

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### FORT MYERS HIGH SOFTBALL TEAM—FIRST STATE TITLE

#### HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2017*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Fort Myers High School's softball team and their first state championship in program history. The Green Wave struck a decisive victory over the Niceville Eagles by a margin of 7–1. This triumph merely closes an already excellent year for the high school's athletic program where they collectively won two team state titles and six individual championships. All this was done while maintaining excellent academic standards.

I congratulate the Fort Myers Green Wave and Head Coach Johnny Manetta for this most cherished win. We look forward to seeing what this young team will accomplish in the years to come.

### HONORING THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA

#### HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2017*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and proud Philadelphian.

Today, the world famous Philadelphia Orchestra departs for a three country tour of Asia. In these uncertain times as my colleagues and I focus on East Asia, I think we can all agree that the Philadelphia Orchestra is a critical tool in the diplomatic toolbox.

Working with our diplomats at the Department of State and with Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf's Department of Community and Economic Development, over 150 Pennsylvania musicians, non-profit and business leaders will travel to China, Mongolia and Korea.

In China, they will celebrate 45 years since President Richard Nixon and Secretary Henry Kissinger personally requested that they open bilateral relations for our two countries. They will engage in innovative people to people diplomacy.

In Mongolia, they will celebrate 30 years of U.S.–Mongolia bilateral relations. They are the first western orchestra to visit this proud democracy who often labels the United States its "third neighbor." I was honored when the President of Mongolia visited Philadelphia in September 2016.

The trip to Korea has taken on added importance this year. The delegation will include proud Korean Americans who are constituents of mine. Philadelphia and Incheon are Sister Cities. My district is home to a vibrant Korean-American community that has made success-

ful contributions to the area. Large public concerts and events in Korea will demonstrate for the world to see the unbreakable bond between our two countries.

As we focus our attention on the geopolitics of East Asia, I think we can all agree that this tour could not come at a more important time.

### 16TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

#### HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2017*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to law enforcement men and women who have provided distinctive service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

Law enforcement is a demanding profession that requires sacrifice, courage and a dedication to serve others. Every day, brave men and women put themselves in harm's way to enforce the laws of our society and protect public safety. They deserve our gratitude and respect.

Six years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Law Enforcement Awards, CLEA, to give special recognition to law enforcement officers, departments, or units for exceptional achievement. This year, I will present congressional law enforcement awards to the following winners chosen by an independent panel comprised of current and retired law enforcement personnel representing a cross-section of the district's law enforcement community:

Officer Jason Nuttall of the Bradenton Police Department will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Captain John Walsh, Captain Debra Kaspar, Lieutenant Jon Varley, Community Affairs Director Kaitlyn Perez, Deputy Phillip Mockler, Detective Tim Speth and Investigator Lynn Thomson of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Detective Richard Wilson of the Palmetto Police Department will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Officer Alan Bores of the Holmes Beach Police Department will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Detective James Warren of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Sergeant Robert Armstrong of the Sarasota Police Department will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Deputy Kevin Smetana of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Master Sergeant George Taunton of the Florida Highway Patrol will receive the Career Service Award.

Troopers Caleb Kerr and Brett Fitzpatrick of the Florida Highway Patrol will receive the Preservation of Life Award.

Sergeant Patrick Roberts of the Florida Highway Patrol will receive the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award.

Pastor Patrick Miller, Pastor Vincent Smith, Doctor Harriet Moore, Geoffrey Gilot and Al-Muta Hawks all affiliated with the Boys and Girls Club of Sarasota will receive the Associate Service Award.

