

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF MR. NORMAN D. KASS'S RETIREMENT

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2010*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary man, Mr. Norman D. Kass, for his 30 years of service to the United States Government. I am grateful for his dedication to our country and wish him an enjoyable retirement and success in his future endeavors.

For more than 10 years, Mr. Kass has overseen the analytical and investigative efforts of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs. I have served as a Commissioner for many years, and it has been my great pleasure to work alongside Mr. Kass in this worthy cause. Norm has played an integral role in the compilation of the fullest-possible accounting for missing American servicemen from conflicts since World War II. His involvement with U.S. and Russian leadership allowed for close cooperation that has brought answers to POW/MIA families who have long awaited them.

Mr. Kass has previously held various positions within the Defense Technology Security Administration, DTSA, notably as the Deputy Director of DTSA's Licensing Directorate. He also served in the U.S. Army where he was awarded the Bronze Star following a tour of duty with First Field Force, Vietnam.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Norm for his exemplary service to our country. His expert advice and counsel to the Commission will be greatly missed. Please join me in honoring this outstanding individual and wishing him all the best during his retirement.

### DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF, AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. PEDRO R. PIERLUISI**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 8, 2010*

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the DREAM Act. This bill has been nearly 10 years in the making, and its consideration by this House is long overdue.

The DREAM Act reflects our highest American values—that those who are willing to work hard will be given the chance to succeed. Members of this chamber often speak eloquently about America being the land of opportunity. Today, we can make these words a reality for those young people who were brought to this country as children years ago, who have done well in school, and who now

seek to pursue higher education or military service.

I cannot imagine another group of potential Americans more deserving of this opportunity to resolve their immigration status. The DREAM Act would provide conditional immigration status to individuals who were brought to the U.S. when they were 15 years old or younger, have lived in this country for 5 years, and have graduated from a U.S. high school or obtained a G.E.D. Only after completing a 13-year-long process would these individuals be eligible for citizenship.

Let's be clear: These young people have done nothing wrong. They had virtually no choice in coming to the United States, just as all of us here had no choice over whether we were born in the United States—and thus were automatically granted U.S. citizenship—or were born in another country. We should not continue to punish these commendable young men and women for the actions of others by denying them the opportunity to attend college or serve in our Nation's armed forces.

### IN HONOR OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LIDA E. HARKINS FOR HER 22 YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE 13TH NORFOLK DISTRICT, WHICH INCLUDES THE TOWNS OF NEEDHAM, DOVER, AND MEDFIELD, AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2010*

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of State Representative Lida E. Harkins of Needham, Massachusetts, in recognition of her decades of dedicated Public Service to the families of the 13th Norfolk District, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Representative Harkins resides in Needham, Massachusetts where she raised 3 children—Joe, Mike and Julie and is the proud grandmother to 10 grandchildren.

Representative Harkins graduated from Regis College earning a B.A. degree and then pursued her education earning a graduate degree at Boston College.

After attending Boston College, Representative Harkins began her career as an Elementary School Teacher and served 6 terms on the Needham School Committee. She also directed a collaborative vocational training program for 13 towns in the Metrowest area of Massachusetts.

Representative Harkins was first elected to the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1988 serving the towns of Needham, Dover and Medfield. She served as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Ethics, Assistant Majority Whip, Majority Whip, and House Chair of the Joint Committee on Education, Arts and Humanities. Further, Representative

Harkins serves as Chair of the Needham Democratic Town Committee.

When reflecting on a lifetime of good works, Representative Harkins counts as her greatest achievements raising her 3 children, Joe, Mike and Julie and being blessed as a grandmother of her 10 grandchildren as well as her 22 years as a public servant to the families of the 13th Norfolk District.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take to the floor of the House today to join with her family, friends and contemporaries to thank Representative Harkins for her dedicated public service to the families of the 13th District and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Representative Lida E. Harkins' career of dedicated public service.

### RECOGNIZING POVERTY

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment to recognize the growing number of those living in poverty in the United States. As we approach the holiday season, a time of giving and reflection, it is important to remember those who are less fortunate. Poverty is a part of daily life for far too many individuals across America. According to the U.S. Census report, the wealthiest 20 percent of Americans received 49.4 percent of all income, compared to 3.4 percent combined for all Americans living in poverty, marking the greatest level of disparity since the U.S. Census Bureau began tracking household income in 1967. This most recent Census Bureau information also indicates that the overall poverty rate climbed to 14.3 percent, or 43.6 million people. This marks the largest number of people counted as living below the poverty line last since the Census Bureau began keeping records in the 1950s. The concentration of poverty in urban centers—such as my home of Chicago hinders all those who seek to access all the opportunities that a great city offers. As of 2009, in Cook County alone, there were 825,870 people living in poverty, a dramatic increase from the 713,040 people living in poverty in 1999. The recession has pushed the Nation's poverty rate to levels not seen in more than a decade, destroying gains made in the long-running War on Poverty and adding more financial instability to the lives of millions of Americans.

This increase in poverty unfairly and disproportionately affects young children. Indeed 20.7 percent of our nation's children were living in poverty as of 2009, a 2.7 percent increase from 2007. In Cook County, 22.6 percent of children live in poverty which is higher than the national average. This percentage accounts for 286,312 children who struggle everyday just to get by. Families living in poverty often cannot provide the necessary resources

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.