

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain how I would have voted on September 20, 2005 during Rollcall vote No. 476, and No. 477 during the first session of the 109th Congress. The first vote was on H.R. 3761—the Flexibility for Displaced workers Act, and the second was H. Res. 441—to congratulate the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Discovery Crew.

I respectfully request that it be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if present, I would have voted “yes” on these rollcall votes.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY
SCOUT TROOP 329**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Boy Scout Troop 329 of McCandless Township, on the 60th anniversary of the troop's founding. For more than half of a century the troop has demonstrated steadfast commitment to its motto of, “Setting the Standard, Keeping with Traditions and Advancing to Higher Levels.”

Over the past 60 years Troop 329 has helped young men achieve their greatest potential and prepare for a future of service and a life centered on giving. As a testament to the troop's motto, they have produced 44 Eagle Scouts over the past 10 years alone. In addition, the Scouts of Troop 329 have accomplished many Life Rank and Eagle Rank Service Projects, completed countless hours of community service, and attended various summer camps, including the Heritage Reservation and the National Jamboree.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 60th anniversary of the Boy Scout Troop 329. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a principled organization as Boy Scout Troop 329.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 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:

Rollcall vote 476, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 3761—the Flexibility for Displaced Workers Act, I would have voted “yes.”

Rollcall vote 477, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 441—congratulating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Discovery Crew, I would have voted “yes.”

AUDIE MURPHY, TEXAS WARRIOR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a native Texan and the most decorated United States soldier of World War II. Audie Leon Murphy was born into humble beginnings in northeast Texas near Kingston, Texas. He grew up in nearby Celeste, Texas. A sharecropper's son, he was the 6th of 12 children, only 9 of whom survived to see their 18th birthday. Murphy grew up in extreme poverty. By his ninth birthday, he had already become an impressive rifle shot due to the fact that he spent a good portion of his childhood hunting rabbits and squirrels for food for his family's table. He had no idea that his shooting skills would be needed later.

When he wasn't hunting, he took odd jobs around the community—on farms, gas stations and local grocery stores. When Audie was 12, his father left his mother and the children to fend for themselves. He never returned and Audie became the breadwinner for the family. At age 16, he was working at a radio repair shop and tragedy struck his life yet again. His mother died and he and his siblings were left orphans.

In desperate need of money to help support his siblings, he tried to join the military. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Audie tried to enlist but was rejected because he was too young. Eventually he was accepted into the U.S. Army after being turned down by the Navy, Marines and Army Paratroopers because he was too short at only 5 feet, 5 inches tall and 110 pounds. He signed the papers a few days after his 18th birthday and was sent to training at Fort Wolters, Texas. During one of his first training sessions, he fell flat on his face and was knocked out cold. The company commanders took this opportunity to encourage him to pursue other opportunities such as cook or bakers school but he would have nothing of it. He persisted and was resolute about becoming a fierce, fighting soldier.

After 13 weeks of Basic Training, he was sent to Fort Meade, MD for advanced infantry training. Upon finishing training, he was sent to Morocco and eventually he was appointed to a Second Lieutenant in 1944 where he served in North Africa and in all European theaters.

In World War II, Murphy made a name for himself and on one fated day he earned the Congressional Medal of Honor and went down in history. On January 26, 1945, Murphy is credited with holding off two reinforced rifle companies singlehandedly for hours. On that day, Murphy's platoon was attacked by 6 enemy tanks and waves of infantry. To keep his men safe, Murphy ordered his men to withdraw, while he remained forward at his command post and continued to give fire directions to the artillery by telephone. Behind him, a U.S. tank destroyer received a direct hit. With the enemy tanks abreast of his precarious position, Second Lt. Murphy climbed on the burning tank destroyer, which was in danger of blowing up at any moment, and engaged his .50 caliber machinegun against the enemy. He was alone and exposed to German fire from 3 sides, but his determination and deadly fire killed dozens of Germans and

caused their infantry to waver. The enemy tanks, losing infantry support, began to fall back. For an additional hour the Germans tried any and all of their weapons to eliminate Murphy, but he continued to hold his position and wiped out a squad that was attempting to sneak up unnoticed. Germans reached as close as 10 yards, only to be mowed down by his fierce fire. Wounded in one leg, Murphy continued the single-handed fight until his ammunition was exhausted. His directing of artillery fire killed or wounded about 50 enemy combatants.

