

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN CELEBRATION OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN HOTEL OWNERS ASSOCIATION'S 26TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 17, 2015

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the success of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association, known as AAHOA. Founded in 1989, AAHOA is the world's largest hotel owners association and the leading voice of hotel owners in the United States. I am proud to count myself and my family as members.

This year, AAHOA celebrates its 26th anniversary in Long Beach, California at its annual convention. AAHOA's growth and success over the years serves as a testament to the American dream. As first and second generation Indian Americans, AAHOA members and their families immigrated to the United States seeking opportunity. These entrepreneurs found this opportunity in the hotel business, and over a quarter century later, AAHOA members have a profound influence on the hospitality industry.

AAHOA is comprised of more than 14,000 small business owners who own nearly 50 percent of all hotels in America, employ more than 600,000 workers, and have an annual payroll of almost \$12 billion. AAHOA members are critical to growing the economy, creating jobs, and providing safe, reliable, and affordable lodging for millions of travelers. And, we in Congress owe it to these small business owners to create an environment where they can grow.

I'm also honored to recognize AAHOA chairman Pratik Patel for his exceptional leadership this past year. A second generation hotelier, Pratik lives in San Antonio, Texas with his wife, Akta, his daughters, Jayna and Misha, and his parents, Ravindra and Lilawatiwns. As the co-founder and principal partner at REM Hospitality, he manages more than a dozen hotel and other real estate properties where he applies the lessons of hard work and perseverance he learned growing up in the hotel industry.

Since becoming AAHOA chairman, Pratik has lead the association to record levels of membership, a unified public policy advocacy program, and unparalleled industry leadership. I am proud to commend Pratik on his accomplishments and his dynamic leadership in his community and industry.

I would also like to recognize AAHOA's officers, Vice Chairman Jay "Jimmy" Patel, Treasurer Bharat "Bruce" Patel, Secretary Bhavesh B. Patel and President Chip Rogers, along with AAHOA's 25 past chairmen whose dedication to the organization and the hospitality industry have helped to create jobs, promote investment in their local communities, and grow America's economy.

I am proud of AAHOA's growth and look forward to working with them in the future.

CELEBRATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 17, 2015

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which was passed by the United States Congress and signed into law on April 10, 1979. The TRA provides a basis for relations between the United States and Taiwan. 36 years later, the TRA remains the foundation of the continuous bilateral relationship between our two countries and represents the United States' commitment to the people on Taiwan.

Since the enactment of the TRA, Washington and Taipei have enjoyed a robust partnership based on the shared values of democracy, economic freedom, and rule of law. Since passage of the TRA, Taiwan has flourished into a democracy and is well positioned to play an important role economically in the Asia-Pacific, and globally. In 2014, Taiwan became our 10th largest trading partner, surpassing India and Saudi Arabia. The TRA provides the confidence that has allowed Taiwan to govern itself, expand trade with the global marketplace, and engage in productive relations.

The United States and Taiwan share a common commitment to freedom, democracy, and a government elected by the people, for the people. As we commemorate the 36th anniversary of the TRA, I look forward to Taiwan's continued growth as a trade and security partner and celebrate its relationship with the United States.

IN HONOR OF THE ROWAN-KANNAPOLIS ABC BOARD AND ROWAN-SALISBURY SCHOOLS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 17, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Rowan-Kannapolis ABC and Rowan-Salisbury Schools on educating more than 100,000 students on the dangers of underage drinking in middle schools and high schools across Rowan County.

The Rowan-Kannapolis ABC Board and Rowan-Salisbury Schools have worked together for more than a decade encouraging students not to drink underage through a series of assemblies at schools in the region. Since the Rowan-Kannapolis ABC started the program in 2003, their initiative has served as a model for similar programs across the state.

Over the years, they have partnered with former Washington Redskins coach and current NASCAR team owner Joe Gibbs to bring

famous athletes and other notable guest speakers to talk with the students and share real-life testimonies of struggles they have faced.

This year's assembly series, called "Game Plan for Life," will emphasize that "decisions equal our destiny." The assembly series will impact about 4,650 students in North Carolina's 8th Congressional District.

I am proud to commend this program for bringing together our community to make a difference in student decision-making regarding alcohol. I would also like to commend Mr. Terry Osborne of the Rowan-Kannapolis ABC Board, Rowan County Sheriff Kevin Auten, and Salisbury Police Chief Rory Collins for their continued support of this program.

HONORING "ARE YOU KIDDING" SOCK COMPANY

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 17, 2015

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly innovative set of brothers. Just last month, I met with Brandon and Sebastian Martinez, business-savvy 7- and 9-year-old brothers and students who I have the honor to represent in Congress. They are an example of how one is never too young to follow their dreams. Ever since Sebastian and Brandon were toddlers they had a fascination with socks. They had collected a variety of colorful, eccentric, and patterned pairs. Their mother, Rachel Martinez, decided to have them design their own. They began in May of 2014 with their small business "Are You Kidding?" and rapidly skyrocketed onto the national stage when they presented their idea to Daymond John, an investor on the hit television show 'Shark Tank', and George Stephanopoulos from 'Good Morning America'. They have sold their socks to many different stores and have donated thousands of dollars of their earnings to the American Cancer Society. Small businesses like that of the Martinez brothers make up the fabric of our economy. They have demonstrated their commitment to charitable causes and today I would like to recognize them for their leadership and commitment to our community.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 17, 2015

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out an absurdity that my constituents have long realized—and communities in Minnesota have had to deal with—but one that remains lost on the Administration.

Xcel Energy's Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant sits on an island in the middle of

• 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.