

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF DR. SHERMAN  
SPARKS

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2002*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of the beloved community member Dr. Sherman Sparks, of Rockwall, Texas. Dr. Sparks was a tireless country doctor who devoted his life to his friends and neighbors. He had served his community from the 1940's until his retirement in 1996. He died at the age of 92.

Sherman was a bedrock of the Rockwall community as it grew from its rural roots into a suburban city. His devotion to the community was constant, though. It was said that he did not have patients, but he had friends. During his medical practice he delivered over 3,000 babies.

He was very generous with those who needed him, but could not afford a doctor. He founded the Rockwall High School chemistry program and volunteered as doctor for the High School's athletic teams for over 30 years. Sherman also donated his services as jail doctor for the Rockwall Detention Center between 1945 and 1975. Dr. Sparks made house calls up until the day he retired—often traveling to homes that could only be reached by tractors.

Outside of his medical services, Sherman was also instrumental in the community's politics. He founded the Rockwall County Republican Party and even traveled to Washington to testify before Congress on behalf of his patients about Social Security. In the mid-1950's Sherman was instrumental in starting the Rockwall Municipal Airport, much of which they built with their own hands. He was an avid pilot.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Sherman Sparks was one of those rare community leaders who gave his entire life to shaping the community. The impact he made is incalculable. He will be remembered as a selfless giver and great family man, a father to four sons, Dr. Randy P. Sparks, Dr. Bob Sparks, David P. Sparks and James Sparks; with 14 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. We will remember with sadness the passing of this kind and caring man who gave everything to his family and community—Dr. Sherman Sparks.

HONORING NANCY RICHARDSON

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2002*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy Richardson for receiving the Excellence in Public Service Award sponsored by the Business Council. Ms. Richardson will be recognized at a luncheon sponsored by the Kenneth L. Maddy Institute, The Fresno Bee, and the Business Council.

Nancy has been active within the community for years. Her interest in the juvenile system was sparked when she learned that judges from Valley counties were sentencing children to years in the California Youth Authority at a rate that exceeded the state average. This realization led Ms. Richardson on an expedition to uncover and expose the truth. She gathered information and published 1,000 copies of her findings to let people know what was occurring. After this amazing contribution to the juvenile justice system, Nancy went on to volunteer her services to more places which benefited from her initiative. She was elected to the Fresno Unified School District's Board of Trustees, served as coordinator of the Inter-agency Council, and now works on the Foster Care Oversight Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nancy Richardson for receiving the Excellence in Public Service Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Richardson for her tremendous contributions to the community, and in wishing her many years of continued success.

HONORING MS. MAIOLA COLEMAN  
AS AN AGENT OF CHANGE IN  
TUCSON'S AND PIMA COUNTY'S  
AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2002*

Mr. PASTOR. Mister Speaker, I rise today to mark the celebration of Maiola Coleman's life by her family, friends and her community on April 19, 2002, at Grace Temple in Tucson, Arizona. They have gathered to honor Maiola's 50 years as an agent of change in Tucson's and Pima County's African American Community with choirs, commemorative awards, and remembrances by those who have been touched by her generous spirit. The community members have chosen this public acclamation to acknowledge Maiola's many achievements on their behalf.

Maiola Coleman is and has been a passionate and committed advocate of civil rights all of her life. Her mother, Tommie Thomas, was her mentor, teacher, and role model for community, grass roots activism on behalf of equal rights and equal opportunities. Maiola learned her lessons well and has honored her mother's teachings by living them and passing them on.

Her childhood experiences helped focus her energies in working with youth and young adults, especially minority youth. Her work as a job developer, trainer, and employment counselor has enabled thousands of minority youth to pursue their dreams of upward mobility through education and good entry level jobs. She has created model programs with the Tucson Urban League and with the University of Arizona that have served as national

models for successful minority educational retention programs and community collaborations for at-risk youth.

