

We will never forget his contributions to our country and our state.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIE MIRZA ESHOO

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jennie Mirza Eshoo who will celebrate her 90th birthday on July 17, 2005.

Jennie Eshoo was born Jennie Katherine Mirza in Chicago, Illinois on July 17, 1915, to Agase B. Mirza and Martha Alaverdy Mirza, the first of the couple's seven children. She graduated from Waller High School in Chicago in 1934 and on September 22 of that year she married Paul Eshoo.

Jennie and Paul Eshoo moved from Chicago to Turlock, California where they raised four children, Peter, George, Agnes and Alice, on the family farm. They were active in the Assyrian-American community and Paul was a founder of the Turlock Assyrian American Civic Club.

Jennie has an abiding love of our country and serves our democracy as a faithful precinct supervisor on the elections board. She is a devoted member of St. John's Presbyterian Church where she's served as Clerk of the Session and Elder for more than 30 years. She is known throughout the community for her generosity and helpfulness to so many, and has volunteered at Emanuel Medical Center in Turlock for over three decades.

Jennie is an avid reader whose taste ranges from National Geographic to the latest novels. She loves to travel and relishes visiting in person the sites she has "visited" in the Bible and other readings. Jennie conquers crossword puzzles in minutes, entering each solution in ink, never needing an eraser.

Jennie Eshoo is the matriarch of a large and loving family. In addition to her four children, she has eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Her grandchildren are Lisa Brown, Lorie Hill, Cherie Thompson, Christine Benjamin Nedved, Michelle Benjamin Eldridge, Annelle Martella, Karen Eshoo and Paul Eshoo. Her great-grandchildren are Amanda and Emily Brown, Madison and Jacob Eldridge, Cory Hill, Katherine and Jacqueline Nedved, and Peter Thompson.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to honor Jennie Mirza Eshoo as she celebrates her 90th birthday. I ask my colleagues to join me, her family and her many friends in saluting her as she celebrates this extraordinary milestone, and we thank her for her lifetime of service to her family, her community and her country.

TRIBUTE TO A.J. PETE REIXACH

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate A.J. Pete Reixach as the celebration of his having spent 20 years at Port Freeport rapidly approaches.

As American Association of Port Authorities President Kurt J. Nagle said recently, "Pete

deserves congratulations not only for reaching the remarkable milestone of 20 years at the Port, but also for the dramatic growth Port Freeport has achieved during his tenure. In an industry where the average tenure for a port director is less than 7 years, Pete's 20 years at Port Freeport are a tribute to his effectiveness in directing the Port and to the Port's substantial economic impacts to the region. He is both well-respected and recognized as an industry leader by his colleagues."

To learn more about Reixach's time at the Port one only needs to talk with representatives of the Port's many customers such as American Rice Inc., Dole Fresh Fruit Company, Chiquita Brands Inc. and Turbana Corp, the last two of which began their relationship with the Port during Reixach's tenure.

Mr. Speaker, Port Freeport now ranks 12th among all U.S. ports in international cargo. The Port has added new berths and continues to grow. A cool storage facility has been built and is set for expansion. The harbor channel was deepened to 45 feet with efforts now moving forward in this Congress toward approval of a 60-foot depth, a project I have been pleased to support. Public dock activity at the Port has burgeoned; so, too, has that at berths of such firms as Teppco/Seaway, ConocoPhillips and The Dow Chemical Co. This has all happened during Reixach's time as Executive Director of the Port.

While enrolled at the University of New Orleans Mr. Reixach began working as a clerk in the New Orleans office of Greek-owned Hellenic Lines Ltd. By the time Hellenic ceased operations in 1983, Reixach had worked his way up to a vice presidency in the line's Houston office. Immediately prior to coming to Port Freeport, he was general manager in the Houston office of Dutch shipping company F.A. Voight Inc.

Reixach initially was hired to serve as assistant general manager at Freeport. Two years later, Reixach was promoted to the new position of executive director, the job he still holds.

