

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING PEGGY SAMPSON

HON. PAUL D. RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peggy Sampson on her retirement after 37 years of working for the House. She has dedicated her life to public service. She started her career as a Capitol police officer. Later, she became the Republican supervisor of the House page program, a position she held for 25 years. In that time, she was beloved by the pages who worked for her. Today, there are hundreds of former pages all over the world who still keep in touch. I learned a lot from my mentors when I was starting out. I know the meaning they have in young people's lives. For hundreds of young people, Peggy was that mentor.

And for the dozens of people she worked with every day, she was a great friend. In 2011, she became a floor operations clerk and has been there ever since. Ask any of her colleagues, and they will tell you she was completely reliable. It did not matter if you were a high-ranking member of Congress or a fresh-faced intern, everyone could depend on her for everything you could think of: a piece of candy, band aids, Tylenol. And in a pinch, she could sew a mean button. In short, she was a delight to work with—very kind and generous. We will miss her dearly. And so, on behalf of the entire House, I want to thank Peggy Sampson for reminding us, through her work, of the joy of public service.

TRIBUTE TO STEIN ERIKSEN

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an Olympic gold medalist, pioneering athlete and legendary skiing ambassador who had an immeasurable impact on the sport and on the State of Utah. Stein Eriksen passed away December 27 at the age of 88 following a long and storied career.

For 35 years, Eriksen served as the Director of Skiing at Utah's famed Deer Valley Resort, where the renowned Stein Eriksen Lodge was named in his honor.

His ski career began in 1947 when the 19-year-old Norwegian athlete won the downhill and combination event at the Holmenkollen Kandahar event. At the 1952 Oslo Olympics in his hometown, Eriksen became the first skier from a non-Alpine country to win an Olympic gold medal in Alpine skiing. Most significantly, Eriksen was the first man to win three gold medals in a single world championship in 1954.

Upon his retirement from competitive skiing in 1954, Eriksen continued to shape the sport

as a ski instructor and promoter of a new style of skiing. His elegant technique and gymnastic movements were transformative for the skiing world, ushering in a new era of freestyle skiing. He was the first well-known skier to do a flip on skis and reportedly did a back flip every day until he reached his 80s.

Eriksen was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Utah Sports Commission in April, where he was lauded as one of the most influential athletes and businessmen in winter sports. Eriksen and his wife Francoise were the parents of 5 children.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life and legacy of skiing pioneer Stein Eriksen, whose indelible impact on winter sports will be felt by many generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SALVATORE "SAM" TRAFICANTI

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Salvatore "Sam" Traficanti. Born on August 11th, 1928, in Marane, province de L'Aquila, Abruzzi, Italy, Sam was the son of Panfilo and Incornada (Centofanti) Traficanti. At the age of eight years old, Sam, along with his mother, took the journey from Italy and came to Ellis Island. Upon moving to America Sam and his family settled in Struthers and then later moved to Poland, Ohio. Sam attended Struthers High School and enlisted in the U.S. Navy on May 14, 1946, to serve and defend our country aboard Aircraft Carrier, USS *Midway*. He earned the rank of third class petty officer and during World War II was an interpreter for American forces in Naples, Italy. While aboard the USS *Midway*, Sam served as an electrician and was a Motion Picture operator. Sam was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal for his service and then received an honorable discharge on March 24, 1948.

After his discharge from the service, Sam was employed at Youngstown Cartridge. He then owned and operated two city service gas stations in the Struthers area, along with founding one of the largest trucking companies within the industry, which was Traficanti Trucking for many years. As always, with his entrepreneurial spirit, Sam looked to continue to grow and became co-owner and partner of B & T Express Inc. which operates in over 48 states.

Sam leaves behind his wife of over 52 years, the former Barbara Ann Jenness, whom he married on May 29, 1963; a son, Commissioner Anthony T. Traficanti; and a daughter, Jacqueline Ann Traficanti, both of Poland. Besides his parents, Sam was preceded in death by a brother, Tony Traficanti; and his uncles, Atillio (Joann), Serfino and Lorenzo Centofanti.

