

TRIBUTE TO SGT. BLANCA ZOILA
BURNLEY, U.S. MARINE CORPS

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional non-commissioned officer of the United States Marines, Sergeant Blanca Z. Burnley. On December 13, 1998, Sergeant Burnley completes a highly successful tour as the Marine Corps' Liaison Non-Commissioned Officer to this body for the past two-and-a-half years. It is a true pleasure for me to recognize a few of her many outstanding achievements.

A native of Mexico, and later naturalized in Los Angeles, California, Sergeant Burnley became dedicated to the service of this country. She entered basic training for the Marine Corps at Parris Island, South Carolina on October 20, 1990 as Recruit Valadez, following her graduation from Alexander Hamilton High School in Los Angeles, California.

Upon completion of basic training, then Private Valadez attended the Basic Administration Course at Camp Johnson, North Carolina, where she was promoted to Private First Class before reporting for duty with the First Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan on May 7, 1991. In 1st MAW's Wing Personnel Office, Blanca served successively as an Orders Clerk and was selected to participate in Ulchi Focus Lens in Osan, Korea. Upon returning from Korea, Blanca was meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal on September 2, 1991.

After serving a year on Okinawa, on May of 1992, Lance Corporal Valadez reported to the Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Camp Smith, Hawaii and was assigned to the Personnel Office as the only Separations Clerk. Within 3 months of her arrival, Lance Corporal Valadez was selected to stand before a Meritorious Corporal Board along with other Lance Corporals of her battalion—she was chosen to be meritoriously promoted to Corporal on August 2, 1997. Two years later, Corporal Valadez was promoted to Sergeant.

After 2½ years of serving with H&S Bn in Camp Smith, Hawaii, Sergeant Valadez was transferred to H & S Bn in Quantico, VA. She was attached to Headquarters company and served as the Company Clerk. During this tour, she handled the training and education as well as the administrative duties that kept the company mission-ready. Sergeant Valadez was also able to attend the Sergeants' Course where she graduated on September 21, 1995.

Sergeant Valadez was called for duty as the Marine Corps' Liaison Non-Commissioned Officer here at the Capitol in April of 1996. Soon thereafter she was married to Thurman H. Burnley II. She became well known on Capitol Hill as Sergeant Burnley, and has been instrumental in providing this Congress and its predecessor with a working knowledge of the Marine Corps. Most importantly Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Burnley has come to epitomize those qualities that we as a nation have come to expect from Marines—absolutely impeccable integrity, moral character and professionalism.

Sergeant Burnley's personal awards include the Navy Commendation Medal and the Navy Achievement Medal. Mr. Speaker, Blanca

Zoila Burnley has served this nation with distinction in war and in peace for the last eight years. As she reaches the end of her military career, I call upon my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to wish her, her loving husband Thurman, and their proud son Alexander Scott every success as well as fair winds and following seas.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH P. KENNEDY,
II, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, the Kennedys of Massachusetts have served their country—from the White House to the state house—with distinction and a sense of tradition and honor.

As a Member of the House of Representatives, JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II, has served his nation, his constituents and his family with the same vigor demonstrated by his father and his uncles, John and TED KENNEDY. While other Members of his family will continue the Kennedy legacy of public service, JOE KENNEDY's decision to leave the House will be a very real loss for the House and, in particular, the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

Those of us who have served on the Banking Committee with JOE will miss him for many reasons. We'll miss his personal presence, his energy and warmth, the way he enters meetings and personally greets each colleague and staffer with his legendary broad grin.

More importantly, the Committee will miss his passion. Throughout his Congressional career, JOE KENNEDY rarely missed an opportunity to direct the attention of the Committee toward issues affecting people not represented by the traditional Washington lobbyist. Low-income housing, community reinvestment, consumer protections are just a few of the issues JOE KENNEDY championed during the twelve years he represented Massachusetts' Eighth District.

We know JOE KENNEDY will never fully leave the public service arena for it is just not in his nature to do so. He simply has a new mission—to seek different ways to serve the underserved and to accept greater responsibility for the affairs of his extended family.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the House and the Banking Committee will not easily replace someone like JOE KENNEDY, but his contributions to the work of the United States Congress and the people of this country will remain. As JOE embarks on another path through life's journey, I wish him every success and happiness.

JOE, best wishes for all you have yet to accomplish.

DISCOVERY CREEK CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM OF WASHINGTON
GRAND OPENING AT GLEN ECHO
PARK

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the expansion of the Discovery Creek Children's Museum of Washington to a very special cultural and natural site, Glen Echo Park. Discovery Creek is known as a "living laboratory for science, history, and arts exploration." This organization has offered creative and original environmental education programming for children, schools, and families since 1994. The grand opening ceremony will be held on October 17, 1998.

I welcome Discovery Creek to Glen Echo Park. I am pleased to note that the environmental features of Discovery Creek will complement the dynamic programming of arts and humanities education, public dance, and cultural festivals that have flourished at the Park for years. More than 100 years ago, this gorgeous location was chosen as an assembly site for the national Chautauqua movement. This movement focused on education, culture, science, and the humanities. Discovery Creek's environmental education components continue this notable tradition.

The expansion of Discovery Creek's programming and exhibits will provide additional opportunities for science, history, and art exploration to thousands of children and families each year. A major focus of the exciting growth in the educational initiatives will be the exposure of inner-city children to the joy and discovery of Glen Echo Park's natural environment.

Historically, the Glen Echo site has also served a crucial environmental role. A priority for Glen Echo Park has been the protection of the Potomac Palisades. This preservation function compliments the new environmental education initiatives of Discovery Creek, which will encourage respect for the Park and its rich natural resources.

Glen Echo Park is a true gem of the Washington metropolitan region. The beauty and magic of this special place play a crucial role in the cultural life of our area residents. I have no doubt that Discovery Creek will have an immediate success as a partner with Glen Echo Park. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Discovery Creek on their exciting expansion!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on October 12, 1998, during rollcall vote Nos. 521, 522, and 523. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 521, "nay" on rollcall vote No. 522, and "no" on rollcall vote No. 523.