MISSISSIPPI FLOODS

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, when standing at the tops of the levees overlooking the Mississippi River, the mind's eye can still recall the army of sandbags atop the dirt and sand. You can still remember the smell of diesel fumes from the drainage pumps sending water out over the levee walls this summer. Thankfully, after the waters rose and fell, the sun shines again in my district. The floods are by no means forgotten. Winfield even today is still recovering from levee breaks, and LaGrange, Clarksville and Louisiana are still disposing of debris left behind throughout their towns. However, the signs of water lines against levees and unprotected structures mean lives are moving toward normalcy. After weeks of fighting floodwaters this summer, Jeff McReynolds gets to see his wife and baby at night, and Mark Campbell eats meals at home. In short, Northeast Missouri is beginning to recognize normal again.

Growing up in the shadow of Mississippi River levees, I know the stress and anguish a flood brings. I also know that those who sandbag levees to save their neighbor's home or farm are some of the biggest heroes we have in Missouri. So, with that said, let me now honor Canton Emergency Services Director Jeff McReynolds; Hannibal's Emergency Services Director John Hark; LaGrange City Administrator Mark Campbell; Alexandria Mayor Bob Davis; West Quincy's Roger Sutter and Norman Haerr; Louisiana Mayor Don Giltner; LaGrange City Administrator Mark Campbell; Lewis County Emergency Manager David Keith; Des Moines River Drainage District Chairman John Winkleman; Louisiana City Administrator Bob Jenne; Pike County Emergency Manager Al Murry; Marion County Drainage District Commissioner Brent Hoerr; South River Drainage District Commissioner David Bleigh; Gregory Landing Drainage District Commissioner Kent Leftwich; and Clarksville Mayor JoAnne Smiley for leading the efforts to protect their hometowns. I also thank Colonel Setliff and Colonel Sinkler of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. And, finally, I thank every citizen, National Guard soldier and government official that helped saved our towns. These men and women are all true heroes.

There is also sadness in Missouri, for not all of our levees along the Mississippi River held. In addition to the tragic flooding in Iowa and Illinois, many areas of Lincoln County saw levees breached, and the air filled with news choppers that captured images of the flooding. This flooding has a profound effect on everyone who lives or works near the river because once you lose a crop or are forced to rebuild a house, you will always be able to empathize with those who find water where a home or farm should be.

And just as friends, neighbors and perfect strangers helped shore up Clarksville, Canton and West Quincy's levees, we Missourians helped Iowans, Illinoisans and our brothers and sisters elsewhere in Missouri rebuild their lives this summer and now into this fall. Communities up and down the Mississippi River have exhausted themselves and their resources to fight this flood.

To truly honor their service, we must continue to ensure that FEMA and our other federal agencies and resources are committed to the cause of recovery from this and future disasters. We will remain diligent in this effort, for to do otherwise would cheapen the work that the thousands of volunteers in my district and elsewhere in Missouri put forward on this effort. I could not look JoAnne Smiley and all our other volunteers and coordinators in the face without making this commitment, for this is what their commitment deserves and requires.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST VERTICAL ASCENT OF EL CAPITAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 50th anniversary of the first vertical ascent of Yosemite's El Capitan. Standing at 3,593 feet above the Yosemite Valley floor, El Capitan is the largest granite monolith in the world. Since it was named by the Mariposa Battalion in 1851, this natural wonder has lured travelers and climbers from all over the world.

The natural beauty and wonders of Yosemite National Park have inspired countless travelers and have earned Yosemite its reputation as the ''crown jewel'' of the National Park System. It was this very majesty that compelled Wayne Merry, George Whitmore and Warren J. Harding to fearlessly ascend the seemingly impassable face of El Capitan and become legends amongst the climbing community.

Over a strenuous period of 47 days, this team of climbers courageously charted the Nose Route vertically over the face of El Capitan. Lacking many of the technological developments available in current climbing gear, these men relied heavily on aid climbing with nothing more than fixed rope, pitons and expansion bolts to facilitate their ascent. Finally, on November 12, 1958, they conquered the summit of El Capitan, effectively raising the standards of climbing throughout the world.

I am proud to recognize the accomplishment of Wayne Merry, George Whitmore and Warren J. Harding on the occasion of their endeavor's 50th anniversary. Thousands of climbers have since used the very same route to reach El Capitan's summit and vista. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of this achievement and honoring the brave men of the original climbing team.

