

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF LUIS DANIEL CONDE

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Luis Daniel Conde of Haines City, Florida. Luis was a resident of my district whose life was cut short in the tragic shooting at Pulse nightclub on June 12, 2016, in Orlando.

Luis was a talented makeup artist and owned a beauty salon with his partner of 16 years, Juan Rivera Velazquez. Luis and Juan were partners in business and in life. They grew up in the same small town in Puerto Rico, and even attended the same school, Jose Campeche High School in San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico.

At their salon, Juan created hairstyles, while Luis—never the shy one—touched up clients' make-up and kept the techno music playing. Former clients and friends remember them as wonderful people who loved helping others and frequently provided their services free of charge to women who were victims of domestic violence. It was widely known that they loved people and lived to help others.

Luis Daniel was 39 years old. He died alongside Juan the night of the shooting.

Luis will never be forgotten in our pursuit of a more just and loving world. His memory and acts of kindness will live forever in the hearts and minds of those who knew him.

May his family, friends and relatives eventually find solace and comfort and may he rest in eternal peace.

CONGRATULATING THE TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Tahoe Environmental Research Center, or TERC, at the University of California Davis on its 10th anniversary. For the past decade, TERC has been a global leader in research, education and public outreach about the Lake Tahoe Basin and other similar systems across the world.

Their work has never been more urgent: Lake Tahoe is one of the most famous destinations in the United States, and draws millions of visitors from around the world for hiking, water sports, skiing, and so many other recreational activities. But increased development and a higher number of residents and tourists have damaged the environment of the Tahoe Basin and sharply reduced Lake Tahoe's world-renowned clarity. In fact, the lake has lost a third of its transparency over the past 30 years.

The University of California at Davis, whose campus is situated in my Congressional District, is no stranger to studying Lake Tahoe: 58 years ago, UC Davis pioneered conducting scientific research at Lake Tahoe, and was the first institution to sound the alarm about the damage being done to the Tahoe Basin's sensitive ecosystem. The work done by UC Davis and the Tahoe Environmental Research Center has been essential to keeping Tahoe blue.

Congratulations to the TERC on its 10th anniversary and all the work it has done to preserve the natural beauty and ecological diversity of the Tahoe Basin.

THE IMMORALITY OF INACTION: CONGRESS CANNOT REMAIN SILENT ON VOTING RIGHTS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Restoration Tuesday to highlight and recognize the positive strides made by elected officials in support of equal voting rights.

Several states, including California, Connecticut, Illinois, Oregon and Vermont have passed laws establishing automatic voter registration. In these states across the country, when a citizen comes in contact with the DMV they are automatically registered to vote unless they actively decline. In April of this year, Gov. Terry McAuliffe of Virginia ordered voting rights restored to 206,000 ex-convicts in Virginia. This year, Virginia joined over 20 states that have helped diminish the stigma of disenfranchisement from citizens who have served their sentences and paid their debts to society.

These leaders faced harsh public criticism and were targeted by the media. These were not popular efforts.

Mr. Speaker, may I remind my fellow colleagues that we are not here for a popularity contest. We are here to serve the people of America. We are here to support democracy, justice, fairness and equality for all. We cannot and must not continue to sit idly by and do nothing. Last year, I introduced a bill, the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015 to answer the call the Supreme Court gave Congress in 2013 after the *Shelby v. Holder* ruling that called for for a modern day formula to determine federal enforcement. It has been three years since the Supreme Court ruling. It has been over a full year since I introduced the Voting Rights Advancement Act. Inaction on the cause of voting rights has now become "business as usual" and this cannot continue. We can no longer be afraid to lead and stand for what is right.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said it best when he stated "history will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad

people, but the appalling silence of the good people."

The silence of Congress on the fundamental right to vote is no less than appalling. Political equality is good for everyone. What are we afraid of? Why do we continue to do nothing?

The flood of suppressive voting laws continue to flow from every corner of our country and the tide is only getting higher. Our silence only silences the voices and vote of the American people. We can and must do better.

FAA EXTENSION, SAFETY, AND SECURITY ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this extension to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This measure is the product of dedicated bipartisan work. For that, I thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member DEFAZIO—and, from across the Capitol, Senator THUNE and Senator NELSON. I am pleased that we included some time-sensitive and safety- and security-critical measures in this legislation. Passing this extension is the right thing to do for the safety and security of the American traveling public.

In addition, I am pleased that the legislation directs the FAA to continue moving forward on safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and directs the Department of Transportation to move forward on a long-overdue rule to better assist disabled travelers.

However, there are many important bipartisan provisions that regrettably did not make the cut. I stand by my remarks regarding the first extension in September as well as the extension we passed in March. We did not have to go down this road.

Because of a desire to privatize the nation's air traffic control (ATC) system, some critical pieces of the legislation have been tied up.

We could have been here on the Floor today with a long-term reauthorization bill that took a comprehensive approach to addressing the pressing needs of the FAA, aviation safety and air travel. Mr. Speaker, if you ask 10 aviation stakeholders to identify the area of the FAA most in need of reform, I would venture to say most if not all 10 of them would say, "certification."

Both the House and Senate long-term FAA bills included far-reaching reforms to streamline the FAA certification process that would help U.S. manufacturers become more competitive, expand their global presence and create jobs in the United States.

The certification reforms that have bipartisan and bicameral support would have immediate benefits in my home state of Washington—where aviation manufacturing is a significant economic driver—as well as for the entire U.S. economy.

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