

IN RECOGNITION OF KAREN
CLAPPER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Karen Clapper for her service on the San Carlos City Council since June 2012. She has applied decades of experience with private and public organizations to keep San Carlos the "City of Good Living" for all residents.

When a seat on the council became vacant, the four remaining council members unanimously selected Karen to fill the remaining term. She has been a passionate advocate for our neighborhoods, schools, parks and public safety. During her time on the City Council, Karen Clapper has worked collaboratively with her colleagues and sought to create a community marked by fiscal prudence and regional relevance. She was always well prepared at council meetings and asked many important questions during budget and policy sessions. Karen has been a team player who worked hard to ensure that San Carlos had the finest fire, police, and parks services possible. She was frequently attended public events, wanting to be accessible to residents.

During her time in public service, Karen served on the boards of the Peninsula Congestion Relief Alliance and the Library Governing Board WA. She also served on ad hoc committees dealing with school property, the San Carlos Transit Village, and Wheeler Plaza. She was the liaison to San Carlos Green, a citizens group advocating for environmentally sensitive projects and policies, and the Planning Commission. In fact, Karen's longest service to the city was during her time on the commission where she served from 2009–20012. During this formative time in the city's history, she helped to maintain the city's small town character while recognizing that its planning decisions had to fit into the regional need for housing and other changes.

Karen earned her BA in Environmental Design from San Diego State University and her MBA in Finance and Accounting from the Anderson School of Management at UCLA. She has been a consultant, coach and board member for a long list of companies and non-profit organizations, including Great American Bank FSB, Accenture, Friends of San Carlos Library, the Service League of San Mateo County, and Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden.

Karen will continue her work as an independent productivity and leadership coach and be guided by one of her favorite quotes by Albert Einstein: "Out of clutter find simplicity; from discord find harmony; in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." Her eternal optimism will no doubt direct her to continue to contribute to the community. In her spare time she enjoys reading, quilting and doing crossword puzzles.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Karen Clapper for her outstanding leadership during her tenure on the city council and for her service to the residents of San Carlos at many meetings and forums in the past. She will be missed on the council but certainly seen and heard throughout the community for many years to come.

INNOVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3309) to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes:

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Chairman, America is and must continue to be the cradle of invention and innovation. We reward those with big ideas.

I agree we must punish those who troll the waters in search of easy money at the expense of those who harness invention and innovation. But we must attack the abusers soundly and surgically so that we do not destroy in the dragnet the little guy with the big idea.

For this reason, Mr. Chairman, I will be opposing this bill.

RECOGNIZING MT. OLIVE BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Buffalo, New York on celebrating the 90th anniversary of its devout faithfulness and dedication to the surrounding community. To commemorate this milestone, Mt. Olive will be hosting a celebration on December 8, 2013 in Buffalo's historic Lafayette Hotel.

Under the visionary leadership of Pastor William Gillison, Mt. Olive Baptist Church has become a central pillar of Buffalo's African-American community through its good and tireless community works and initiatives to nurture educate and support generations of families. Known as one of the most active and ambitious churches in the region, Mt. Olive continues to build on its extensive and rich history. Its outstanding reputation is a testament to the inspiration of its leaders and parishioners.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church was organized in 1923 under the leadership of the late Pastor James Hamilton, inside the gates of Semet Solvay Company Plant in Tonawanda, New York. In 1924, under the leadership of Pastor Clinton N. Polite, the Church moved outside the company gates. When Semet Solvay closed in 1941, Mt. Olive relocated Clinton Street in Buffalo where the first service was held on the first Sunday in May with five families.

Reverend William Gillison was called to pastor Mt. Olive in June 1981, which marked the beginning of an unprecedented era of growth and community engagement projects within the Church. In February 1988, Mt. Olive purchased three and a half acres of land at 701

East Delavan Avenue and in 1992, additional acreage was added giving the church five acres for its new three million dollar home. Construction began in 1994 and upon completion, the new home of Mt. Olive Baptist Church included an impressive complex which seats 1200, 16 classrooms and an all-purpose hall for recreation and social occasions. It is of special note that this Church's decades long mortgage was paid in full in only six years.

