

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO THE BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 23, 2017*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Baha'i community as they celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of their founder, Bahá'u'lláh. Born as a nobleman in Persia in 1817, Bahá'u'lláh spread a message of peace and tolerance, emphasizing the fundamental unity of all people. His teachings of peace among nations, equality between men and women, tolerance among religions, and justice for people of all races and nationalities are as important today as they were in the 19th century.

Today, there are over 5 million Baha'is around the world, including a community in my Congressional District. In California and around the world, Baha'is strive to promote the ideals that Bahá'u'lláh championed to promote peace and unity throughout the world. They are active members of their communities and advocate for human rights, especially those of Baha'is in Iran who are unable to practice their religion openly.

I encourage my colleagues to take up and pass H.Res. 274 to condemn Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority, and its continuing violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in sending good wishes to the Baha'i community of California's 18th Congressional District and across the United States on the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOOD PRODUCTION FACILITY IN STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

**HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 23, 2017*

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the Stilwell Oklahoma food production facility. The food production facility in Stilwell, originally called the Stilwell Canning Company, first opened on March 16, 1942 when World War II drove up the demand for canned items. An expansion project completed in 1999 made the Stilwell plant the largest frozen dessert production plant in the country.

Schwan's Company acquired the plant in 2003 when it purchased the Mrs. Smith's pie brand from Flowers Foods. A recent \$40 million investment by the Schwan's Company gave the Stilwell dessert manufacturing facility a state-of-the-art pie line and put the facility on the leading edge of pie production in the industry. Schwan's Company is one of the larg-

est employers in Adair County, with over 300 employees.

The Mrs. Smith's, Edwards, and Schwan's pies and okra produced each day at this facility are enjoyed by families across our great country. I am honored to recognize this facility today before the United States House of Representatives and I wish them a very happy 75th anniversary.

HONORING THE COMPLETION OF THE FOLSOM DAM JOINT FEDERAL PROJECT

**HON. AMI BERA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 23, 2017*

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the completion of the Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project.

This project has been nine years in the making and will provide critical increased flood capacity with Folsom Dam. Last week, the Army Corps of Engineers transferred control of the new auxiliary spillway to the Bureau of Reclamation.

In connection with the existing gates, the new auxiliary spillway will help release water more quickly from Folsom Reservoir to help create space for precipitation during our wet winters.

I want to thank all of the engineers, construction workers and staff from both the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation who worked on this important project. These agencies worked together with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency to get the project completed.

The city of Sacramento faces the second highest flood risk in the country. So this new spillway is just one part of several infrastructure upgrades to increase flood protection in the region. I look forward to working with my colleagues to support the remaining upgrades including completing levee repairs, updating the water control manual, and raising the dam walls.

Finally, I want to also extend many thanks to Mr. David Thomas, who was the ACE Sacramento District Mega Project Center Director and the lead point person for the JFP.

Soon, Mr. Thomas will retire after more than 30 years of service in the Army Corps of Engineers. He has served in a wide variety of stations from New York and Houston to Italy, Afghanistan and Iraq. Mr. Thomas received his Bachelor's degree of Engineering in 1985 from Texas A&M University. In 1993, he attended the Army Management Staff College and also holds a Master's degree in Public Administration in 1995 from Harvard University.

I want to thank him for his work over the past 5 years here in Sacramento as the Mega Project Director and his instrumental role in helping get this project across the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Thomas and wish him the best in retirement and his next adventure. The Joint Federal Project has been a

great example of how cooperation should work between government agencies and what happens when we make government work on behalf of the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT NEWLEN

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 23, 2017*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Robert Newlen, for his decades of service to the Library of Congress. Beginning his career in 1975 at the Congressional Research Service and working his way up to Deputy Librarian of Congress, Mr. Newlen is truly an inspiration.

