled over 460 regular and reserve force nurses. By the end of the World II, the Corps had an enrollment of over 11,000 nurses. Through their involvement in the two world wars and their service during the conflicts in Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, the Navy Nurse Corps has consistently proven their ability to adapt to changing circumstances and technological advances.

I respect the dedication, innovation and professional excellence that the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps has displayed since its inception. During my years of service in the Naval Dental Corps, I was able to experience, firsthand, the hard work and commitment shown by the nurses.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great amount of pride that I congratulate the men and women that have previously and currently serve in the United States Navy Nurse Corps on their ninetieth anniversary. The United States Navy Nurse Corps truly represent nursing excellence.

WELCOME TO REPRESENTATIVE
STEPHEN CHEN OF TAIWAN

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in welcoming Representative Stephen Chen to Washington. Prior to his present assignment, he was a deputy secretary-general in the office of the President, Taiwan.

Representative Chen joined the Republic of China's foreign service early in his career and has been a career diplomat, having served in various Republic of China's embassies and consulates throughout the world. Representative Chen brings to his Washington post vast experiences and super knowledge of foreign policy issues affecting the Republic of China

such as Taiwan's eventual reunification with the People's Republic and Taiwan's relations with the United States and Japan.

I wish Stephen Chen a pleasant tour of duty in Washington. These are trying times for the Republic of China's diplomats. But with patience and wisdom exercised by Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui and Foreign Minister Jason Hu, I am confident that Taiwan will continue to be respected and recognized worldwide as a free vibrant democracy, deserving admiration from all freedom-loving people everywhere.

TRIBUTE TO MARIE BIAGGI

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marie Biaggi, a true heroine—not one who has been heralded publicly, nor sought the fleeting fame of a celebrity—but a steadfast human being whose very being was the spiritual and emotional center of her family and whose guiding hand nurtured them in body, mind and soul.

Marie was an unassuming woman, whose strength, determination and sheer will is without peer. She was a matriarch in the most positive sense of the word—a leader in the microcosm of her family, who chose to stay in the shadows so that others could bask in the sunlight of their own accomplishments—husband, children, grandchildren, friends, academic associates and community and humanitarian activists. It was her strength that served as a springboard for others to achieve, to be of service. It was her strength that made her a loyal friend, a good neighbor, the quintessential mother and wife.

Born in Colonie, New York on March 18, 1918, Marie came from a family of five siblings. She and her four brothers, Anthony, Gene, Jerry, and Neil, enjoyed the simple pleasures of life in upstate New York. But, in that simplicity was generated an understanding of the most profound values of human existence—love of family and friends, strong spiritual values, a pride in work, and a tenacity that would allow her to prevail when others would have long since dropped by the wayside.

When her family moved to New York City, Marie was employed at Schriff's and, because her inner beauty was matched by her head-turning outer beauty she was also employed as a model in the garment district. As life progressed, so did her commitment move more and more away from the business world to the world of her husband, children and family.

She delighted seeing her husband of 56 years, Mario Biaggi, progress from postman to policeman to lawyer and, finally, to United States Congressman. It was her unceasing giving and constancy that provided the foundation for her husband to achieve, knowing the hearth and home were well tended. This same feeling of security and support that she gave to her children, Jacqueline, Barbara, Richard, and Mario Jr., that engendered in them the confidence to pursue successful careers in law, nursing, and psychology.

No matter what tribulation, no matter how great the sacrifice, their mother was always there. This is surely lesson to be learned by individuals from all walks of life.

As the family grew, so did Marie's desire to fulfill her personal goals—goals always born out of service to others—President and lifelong member of the Fordham Prep Mothers Club, member of AMITA, and Italian Women's Humanitarian Organization, member of the Board of Directors of the Bedford Park Senior Citizens Center, President and Member of the Columbia Association, founding member of the St. Philip Neri Assumption Society Security Patrol, and member of the St. Philip Neri Don Bosco Society—are some of her many accomplishments. Yet, while working in these volunteer capacities, she still had time at the age of 63 to graduate from Lehman College, having earned her Bachelor's degree in healthcare administration. Her motivation and grades were matched only by the warm way in which her professors and fellow students, albeit several years her junior, spoke of her.

Her achieving a college degree was the ultimate crown in a family whom she inspired and guided to academic excellence. Her reward was knowing that she had achieved her goal, yet, also knowing she had done it without sacrificing the care of her family, without compromising her ultimate *raison d'être*.

When one pictures Marie however, one also has to picture a woman whose sense of purpose had a lighter side as well. Who can forget the sound of the famous cowbell ringing throughout Baker Stadium as Marie and her family cheered her son Mario on during Columbia football games? She was a woman whose New Year's Eve parties were much anticipated and filled with song and laughter; whose Columbia Association Christmas parties for policemen and their children were characterized by an overflowing sense of generosity and love; whose square dances for AMITA brought even the most sedentary to respond to the callers hoots and hollers; whose culinary talents, especially her apple pie, were committed to book form; whose joys and blessings were found in the smiles and accomplishments of her 11 grandchildren—Julio, Vanessa, Marisa, Nicole, Justin, Veronica, Alessandra, Maria, Christina, Alexis and Mario III; and whose interest in police work was not limited to her husband's career and resulted in an outstanding citizen award by the New York City Police Department when she aided in the capture of a perpetrator. Marie was a diverse and robust woman whose touch and kindness towards others transcended every level of society and humanity. Indeed, a remarkable human being whose call to greatness was in the silence of knowing who she was and in the unrelenting giving of self that marks a true heroine.

If the spirit of a person is what distinguishes them; if this is what their "essence" is, then Marie will always be with us, doing what she does best—guiding, caring, forever loving those she loves, unfettered by the limits of earthly form, more expansive, more boundless in her love and strength than ever before.

She will be missed by all those who knew her or were touched in some way by her generous, caring nature.