Sam lived the American Dream in every way imaginable. His entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to service not only strengthened Northeast Ohio, but the entire country. Sam will be missed, but I, along with the rest of our community, remain thankful for his many contributions.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF WILLIAM EARL "GATOR" FARRINGTON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and service of my friend, Northwest Florida's beloved William Earl "Gator" Farrington. Throughout his long and distinguished life, Gator was a devoted family man, a patriotic veteran, committed community leader, successful small businessman, and a true friend. The entire Northwest Florida community mourns the passing of a truly remarkable man.

Earl Farrington was born on Tuesday, April 5th, 1927. He and his twin sister, Earline, were the youngest of three children born to James and Laura Farrington. During his formative years, Earl was spotted at the tender age of thirteen dragging from a lake a five-foot alligator he had shot. He was dubbed "Gator" on the spot and being somewhat of a comedian "Gator" has worn his nickname with great joviality, good cheer, and eternal optimism.

Gator graduated from Milton High School in 1944 and served in World War II and the Korean War in the U.S. Navy. After 30 years he retired from civil service at NAS Pensacola in 1984.

He was one of the founding members of Grace Bible Church of Milton and served on the board of directors of Gospel Projects, Inc. Gator is preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Voncille (Hobbs) Farrington; his two sisters, Louise McLellan and Earline Tompkins; and his parents, James Farrington and Laura (Broxson) Farrington.

Gator loved serving his community with his family through his restaurant, Gator's Seafood in Milton, Florida, which he opened in 1975, with Voncille. The rustic building known as Gator's was constructed from juniper logs felled by Gator and his then 75-year-old father off their land, floated by the two across the lake, and cut into lumber by a small sawmill.

Gator's quickly became popular for its fresh seafood, family friendly environment, and impeccable service. The restaurant has become world famous for its fresh and perfectly prepared fried mullet, which many in Northwest Florida consider a delicacy. The summer months attracted large crowds to the restaurant on Friday and Saturday nights, not only for the fried mullet and catfish, crab claws, cheese grits, cole slaw and

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

hushpuppies, but for the special brand of humor and entertainment Gator brought to each and every family that walked through the door.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the life and legacy of William Earl "Gator" Farrington. My wife Vicki and I extend our deepest prayers and condolences to his daughter, Lisa Jeffers; his son, William E. "Bill" Farrington, II; his four grandchildren, Jeffrey Bennett, Brandon Bennett, Zachary Farrington, and Abigail Farrington; two great-grandchildren, Allie Jae Bennett and Troy Bennett; and the entire Farrington family.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COUGARS VICTORY IN THE 2015 CHICK-FIL-A PEACH BOWL

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to commend the University of Houston's Cougars momentous 38–24 victory over the Florida State Seminoles in the 2015 Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl on December 31, 2015 at the GeorgiaDome in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Cougars were coached by Tom Herman and led by star quarterback, Greg Ward Jr., who dazzled a national television audience by running for two touchdowns and throwing for another touchdown.

Greg Ward Jr. also made history by becoming the first player in UH history to run and throw for 1,000 yards in a season.

Florida State trailed 21–3 at halftime, tried to rally with two fourth-quarter touchdowns but it was not enough to overcome the mighty Cougars defense, which held the Seminoles' star running back, Dalvin Cook, to just 33 yards and forced 5 turnovers.

The 38 points scored by the Cougar offense was the most points allowed this season by the mighty Seminole defense.

Mr. Speaker, the impressive victory in the Chick-fil-A Bowl is a wonderful capstone to a season for the ages and establishes the University of Houston as one of the Nation's great athletic and academic institutions.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,922,179,009,420.89. We've added \$8,295,301,960,507.81 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE FOR SPACE-BASED POSITIONING, NAVIGATION, AND TIMING CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the National Coordination Office for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing which recently celebrated its 10 year anniversary in November 2015.