The Manatee County Special Investigations Division will receive the Unit Citation Award. The members of this unit are: Major William Jordan, Captain Todd Shear, Lieutenant Anthony Carr, Division Secretary Toni Burton, Administrative Assistant Cindy Hoffman, Sergeant Jason Powell, Detective James Parrish, Detective Kim Zink, Detective Greg Dunlap, Detective Mike Diaz, Bruce Benjamin (Crime Stoppers), Amber Hoffman (Manager), Erica Chenard (UCR Coordinator), Criminal Analyst Ashley Eannarino, Criminal Analyst Elicia Main, Intel Analyst Don Brown, Criminal Analyst John Ferrito, Intel Analyst Elizabeth Thomas, Sergeant Evelio Perez, Detective Joseph Petta, Detective Justin Warren, Detective Derek Pollock, Detective Eric Davis, Detective Ray Richter, Detective Patrick Thames, Detective Scott Williamson, Sergeant Gary Combee, Detective William Freely, Detective Maria Gillum, Detective Bryce Wilhelm, Detective Jonathan Kruse, Sergeant Steve Barron, Detective Randall Walker, Detective Brian Beck, Detective Shayne Rousseau, Detective Jeremy Martin, Detective Robert Brigham, Sergeant Isaac Redmond, Detective Rafael Ortegón, Detective Christopher Gallagher, Detective Joel Taylor, Detective David Bocchino, and Detective Lourdes Santiago.

### THIN BLUE LINE ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2017*

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 115, the Thin Blue Line Act. This bill unnecessarily expands the federal death penalty, and does not further the laudable goal of bringing justice to the law enforcement officers who make the ultimate sacrifice for our safety and security.

The United States is in the minority of countries that still use the death penalty, and Americans' opposition to it has increased in recent decades, particularly as social scientists better understand the disparate effects of the death penalty on minority populations. A sentence of death is disproportionately used in cases involving defendants of color. According to U.S. Department of Justice, in 2011, 41.7 percent of all death row inmates were African American, despite only making up 13.1 percent of the population. Furthermore, since 1973, 159 people who were sentenced to death were later exonerated. There is no doubt that innocent individuals have been put to death in the United States—a fact that must

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

not be ignored in a country that values justice under the law.

I greatly respect and appreciate our law enforcement community. Local police, firefighters, and first responders put their lives on the line every single day to protect people in Oregon and across the country. Those criminals who target and murder police officers have no place in our society. Nothing in current law prevents those individuals from being prosecuted to the highest extent of the law, and to receive a sentence of death. Under current law, there are 16 aggravating factors that can be considered during criminal sentencing, and the federal government can allege the targeting or killing of a law enforcement officer—federal, state, or local—as an aggravating factor when considering the death penalty. This bill creates a 17th aggravating factor that is duplicative of existing law.

I will continue to do all I can to support our law enforcement officers, particularly the admirable men and women who serve our communities in northwest Oregon. This bill, however, is an unnecessary expansion of the death penalty, and I therefore cannot support it.

#### CLIFFS NATURAL RESOURCES—170 YEARS OF MINING

### HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2017*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a significant milestone achieved by a great American company and one of the largest employers in my district, Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. In 2017, Cliffs is celebrating its 170th year as an independent mining company specializing in the extraction and processing of iron ore—or taconite as it is known on Minnesota's Mesabi Iron Range.

Cliffs Natural Resources was founded in 1847 in Cleveland, Ohio and first began operating on the Mesabi Iron Range in 1905 at the former Crosby Mine located near Nashwauk, Minnesota. Today, Cliffs is the oldest metals and mining company traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the largest independent producer of iron ore pellets in the United States. As a company that was founded prior to the industrial revolution, Cliffs has weathered the ups and downs of the American economy and the cyclical nature of the steel business for 170 years. This achievement is nothing short of remarkable.

Throughout its long history, Cliffs has been an integral supplier of raw materials to the domestic steel industry, providing the iron ore used in the production of steel that supports our American way of life and provides for the defense of this great country. Cliffs stands at the very foundation of our steel industry and America's manufacturing economy.

Just as notable is Cliffs' commitment to Northeastern Minnesota. Overall Cliffs employs approximately 2,900 people in the United States, with over 1,700 family-sustaining jobs across its three Minnesota iron ore operations—United Taconite, Northshore Mining Company and Hibbing Taconite. In 2016, Cliffs' economic impact in the state of Minnesota was nearly \$900 million. Furthermore, Cliffs has shown itself to be a tremendous supporter of its home communities, with

the company and its employees contributing over \$575,000 to charitable organizations in Minnesota last year alone.

