

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CIRCLE SEAL CONTROLS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Circle Seal Controls, which celebrated its 60th anniversary in Corona, California. On November 29, 2007, I was proud to attend the anniversary celebration.

Circle Seal has a long, proud tradition of quality manufacturing in southern California. Circle Seal's home for the last 15 years is also my hometown—Corona. The state-of-the-art facility has 300 employees and provides equipment for military and commercial aircraft, U.S. Navy ships, the Space Shuttle, and other rocket and missile applications.

The evolution of the industrial defense base has allowed the U.S. government to get out of the manufacturing business and let contractors, who can do it better and cheaper, provide essential platforms and components. Without Circle Seal's expertise, our F-18s, Global Hawks and V-22s don't get off the ground. Right now, our troops are relying on the products made by Circle, and the pride the employees take in their work is a part of the success on the battlefield. I thank Circle Seal for all their hard work and their relentless pursuit of excellence.

Circle Seal's past successes have ensured a continued relationship with the U.S. government—I'm proud to see that the company also contributes to the C-17, the KC-767 Tanker and the Navy LCS programs. Their demonstrated reliability and quality are exactly what the government needs. I look forward to a continued strong relationship with Circle Seal and, again, I commend the company on their anniversary and—most importantly—the people who make Circle Seal a valued and integral part of the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE MIDLAND ROCKHOUNDS

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute my hometown baseball team, the Midland RockHounds, as they received the John H. Johnson President's Trophy honoring them as the best team in Minor League Baseball.

The Midland RockHounds, owned by Miles Prentice and Bob Richmond, are a community institution in the Permian Basin. Miles and Bob both have a deep passion for America's pastime, and it shows in the success of the RockHounds. Together with their management team, headed by longtime General Manager

Monty Hoppel, Miles and Bob have created one of the most successful teams in the history of the Texas League.

Under the direction of Miles, Bob, and Monty, the RockHounds have twice won the Texas League Championship and have been honored as the Double-A organization of the year. In choosing the RockHounds as the recipients of the President's Trophy, Minor League Baseball has recognized the many years of hard work and deep community involvement as the best in the nation.

The RockHounds would not be the team they are today without the people of the Permian Basin who have generously rewarded their efforts with over 270,000 clicks of the turnstile this year alone—a franchise attendance record.

In addition to fielding a great ball club, the RockHounds management works tirelessly to raise money for the community—especially local schools and youth sports organizations. Led by the hugely successful West Texas Sports Banquet and Memorabilia Auction, the RockHounds participated in over 80 fundraisers this year and helped to raise over \$100,000 this year for programs in the Permian Basin.

The President's Trophy is the most coveted award in Minor League Baseball as it is given in recognition of "overall franchise excellence". It takes into account the success of the franchise, its relationship with the surrounding community, and its contributions to baseball. On all of these measures, the Midland RockHounds are a model team and I am honored to represent the organization and its fans here in Washington.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and tremendous respect that I recognize the achievements of the Midland RockHounds today. Their successes on and off the baseball field have made the Permian Basin a better place to live and I can think of no team more deserving to earn the 2007 John H. Johnson President's Trophy.

TO HONOR PAUL VICTOR LINSTROM

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Victor Linstrom who was born May 31, 1926, in Whitewood, SD. Paul attended school in Sturgis, SD. He joined the Navy in August of 1943, finishing his high school GED and naval training at the U.S. Naval Training Station at Farragut, ID. He was listed as a graduate of the class of 1944 at Sturgis High School. He was assigned to the *Pierre Victory* troop transport ship as a signalman and spent his military tour in the South Pacific. Paul was honorably discharged from the Navy in July 1946.

Paul married Isabelle Gerhard on September 21, 1946, in Sturgis, where he started

his truck driving career for his Dad's business. Paul and his family moved to Rapid City in 1950 where he started a 25-year career as an over-the-road, sleeper, truck driver for United Buckingham Transport. He also drove for AMOCO Oil Co. of Rapid City from 1975 to 1990, when he retired.

He loved fishing, hunting, traveling and camping in the Black Hills as well as and throughout the American West, Mexico, and Canada. In 1965, he helped organize the "Black Hills Hillbillies", a camping club associated with the Red Dale National Campers Club, serving as the Head Scout for the Hillbillies and hosting a number of National Rallies in South Dakota, as a 36-year member.

Paul and Isabelle spent 10 years wintering in Apache Junction, AZ, meeting many new friends in the RV Park and taking bus trips in Arizona, California and Mexico. Paul and Isabelle raised two daughters, Paula Kay LaPorte, who is married to John LaPorte, and Deborah Ann Phelps, who is married to Mike Phelps. They have four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, we are so fortunate to live in this great country where freedom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted. It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed to live in a country whose citizens willingly volunteer to put themselves in harm's way to defend and protect our great Nation.

I am proud to honor Paul for his dedicated service to our Nation. Paul is an American hero who left his home to defend our Nation, and then returned home to be a valued member of his community, showing his children and grandchildren how to live meaningful lives of service. Paul truly is the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into the great Nation it is today. May God bless Paul and his family, may God bless our precious veterans, and may God bless America.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act. Although this bill includes some very important provisions, like the private security contracting language I fought so hard to include, I am unable to support this legislation because it authorizes \$41.8 billion to continue the war in Iraq. It is unfortunate that this funding was part of this bill because otherwise I would have been proud to vote for this legislation. Nevertheless, I am very proud of the provisions to increase oversight and transparency over private security contractors, which Representative PRICE, Senator OBAMA and I worked so hard to include in this bill.

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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.