Second Lt. Murphy's unconquerable courage and his refusal to give up saved his company from destruction, and enabled it to protect and hold the woods which had been the enemy's objective. He was a legendary and heroic American. In the end, he was credited with killing more than 240 German soldiers. Because of his valor in combat and action above and beyond the call of duty, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor and every other medal that the Army awards. He earned the Silver Star twice in three days, three Purple Hearts, and the Distinguished Service Cross. He even received 5 decorations that were presented to him by Belgium and France. When he was discharged, his face was on the front page of Life magazine and when he finally made it home, he was still not even 21 years old yet.

He finished WWII as a liaison officer, and returned to Texas after the war.

Upon return, Audie became famous not only for his heroic war actions but he also hit the big screen and made the move to Hollywood. He starred in more than 40 Western films and even played the part of himself when his autobiography, “To Hell and Back Again” was made into a movie. He also wrote more than 17 country and western songs.

Sixty years ago today, Audie was released from the Army as an active member and reassigned to inactive status. His final rank was Major in the Texas National Guard.

After all that he went through, Audie still maintained that his medals belonged to his entire company and that he was just, “another man.” He never really cared about the medals or glory, just the men of his unit and those he left buried and missing across Europe. His son Terry even said that he was always embarrassed to be called a hero. He always said that the real heroes were those “who didn't come back.” He once said, “I believe in all the men who stood up against the enemy, taking their beatings without whimper and their triumphs without boasting. The men who went and would go again to hell and back to preserve what our country thinks right and decent. My Country, America!”

Audie was killed in a plane crash, on May 30, 1971. He left behind his wife of 20 years, 2 sons, a wealth of family and friends and a legacy that will live on forever.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA GRAVES

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a constituent and an activist who has worked tirelessly for her community and the

Democratic Party. The condition of our local communities stands at the heart of our Nation's well being, and we should all commend and find ourselves humbled by those individuals who dedicate themselves to their specific improvement and prosperity. Barbara Graves is one such individual and, for her great work, is being honored by the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee, SCCDCC, as the 2005 Democrat of the Year.

Barbara has worked tirelessly to improve and protect her community, having served as Capitola's alternate on the Regional Transportation Commission, Capitola's representative to the Advisory Committee of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, Chair of Capitola Walks Club, the Ventana Chapter's Delegate Alternate to the Sierra Club's National Council, Chair of the local Sierra Club Political Committee, and Treasurer of the Environmental Council of Santa Cruz County. Ms. Graves serves currently as the Region 9 Director and Environmental Caucus Secretary of the California Democratic Party, and contributes in no small way to the betterment of her community by coordinating both the non-profit "Traffic Busters in Schools" and WAVE. As part of her dedication to the Democratic Party and with the hopes of fostering political innovation she also coordinates the Santa Cruz County Precinct Captains Program providing, among other things, free training on the use of campaign data tools.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor Ms. Barbara Graves as an exceptional citizen and community leader. Barbara's ongoing service to the Democratic Party and undaunted commitment to her community show her as an example to all those who wonder how it is that one person might affect real, substantial change, and I commend the Santa Cruz County D.C.C. on their recognition of Barbara's work and achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to honor this exemplary individual.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF
RENEE ROSE, A GREAT CALIFORNIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 65th birthday of a great Californian, a great American and a great friend. Renee Rose—a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, colleague, one-time potential mayoral candidate, world traveler, restaurant and theatre connoisseur.

While not a native of California, Renee is as much a part of the San Francisco landscape as is the Golden Gate Bridge (but a few years younger). To all who have been befriended, or mothered by Renee—which is more than I could possibly get in this statement—she is a loyal, thoughtful, funny and incredibly giving friend that everyone treasures and feel blessed that Renee is part of their life. If we only go around once in life—everyone needs a Renee in it. May I also mention that she makes one heck-of-a chocolate fudge brownie. I salute you Renee and wish you a very happy birthday!