The domestic iron ore and steel industries have confronted grave challenges in recent years as historic levels of illegally-dumped steel flooded U.S. shores. These trade law violations led to the idling of iron ore mines, steel mills and the lay-off of thousands of workers, including 2,000 Minnesota iron ore miners. In 2015, at the height of the steel import crisis, I found a friend and partner in Cliffs' Chairman, President and CEO, Mr. Lourenco Goncalves. This was not the first trade-induced steel disaster that Cliffs had endured and Mr. Goncalves understood that it would take the support and engagement of the White House to fully address and remedy the threat posed by record levels of illegal steel imports. Lourenco pledged to me that, if the federal government would commit to prosecuting the trade cases to the full extent of our U.S. trade laws, he would bring back workers at Cliffs' idled Minnesota mines. In conjunction with Minnesota's other elected officials, we were able to capture the attention of President Obama's Administration, resulting in tariffs and duties assessed in excess of 500 percent on steel products from certain countries, namely China. Mr. Goncalves followed through on his commitment to put nearly 1,000 Minnesota miners back to work and it was my pleasure to join Cliffs in August of 2016 as the company broke ground on a \$75 million capital investment in new pellet-making capabilities at United Taconite in Forbes, Minnesota.

I commend Cliffs Natural Resources, Mr. Goncalves and all of Cliffs' employees for stewarding Cliffs through the latest challenging chapter in your company's long and storied history. This 170-year anniversary stands as a testament to the hard work and dedication of past and present Cliffs' employees, from haul truck drivers and millwrights to the company's most senior executives. I am pleased to recognize the monumental contributions of this great company, both to the communities of Minnesota's Iron Range as well as to the prosperity and defense of the United States. In closing, I extend my best wishes for the continued success of Cliffs Natural Resources.

#### IN HONOR OF COLONEL JONATHAN HOWERTON

### HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2017*

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel Jonathan "Jon" Howerton, United States Army, for his extraordinary dedication to duty and selfless service to the United States of America. Colonel Howerton will be moving on from his present assignment as the Chief of the Army's Liaison Division to the United States House of Representatives where he served from April 1st, 2016 to June 1st, 2017 to become the Deputy Commander for Maneuver of the 2nd Infantry Division (Republic of Korea-United States Combined Division), Camp Casey, Republic of Korea.

The son of a career Army officer, Colonel Howerton grew up on posts, camps, and stations across the continental United States and

in Europe. He was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps into the Field Artillery upon graduation from Texas Christian University in 1990. After his first assignment as a lieutenant, he commanded Field Artillery units at the Battery, Battalion and Brigade levels and has served in a variety of tactical, operational, and strategic level leadership and staff positions. He has extensive experience overseas including a previous assignment to Korea and one to Germany along with operational deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina supporting Operation Joint Guard, and three to Iraq supporting both Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. He has also been stationed at numerous military installations in the United States to include Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Carson, Colorado; Schofield Barracks, Fort Shafter and Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii; and Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize Colonel Howerton's long and decorated career. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing and commending Colonel Howerton for a lifetime of service to his country, and for all he and his family have given and continue to give to our country. We are in their debt. We wish him, his wife Tricia, his daughter Baylor, and his son Cooper all the best as they continue their Army journey to the Republic of Korea.

#### CONGRATULATING THE CENTRAL CAROLINA HOMESCHOOLERS MOCK TRIAL TEAM

### HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2017*

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Central Carolina Homeschoolers (CCH) high school mock trial team. On May 13, 2017, the CCH mock trial team won the 2017 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Hartford, Connecticut. I, along with the rest of the Sixth District, express my sincere congratulations to this team.

Based in Randolph County, the CCH team is the first North Carolina school to win the National Championship in this annual competition. I am pleased to recognize Caitlin Kelly, Joshua Way, Jonah Moss, Heather Pennington, Allyn Sims, Madysen Bailey, Emily Polson and David Bainbridge Jr. for their diligence in accomplishing this exceptional feat. I would also like to acknowledge the team's coaches, Maria Bailey and Darren Allen, for their dedication to these students.

Once again, I congratulate the CCH mock trial team for this momentous accomplishment and wish these students much success in the future.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2017*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Nos. 269 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 1862), 270 (motion to suspend