

HONORING SERGEANT PATRICIA
ORISINI

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Patricia A. Orisini for her life of service to our country and her strong leadership of the Wounded Warrior Program. As the Program's first director, Sergeant Orisini took a new idea and transformed it into a life-changing opportunity for our nation's veterans.

Sergeant Orisini joined the United States Marine Corps in 1975. After 24 years of active duty and a combined three decades of service, she obtained the highest grade of an enlisted Marine—the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. She has represented our men and women in uniform through her work with the Department of Veterans Affairs and with the American Legion. Re-called to active duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom, she built and managed a “medical hold” program designed to assist injured reservists.

Sergeant Orisini's experience culminated with her outstanding guidance of the Wounded Warrior Program. After joining the Program only eight years ago, she retires having helped 182 wounded and disabled veterans become Wounded Warrior Fellows, over 100 of who have either returned to college or become full time employees with a Congressional office and other government agencies.

Sergeant Orisini, who earned her bachelor's degree by studying in the evenings while on active duty, holds affiliations with the Foreign Joint Services NCO Association, Disabled American Veterans, Women Marines Association, Marine Corps League and the National Italian American Foundation. Through her hard work and visionary leadership, she is a model American and public servant.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this special occasion as we celebrate the life and career of Sergeant Patricia A. Orisini and her faithful service to our country.

RECOGNIZING BLACK POETRY DAY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Black Poetry Day which is celebrated on October 17th. Jupiter Hammon, a slave and poet who was born in my home state of New York on this day in 1711, was the first African American writer whose work was published in the United States.

First recognized in 1985, we celebrate Black Poetry Day to honor past and present poets such as Langston Hughes, Phillis Wheatley, Frank X. Walker and Maya Angelou. The works of these and many more authors provide our students insight into both poetry and United States history.

While not officially recognized as a holiday, SUNY Plattsburgh recognizes Black Poetry Day each year with a ceremony and a guest speaker. This event gives credence to the hard work and dedication of African Americans

who have overcome adversity to express themselves through poetry.

Thank you to SUNY Plattsburgh for your commitment to honoring this day by hosting events in celebration year after year. I want to wish you great success at this year's event.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, October 10 is Taiwan's national day—also known as Double Ten Day. The United States and Taiwan have a strong relationship. Taiwan is a good friend and ally. I congratulate Taiwan on its national day.

We also need to be standing by Taiwan and supporting its efforts to be a responsible member of the international community. The International Civil Aviation Organization or “ICAO” is a UN agency to ensure the safety of planes that fly around the world. But even though it is less than a week away, there has been no indication that Taiwan will be able to participate in ICAO's 39th Triennial Assembly on September 27. Three years ago, Taiwan was invited by the then-ICAO Council President to attend as a guest, but that invitation was no guarantee that Taiwan could keep attending. Congress passed a law three years ago encouraging ICAO to give Taiwan observer status. Giving Taiwan such status would contribute to the success of ICAO's mission to address aviation security threats through effective international cooperation.

As our 9th-largest trading partner in 2015, Taiwan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership is a no-brainer. It would boost our trade relationship with Taiwan and would make the overall impact of TPP even better for Americans. To provide greater protection for investors in both countries, we should also work on completing a Bilateral Investment Agreement with Taiwan. In all, trade is an important part of our relationship with Taiwan and I hope my colleagues will join me in advocating for these steps.

Again, I wish the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day. And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN ON
THEIR 105TH NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the people of Taiwan on their 105th National Day, which is October 10th, and take a moment to emphasize the significance of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship to both of our nations.

Taiwan is a faithful friend of the United States and an important strategic partner, promoting peace and stability in the region through our shared values of democracy and respect for human rights. Our economic ties continue to expand to our mutual benefit.

On this National Day, I also want to highlight the importance of the Taiwan Relations

Act of 1979, which serves as the basis for our relationship. I am proud to say that the United States continues to build relations with Taiwan.

I am honored to travel to Taiwan on this joyous occasion and congratulate our ally. I look forward to the continuation of friendship and cooperation between the governments and citizens of the United States and Taiwan.

HONORING ART IBLETO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Art Ibleto's lifetime of achievements and generous service to our community upon his 90th birthday.

Mr. Ibleto was born in the town of Sesta Godano in Northern Italy on October 2, 1926. As a young man, he fought with resistance groups against Fascism and Nazi Germany.

After valiantly serving his home country, Mr. Ibleto immigrated to the United States and decided to settle in Sonoma County in 1949 calling it “one of the most beautiful places on earth.” He began working in Sonoma's fields as a vegetable picker, mechanic and truck driver, and soon fell in love with Vicki Ghiradelli whom he married in 1951. The couple soon began to live their own American Dream and bought their first home together in 1961. They developed their own farm soon thereafter to raise hogs, cattle, and potatoes. They later added a Christmas tree farm, a vineyard and real estate on their property.

Mr. Ibleto founded the Spaghetti Palace at the Sonoma County Fair as a United Lodges, Sons of Italy project in 1974. What began as a project soon became an institutional landmark. The success of his Spaghetti Palace inspired Mr. Ibleto to pursue a career of supplying locals with his own line of Italian cuisine and catering inspired by traditional Italian methods. Today, Art's booming business is well known throughout California and local residents affectionately refer to him as the “Pasta King.”

Art is a cook, grape grower, winemaker and a constant source of pride for our community in Sonoma County. In the last few years, Mr. Ibleto's charity pasta feeds have raised over \$500,000 to support a wide range of causes from local animal shelters to survivors of a terrible Highway 101 accident.

