

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TAMPA BAY WATCH CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF RESTORING THE BAY EVERY DAY

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Tampa Bay Watch is a community based habitat restoration and education program that has helped us bring back to life the waters of Tampa Bay and its surrounding tributaries. This year marks the 15th anniversary of its great environmental work and I want to commend the staff, the members of the board, and most importantly the thousands of volunteers of all ages who give their time for this cause.

Peter Clark, Tampa Bay Watch's Executive Director, helped bring a vision to life and has mobilized more than 65,000 volunteers in what is the first environmental organization of its kind in the Southeastern United States. Together, these dedicated individuals helped a dying bay recover from decades on neglect.

Tampa Bay Watch's staff and volunteers coordinate a variety of coastal restoration events throughout the year such as salt marsh plantings, oyster dome and reef construction, coastal cleanups and storm drain markings.

The largest one-day salt marsh planting in Tampa Bay's history took place on September 29, 2007, bringing together 425 volunteers who planted 34,000 salt marsh grasses over 32 acres of newly constructed wetland habitat. Another milestone event took place on August 16, 2008 when more than 150 volunteers found 624 scallops at the Great Bay Scallop Search, the most scallops ever found in a single Tampa Bay Watch event.

Next to its enthusiastic volunteer base, one of Tampa Bay Watch's greatest assets is its Marine and Education Center constructed next to its Tierra Verde offices at the entrance to Fort De Soto Park. The education center, built in 2005 with funds provided by the House Appropriations Committee through an Economic Development Initiative, includes classrooms, outdoor wet labs, and two 5,000 gallon touch tanks that are used year-round during school field trips, summer camp programs, and community groups. It is home to the Estuary EDventures program, which builds environmental literacy and encourages environmental stewardship while educating students about estuarine and habitat restoration. More than 180 field trips have been held there during which 3,000 students contributed 14,600 hours to learn about and help restore Tampa Bay.

Madam Speaker, Tampa Bay Watch brings together families and neighbors to take care of our environment and to take pride in our environment. Nowhere is this more important than Florida where we are surrounded by water and Tampa Bay remains the linchpin linking the waterways of our entire region.

As Tampa Bay Watch celebrates its 15th anniversary, I want to salute three current and former board members who first brought this

program to my attention. Ed Alber, whose passing was a great loss to Tampa Bay Watch and our entire community, Angelo Catani, and Bob Hite have all invested considerable time and energy into restoring Tampa Bay and educating youth of all ages about the need for environmental stewardship. Other board members who have contributed so much of their time to the cause include Chairman Lawrence Weiner, Secretary/Treasurer Steve Stanley, Past Chairs Doug Williamson and Steve McCreary, board members Paul Avery, Matt Bisset, Rick Bourkard Jr., Leiza Fitzgerald, Mike Flynn, Richard Happle, Richard Hatcher, Debbie Kraujalis, G. Lowe Morrison, Robert L. Paver, Dr. Honey Rand, Stephen Reynolds, Joseph Saunders, John Semago, Nadine Smith, Ray Smith, and Dr. Richard Wilkes.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues in the House join in congratulating Tampa Bay Watch for remaining true to their simple mission statement to Restore Tampa Bay Every Day.

MS. MARTHA MORGAN-NAYLOR'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Ms. Martha Morgan-Naylor on a momentous milestone, her 100th birthday, which will be on January 22, 2009. Martha will be celebrating this milestone with family and friends on Sunday, January 18, 2009, at the First Baptist Church of Gary, Indiana. For 42 years, Martha's presence in the Gary school system allowed her the opportunity to touch the lives of countless members of her community.

Martha Morgan-Naylor was born on January 22, 1909, in Auburn, Alabama. She was the youngest of five children born to Clem and Amy Morgan. In 1917, the family relocated to Gary, Indiana, in search of better employment opportunities and school systems for their children. In 1926, Martha graduated from one of only a few integrated high schools in the state of Indiana: Froebel High School. Martha's passion for education led her on to graduate with a bachelor of science degree in physical education from Indiana State Normal School, now known as Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. Martha then decided to return to Gary to pursue a teaching career. She went on to teach physical education for 32 years at Roosevelt High School. Her career continued and she went on to teach for 11 years at Beckman Middle School until her retirement in 1974. Martha's many years of service as an educator have been a blessing to the youth and families in the Gary community, and she is worthy of our deepest admiration.

In addition to her impressive career, Martha serves her community as an active member and deacon at First Baptist Church of Gary.

Fully devoted to her congregation, she serves as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee at First Baptist, and is also a member of the Matron's Welcoming Committee. A lifelong teacher, Martha participated in the Purdue University/Hammond High School Oral History project in October 2008. The students involved researched "The Great Depression" and interviewed Martha on her reflection of living during that time. The interview was recorded and transcribed for historical records. Martha believes that she is blessed by God's grace and has always felt compelled to help others. It is this belief that has enabled her to enrich the lives of many people throughout the community.

Martha has many friends and loved ones who share a common respect for her commendable qualities, including her energy, wisdom, sharp mind, and her calmness in stressful situations. Martha's selfless devotion to education and the community of Gary is to be commended. She is truly an inspiration and a role model for us all.

Madam Speaker, Martha Morgan-Naylor has always given her time and efforts selflessly to the youth and the community in Gary throughout her illustrious life. She has taught her friends and members of her community the true meaning of service to others. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Martha a very Happy 100th Birthday.

IN CELEBRATION OF KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Korean American Day on January 13, 2009.

The Dallas Korean Society, Korean American Foundation, and Korean American Coalition collaborated to designate this special day to celebrate the Korean community in Dallas. Their unique traditions and customs add to the growing diversity of Dallas and culturally enrich our neighborhoods. These organizations provide valuable assistance in helping immigrants assimilate to American culture and serve as a vocal and powerful advocate on behalf of the Korean community. They empower individuals to actively engage themselves in American society and participate in various civic organizations. While we celebrate our cultural differences, we are united as Americans and our firm belief in freedom and democracy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating the Dallas Korean Society, Korean American Foundation, and Korean American Coalition on their dedication and efforts to making this event a success.

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