During his time at the Library of Congress, he has served in various capacities, including assistant director and then director of the Knowledge Services Group in CRS, law librarian for collections, outreach and services in the Law Library, the Library of Congress' Chief of Staff, and as of last year the Deputy Librarian of Congress. Mr. Newlen's personal commitment and devotion to the institution is unparalleled. He has committed his entire professional career, 43 years to be exact, to making the Library of Congress a vital part of the deliberations of the legislative branch.

Mr. Newlen's behind-the-scenes efforts in the Law Library were critical in bringing the Magna Carta, one of history's most celebrated documents and a major influence on our Founding Fathers, to the Library of Congress for exhibit in 2014.

Mr. Newlen is known as a quiet leader and a mentor among his colleagues and friends at the Library, who has inspired many and has forever left his mark on this great institution. I have had the good fortune of interacting with Mr. Newlen many times. As many say, he is a gentleman and a scholar.

After leaving the Library of Congress, Mr. Newlen will be moving to my home state of California to work as the head of the Dwight D. Opperman Foundation. Mr. Speaker, Robert Newlen has been an extraordinary public servant, and I know the House of Representatives joins me in wishing him well in the future.

HONORING CHICAGO'S POLISH HIGHLANDERS MARUSZYNA KOLO NO. 35 ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 23, 2017*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chicago's Maruszyna Kolo No. 35, a lodge of the Polish Highlanders Alliance of

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

North America, which celebrates its 40th anniversary on October 21, 2017.

As a member of the Polish Highlanders Alliance, the lodge aims to organize Polish Highlanders in the Chicago area into a cohesive family. In addition to providing a meeting place for Highlanders across the Chicago area, the lodge cultivates Polish Highlander arts, customs, and traditions. The members also provide material assistance to the church and two schools in the village of Maruszyna in Poland.

The lodge, located at 4808 S. Archer Avenue, is an important pillar of the community on the Southwest Side of Chicago. Polish Highlanders come from all across the region for celebrations at Maruszyna Kolo. On the first weekend of August every year, the lodge hosts a picnic on the same day that the village of Maruszyna hosts a fair celebrating its annual parish holiday. The picnic is attended by over 400 guests annually. The lodge also hosts a celebration during the second week of January where members share Christmas wafers and mark the end of Christmas celebrations by wishing one another well for the New Year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing all that Maruszyna Kolo No. 35 does to bring together Polish Highlanders in the Chicago area and to support Poland. The lodge's dedication to community is admirable and I wish them the best as they continue their traditions and service for generations to come. One hundred years (Sto lat).

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF WSRE

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 23, 2017*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of WSRE. WSRE-TV is viewer supported Public Broadcasting Station for the Gulf Coast. On September 11, 1967, WSRE began its over-the-air broadcast television station on UHF Channel 123 and today broadcasts four digital channels.

WSRE was an early pioneer producing national, quality programing beginning with Earl Peyroux's Gourmet Cooking to its most recent documentary They Were Our Fathers.

WSRE is licensed to the District Board of Trustees of Pensacola State College. Its 43,000 square foot facility includes three studios that are used to produce local programming. The facility houses a full-time staff, as well as volunteers who contribute thousands of hours of service on a regular basis.

The mission of WSRE is to open doors to a larger world with quality programming and educational outreach services for every person on the Gulf Coast who desires to be more educated, informed and entertained. WSRE helps people make informed decisions with a better understanding of the community and world in which they live. As a community-supported, outreach service of Pensacola State College, WSRE brings forth culture and ideas that enhance the quality of life and promote the joy of discovery and learning.

The vision of WSRE is to positively influence the daily lives of all on the Gulf Coast through broadcast programming and educational outreach services that encourage us

to engage more deeply in the world around us.

WSRE has always and continues to demonstrate an exceptional dedication to education and learning.

From the very start, WSRE has partnered with local school districts to provide educational resources that enhance learning in the classroom. Through community partnerships WSRE enriches the efforts of Pensacola in becoming "America's First Early Learning City" and launched the 24/7 WSRE PBS KIDS channel and mobile app. By utilizing the latest digital technology, the Imagination Station at Wahoo Stadium, provides exposure for thousands of children and guardians each year to the resources and value of early learning.

