

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MARY DUBOIS IN CELEBRATION OF HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Mary Dubois in celebration of her reaching the milestone 90th birthday.

As she reflects on the great memories and milestones that have highlighted the past ninety years, I know she will think fondly on all that she's accomplished and the positive impact she's had on New Hampshire.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Ms. Dubois on achieving this wonderful milestone, and wish her the best on all future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ALVIN KREUZ

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Alvin Kreuz of Delta, Ohio. Al passed from this life on May 20 after being given 80 years surrounded by his loving family.

Al Kreuz was born in Swanton, Ohio to Jacob and Melvina Kreuz. He was the second youngest in a family of eleven children. After graduating high school, Al enlisted in the United States Army where he served from 1955 to 1957. After coming home, he married his wife Charlotte in 1959. Together over the next 57 years Al and Char raised a family of their own: sons Mike, Gary and Alvin John Jr and daughters, Laurie, Becky and Barbie. As the years passed they were later blessed with fourteen grandchildren.

Though he spent his professional career with Sohio Company and later in partnership at Toledo Radiator and Glass, Al's true passion as a businessman was his forty year career as owner and operator of Smith's Restaurant in Wauseon, Ohio. Just off the turnpike, featuring delicious home-cooked fare and outstanding pies, everyone in Fulton County and even further knew of Smith's Restaurant and Al and Char Kreuz and their family.

Long a business leader, Al had a strong commitment to community and wanted to serve his fellow citizens. He did so as an elected politician, serving three terms as a Fulton County Commissioner. As his obituary noted, "Vote for the man, not the party" was his slogan that earned him the distinction in 1980 of being the first Democrat elected in Fulton County in 48 years!" His tenure was marked by compassion and a devotion to the county and people he served. Fulton County,

Ohio and its residents truly benefitted from Al Kreuz's public service.

Not just a business and political leader, Al was also a leader in several civic associations including the Knights of Columbus, Wauseon Rotary, Catholic War Vets and the Delta F & M Advisory Board.

He also loved sports. His obituary highlights that "he was an integral member of a group that founded the Wauseon Racquet Club . . . As a lifelong athlete and sports enthusiast, his talents on the softball field, bowling alley, and golf course earned him many awards and accolades. He was most proud of his nine (no, you didn't misread this) holes-in-one. His skill never abated and for the last twelve years he continued to periodically shoot his age up until the end. As for bowling, his first and only perfect 300 game earned him a \$10,000 purse (ironically sponsored by Smith's Restaurant!). His love of athletics and teaching prompted him to volunteer as a coach with the CYO and St. Mary's (now Holy Trinity) basketball programs for 27 years. Additionally he coached little league and later assisted the Evergreen HS golf team." His love of sports and support of his teams is also evident in his claim as a University of Michigan Wolverines season ticket holder for 44 years. His favorite sporting events were those of his grandchildren, where he could always be counted on to be cheering for them on the sidelines.

As if his devotion to family, his business, community, civic organizations and sports teams was not enough, Al was also a talented tinkerer. As he was tinkering in his workshop he developed "an amazing talent in wood-working. Many of his family and friends continue to enjoy his labors of love" including me.

I was privileged to know Al Kreuz for more than thirty years and counted he and Char and their family among friends. For a decade we shared the goal of making life better in Fulton County, Ohio. Al Kreuz was a family man, business and civic leader, citizen statesman and so much more. His legacy is writ large in Fulton County, Ohio. His life and times, his service and talents are imprinted there as his good works of family and community carry forward.

H.R. 5456

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following extraneous materials on H.R. 5456, the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016:

NEW YORK COALITION FOR
CHILD WELFARE FINANCE REFORM,

June 20, 2016.

DEAR NEW YORK STATE FEDERAL DELEGATION: As a coalition representing numerous child welfare stakeholders, including advocacy organizations, providers, parents' attorneys, children's attorneys and philanthropy

in New York, we are writing to express our support for H.R. 5456, the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe and caring family, and the Family First Prevention Services Act would help ensure that more children have this opportunity.

The Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016 contains many important provisions that would strengthen the child welfare system here in New York and make a significant impact in strengthening and keeping families together. For the first time, New York would be able to use federal dollars from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to provide time-limited, evidence-based services to families. The services are aimed to help prevent children from entering the foster care system by allowing federal reimbursement to families for mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and in-home parent skill-based programs. New York State and New York City are ahead of many other states and localities, having already invested a significant amount of resources to prevent foster care and enable children to live safely in their homes. The ability to access federal funding to enhance the work being done in New York, could enable many more families to remain intact.

In addition, the bill incentivizes states to ensure that children are placed in family-based settings by only allowing federal reimbursement after an assessment has occurred and it has been determined that the child should be placed in a quality residential treatment program. In addition, for those youth who are assessed to need to be placed in a congregate care setting, the law will ensure that these settings provide children with the trauma-informed and on-site services they need.

The legislation also includes a number of other provisions aimed to reform and strengthen the child welfare system including the extension of the Title IV-B program, improving supports for youth transitioning to adulthood, establishing model foster care licensing standards, and calling for a GAO review to examine compliance of states in reinvesting savings from the federal adoption assistance reimbursement for special needs kids.

We look forward to working with you to ensure these new child welfare finance reforms will truly benefit children who come to the attention of the child welfare system and to continue to explore additional improvements on their behalf to ensure they all have safe, permanent families. Thank you for your continuing leadership on behalf of these children. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Gendell from Citizens' Committee for Children.

The following Coalition members from New York support the Family First Prevention Services Act (H.R. 5456):

CASA-NY,

Center for Family Representation, Citizens' Committee for Children, New Yorkers for Children, You Gotta Believe!

GRAHAM WINDHAM,

Children's Village, JCCA, Schulyer Center for Analysis and Advocacy.

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