In addition to her work with youth, Maiola is the "go-to" person for solutions to problems in the African American community. Maiola works diligently with elected officials, agency directors, private employers, community leaders, and the clergy to bring resources from every sector to bear on finding solutions to problems, whether the problem affects one person or the whole community. Maiola is able to engage multiple resources because she is a "bridge builder" who is constantly linking people and organizations to maximize their effectiveness. She has a wide range of personal contacts and friends who respect her work "from the heart" and who trust her community spirit to work for the greatest good for all. Her latest collaboration has been the Desert Waste Not Warehouse which is recycling computers into the households of the minority and low-income neighborhoods of Tucson and Pima County. This program is making a tremendous difference locally in the "digital divide". It, too, may serve as a national model.

I applaud Maiola Coleman for all she has done for our community in Arizona District 2 to make civil rights a reality and to improve the living conditions of those in need. She has been given many awards and certificates of achievement. They are well deserved. We are proud of her spirit and her service. I thank Maiola for all that she has done to make our country better and stronger. I also thank her 3 children, Marcus, Stellvonne, Kimiro, and her 2 grandchildren, Kivone and Enai for encouraging and sustaining her as she shares her great gifts with the rest of us. Finally, I thank Maiola for being my friend and for sharing with me the vision of a just world.

IN MEMORY OF BOB DE LORENZI

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2002*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a friend of Northern Virginia who passed away this week, Mr. Bob de Lorenzi.

Mr. de Lorenzi was a pillar of the Northern Virginia community. As President and Chief Executive Officer of the Patriot Computer Group, Inc. and its subsidiary PatriotNet, Inc., Mr. de Lorenzi was widely admired as a businessman, receiving the 2001 Businessman of the Year Award from the Chamber of Commerce. But even more importantly, he was admired for his love and devotion to his Northern Virginia community.

Mr. de Lorenzi served as Vice Chairman of Technology, and Chief Information Officer, for the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. This is the first instance in the nation that a Chamber of Commerce appointed a Board-level CIO. He was chairman of the Central

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Fairfax Chamber of Commerce's Technology Committee since its inception in 1995, organizing the Chamber's Technology Day event geared toward improving understanding and efficiency in the technology arena.

Utilizing his professional expertise to benefit his community, Mr. de Lorenzi served on the Fairfax City/George Mason University Technology Committee and its Business/Training and Schools subcommittees, as well as the Fairfax County Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee. His volunteer efforts were recognized when the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce honored him with its 1998 Volunteer of the Year award. Last night, April 17, 2002, Bobbie Kilbert, President of the Northern Virginia Technology Council, offered a moving tribute to Mr. de Lorenzi recognizing his many contributions to Northern Virginia's high-tech community and indeed the community at large.

In October 2000, Mr. de Lorenzi again set out to make the Washington metropolitan area, and the nation, a better place by serving as chairman of the first annual Washington Conference on Telework/Telework America TM Day. This conference focused on the development and promotion of telework in the Washington metropolitan area, attempting to provide a solution to many of the difficult issues facing this region, including traffic congestion, work-life balance, recruitment and retention, and air quality—all at an affordable cost. The conference's attendees included elected and appointed representatives of Federal and local governments and managers from both private and public sectors of the entire Washington metropolitan area.

The nation's trust and admiration was revealed as Mr. de Lorenzi was presented by our President, George W. Bush, with the opportunity to serve as the Chief Technology Consultant to the Bush-Cheney Presidential Transition Team. The President discovered what Northern Virginians have long known: Bob was a man you wanted on your side.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Bob de Lorenzi, and as a representative of the residents of the 11th District of Virginia, I know he will be missed. I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Bob de Lorenzi.

#### TRIBUTE TO MERRILL CONNALLY

### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2002*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in tribute of a great Texan, a great American and a dear friend and colleague—the late Judge Merrill Lee Connally of Floresville, Texas—who passed away at the age of 80 on September 4, 2001. Over the course of his life he had been a rancher, an oilman, a radio station operator, a judge, and a soldier who served his country with distinction in the South Pacific during World War II.

