

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO STEVE
AND DONNA KRAUS ON 50 YEARS
OF MARRIAGE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Steve and Donna Kraus on 50 years of marriage. Longtime Southern California residents, Steve and Donna have contributed immeasurably to their community.

Steve was a 21-year-old signalman aboard the USS *Frank E Evans* on June 2, 1969 when it collided with an Australian vessel off the coast of Vietnam. While Steve was able to escape, 74 sailors lost their lives. In the years since that terrible day, Steve and Donna have become leaders in the USS Frank E Evans Association, with Steve serving as Chairman and Donna as Treasurer. The Evans Association has organized the survivors of the disaster and their families, as well as the loved ones of those who lost. They have advocated that their sacrifice be fully and properly recognized, including through inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. In working closely with the Evans Association to secure that long overdue recognition, I have been deeply impressed by Steve and Donna's hard work and advocacy, and all they have done to keep the memories of Evans Sailors alive.

I thank Steve and Donna for their service. Happy anniversary, and I wish them many more years of happiness and health.

HONORING REGINALD F. LEWIS

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, deeply embedded in our character as Americans is the vision that ours should be a nation that offers opportunity to all of our people. Even as we continue to work toward making this shared aspiration a reality, we must also recognize that the pathways to a better life are far more difficult for far too many of our citizens.

This is why I addressed my colleagues on December 1. I rose on the floor of the House to celebrate a milestone in our nation's financial history.

I spoke of an event 30 years ago when Reginald Francis Lewis tore down long-standing social and political stereotypes in our nation's financial industry.

On November 30 and December 1 in 1987, Mr. Lewis negotiated the \$985 million leveraged buyout of Beatrice International Foods—a transaction that was heard in financial circles around the world.

At the time, this was the largest offshore transaction in the country—a breakthrough

moment orchestrated by a son of Baltimore, who became the first African-American, billion-dollar business tycoon.

The 30th anniversary of this step toward realizing our dream of universal economic opportunity deserves celebration both for all that it accomplished and as a reminder of the challenges that we have yet to overcome.

Mr. Lewis' acquisition led to the founding of TLC Beatrice International Holdings, Inc., the first African-American owned enterprise to break through the billion-dollar mark when it grossed \$1.8 billion in sales during its first year.

That landmark, in turn, helped to change the landscape of American business forever, paving the way for more Americans of Color to succeed in the billion-dollar-business league.

This, however, is only the most apparent reason that I rose in the House to celebrate that moment.

Equally important, I reminded my colleagues that Mr. Lewis' character as a human being of African heritage is more representative of our character and ambitions than the negative stereotypes that continue to present barriers to success in our country.

Reginald Lewis was not an overnight success, as many of his peers and family would point out.

Even as a young person growing up in Baltimore, Mr. Lewis developed a strong work ethic and showed great ambition. His passion to succeed carried him from Baltimore to Virginia State University and Harvard Law School. Although he "mastered the art of the deal," he did so with integrity and tenacity.

This was the man I was fortunate to call my friend, and his untimely death in 1993 left a void in our nation's financial industry that is palpable today.

Because of his success in business, the doors to economic opportunity have opened somewhat for other young Americans of color, who now are inspired to dream as big as Reginald F. Lewis dreamed—and to "keep on going, no matter what"—until they achieve their own visions for themselves and their communities.

Today, Reginald's name will forever be remembered in our hometown of Baltimore through the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture, and highlights of his life are also permanently displayed at the Smithsonian National African American Museum of History and Culture.

Before Mr. Lewis died, he gave back to the institution that gave him the tools he needed to change Wall Street: as a testament to his generosity, The Reginald F. Lewis International Law Center stands at Harvard Law School.

To carry on his spirit of philanthropy and his belief that a good education is key to one's success, the Lewis family has continued to "give back" to our society.

They created the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation, and partnered with others to create the Reginald F. Lewis High School of Business &

Law in Baltimore, the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University, and The Lewis College in Sorsogon City, Philippines, his widow's hometown.

In loving memory of their father, his daughters continue to make lasting contributions to American society.

For example, Leslie Lewis was recently recognized for her moving one-woman show called "Miracle In Rwanda," based on a true story of surviving violence, overcoming odds and the power of forgiveness. Christina Lewis-Halpern founded All Star Code, a not-for-profit organization that seeks to equip young men of color with the tools they need to become a new generation of entrepreneurs, who will create even broader economic opportunity for us all.

By breaking a barrier in American business, Reginald Lewis also affirmed our core values of diversity, equality, and the liberty to pursue happiness—values that transcend color and race, nationality and gender.

As Americans, we all have good reason to rejoice in the successes of our sons and daughters. They will continue to perfect us as a nation and celebrate us as a great people.

HONORING LISA SWEENEY

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable and honorable actions of Staten Island's Lisa Sweeney.

As a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for 30 years, Lisa Sweeney is devoted to doing her job well. For the past thirteen years on the job, she has been delivering mail on the same route in the Westerleigh section of Staten Island. She does not simply deliver mail, but makes an effort to know everyone on her mail route. Her selflessness was on full display on August 7, 2017, when Lisa's compassion saved a life.

Marie Boyer, a senior citizen on Lisa Sweeney's route, had fallen four days prior and was not able to get up on her own. Ms. Boyer did not have access to food or water and therefore, would not be able to survive without assistance. However, Lisa had focused on knowing the patterns and tendencies of each person along her mail route throughout her entire career. She was able to identify that there was a problem when old mail had collected in her mailbox and her trash cans were still on the street, leading her to contact the police. Her thoughtfulness was thankfully enough to save the life of Ms. Boyer, who would have died had it not been for Lisa's actions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Lisa Sweeney not only for her actions on that day, but also for her long career of caring about her job and the people of Staten Island. This dedication makes a positive impact on their

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