Under this extraordinary pastoral leader and faithful following, Mt. Olive continues to experience extensive growth spiritually, financially and munerically. Multiple ministries and a separate faith-based organization, the Mt. Olive Development Corporation, have been formed since 1991. Mt. Olive's First Leadership School, which is recognized by the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, was held in October 2007. In recent years a Health Ministry was instituted as was a Media Ministry with the addition of a TV studio. This year has also seen the construction of the William Gillison Fellowship Hall and the dedication of the YOMO (Youth of Mt. Olive) Athletic Field.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor, acknowledge and add my deepest appreciation to Pastor Gillison and the family and friends of Mt. Olive Baptist Church for 90 years of faith-filled service to its congregation, community, city and country. Its outreach to the least the lost among us provides us with a powerful example of faith and love that will only intensify to help our children be better prepared and be able to enjoy and embrace an enhanced quality of life.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
FOR THE ABILITYONE
PROGRAM AND THE NATIONAL
INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 75th anniversary for the AbilityOne Program and the National Industries for the Blind. Since their inception, the AbilityOne Program and NIB have changed the lives of millions of people who are blind or have other significant disabilities by providing increased independence through job skills training and employment opportunities. They are our nation's largest source of employment for blind and disabled individuals and manufacture over 3,000 quality products, ranging from diesel engine glow plugs to printer toner.

In Las Vegas, the Blind Center of Nevada has helped blind and visually impaired Nevadans reach their highest potential. In addition to offering employment opportunities, computer training, braille classes, and other supportive services, the Blind Center of Nevada has built a community full of music and friendship.

I want to congratulate the AbilityOne Program and NIB on this momentous occasion and thank them for 75 years of service.

THANKING BERN BEIDEL FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Bernard E. Beidel, an employee of the Chief Administrative Officer of the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Beidel was honored with the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA). The Lifetime Achievement Award honors an EAPA member who has made a significant contribution to Employee Assistance Programs (EAP), the EA profession, and to individuals over an extended period of time.

Mr. Beidel has been a leader in providing EAP services to organizations and currently serves as Director of the Office of Employee Assistance. He has held this role for over 20 years providing direct EAP services to members and staff of the U.S. House of Representatives since its inception in 1991.

I am proud to stand before you and the Nation on Mr. Beidel's behalf to recognize the importance of his public service, and honor his award for lifetime achievement and his contributions to the House community.

We wish Bern much happiness in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

RECOGNIZING CURTIS MARTIN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend Curtis Martin for his life-long efforts to support agriculture and ranching, which are so important to jobs and the economy in rural Oregon. Over the past two years, Curtis has done a tremendous job serving as the president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. As his term as president comes to an end, I'd like to take a moment to pay tribute to his leadership.

Before and during his service as president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Curtis served in several capacities locally to the benefit of farmers and ranchers. He has been a member of the Powder Basin Watershed Committee, a Director on the Union Soil and Water Conservation District and President of the Powder Valley Water Control District.

During his tenure as Oregon Cattlemen's Association President, Curtis has worked tirelessly to represent Oregon's livestock industry across the state. During the summer of 2012, wildfires devastated over one million acres of rangeland and forest across Oregon, affecting many ranchers' livelihoods along the way. Curtis took the lead in coordinating a relief effort, helping raise over \$200,000 in donations for ranchers who had lost cattle and pasture due to the fires. In a further response to the fires, Curtis established the Restore Everything Strategically Through Organized Response (RESTOR) Task Force, bringing to-

gether federal agencies, the State of Oregon, local governments and the Oregon congressional delegation to channel resources and assistance to affected livestock communities. RESTOR also put forth proactive solutions to reduce the frequency and intensity of wildfires, and improve government and community responses when fires occur. Federal agencies continue to work towards implementing several of the task force's recommendations.

Curtis also led the Oregon Cattlemen's Association Oregon Habitat Monitoring Initiative, pulling together a diverse group of stakeholders from federal and state agencies, Oregon State University, private consultants and other industry groups to develop a cooperative monitoring standard for producers on the ground. This effort resulted in the current development of the Oregon Rangeland Monitoring Guide, so that livestock producers can easily monitor their pastures and supplement federal agency data supporting public land grazing allotments.

