

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere appreciation that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and its 2017 theme, Shaping the Bright Future of America. From September 15, 2017, through October 15, 2017, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the people of the United States will once again celebrate the cultures and traditions and reflect on the many outstanding contributions our Hispanic brothers and sisters have made throughout our country's history.

Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins each year on September 15, recognizes the anniversaries of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile observe their independence days on September 16 and September 18. Since its inception as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, which later became National Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988, Americans have taken this time to not only honor the rich culture and traditions of Hispanic Americans, but also to reflect on the tremendous impact Hispanic Americans have had within their communities and throughout our nation. The tireless efforts of generations of Hispanic Americans have resulted in a better America.

America's success is reliant upon the rich heritage and cultural diversity of its people. Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the many Hispanic leaders and members of our communities who have added to the prosperity of the United States in every facet of our society. This year's theme also focuses on our nation's future and the immense impact Hispanic Americans will continue to have on creating a better tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to once again join me in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month. Throughout America's history, present, and future, the Hispanic community has played and will continue to play a major role in enriching the quality of life for the people of the United States, and for their outstanding contributions they are worthy of our respect and gratitude.

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND HEROES OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the sixteenth anniver-

sary of the September 11th terrorist attacks and to remember the nearly 3,000 innocent victims killed that day in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

While September 11th is a day shrouded in unspeakable tragedy, it was also a time of unsurpassed courage. Many of the first responders, who heroically rushed to rescue victims, continue to die from exposure to Ground Zero toxins. These firefighters, police officers, and other emergency workers, rely on the Federal government to provide medical care they so desperately need and will require support for years to come.

I am grateful to the men and women of law enforcement, the Armed Forces and our Intelligence Community who work tirelessly every day to keep our country safe. As we celebrate their efforts, we must remain vigilant against terrorists who seek to destroy our country and way of life.

We must never forget the catastrophic events and lives lost on that tragic day in our Nation's history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 485 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 2611), I did not cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on this vote.

HONORING ELGIN FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY IN ELGIN, ILLINOIS ON SEPTEMBER 16TH

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Elgin Fire Department for celebrating its 150th anniversary. Since Elgin's first fire station was established in 1867, it has made an exceptional impact on Elgin and its surrounding communities.

The Elgin Fire Department currently has over 133 sworn firefighters who provide life-saving care to a community of more than 180,000 people. This includes the historic downtown area, two major medical facilities, two college campuses, multiple industrial and office parks, a growing commercial area, and countless homes.

Over the past 150 years, the Elgin Fire Department has been a rich part of Illinois' history. In July 1869, the Elgin Fire Department purchased the James T. Gifford fire engine, which put the Department on the front lines of the Greater Chicago Fire in October 1870. To

this day, the Elgin Fire Department continues to protect the city of Elgin and its neighboring communities as well.

Additionally, the Elgin Fire Department has provided Illinoisans the opportunity to immerse themselves in Elgin history. Since 1987, the fire department has operated a museum looking back on the remarkable work Elgin firefighters have done.

The Elgin Fire Department touches countless lives every day, and has done exceptional work over the last 150 years in the Chicagoland area. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely grateful for their work, and I hope for their continued success in the future.

I honor the Elgin Fire Department in Elgin, Illinois on September 16th.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSE GUADALUPE RAMOS

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to honor the life of Jose Guadalupe Ramos, a beloved Vietnam veteran, Purple Heart recipient and veterans' advocate who passed away on September 3, 2017.

Mr. Ramos was born on September 17, 1948, in East Los Angeles, California. He attended Garfield High School and enlisted in the Army in 1965.

Mr. Ramos served bravely in Vietnam from 1967 to 68, where he was an Army medic exposed to the horrors of war while caring for fellow soldiers wounded on the battlefield. He himself was awarded the Purple Heart after being shot in the leg.

When Mr. Ramos returned from Vietnam, he and his fellow veterans were ignored by an American public disillusioned with the Vietnam War. The trauma they witnessed abroad was exacerbated by the disrespect and insults made against Vietnam veterans at the time. Even while suffering from his own mental and physical wounds, Mr. Ramos continued to care for others by working in emergency rooms in Los Angeles County hospitals.

Mr. Ramos' compassion for helping others did not end there. He had a desire to heal the mental wounds that his fellow Vietnam veterans still lived with when they were not given a proper welcome home. Mr. Ramos led an effort to get local, state, and federal governments to honor these heroes with a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day." He convinced the State of California to recognize March 30th as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. His efforts were a part of getting 38 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Congress to observe Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

Mr. Ramos carried this message across the United States by biking multiple times from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C. to build support for recognition of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. He also biked through

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