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1998-01-27

A Salute to Admiral Marsha Evans ; The Hon. Sam Farr of California in the House of Representatives

Farr, Sam

United States Government Printing Office 732 North Capitol Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20401-0024

Vol. 144 Congressional Record -- Extensions of Remarks ; E22
<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/24519>

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American people with no confidence that the fund-raising scandal will ever be subjected to the scrutiny it deserves.

A SALUTE TO ADMIRAL MARSHA
EVANS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rear Admiral Marsha J. Evans, a remarkable woman who served for the past two years as Superintendent of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California before her recent retirement from the U.S. Navy.

Admiral Evans has accumulated a long and distinguished military career. In addition to her position as Superintendent, Admiral Evans' leadership experience includes command of the Naval Station at Treasure Island, Commander of Navy Recruiting Command, interim director of the Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Executive Officer at Recruit Training Command, and Commanding Officer at the Naval Technical Training Center. She has also served at the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and the office of the Commander in Chief of U.S. Naval Forces Europe. Her extensive government experience includes serving as executive secretary and special assistant for the Secretary of the Treasury under President Carter, and serving as Deputy Director of the President Reagan's Commission on White House Fellowships.

Admiral Evans was not only a pioneer for women in the military, but a strong advocate for the needs and concerns of women. In addition to being the first (?) woman to reach the rank of Admiral, she was also the first female surface assignments officer in the Bureau of Naval Personnel. She was also active in gender-related issues, having served as Executive Director of Standing Committee on Military and Civilian Women in the Navy, chairing the Women Midshipmen Study Group in the 1980's, and serving on the 1987 Navy's Women's Study.

In September 1995, the Naval Postgraduate School was fortunate to have Admiral Evans appointed as Superintendent, and she did not disappoint. Under her leadership, the school further strengthened and developed its academic mission. It began exploring important new fields, such as how to prevent and contain the use of weapons of mass destruction, and expanded such programs as its successful international officer exchange program at the Center for Civil-Military Relations.

Most recently, under Admiral Evans' direction the Naval Postgraduate School hosted a military-wide conference on Professional Military Education, which successfully brought together leading military and civilian educators and policy-makers from around the country to discuss how best to educate our soldiers to fight the conflicts of the future.

Admiral Evans is a remarkable leader and pioneer, and I am sorry to see her depart as Superintendent of the Naval Postgraduate School. The Navy is losing a fine officer and outstanding individual, and her presence will be greatly missed. I wish her the best in her

new endeavors, and urge other young, aspiring women and men in the military to look to Admiral Evans' great service as a model for success and leadership.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN GASKA

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the outstanding career and accomplishments of Susan Gaska who is retiring after thirteen years as Chief Executive Officer of the Western New York chapter of the Young Women's Christian Association. Ms. Gaska's many years of service have had a profound effect not only on the YWCA but on the entire Western New York Community.

Through her diligent, forthright leadership, Susan brought the YWCA from the brink of bankruptcy in 1986 to a full service organization with a \$5 million operating budget in 1998. Although this is a remarkable accomplishment in itself, it tells only part of the story.

The YWCA of Western New York was established in 1870 and traditionally served the community as a temporary shelter for women. But, Susan Gaska envisioned a YWCA that would empower women who are struggling with domestic violence, single parenthood, and illness by giving them long-term solutions to immediate problems such as child care, housing, and health care. To that end Susan has been in the forefront of developing workable solutions to these difficult problems that so many women face every day.

Thanks to seven years of coalition building, fund-raising, needs assessment and planning under Susan's leadership the YWCA now provides safe, affordable day care to over 1,000 children per day. Three notable day care clinics have been established, one each at the County and State Supreme Court building, and at Erie County Medical and Children's Hospital. These centers grant mothers peace of mind, secure in the knowledge that their children are safe and well cared for.

In addition, the YWCA has become an innovator in establishing the first transitional housing program in our area. This program helps move women who are victims of domestic abuse from shelters to apartments operated by the YWCA, on a case-managed basis. Susan has also worked to secure government funds to turn former school 42 in Buffalo into a multi-generational, multicultural facility. That building has been renovated to accommodate 65 low-income housing units designed for senior citizens, as well as space for elder care, child care and much-needed after school programs.

Susan also took the initiative to help establish EncorePlus, a no-cost recovery program for women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer. In addition, working with local hospitals, Susan was able to establish free diagnostic exams for those women aged 40 and over who have little or no insurance. She has also been personally involved in fighting discrimination, founding the YWCA Racial Justice Committee and courageously offering space in the YWCA to the Gay and Bisexual Youth services organization.

These accomplishments alone are worthy of high praise, but Susan Gaska's efforts have

extended into the political realm as well. More than 216 women have graduated from the Institute for Public Leadership, designed by Susan to teach political skills to women. Twenty-three of the Institute's graduates have won public office and many more are likely to do so in the years to come.

I am pleased to join the YWCA and the people of Western New York to honor the extraordinary career of Susan Gaska, a woman who made a difference in our community and in the lives of countless young women who came to the Y for help. She helped to change their lives and our community for the better. In short, Susan has shown us what good works can be accomplished with vision, commitment, and leadership. Mr. Speaker, I commend the career and achievement of Susan Gaska to the attention of all Members of the House.

TRIBUTE TO PATTY BRISSENDEN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the fiftieth birthday of Patty Brissenden. I have personally known Patty for 17 years. Patty was one of my first employees when I was elected to the California State Assembly in 1980. Her energy, dedication and follow-through on issues in Santa Cruz county were invaluable.

Having seen first hand her charismatic dedication, it was not surprising that she was active in many issues. During her time with me Patty successfully worked on organic food legislation, steel jaw traps legislation, extended Medi-Cal for individuals with Multiple Sclerosis, elders in residence at U.C. Santa Cruz, petition to ban off shore oil, and highway 17 safety barriers. In the office Patty set high standards for responsiveness, casework management, and office outreach.

Patty organized the Bill Clinton/Al Gore (1992 and 1996) presidential campaign for Alpine County and co-founded the Sierra Nevada Alliance. As an owner of Sorensen's Resort in Hope Valley, in the Sierra Nevada, Patty has helped transform the former roadside inn to a widely-acclaimed travel destination. She is a frequent presenter at the professional Association of Innkeepers International on topics of eco-tourism, health care, and destination marketing.

Patty and I remain friends and she continues to work with me on issues such as; logging, tourism, environment, and conservation. In all of her efforts, Patty demonstrates compassion, advocacy for the individual in need, a sense of justice and the understanding that problems can be solved by bringing diverse groups together to work on a solution. Today I celebrate Patty's 50th birthday by wishing her continued happiness and success.

HONORING SHIRLEY GRALLA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and the friends