

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BARRY S. GALE FOR 50
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Barry S. Gale from Gouverneur, New York. This month, Mr. Gale will be celebrating 50 years as a volunteer firefighter at the Gouverneur Fire Department.

He joined the Department in 1967 as a dedicated citizen and volunteer. Mr. Gale was assigned to Hose Company Number 1 and served in the position for eight years. His remarkable service gave him the opportunity to advance within the Fire Department, serving as 2nd Assistant Chief from 1975 to 1977. He then rose to 1st Assistant Chief and served in the position until 1979. From there, Mr. Gale served as Chief Engineer until 1981.

Mr. Gale has earned numerous awards for his devotion to the Fire Department. He received the Department's "Chiefs Award" in 2006 and then again in 2009. In 2011, he was named the Department's "Firefighter of the Year." These awards and Mr. Gale's years of dedicated service are a testament to his character and the community he has called home.

On this day, I want to take a moment to thank Mr. Barry Gale for his many years of public service to our district, especially to the town of Gouverneur. Congratulations on celebrating 50 years of volunteer service at the Gouverneur Fire Department.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
GARY ANDRES

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions Gary Andres has made to the House of Representatives.

Gary most recently served as the Staff Director for the Committee on Energy and Commerce under the leadership of Congressman FRED UPTON. In his last term as Chairman, Congressman UPTON partnered with me to author the 21st Century Cures Act. I got to know Gary very well over nearly three years as we worked to pass the bill into law.

It was a real pleasure working with Gary. Even at the darkest moments, when we couldn't seem to find a way to come to a bipartisan agreement on Cures, Gary's steady leadership and immutable resolve helped to light the way forward. His wise counsel is one of the reasons that bill was enacted into law. Although he is leaving Capitol Hill, the 21st Century Cures Act stands as a testament to his immeasurable contributions to this body.

Gary is a person of integrity and an incredibly effective staffer. The American people

were lucky to have his service with the House of Representatives.

HONORING COLONEL BYRON P.
DEEL

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to honor Colonel Byron Deel, Chief of the Joint Staff, Tennessee National Guard. After 32 years of dedicated service to our state and country, Colonel Deel has announced his retirement, effective February 5, 2017.

Over the course of his career, Byron has held numerous leadership roles with a wide range of responsibilities. Whether it be his time as Company Commander of the 173rd Personnel Support Company, his command of the Joint Counterdrug Task Force or his current position as Chief of the Joint Staff, Byron has exemplified a work ethic and regard for others that is second-to-none. As such, he has more than earned the utmost admiration and respect that his colleagues and peers hold for him.

Colonel Deel's career includes two deployments: In 2001 to Bosnia, where he was responsible for supporting the State Department as military liaison and intelligence officer. In 2005, he deployed to Afghanistan as an Embedded Team Trainer as part of the 196th Field Artillery Brigade. There he served as a mentor in Intelligence and Operations to the Afghan National Army.

Byron's exemplary service to our nation is reflected in the numerous commendations and military decorations he has received, including: The Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Tennessee National Guard Distinguished Service Medal, among a long list of many others.

It is also important to mention that his wife, Mary Deel, whom Byron introduces as "the Better Deal", also serves in the National Guard as the Education Services Officer.

On a personal note, Byron has been an invaluable resource for me and my staff on issues impacting our guardsmen. While I am sorry that Tennessee is losing an officer of such high caliber, on behalf of the grateful citizens of Tennessee's Fourth District, I extend a heartfelt thanks for his outstanding service to this great country and wish him the very best in his retirement.

HONORING PHILLIP "RUSS" RIZZO
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the career and public service of Phillip "Russ" Rizzo, as he concludes his service on the Common Council of the city of North Tonawanda, New York.

A lifelong city resident and U.S. Army Veteran, prior to entering public service, Russ was the owner of Rizzo and Ricotta Office Products. While operating his business, Russ began his public service on the city's Zoning Board of Appeals, serving from 1994 to 1996. Russ joined the Common Council in 2000, working to alleviate flooding problems in the 1st Ward, and later spearheading efforts to revitalize the NT waterfront, culminating in the opening of a restaurant at Gratiwick Riverside Park. In addition to his focus on neighborhoods and the waterfront, Russ put a great deal of time and energy into rejuvenating the city's downtown business district.

From 2010 through 2012, Russ served as a member of the Niagara County Legislature. Later in 2012, Russ returned to the Common Council where he continued to serve constituents, personally addressing their issues and making sure no calls went unanswered.

In his retirement, Russ and his wife Mary look forward to spending more time with their family. They are parents to four children, grandparents to seven and are blessed with one great-grandchild.

In 2012, I was given the honor of having the opportunity to represent North Tonawanda. Few public officials welcomed me with a greater degree of warmth than did Russ Rizzo. Russ is a true gentleman who only had the very best interests of his hometown at heart. His constituents were well-served by him, and I am honored both by his collegiality as well as his friendship.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor Russ and recognize all that he has done for the City of North Tonawanda. I know that you join me and all of our colleagues in wishing Russ, Mary and their entire family the very best of good health and happiness in the months and years to come.

HONORING LORETTA WEINBERG
ON HER BIRTHDAY

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on her birthday, to honor the tireless dedication of Senator Loretta Weinberg to the people of New Jersey. Senator Weinberg has

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