

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. LARRY MEREDITH

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Larry Meredith, who retired on March 31, 2015 following a long and successful career in health and human services that culminated as director of the Marin County Health and Human Services Department for the past 13 years.

After earning a degree in business administration from the University of Western Ontario and his master's and doctorate degrees in psychology from Penn State University, Dr. Meredith worked for the San Francisco Department of Public Health for 30 years before coming to Marin.

Dr. Meredith led the department of Health and Human Services during challenging and exciting times. From his first day of work in Marin, Dr. Meredith has navigated the Department with distinction through restructuring and a severe economic downturn while maintaining a focus on promoting wellness and preventative health care to achieve improved, comprehensive community health.

With a bold vision for the future and an unwavering dedication to strengthening partnerships, Dr. Meredith proved time and again his merits as a devoted leader. He successfully directed Marin County's Team HHS—a staff of more than 700 employees across 10 sites—and managed a \$160M budget with multiple grants and funding streams. Those feats would be remarkable by themselves, but it's his dedication to building community relationships and inspiring collaboration among stakeholders that truly sets his service apart.

In his work and life, he has supported and strengthened commitments to many pressing community issues, including access to services for those facing mental health issues, homelessness, disabilities, and socio-economic disadvantages. His work will have a long-lasting and positive impact on Marin County for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor and thank Dr. Larry Meredith for his years of dedicated service to the people of Marin County and extended Bay Area community, and for guiding Marin to its ranking as the Healthiest County in California for six consecutive years by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin. On behalf of the many individuals and organizations he served, I am honored to express our deep appreciation to Dr. Meredith for his exemplary public service, and convey our best wishes as he pursues new endeavors.

NATIONAL LINEMAN
APPRECIATION DAY

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak in honor of the wonderful work that linemen do across this great nation. It is a privilege that my office was able to introduce a resolution supporting the designation of April 18, 2015 as National Lineman Appreciation Day. These brave men and women toil every day on behalf of public safety, and for that every American is rightfully thankful for all that they do.

Linemen have a long and storied history in this nation. It is a profession that is often passed down from one generation to the next. The danger of working atop power lines channeling thousands of volts of electricity requires courageous and dedicated individuals up to the challenge. When storms and other catastrophic events occur in our communities, linemen are often there as first responders, working hand in hand with other public safety heroes to secure the scene.

Mr. Speaker, since these men and women often go unrecognized, and because of the unique danger they often find themselves in by tirelessly working to maintain our nation's energy infrastructure, it is entirely fitting and proper to set aside a day of national recognition, April 18, 2015, as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

IN RECOGNITION OF EQUAL PAY
DAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am so tired of coming down here to the floor each and every year and marking the day that women's pay finally catches up to that of a man's! Equal Pay Day is not a bittersweet occasion—it is simply a bitter reminder of the worth that this country places on the work of women. It is quite simply unfathomable! Today is a glaring reminder of the hard work that still needs to be done in order to achieve gender parity in pay.

Women are half the population! How has this inequity been allowed to stand for so long? When President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law in 1963, women on average made 59 cents for every dollar earned by men. It has been 51 years since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law, and yet women still earn on average only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men, amounting to a yearly gap of \$11,607 between full-time working men and women. We've made some progress—but it's not even close to being enough.

Equal pay is not simply a women's issue—it is a family issue. Families increasingly rely

on women's wages to make ends meet, and with less take-home pay women have less money for the everyday needs of their families.

According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, in California, women in are paid 84 cents for every dollar paid to men, amounting to an annual wage gap of \$8,183 between men and women who work full time in the state. In addition, Californian women who are employed full time lose a combined total of approximately \$37,658,902,470 every year due to the wage gap. Let me say that again: That's almost \$38 BILLION each year!

The sad reality is that the pay gap is not simply an education issue either. Nationally, women with master's degrees that work full time are paid just 70 cents for every dollar paid to men with master's degrees. Further, women with doctoral degrees are paid less than men with master's degrees, and women with master's degrees are paid less than men with bachelor's degrees.

Mr. Speaker, that is why the Paycheck Fairness Act is so critical. I am so proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill. It will close loopholes and strengthen the Equal Pay Act, which hasn't been updated in 52 years. The bill has 189 cosponsors so far. And once again this year NOT ONE is a Republican! What possible reasons are there to be against equal pay for equal work? This issue does not only affect Democrats. It affects all hard-working American women and families—regardless of their political party. Does the Majority simply not care about this problem, or is it yet another continuation of the War on Women that they continue to deny year after year?

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL SERVICE
RECOGNITION DAY

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Service Recognition Day, which was held on April, 7th. Service to our community and our country is an enduring feature of the American spirit, and today we recognize those who have made a commitment to volunteerism.

America's cities and communities are at their best when citizens are engaged and take an active role in developing solutions. The Corporation for National and Community Service operates programs that activate and empower communities to tackle some of their most pressing issues such as education, health care, national disaster recovery, and the environment.

AmeriCorps and Senior Corps operate in more than 60,000 locations across the country, bolstering both private and non-profit organizations that do vital work in their communities. These programs mobilize millions of volunteers, building skills and educating leaders nationwide. In New Mexico alone,

● 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.

AmeriCorps and Senior Corps involve over 5,000 individuals at more than 640 locations.