Merrill grew up on his family's ranch west of Floresville where he was born as the sixth child of John Bowden Connally Sr. and Lela

Wright Connally on April 9, 1921. After attending Floresville High School, he went on to Texas A&M University in 1941 as a member of the Corps of Cadets. In January 1942, shortly after entering college, he left to enlist in the United States Marine Corps where he rose to the rank of Captain serving in the South Pacific. During the fight for Bougainville, Merrill earned two Purple Hearts.

Merrill served until 1945, after which he returned to Floresville to help manage the Connally family ranch. He continued with the ranch the rest of his life, but he had other ventures, as well. Along with 10 other fellow veterans, Mr. Connally organized and operated radio station KVET in Austin, Texas. In addition to the radio station, he had other business venture including Connally Agricultural Services, Connally Fuels, and Connally Minerals. He was also a 20 year board member of the Republic Bank of Austin.

Like all of the Connally family, Merrill served his country well by staying active in local, state and national politics. From 1847–1950, he was Wilson County Commissioner—he held the position again from 1955–1959. In both 1956 and 1960 Merrill served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He also helped his brother run for governor, serving as his campaign coordinator in both 1962 and 1964.

Merrill served on the Floresville chamber of Commerce, Wilson County Farm Bureau, Floresville Lions Club, South Texas County Judges' Association, Southwest Cattle Raisers' Association, and American Quarter Horse Association, and was a past president of the Floresville Peanut Festival Association. In addition, he served for many years on the board of directors of the Wilson Memorial Hospital, a hospital that he had played an instrumental part in founding.

Later in life, Mr. Connally began a hobby acting. He played the role of Davy Crockett in "Alamo—The Price of Freedom" and also made appearances in Steven Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Sugarcorn Express."

Most importantly, though, Merrill will be remembered a true American hero and devoted family man. Just this year he celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his loving wife Mary Catherine Howard. He was father to two and a grandfather to four.

He will be remembered by his family, friends and former colleague as a true Texas who served his state and country well. He will be remembered for his mild-mannered ways and devotion to the people of Texas. He leaves a legacy of service kindness. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize the life of a great Texan and true American hero—Merrill Lee Connally.

#### HONORING VITO CHIESA

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2002*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vito Chiesa on the occasion of the completion of his term as president of the

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau. Mr. Chiesa has served as president for the past two years, from April 2000 to 2002, and served as a board member representing the Eastside Region for two years prior to his presidency.

Vito is a peach, almond, and walnut farmer who was born and raised in Stanislaus County and has farmed all his life. He is currently the manager of Chiesa Ranch and previously owned Agriculture Land Management Co., Vito Chiesa Farms. Mr. Chiesa opens his farm to visitors to help them better understand the farming industry.

In 1999, Vito received the Outstanding Young Farmer Achievement Award. The Stanislaus County Farm Bureau has also honored him with the Outstanding Achievement Award. Mr. Chiesa has been an outstanding county farm bureau president and has demonstrated his leadership abilities during negotiations involving sensitive issues affecting the farming community. He has exhibited an impressive ability to bring diverse interests and opinions together to work toward a common goal.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vito Chiesa at the end of his term as Stanislaus County Farm Bureau President. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Chiesa for his contributions to the agriculture and the community and in wishing him many more years of continued success.

#### HONORING THE NATIONAL LAW CENTER FOR INTER-AMERICAN FREE TRADE IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

### HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2001*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an organization that recently marked its 10th anniversary of working to reduce the legal barriers to trade among nations in our hemisphere. The organization I proudly speak of is the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade, located in Tucson, Arizona.

The organization was created by Dr. Boris Kozolchik, a law professor at the University of Arizona and expert on free trade on April 1, 1992. Its purpose was to address and resolve the practical and legal obstacles that NAFTA would bring, as well as to develop the legal infrastructure necessary to facilitate the movement of goods, services and investment capital in the Western Hemisphere.

The Center works closely with the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona as an educational and research institution in such areas as banking, commercial credit, customs, electronic commerce, environment, intellectual property, labor and transportation.

Free trade leads to economic well-being, enhances political stability, and promotes public accountability and the rule of law among the nations in our hemisphere, making the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade an important organization to our state and country. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this outstanding institution.