Mr. Speaker, Pete Reixach, 62, lives in Lake Jackson with his wife, Susie. I wish the two of them much happiness and continued success as Pete approaches 20 years with Port Freeport.

RECOGNIZING THE STUDENTS OF FOUR OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to the students of Four Oaks Middle School, in North Carolina's Second District. These students put together 532 packages for the Tsunami victims as part of a Beta Club Relief Fund service project. When I met with the students in January, they told me at the time that their goal was to complete 300 packages. I challenged them to complete 500 packages, one for each student in the school. They not only met my challenge, but they exceeded it by completing 532 packages, each with a hand towel, soap, a washcloth, a toothbrush, toothpaste, a comb, six adhesive bandage, and a nail file.

The selflessness of the students at Four Oaks Middle School should make all of us proud. They came up with their own initiative, made all the plans and collected the packages by themselves. This project is an indication that they recognize that they are a part of the world. They worked to help relieve the suffering of boys and girls halfway around the world that they don't know and won't ever see. This is what America is truly all about.

I also would like to recognize the teachers and administrators at Four Oaks Middle School. They are a shining example of the role teachers and administrators play in teaching values to the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the boys and girls of Four Oaks Middle School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, during debate on July 11 and 12, 2005 I was unavoidably detained due to an illness, and unable to make the votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following: rollcall No. 363 "yes"; rollcall No. 364 "yes"; rollcall No. 365 "no"; rollcall No. 366 "no"; rollcall No. 367 "no"; rollcall No. 368 "yes"; rollcall No. 369 "no"; rollcall No. 370 "no"; rollcall No. 371 "no" and rollcall No. 372 "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On July 11, 2005—rollcall vote 363, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, As Amended, H. Con. Res. 168, condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights, I would have voted "yes" and rollcall vote 364, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 333, supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan, I would have voted "yes."

On July 12, 2005—rollcall vote 365, on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 351, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 739, H.R. 740, H.R. 741, and H.R. 742, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 366, on Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 351, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 739, H.R. 740, H.R. 741, and H.R. 742, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 367, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 352, providing that the House of Representatives will focus on removing barriers to competitiveness of the United States economy, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 368, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 343, commending the State of Kuwait for granting women certain important political rights, I

would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 369, on Passage of H.R. 739, the Occupational Safety and Health Small Business Day in Court Act, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 370, on Passage of H.R. 740, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission Efficiency Act, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 371, on Passage of H.R. 740, the Occupational Safety and Health Independent Review of OSHA Citations Act, I would have voted "yes" and rollcall vote 372, on Passage of H.R. 740, the Occupational Safety and Health Small Employer Access to Justice Act of 2005, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 11, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives considered two bills under suspension of the rules: H. Con. Res. 168—Condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights; and H. Res. 333—Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to travel to Washington, DC on Monday because the Jackson-Evers International Airport in Jackson, Mississippi, from which I usually travel to DC, was closed due to the recent landfall of Hurricane Dennis. However, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" in favor of both resolutions.

HONORING SPC CHRISTOPHER LEE HOSKINS

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the service and sacrifice of a brave young soldier from my district, SPC Christopher Lee Hoskins, who gave his life in the cause of freedom and democracy in Iraq. I also pay tribute to SPC Hoskins' family, who raised this fine young man in an environment of loving care and who supported his decision to serve his country in uniform in Iraq.

On June 21, Army SPC Christopher Hoskins, of Killingly, Connecticut, was killed in Ramadi, Iraq, after his unit came under small arms fire west of Baghdad. The death of SPC Hoskins, who was a member of the Army's 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, marked the 25th death of a Connecticut soldier in the war in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

SPC Hoskins was 21 years old. He, along with so many other fine young men and women from across our Nation, was serving America and the cause of freedom by fighting terrorism and helping to bring stability to a part of the world that for far too long has known mainly violence and misery.

