

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVORSHIP, TREATMENT, ACCESS, AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act. As the most comprehensive way to address childhood cancer, the bill advances research, treatment, and quality of life for pediatric cancer survivors here in Maryland and across the nation.

Each year, nearly 16,000 children in the United States are diagnosed with cancer. While there have been advances made in childhood cancer research, too many young people and their families continue to suffer. And for the kids who survive, the battle is not over. Ninety-five percent of survivors will suffer serious health complications as they age.

To give pediatric cancer patients and their families hope, I spearheaded the STAR Act with Congressman MIKE MCCAUL and Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER. By the bill's several provisions, including improving efforts to identify and track childhood cancer incidence and establishing a pilot program to explore innovative models of care to enhance the quality of life for survivors, the STAR Act will provide our researchers with the necessary resources to work towards cures and less toxic treatments that will help our children live longer, healthier lives.

With the majority of this chamber as cosponsors, this bill shows that Congress can come together to make progress for the most vulnerable in our society—the thousands of children and families impacted by cancer. It is also a testament of passionate advocacy—those who fight hard so another child's life is not robbed too early from cancer or so survivors do not have to live with physical and psychological effects of harmful treatments. I want to thank all the advocates who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes and who have helped us get this vital bill to the House floor today.

Lastly, it has been an honor serving as the Co-Chair of the Childhood Cancer Caucus with Congressman MIKE MCCAUL and want to welcome the new Co-Chairs for next Congress: Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman G.K. BUTTERFIELD, and Congressman MIKE KELLY.

I strongly support passage of the STAR Act and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

RETIRING MEMBERS

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my colleagues and good friends Reps. SAM FARR, LOIS CAPPAS, LORETTA SANCHEZ, MIKE HONDA and Janice Hahn upon their retirement from the House of Representatives.

These Members of Congress have been true fighters for California and have been instrumental in achieving progress on a number of issues important to our state and our country. With their help, California Democrats have led the fight to ensure access to affordable healthcare, to address the legal needs of our immigrant community and to give every family a fair shot at a good living.

Their work here certainly hasn't been easy, and they have made many personal sacrifices through the years. Nonetheless, they've been tough fighters for some of the most vulnerable people in our country. I'm proud to be able to count them among my friends, and I want to express my sincere thanks to SAM, LOIS, LORETTA, MIKE and Janice for all the work we've been able to accomplish together. They have all set a high bar for the rest of us in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, SAM, LOIS, LORETTA, MIKE and Janice have been great friends to Californians and good friends of mine. It is fitting and proper that we honor them here today for their dedicated public service.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN GUY LOUGHRIDGE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Civil Air Patrol Captain Guy Loughridge of Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Captain Loughridge has been a volunteer for Colorado and the United States of America for over 35 years. He began his service to the state of Colorado and our country in 1981, as a member of the Routt County Search and Rescue team, where he served for 17 years.

Captain Loughridge's contributions to the search and rescue community have had profound impacts. He developed radar forensic software and trained radar analysts to locate missing and downed aircraft. He decided to forgo his for-profit software business venture,

and instead, volunteer his time to the Civil Air Patrol to help further develop his radar forensic software. This led him to create the National Radar Analysis Team (NRAT), which became a squadron under National Headquarters of the Civil Air Patrol. Today this program operates all across the U.S. and finds around 40 aircraft each year, saving as many as ten lives each year.

Mr. Speaker, stories of Captain Loughridge's hard work and dedication to serving his community and country are countless. I proudly stand with the residents of Routt County and the United States to thank Captain Loughridge for his lifetime of service. His work has saved many lives and forever changed the Search and Rescue and Aviation communities in our great Nation.

HONORING MAJOR DANA GRAF

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and steadfast Army National Guardsman. Major Dana W. Graf has distinguished himself through his professional character and dedication to serving this Nation in both military and civilian capacity. A leader and expert communicator, he has served both me and our country well while assigned to the National Capitol Region.

As an Army Legislative Fellow on my personal staff in 2014, Major Graf performed his duties deftly. His strategic-level thinking and foresight contributed to the completion of numerous high-level tasks and engagements. Following his Fellowship on the Hill, he was assigned to the National Guard Bureau Office of Legislative Liaison from January 2015 to December 2016. During this assignment, Major Graf conducted more than 230 meetings with Congressional staff. In addition to those meetings, he also led 50 direct engagements between Army National Guard senior leaders, which were essential in conveying important messages on behalf of the Department of Defense and building trust and understanding with Members of Congress and their staff.

After serving almost four years in the legislative environment, Major Graf will move onto his next assignment in the State of Kansas and continue to honor our nation as a true citizen-soldier. Dana, his supportive wife Laura, and their three children have sacrificed much as a family in service to our nation. I salute this American patriot whose selfless service has country safe and strong. Godspeed, Dana.

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