Curtis was raised on a ranch in Vale, Oregon, on the far eastern edge of the state. After high school, he moved full time into the family's ranch operation, building fence, piping water and moving cattle on horseback. By 1978, Curtis had married his wife Cheryl and moved to North Powder, where Cheryl's family has roots back to the Oregon Trail pioneers who first settled the Baker Valley in the 1860s.

In 1983, Curtis and Cheryl bought a ranch in North Powder, where they now center their ranching operation. Curtis has said that upon buying the property, it was so run down it was only suitable for producing "weeds and ground squirrels." Together, they turned their efforts to rehabilitating the property to a state fit for raising cattle and have been successful in their efforts. Curtis and Cheryl treasure their four sons and six grandchildren. They take great pride in their family ranch operation and in seeing yet another generation involved in the ranch and learning the lifestyle that means so much to them.

I'd like to offer a special thank you to Curtis and Cheryl for their friendship and guidance over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Curtis Martin for his tireless dedication to agriculture and ranching in Oregon as president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

HONORING SGT KYLE CLIFTON ON EARNING THE U.S. ARMY ENGINEER ASSOCIATION'S DE FLEURY MEDAL

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate SGT Kyle Clifton on being presented with the U.S. Army Engineer Association's prestigious de Fleury Medal. The de Fleury Medal is awarded by the Army Corps of Engineers to honor those individuals who have provided significant contributions to Army Engineering. Since 1779, the de Fleury Medal has held a special place in the ranks of our

service engineers for the values that one must demonstrate in order to be deemed worthy of its receipt.

While this medal is certainly a testament to the valor and professionalism possessed and exhibited by SGT Clifton, it is also a natural tribute to SGT Clifton's distinguished service career with the Army Reserve. As the medal itself is inscribed, this is "a memorial and reward for courage and boldness," and perhaps more than that it is a physical accolade of the thanks that his community, his fellow Reservists, and his nation have for the service and sacrifices he has devoted to the defense of the United States of America. In addition to the de Fleury Medal, SGT Clifton's long list of awards also includes the Bronze Star with Valor, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Combat Action Badge. These honors have been bestowed upon SGT Clifton for his proven expertise in service efforts including ground clearance missions and professionalism while serving on the front line of duty. Throughout his tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, SGT Clifton proved to be an asset for our Army in holding positions, exhibiting versatility within his vehicle command, clearing improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and demonstrating exceptional instincts and tactics in the midst of contact fire.

Last year, SGT Clifton's truck was struck by an IED while involved in a supply route clearing mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This cruel attack seriously injured SGT Clifton and claimed the lives of his three brothers in arms who were in the truck with him: SSG Dain Venne; SGT Brett Gorniewicz; and SPC Ryan Jayne. Upon his arrival at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, I had the opportunity to personally visit with SGT Clifton and his wife. On that day and in the days since then, I have been continuously impressed by the progress that SGT Clifton has made in his physical recovery and the modesty that he has shown. SGT Clifton exhibits daily the traits of bravery, resolve, and a genuine desire to selflessly serve our nation that exemplify the very best of our troops.

While every soldier's experiences are unique, the story of SGT Clifton, SSG Venne, SGT Gorniewicz, and SPC Jayne shares aspects with far too many others that have paid a personal price in their efforts to counter the challenges of the modern battlefield. IEDs are the leading cause of casualties for American servicemembers and the leading cause of injuries afflicting our veterans. In 2012 alone, 104 American troops were killed and 1,744 were wounded by these indiscriminate weapons. SGT Clifton is just one of the more than 51,000 service members who have been wounded in action in our engagements since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. With these figures in mind, Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in continuing to explore and support ways to reduce the prevalence of these incidents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating SGT Clifton on being awarded the Steel de Fleury Medal. I express my utmost gratitude to him and all of our servicemembers and veterans for their valiant service and sacrifices, as well as to all of the families and communities who make up the invaluable foundation of support for these men and women.