Mr. Speaker, Art Ibleto has not only led a successful career in agriculture, but he has become a culinary and community leader of legendary proportions. He is a true friend of our community and a good friend of mine. Mr. Ibleto's work and philanthropy have left an indelible mark on Sonoma County and California, and it is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. “BUDDY” CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 22, 2016, I was absent

due to personal reasons and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Number 553 on agreeing to Amendment No. 5 offered by Rep. ENGEL—Nay.

Roll Call Number 554 passage of H.R. 5719—Aye.

Roll Call Number 555 passage of H.R. 5037—Aye.

Roll Call Number 556 passage of H.R. 5798—Aye.

TRIBUTE TO PUTNAM COUNTY,
INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Putnam County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Thursday, September 22, 2016.

The county sits on the southwestern edge of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was named in honor of Israel Putnam, a hero in the French and Indian War and a general during the American Revolutionary War. The county was formed on April 1, 1822 from Owen and Vigo Counties and parts of the Wabash New Purchase. The county seat is located in Greencastle, home of DePauw University. The county is famous for the many surviving covered bridges that remain from a bygone era.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana's past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are generally, culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the ten Legacy Projects throughout the county are: the Heritage Preservation Society of Putnam County, the Town of Bainbridge, DNR Nature Preserves, DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, DePauw University, the Putnam County Bicentennial Celebrations Planning Group, and National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Putnam County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present and future of Indiana's history.

A CAREER SPENT CLOSING THE
ACHIEVEMENT GAP

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephanie Heilig of Duluth, Minnesota for her 41 years of service within the Duluth School District going above and beyond to create a positive learning environment for all students. I want to wish Stephanie the best as she celebrates her much deserved retirement.

While Principal of Myers-Wilkins Elementary, where a majority of students come from households with incomes below the poverty line, Principal Heilig worked tirelessly to engage families and give students the resources they need to learn. As students, teachers, administrators, and principals begin a new school year, one of the biggest issues facing schools is an achievement gap between students from different demographic groups. However, at Myers-Wilkins Elementary Principal Heilig's efforts created an environment where all students, regardless of their background, had an equal opportunity to learn.

She was very passionate about fostering a collaboration between the school and the community it serves by setting up after-school programs such as "family nights." During school she would use every available opportunity to give books to students while encouraging them to read. Additionally, she made a point to spend time in the halls of Myers-Wilkins talking to students to learn about their lives outside of school, their struggles and their achievements.

Thank you Stephanie for your 41 years of dedicated service and for going above and beyond what was required to give all students the best possible environment to learn. Please join me in wishing Stephanie Heilig the absolute best in her retirement.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE SYLVANIA SISTERS OF
ST. FRANCIS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a momentous occasion in the life of the Sylvania congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis. The Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis are celebrating their centennial year in 2016 and Saturday September 24, 2016, the Sisters and our community came together in a centennial celebration honoring the Franciscans' 100 years of service in our community.

It was Bishop Joseph Schrembs of the Toledo Catholic Diocese who initially requested religious sisters to teach the children of Polish immigrants in Toledo's Catholic Schools. On December 8, 1916, the Sylvania Franciscans were founded as a province of the Sisters of St. Francis in Rochester, Minnesota. The Sisters were stationed at St. Hedwig School in the North End of Toledo and a hub of Polish life in the city. After 89 acres of land was purchased in 1917 through the Rochester community, the Sisters were formally established in Sylvania, Ohio and were known as the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and were led by Mother Adelaide.

In the century that followed, the Sylvania Franciscans branched out from their original call to teach the city's Polish immigrant children to sharing the Franciscan presence in ministries spanning health care, housing, human services and pastoral care in addition to education. The Sisters' work is carried forth in eight states and the country of Haiti with 150 Sisters serving our human family. The Sisters' ministries are founded on the "core values of reverence, service, community, stewardship." The Franciscan Sisters are

called "like Francis of Assisi to live the Gospel in joyful servanthood among all people. The Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, as messengers of peace, commit themselves to works that reverence human dignity, embrace the poor and marginalized, and respect the gift of all creation." Living Christ's message described in Matthew 25:40 "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." The Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis come to their centennial year as an integral part of our community. Their imprimatur is seen everywhere, from the beautiful elegiac campus in Sylvania, to the schools, caring services and hospitals in which they minister, and the Sylvania Franciscan Village which was established to integrate the Sisters' ministries.

In addition to traditional ministries, the Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis are leading efforts toward peace and justice and restoring nature. The Sisters note, "We believe that nature, the arts and culture, and the goodness around us nurture our souls and make us sensitive to Mother Earth and her peoples." It is that connection that truly defines the Sisters of St. Francis. A walk on the grounds of the Sisters of St. Francis is to behold the beauty of nature in all of its glory, to hear the silence and to feel God's presence everywhere.

From the barracks and strawberry patch Mother Adelaide and the 22 pioneering Sisters first established, the grounds of the Sisters of St. Francis now feature many buildings in which the Sisters live and work, shrines, grottos, a prayer garden, the Portiuncula Chapel and adjacent Lourdes University. Its mission-style buildings showcase stunning mosaics and works of arts crafted by the Sisters themselves. It is truly an oasis of peace and tranquility.

St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." Throughout their one hundred year history the Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis have lived this truth. Their presence and their good works demonstrate Christ's path and God's deep love. As the Sisters go forth toward their next centennial, let us be mindful of the history, but with a vision for the future. Our community gratefully and enthusiastically joins with them to celebrate the life of this vital and cherished congregation that is the Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 542, had I been present, I would have voted NO.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE STILLWATER
AREA COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 25th Anniversary of