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of Renee Rose. I urge my colleagues

to join me in honoring this remarkable woman and the contributions she has made to California.

CONGRATULATING DOROTHY H.
FINLEY ON RECEIVING THE ARIZONA
THEATRE COMPANY'S
GEORGY AWARD

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to draw attention to the accomplishments of a personal friend and longtime community leader, Dorothy H. Finley of Tucson, Arizona. On September 24, 2005, Dorothy will receive the Arizona Theatre Company's (ATC) "Georgy Award" at its Gala 2005 for her outstanding contributions to theater in the Tucson community.

As a longtime donor to ATC, Dorothy has served on ATC's Board of Trustees for many years and has sponsored partnerships between the theatre and Tucson schools. Her public service commitments include a wide range of organizations including non-profit groups and community associations including the Greater Tucson Economic Council, Arizona Aerospace Foundation, and the University of Arizona Alumni Association. Additionally, she serves on a number of governor-appointed positions including the Arizona State Liquor Board and the Governor's Council on Workforce Policy.

A native Arizonan, Dorothy has been a part of the Miller Brewing Company since 1948 when she and her late husband, Harold Finley, began the distributorship in Cochise county. Today, under her leadership, the company serves retailers throughout Pima, Pinal, and Santa Cruz counties.

A strong proponent of quality education, Dorothy has also been active in the academic arena. She has served as both a teacher and principal in the Tucson Unified School District for over 30 years. In addition, she was elected as Chairman of the TUSD Elementary School Principals, has served as President of the Arizona Elementary School Administrators, served on the Pima Community College Foundation Board of Directors, and founded the Women's Studies Advisory Council at the University of Arizona. In December 1994, she was nominated by the University of Arizona College of Education to receive the Alumni Association Sidney S. Woods Service Award for her outstanding service to the College and to the University.

In 1989, Dorothy received the Woman of the Year Award, and in 1994 she was named one of Tucson's Most Influential People. Dorothy was also honored at the Pentagon with the 2003 Honorary Zachary and Elizabeth National Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Award.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I am honored to recognize Ms. Finley for receiving this prestigious award, and to express my gratitude for her service and leadership. Her deep commitment to the advancement of community culture and education has had a tremendous impact in the Tucson community. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate my friend Dorothy H. Finley today for this award, which duly recognizes her important work.

A TRIBUTE TO SANDRA HOLMAN-
BACOTE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sandra Holman-Bacote, upon her retirement as a Regional Director of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission which is mandated to enforce the Commonwealth's laws against discrimination.

During her 29-year tenure, Ms. Bacote has served five governors. She was the highest ranking woman in the State civil service system and she has provided exemplary service to the residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Under her direction, the Philadelphia regional office, which has the responsibility to direct the Commission's investigative, enforcement and adjudication responsibilities in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties, has been widely recognized because of its commitment and continuity of diligence, effectiveness and accessibility.

Fiercely committed to human and civil rights her appointment to the PHRC in 1976 was a natural fit. A distinguished alumnus of Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania, she was a part of the academic vanguard to integrate public administration and professional social work theory. Applying these disciplines she further expanded her portfolio to include international racism and discrimination as an official observer to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination, in Geneva, Switzerland in 1983 and as a member of a non-Governmental Organization delegation to the United Nations Convention on the Status of Women in Nairobi, Kenya in 1985.

Throughout her career she has involved herself with hands-on community building efforts by serving on scores of community and civil rights organizations.

And as we look at her nearly three decades of leadership in the PHRC we see that she has successfully and valiantly combined government service, a sensitive and informed global perspective and a profound commitment to community and family.

WEST DEER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the West Deer Volunteer Fire Department, WDVFD, on their 60th anniversary of service.

Over the past 60 years the WDVFD has maintained its mission of protecting the residents of Deer Township. Serving nearly 12,000 people and almost 29,000 square miles, the WDVFD has established a tremendous amount of respect among the community for their public service. Since 1945, the WDVFD has developed, maintained, and strengthened a strong mutual trust and open communication between the fire department and the community in which it protects.