In honor of National Service Recognition Day I encourage citizens to join me in recognizing the positive impact of national service, to thank those that serve, and to find ways to become involved in their cities and communities.

CONGRATULATING JIM THOME ON
INDUCTION INTO GREATER PEORIA
SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of baseball player and Peoria native, Jim Thome, who will be inducted into the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame on April 11, 2015.

Mr. Thome's roots in America's pastime run deep in the Illinois community, having played at Limestone High School in Bartonville and at Illinois Central College in East Peoria. He will be joining his father, grandfather, uncle, and aunt in the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame, all of whom are recognized for their contributions to baseball and softball.

His professional achievements on the baseball diamond are highlighted by his 2,328 career hits, 5 time selection to the Major League Baseball All-Star game, and 612 homeruns, placing him as seventh on the all-time home-run list.

As someone who my late brother, Dan Calahan, considered a personal friend, Mr. Thome is as exemplary off the field as his feats are on the field. Jim and his wife, Andrea, are actively involved in a number of causes, which include helping underserved children find adoptive and foster families, improving the quality of care at Illinois Children's Hospital, and aiding tornado victims in Washington, Illinois.

Jim has been recognized twice for his dedication to community service by being awarded Major League Baseball's Marvin Miller Man of the Year Award, which is given to the athlete who best exemplifies success in their community, as well as on the field.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF
THE HONORABLE KEITH C.
SORENSEN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and extraordinary work of Keith C. Sorenson. Born on September 4, 1921, in Elsinore, Utah, he died in Redwood City, California, on March 20, 2015, at the age of 93.

Keith Sorenson was born and raised on a farm in Utah, the youngest of four children. He said "There's nothing better than living on a farm. If you ever really work on a farm, anything else you ever do seems easy." He

earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Utah, where he met his wife, Maxine Swinson. The family moved to Redwood City, California, and Keith joined a local law firm.

Keith Sorenson joined the San Mateo County District Attorney's office in 1949, and became District Attorney in 1953. He held the post and that of County Counsel for three decades until his retirement in 1982. During his tenure he hired Sandra Day O'Connor, a Stanford Law School graduate who was unable to obtain employment as an attorney because she was a woman. He helped found the One Hundred Club, an organization that supports the families of slain police officers.

Keith Sorenson was widely known and respected for his integrity and strong work ethic. Current District Attorney Stave Wagstaffe praised him, saying "He instilled in all of us the standard that justice and doing the right thing was the only choice for a prosecutor and that other considerations such as politics were irrelevant."

I am deeply saddened by Keith Sorenson's passing. He was a highly regarded public official, a man of enormous integrity, a trusted friend and mentor, and a source of great inspiration to me and countless others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and contributions of Keith Sorenson, a great and good man, and in extending our most sincere condolences to his son, Thomas. Keith Sorenson made San Mateo County, the state of California and our country stronger and better, and he will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

MATTEO ALOIA'S ESSAY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Matteo Aloia attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

UAV Drones can be defined as any unmanned aerial vehicle controlled from the ground. While drones are often associated with American military use, commercial drones have recently become quite popular. As UAV drones have risen to the forefront of the consumer market, they have begun to pose real threats to both security and privacy.

The Washington Post claims that "The Federal Aviation Administration recently

released a report detailing more than 190 safety incidents involving drones and commercial aircraft." The Washington Post also claims that "The US. military is rightfully worried that drones will be weaponized as killing machines and become autonomous flying IEDs (improvised explosive devices)". An example that could have turned to tragedy when, last year, a UAV drone landed on the White House Lawn, unbeknownst to the President's security detail. There was no malicious intent from the drone or its operator. However, if this drone had been intending to do damage, it obviously had the means to do so.

Many UAV drones are also equipped with audio and video capabilities. This begs the question of privacy on American soil. If anyone can fly a drone outside your house and see what you're doing, how can anything be truly private? According to Brookings, an online news source, "unlike some state houses, the U.S. Congress hasn't seriously considered or passed a bill to set general privacy standards or to regulate drones and privacy specifically". While certain state governments have ruled on the nature of privacy in relation to drones, the federal government has yet to reach a decision, and perhaps has not even seriously considered the issue. This could pose a major risk to American's individual freedoms through the invasion of privacy.

In summary, UAV Drones pose several major risks to the American lifestyle. The first risk is one of security, in that drones are difficult to detect and can be easily equipped with IED's. The second risk is one of morality, in that drones can be used to pry into the personal lives of American citizens. Without action from the government, the problem of drones will go unsolved.

HONORING DAVID PLANK

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding achievements and successful career of David Plank from Salem, Missouri. For over fifty years, David Plank has created beautiful watercolor paintings of birds that have been recognized and admired all over the country.

David Plank's talented skills derive from a dedication and passion for the arts, rather than from formal training. All of his drawings are completed in the open air and near the natural habitats of his subjects. David Plank never uses photographs, he captures the posture and attitude of his subjects in his drawings, and then he goes inside and paints. This unique process is what has worked for David for so many years; he estimates he has painted more than 1,400 birds throughout his career.

Among his accomplishments, he has painted eleven covers for Bird Watcher's Digest and been featured in exhibits at the Springfield Art Museum and Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum. David hopes his paintings will continue to reflect the good feelings and thoughts he has for birds to future generations of on-lookers.

For his many contributions to the arts and his many successes, it is my pleasure to recognize David Plank before the United States House of Representatives.