

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JAMES J. CASION, CEO
OF BAKER VICTORY SERVICES,
UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my good friend and colleague James J. Casion as he retires from an impressive and fulfilling career of service. Jim's body of work unquestionably has improved the lives of those among us in need of special services, especially the mentally and physically disabled.

Since 1995, Jim has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Baker Victory Services, an organization that evolved from Father Nelson Baker's extensive social services programs. Today, Baker Victory provides extensive social services including adoption, residential, educational, outpatient, and services for the developmentally disabled. The organization is recognized as a leading institution in the field of behavioral health.

Jim's impact on Baker Victory Services and its predecessor organizations is commendable and noteworthy, as he has served in the Associate or Executive capacity since 1980. His comprehensive knowledge of the institution and its many facilities, built throughout his career, provides him with intimate knowledge of the challenges and best practices in his field.

Jim's passion for providing care and dignity extends into the classroom. His personal educational background includes an associate's degree in Liberal Arts from Orange County Community College, and three degrees and certificates from the University at Buffalo—a bachelor's degree in psychology, a Master's degree in Counseling, and completed a course of Special Study in Community Mental Health and Rehabilitation Counseling. To share his passion and expertise with students of the field, Jim has taught courses serving as an Adjunct Professor at the Canisius College Graduate School of Education, Trocaire College and Erie Community College.

In addition to his work at Baker Victory, Jim has served on countless boards dedicated to improving care in our community and our nation. Some of his past and present appointments and memberships include the Canisius College Graduate School of Education, the Erie County Community Coordinating Council on Children and Families, the Coalition for New York State Children's Mental Health Services, the Child Welfare League of America, Care Management Coalition, Quality Behavioral Health, the National Association for Children's Behavioral Health, the Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, the Trauma Informed Community Initiative, and Dopkins and Company.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor my friend Jim Casion and congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement. His

selfless work and compassion is inspiring and I admire his mission to provide all people with quality care so they may lead dignified, fulfilling lives. I am so grateful for his work, and sincerely wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING MS. ANNE M. ELLIS'
LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO
THE AMERICAN CONCRETE IN-
STITUTE

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anne M. Ellis for her volunteer leadership to the American Concrete Institute (ACI), headquartered in Farmington Hills, MI, an organization whose work is fundamental to our nation's critical infrastructure and key to our economic competitiveness. As a Member of Congress, I am privileged and honored to recognize Ms. Ellis for her leadership and lifelong commitment to this organization and to advancing the knowledge of concrete in the United States and abroad.

ACI has been the pioneer in all concrete-related fields: research and development, structural design, architectural design, construction, and product manufacture. With 99 chapters, 65 student chapters, and nearly 20,000 members spanning over 120 countries, ACI provides knowledge and information for the best uses of concrete. Through a host of activities including continuing education, certification, seminars, publications, and conventions, ACI plays an active and vital role in the concrete industry. Core to ACI is the development of codes and standards, adopted for reference in building codes impacting potentially every concrete project in the United States. Additionally, there are some 21 countries worldwide that base part or all of their national building codes on the ACI's 318 Structural Concrete Building Code provisions.

Ms. Ellis will complete her term, as the 90th President of ACI, at ACI's Spring Convention in Reno. Her Presidency was notable for the many accomplishments typified by the new ACI motto: Always Advancing that launched during her term. Her term also bore witness to a new ACI logo, a new ACI website translatable into 70 languages, and the formation of the following ACI committees: Education, Technical and Certification Committee (ETC); International Project Awards Committee (IPAC); Codes & Standards Advisory Committee; as well as launching the Global Chapter Roundtable. These concrete actions support ACI's new strategic plan that sets it on a course for global leadership in the 21st century.

Anne Ellis' service to ACI began long before her presidency. Ms. Ellis has served on ACI's Board of Direction, the Board of the ACI Foundation, as well as numerous other Board and

Technical committees. Working with ACI colleagues, Ms. Ellis helped institute free ACI student e-membership, facilitate ACI's entry into social networking, and establish the Collegiate Concrete Council, the Student and Young Professionals Activities Committee and Sustainability Committees. She was named an ACI Fellow in 2008. Not surprisingly, she has been named by "Concrete Construction" as one of the most influential people in the concrete industry.

Currently, Ms. Ellis is Vice President of Global & Government Initiatives for AECOM, an \$8-billion global provider of professional technical and management support services. In this role, Ms. Ellis drives business-critical initiatives and engages in policy, legislative and regulatory issues affecting AECOM and the clients and markets the company serves. Additionally, Ms. Ellis oversees the day-to-day operations of the AECOM Global Advisory Board, comprised of prominent global leaders who are external to AECOM and highly accomplished in business and geopolitics.

Prior to joining AECOM, Ms. Ellis represented the Portland Cement Association and the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association. On behalf of these industries, she advocated for technical guidelines incorporated into landmark legislation that supported the development and construction of environmentally sustainable building designs. She represented the industries in the development of construction trade and supervisor training and certification programs—now standard in master specifications, with hundreds of thousands certified. Additionally, Ms. Ellis was a structural engineering project manager for numerous noteworthy entertainment, institutional and commercial building projects while at Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas; Martin, Cagley & Middlebrook; Dewberry & Davis; and Ehler/Bryan. Throughout her career, Ms. Ellis taught a variety of classes to undergraduate students, including reinforced concrete design, and continuing education classes to practicing engineers, preparing hundreds of engineers for successful completion of the FE and PE exams.

Ms. Ellis is a 2013 inductee into the Virginia Tech Academy of Engineering Excellence, an elite group composed of only 119 people out of its more than 60,000 living alumni. She is a 2007 inductee into the Virginia Tech Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni. She has completed terms on the Virginia Tech College of Engineering Advisory Board and the Civil and Environmental Engineering Advisory Board, including a term as Chair.

Ms. Ellis serves on the Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC), as an appointee of the Secretary of Commerce. ETTAC provides private-sector advice to 19 federal departments and agencies on federal trade policies and programs concerning the environmental technologies industry.

Ms. Ellis is active in several business and professional organizations. She is a member

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