The National Coordination Office, also known as the NCO, was established by a presidential directive under President George W. Bush. That directive provided guidance to government agencies on the management of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and other space-based Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) systems. It also established the National Executive Committee (EXCOM) for Space-Based PNT, which is chaired jointly by the Deputy Secretaries of Defense and Transportation and includes their equivalents from the Departments of State, the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Homeland Security, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The NCO is a cadre of senior advisors from the EXCOM member agencies and has become a linchpin for national GPS policy information. Earlier this year I worked with the NCO at a Space Power Caucus event on GPS. As chairman of the caucus, I presided over this event and was impressed by the educational information on how GPS works, how it affects our daily lives and critical infrastructure, and ongoing government efforts to maintain GPS as the "gold standard" for PNT around the world. The transparent operations of the NCO keep track of these vital efforts and inform the EXCOM agencies, Congress, and the public on Space-based PNT.

The NCO facilitates the implementation of EXCOM tasks and disseminates information about U.S. space-based PNT programs and policy through the official government GPS website at www.gps.gov.

The Department of Commerce and its Office of Space Commerce have hosted the NCO since 2005. This longstanding relationship was recently codified in law through the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act, signed November 25, 2015.

In ten years, the NCO evolved from an idea into an essential organization with significant impact within the space-based PNT community. NCO efforts ensure the EXCOM is an effective body for assisting national leaders in implementing national Space-based PNT policy.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge this organization on this milestone, and congratulate them on ten years of hard work and wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING MARY C. BLASI

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary C. Blasi, who is being honored

by the Wynmoor Democratic Club for her service to the community of Coconut Creek. Ms. Blasi has worked for the city of Coconut Creek for twenty years, becoming its first female City Manager in 2013.

Ms. Blasi is a graduate of Notre Dame University, and has a distinguished record of outstanding service to her community. After starting as the city of Coconut Creek's Director of Finance and Administrative Services in 1996, she served as Assistant City Manager in 2002 and became Deputy City Manager in 2008.

The Coconut Creek City Commission unanimously elected Ms. Blasi as City Manager in 2013. Since then, she has been responsible for the city's 110 million dollar budget, its 370 full time employees, and its continued day to day operations.

Throughout her career in public service, Mary C. Blasi has shown herself to be an outstanding leader in her community. I am pleased to join the Wynmoor Democratic Club in honoring Ms. Blasi for her ongoing commitment to excellence and distinguished service to our community.

IN MEMORY OF MARILYN COY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Christmas Day, South Carolina lost one of its most dynamic citizens with the death of Marilyn Coy. Marilyn was symbolic of a political revolution of people moving as transplants from the Midwest and Northeast to the South, developing a two party system with Republicans growing from nonexistence to achieving a super-majority. The following tribute was published in The State newspaper of Columbia on December 27, 2015:

Marilyn Sue Coy, wife of Calvin Coy, left this earth for Heaven while at home on Friday, December 25, 2015, on the day we celebrate our Lord's birthday, Christmas. She was 83. Viewing and family visitation will be on Tuesday, December 29, 2015, from 6 to 8 pm at Caughman-Harman Funeral Home—Chapin Chapel, 123 Columbia Ave, Chapin, SC 29036. Services will be held on Wednesday, December 30, 2015, at 11 am at Chapin United Methodist Church, 415 Lexington Ave, Chapin, SC 29036. Interment to follow at Fort Jackson National Cemetery, 4170 Percival Rd, Columbia, SC 29229.

Born in Lake Cicott, Indiana, on May 11, 1932, to the late Horace and Suzie Julian, Marilyn Coy was preceded by her son Mark, her sister Norma Franzen, and her grandson Gabriel Coy. After 62 years of marriage, Marilyn leaves behind her husband Cal Coy, her daughter Laura Pike of Montauroux, France, and her son Bruce and wife Pamela Coy of Summerville, SC. She also leaves behind five grandchildren Jamie Pike, Alexia Pike and Caroline Pike of France, and Julian Coy and Carra and her husband Jesse Beam of South Carolina, and one great grandson, "baby Jack," son of Alexia Pike and Fabien Scervo of France.

Marilyn was an active member of every community where she lived. Her outspoken personality and drive has had a positive impact on every life she touched from immediate family, to friends, organizations and even the state of South Carolina which she loved so dearly. Marilyn and her husband Cal moved to Irmo, South Carolina in 1969 and