HONORING JUDY PARK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Judy Park on the occasion of her retirement after 40 years of dedicated service to the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, NARFE, and the 4.6 million Federal workers and annuitants it represents.

Judy began her career at NARFE, then known as the National Association of Retired Civil Employees, in 1968 when newly elected president Thomas G. Walters asked her to join him in starting a legislative presence. Only 4 years out of college, Judy wasted no time. Early victories included granting survivor benefits to second spouses of retirees, extending survivor benefits to spouses in postretirement marriages, making retirees eligible to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program open season, restoring full annuities to retirees at the death of a survivor, and increasing the Government share of health premiums.

In 1976, Judy became the first legislative director for NARFE and began hiring a staff. In the 1980s, Judy coordinated a major NARFE effort that resulted in the crafting of the Federal Employees Retirement System, FERS, after Federal employees were required to be universally covered by Social Security.

Perhaps the biggest legislative accomplishment of her career was the repeal of the Medicare Catastrophic Protection Act of 1988, because everybody said the repeal would never happen. Judy saw that the new law placed an unjust surtax on all retirees, especially Federal retirees. NARFE worked with the Military Officers Association of America and ultimately put together a 38-organization Coalition for Affordable Health Care that continues to work together today.

Judy has dedicated her life to ensuring that Federal employees and retirees are treated fairly and with respect—an incredible recognition of the important work civil servants perform given that she is not a Federal retiree herself. During her 40-year career, Judy has met with six U.S. Presidents and scores of congressional Members; she has worked with a dozen NARFE presidents; and she has seen the NARFE membership double in size.

Perhaps a former employee describes Judy best when she says that Judy ''embodies the words 'trust, leadership and grace.' '' It has been my pleasure to work with Judy on issues of importance to Federal employees and retires and I ask that you join me in applauding Judy Park for her excellent service to protecting the rights of Federal employees and retirees. I congratulate Judy in her retirement and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING ARCHIE MANINA ON HIS RETIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF THE OGEMAW COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE AFTER 26 YEARS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Archie Manina of Rose City, MI. Mr. Manina has served as director of the Ogemaw County Veterans Affairs Office for 26 years will be retiring effective November 30. In recognition of his quarter-century of service, I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring Archie Manina on this momentous occasion.

Mr. Manina was born in Rose City, Michigan and spent the early years of his life living on a rural farm in Gratiot County, MI. For a time,

he attended a one-room country school and then a parochial school in Alma, MI. In the summer of 1956, his family moved to the small farming community of Ithaca, MI. Mr. Manina went on to graduate from Ithaca High School in 1965 and attend Central Michigan University to study secondary teaching. He worked as a harness horse groom and horse trainer during his summers while in college, a hobby that has stuck with Mr. Manina throughout his life. In June 1969 he graduated with a degree in secondary education and was simultaneously commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

In July 1969 Lieutenant Manina went on active duty and after completing the Infantry Officer Basic Course and Airborne School he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. He was reassigned to Vietnam and served there until May 1971 as a platoon leader and intelligence officer. For his service, Lieutenant Manina was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and Basic Parachutist's Badge.

Upon release from the Army, Mr. Manina trained harness horses for a year prior to entering graduate school at Central Michigan University in August 1972. He graduated with a special education certificate in June 1973 and soon after received a master's degree in special education. On August 4, 1973, he married Susan Hashbarger and they soon moved to La Grange, IN, where Mr. Manina taught at Lakeland High School. Archie and Sue were blessed with two sons.

In 1975, Archie and Sue Manina moved back to Michigan, where Archie worked in Roscommon, MI, as teacher for severely mentally impaired students. In June 1979, he left the education field and became the assistant to the administrator of Ogemaw Valley Medical Facility in Rose City until January 1984. In June 1983, Archie Manina became the director of Veterans Affairs in Ogemaw County, a position he still holds today.

As a U.S. Army veteran himself, Archie Manina has been a tireless advocate for Ogemaw County's veterans these past 26 years and has distinguished himself as a true leader in the community. Mr. Manina has worked for more than a quarter century to help honor the commitment our Nation has made to our veterans. For this, I know he has the gratitude of Ogemaw County's veterans and the entire Ogemaw County community.