SPC Hoskins graduated from Killingly High School in 2001. He enlisted in the Army in

2003. He had recently re-enlisted for another four years.

In many ways, SPC Hoskins was typical of most American youths. His friends recalled that he was generous and polite; he enjoyed listening to Metallica; he played chess and was a member of his high school wrestling team; he enjoyed painting and he worked the cameras at school plays.

And in many ways he was typical of the men and women who preceded him as members of our Nation's armed forces. This was a young man who wanted to serve a cause larger than himself.

This was a young man who did not have to place himself in harm's way but volunteered to do so in service to our Nation, our people and the way of life that we treasure. America is a better place because of young men like Army SPC Christopher Hoskins.

We cannot repay the debt we owe Christopher Hoskins; we can only honor him and his family. And we do.

Memorial Day was set aside as the day when Americans remember those who left their homes, families and jobs to defend our Nation—and never returned. But our men and women in uniform defend freedom every day, and every day there are those who pay the ultimate price for their selflessness. It would be highly appropriate if we took a moment out of every day to honor and remember the men and women who stand between America and those who would do her harm.

Today, July 14, 2005 SPC Hoskins was interred at Arlington National Cemetery overlooking Washington, D.C. with full military honors. He will posthumously receive a Purple Heart for his wounds and a Bronze Star for his valor. SPC Hoskins will rest in good company, among others who answered the call to duty, honor and country.

We pray that the service and sacrifice of SPC Hoskins will remind us of the high cost which is paid by those who love our freedom, who believe in our democracy and who give their best to defend the best Nation on Earth. May God rest his soul.

FREEDOM FOR ALEJANDRO GONZÁLEZ RAGA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Alejandro González Raga, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González Raga is an independent journalist and a contributor to the Camagüey Press Agency. As an independent journalist in a totalitarian Cuba, Mr. González Raga's truthful articles have helped the world to learn the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Because of his belief in factual reporting, Mr. González Raga relentlessly chronicled the atrocities committed by Castro's machinery of repression. I remind my colleagues that, under Castro's totalitarian regime, any freedom of the press, any effort to display the atrocities of the regime under the spotlight of truth, is met with swift and violent repression.

In March, 2003, Mr. González Raga was arrested as part of the dictatorship's heinous

crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists. According to Reporters Without Borders, as part of his sham trial, Mr. González Raga was accused of "cooperating with the foreign press," and of "systematically endangering territorial integrity" by writing reports on subjects considered "very sensitive" by the dictatorship such as "shortages due to the economic crisis, relations with other countries, TV programs, the education budget." He was sentenced to 14 years in Castro's dungeons for these "crimes."

Let me be very clear, Mr. González Raga is currently languishing in the depraved conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his truthful articles. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for reporting the facts.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, independent journalists who write the truth about totalitarian regimes are systematically tortured. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Alejandro González Raga and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

MONMOUTH COUNTY'S BEN
DANSKIN CELEBRATES 80TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best and warmest wishes to a good friend and constituent, Mr. Benjamin H. Danskin, who today celebrates his 80th birthday.

Ben Danskin has been a key figure in government service, public advocacy and business development in Monmouth County, New Jersey for more than 50 years. He is respected, admired and well-liked by colleagues, associates and former political rivals. His family and close friends are inspired by his wit, good nature, character, charisma and kindness.

Born and raised in Spring Lake, New Jersey, Ben and his older brother, Clyde, learned the importance of public service through their father's example. Their father, Benjamin S. Danskin, was a realtor with Horatio Clayton Real Estate and Insurance, which he later bought and named the Danskin Agency. Successful in business, Benjamin S. Danskin also succeeded in the public arena. He served as the Secretary of the State Division of Tax Appeals, President of the New Jersey Association of Tax Commissioners, and Deputy Director of Taxation, assisting in the creation of the state tax equalization program. Government service would become a family trait.

In September 1943, young Ben Danskin joined the Army as a Lieutenant and began training to become a B-25 bomber pilot. When World War II ended, Ben enrolled in the Dickinson College to pursue a degree in political