

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LATE LAVELL
EDWARDS

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor legendary BYU football coach LaVell Edwards, who passed away December 29, 2016 at the age of 86.

During the 29 years he coached at Brigham Young University, Edwards transformed a team that had never been ranked or invited to a bowl game into a perpetual force in college football.

Best remembered for leading his team to a national championship in 1984, Edwards also racked up an impressive 257–103 win/loss record. His team won 20 conference championships and qualified for 22 bowl game appearances.

LaVell Edwards touched countless lives, including mine, in a profound and positive way. I feel so fortunate to be among the many young men Coach Edwards influenced and molded during his storied career at BYU. My life is forever changed by my experience as a place kicker on his team.

Upon retiring from BYU in 2000, Edwards and his wife Patti served a mission for the LDS Church in New York, where, in addition to his missionary role, Edwards was invited to put his talents to work coaching football to Harlem youth.

Coach Edwards leaves behind a legacy of success on the field and off. He was a man of integrity whose example his players all wanted to emulate. He is survived by his wife Patti and three children. He will be greatly missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID
DRINKARD

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of a very special person and dear friend of mine, David Drinkard.

David was a former art teacher at Warren High School in Warren, Texas and a renowned wildlife painter. We have been friends since attending Forest Park High School and Lamar University, in Beaumont, Texas. He was an expert at painting God's beautiful creations in nature. There is nothing prettier than a "David Drinkard sky." His paintings hang in homes, businesses and galleries all over, including my own home and dental office.

David was a devout Christian, a loyal husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He was a strong conservative and an active conservationist, donating many paintings for auction to the Coastal Conservation

Association and other groups to help raise funds for conservation projects and causes. He was an excellent hunter and probably ranked as one of the best fishermen with whom I ever had the privilege of casting a lure.

I am honored to have one of his paintings prominently displayed in my congressional office in Washington. It depicts David and me catching speckled trout on Sabine Lake in Texas. Some of my children and I even took art lessons from him in his hometown of Warren years ago. David Drinkard has a very special place in our hearts and we will miss him dearly.

David passed away on December 26, 2016. His wife Beverly and family will continue to be in our prayers.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN AVALOS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Avalos for eight years of exemplary service on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. John has demonstrated remarkable leadership and collaboration in his efforts to improve the quality of life for all San Francisco residents and particularly those in District 11. He has been a tireless champion of affordable housing, social services, infrastructure and clean energy.

Representing District 11, one of San Francisco's most vibrant and diverse districts, John began his work on the board in 2008 at the height of the Great Recession. He served as the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee leading San Francisco through the daunting process of closing a billion dollar budget hole while saving jobs and essential services for seniors and children. His commitment to jobs didn't stop with those early years. One of his recent pieces of legislation provided thousands of living wage jobs to San Francisco residents, earning him the reputation as a protector of working-class families.

John also introduced legislation protecting tenants of foreclosed properties and providing rental assistance for low-income families. His bill creating a real estate transfer tax has brought in \$50 million in annual city revenue.

In his current role as the Chair of the Transportation Authority, Supervisor Avalos oversees the analysis, design and funding for long-term transportation planning for the city. In the City challenged by ever-increasing traffic congestion, John understands the impact on the quality of life and the necessity to create solutions. He is a staunch advocate of alternative modes of transportation and introduced the strongest employee bike access law in the country, the Bicycle Access and Safety Ordinance. It allows employees to bring their bikes into the office, creating an opportunity for thousands of people to ride their bicycles to

work easing congestion, cutting emissions, improving air quality, and maximizing public transportation.

It was at John's urging that the Employees' Retirement System divested almost \$600 million in holdings from the top 200 fossil fuel companies. He authored Citizens United Measure Prop G, a policy opposing corporate personhood which was overwhelmingly approved by voters. He has taken on financial fraud, launching an investigation in 2013 into the London InterBank Offered Rate fraud scandal and its impact on San Francisco.

Supervisor Avalos has been a fighter for justice, equality and fairness. As a third generation Mexican-American, one of seven siblings, and one of the first generation in his family to attend college, you can trace John's drive and ambition back to his early years. He moved to San Francisco in 1989 and immersed himself in education, organizing and protecting the rights of others. He earned a Master's Degree in Social Work from San Francisco State University and began his career as a counselor through the San Francisco Conservation Corps and the Columbia Park Boys and Girls Club. He then worked for Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth and for the Justice for Janitors Campaign of the Service Employees International Union.

During his time on the board of supervisors, John continued his work with many outstanding community groups in District 11 such as the OMI Community Collaborative, Excelsior Collaborative, Communities United for Health and Justice, and Coleman Advocates. He firmly believes that real change starts at a grassroots level.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to recognize Supervisor John Avalos for his outstanding public service to the residents of San Francisco, in his district and beyond. This champion of the people may leave San Francisco City Hall, but he will no doubt continue to shape life in the City for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call vote 3 on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES
"JIM" HOWARD SHAW

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of James "Jim"

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