Madam Speaker, Archie Manina is a humble man who has worked hard to recognize his fellow veterans for their achievements, while never seeking recognition for his own. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking and saluting Mr. Archie Manina for his 26 years of service with the Ogemaw County Veterans Affairs Office and wishing him well on his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN ROTH AND MS. MARY TOMPKEY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work of two great Americans, Mr. John Roth and Ms. Mary Tompkey. These two dedicated civil servants have been the glue in the resource management community of the Department of Defense since the start of the War on Terror. They have been tremendous assets in assisting the staff of the Defense Subcommittee in their review of the defense budget and have worked tirelessly in the service of their country.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Roth is the Deputy Comptroller (Program/Budget) within the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller). As such, he is responsible for all aspects of the Department of Defense budget's preparation, defense, and execution. The FY 2009 budget alone totaled $515 billion in over 50 appropriations and accounts in addition to $70 billion to support operations for the War on Terror. Before taking his current position in 2001, Mr. Roth was the Deputy Director for Investment with the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller).

Mr. Roth entered civil service as a trainee in the Department of the Navy's Centralized Financial Management Training Program. He has completed tours of duty at the Norfolk Naval Supply Center, the Naval Data Automation Command, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). He started in the Defense Comptroller's office as a budget analyst in 1984 and has, over the years, reviewed a wide variety of weapon system programs across all Defense components.

Madam Speaker, since 2005 Ms. Tompkey has been the Assistant Deputy Director of the Program Budget Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (OSD) Comptroller. In this position she has helped to lead during a time of significant organizational change and has assisted the Under Secretary Comptroller during noteworthy periods of transition.

From 2002 to 2005, Ms. Tompkey worked as Director of Operations and Personnel in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (OSD) Comptroller and was previously the Deputy Director for Military Construction and Classified Activities, Under Secretary of Defense (OSD) Comptroller. She has also worked as an Associate Director for Investment, a Budget Analyst for the Directorate for Plans and Systems, a Budget Analyst for the Directorate for Operations and Personnel, and a Budget Analyst in the Department of the Air Force where she started in 1975.

Together, these two have been instrumental in the formulation and passage of all of the Department of Defense Appropriations bills and War Supplemental Appropriations bills since the War on Terror began in 2002.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and selfless service of these two outstanding individuals. On behalf of the United States Congress, I say ''thank you'' for their over fifty years of combined service and experience, for their dedication to the Department of Defense, and for their work on behalf of our brave men and women in uniform. I would like to conclude my remarks by saying that I look forward to working with them for many more years.

AMERICA CAN LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ZAKA SEARCH AND RESCUE

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of September 11th, we have made huge strides in expanding and updating our Nation's emergency preparedness and response capabilities. As a whole, our communities are better prepared than ever before. However, like with everything else, more can be done and we cannot lull ourselves into believing that we have all the answers; especially considering that we do not know what the next terrorist attack may look like. The old military adage is that you go into the next war with your army prepared for the last war; and I believe that philosophy applies to our Nation's emergency response system. I believe that our first responders have worked hard to anticipate and train for a future crisis but what will we do if those experts become the victims? It is not hard to imagine a scenario where terrorists attack police, firefighters and other emergency responders in order to sow more chaos and confusion. If our frontline responders go down are others prepared to step up and handle the crisis?

I believe that we should look to the efforts of ZAKA Rescue and Recovery, an Israeli volunteer organization dedicated to helping victims of terrorist attacks, accidents or natural disasters for guidance. I think we can all agree that the threat of terrorist attacks and missile strikes are an everyday worry for the people of Israel; and ZAKA volunteers are often the first to arrive on the scene when tragedy strikes working seamlessly with Israel's police and emergency responders. At the core of ZAKA's mission is the belief in the preservation of human dignity when disaster strikes. ZAKA volunteers provide first aid and rescue services, aid in the identification of the victims of terrorism, accidents and other disasters, and where necessary ensure that the deceased receive a proper Jewish burial. ZAKA first aid materials and supplies and volunteers are prepositioned in practically every Israeli community; along with special motor scooters ready to take them to the scene of any accident or terrorist attack day or night.

ZAKA has gained international recognition by expanding their rescue and recovery work around the world to include the United States. In the aftermath of the deadly Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in 2004, ZAKA teams were on the ground and worked side-by-side with the host nations and other international rescue and recovery teams to help identify victims. ZAKA has also helped return victims of plane crashes in Russia and Namibia as well as help rescue and preserve sacred Jewish Torahs in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Last year alone, ZAKA volunteers participated in more than 18,000 life-saving or search-and-rescue incidents, and I believe that ZAKA has a level of emergency preparedness and response expertise that we here in the United States could benefit from. That's why I truly believe America's first responders and our communities could benefit from ZAKA's expertise and vice versa. ZAKA's dedication to