Television reaches a large number of persons from all walks of life and WSRE keeps the community connected through its various local and national programs. WSRE's commitment to the surrounding communities has proven to be deeply valuable and has endured throughout the decades.

By operating as a public television station, WSRE also encourages an informed electorate by producing RALLY candidate forums and Legislative Review to connect the community with lawmakers since the 1970s while also broadcasting The Florida Channel.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all who have served in any capacity with WSRE throughout its 50 years. WSRE has been and will continue to be a steadfast and invaluable contributor to the enhancement and growth of our community and to all who have benefited from its services.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate WSRE on 50 years of providing quality programming and educational outreach services to Northwest Florida.

HONORING MAYOR BARBARA  
SHARIEF

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 23, 2017*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to recognize my good friend, The Honorable Barbara Sharief of Miramar, Florida, on her successful tenure as mayor of Broward County.

Mayor Sharief is the first African American woman, as well as the first Muslim, to serve as Broward County mayor. She was first elected to the nine-member County Commission in 2010, was elected mayor by her fellow commissioners in November 2013, and was re-elected in 2015. As mayor, she oversees Broward County's \$4.3 billion operating budget, which operates the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, Port Everglades, and a variety of regional services, such as parks, libraries, public works, and transit.

Mayor Sharief has focused her mayoralty on the theme of "Broward Means Business." Mayor Sharief understands that small business is the backbone of our economy and has steadfastly highlighted and promoted county programs to ensure they succeed and thrive. To that end, she has begun every commission meeting by recognizing the civic leadership of one business in Broward County.

As she concludes her second term, Mayor Sharief continues the county's tradition of hosting the Mayor's Gala to raise funds for the United Way's Mission United program, helping veterans transition from active duty to civilian life.

In addition to making Broward County a better place for all business, Mayor Sharief manages her own business, South Florida Pediatric Home Care Inc., which she built from the ground up. She holds both a Master of Science in Nursing and an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner degree from Florida International University, and is pursuing a Doctorate of Nursing Practice. In addition to her role as mayor, businessowner, and student, she is also the mother of five children—Amanda, Zach, Alyssa, Meia, and Hailey.

Mayor Sharief is an extraordinary public servant whom I am proud to have worked alongside for the betterment of the residents of Broward County. I thank her for her dedicated service, and I wish her much success in all her future endeavors.

HONORING NICK LARIGAKIS FOR  
HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE  
STRENGTHENING U.S.-GREECE  
RELATIONS THROUGH HIS WORK  
AT THE AMERICAN HELLENIC IN-  
STITUTE (AHI)

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 23, 2017*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the extensive and unique contributions that my friend, Nick Larigakis, has made in strengthening the strategic alliance between the United States and Greece throughout his impressive 30-year tenure at the American Hellenic Institute. The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) is a non-profit Greek American public policy center which Mr. Larigakis has led with his renowned passion for justice and the rule of law. He manages the day-to-day operations of AHI and its affiliated organizations. He is directly responsible for strategic planning, policy analysis, public affairs, government relations, financial development and communications—essentially a one man show.

During his many years of distinguished service, Mr. Larigakis has hosted 70 successful legislative conferences and two trade conferences. He has also hosted multiple Congressional fact-finding trips to Greece and Cyprus, and led nine summits on the Future of Hellenism in America. Through his tireless advocacy and unwavering commitment to Hellenic causes he has molded AHI into a premier organization that regularly makes meaningful contributions in the public policy arena. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Affairs, as well as Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Hellenic Israel Alliance, I, along with my colleagues have especially benefitted from Nick's counsel and from the support of AHI in fostering mutually beneficial relations between the United States, Cyprus and Greece. His effective and respected political advocacy work has educated and informed the U.S. Congress about the protection and promotion of Hellenic-American interests. Furthermore, his efforts have helped