

## 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

• 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.

lives, proven through the quick thinking that saved Marie Boyer's life. She has truly proven to be a role model and the true essence of a model citizen.

CONGRATULATING THE LATINA  
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE IN SAN  
ANTONIO, TEXAS

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Latina Leadership Institute (LLI) in San Antonio, Texas, for the good work they are doing in San Antonio to train, educate, and encourage the next generation of Hispanic women who aspire to public office.

LLI's mission is to increase the number and influence of Hispanic Women in elected and appointed office positions in the United States. This is a noble and worthwhile mission and I am proud that this organization is located in my hometown of San Antonio.

The LLI program is highly personalized to each woman's individual goals and endeavors. Program participants are encouraged to get outside their comfort zones and build key leadership skills and experiences that will equip them for public office in the future. It is an excellent model for other cities around the country to emulate as they seek to elevate young women into political leadership roles.

The local governments of San Antonio and Texas, as well as the federal government, will benefit from the aspiring leaders being trained and encouraged by the Latina Leadership Institute.

NDAAs SUPPORTS GOLD STAR  
WIDOWS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee and a conferee for the FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act, I am grateful for the continued support of Gold Star Widows included in the FY2018 NDAA. The bill includes a permanent extension of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance under the Survivor Benefit Plan. The more than 60,000 Americans whose spouses died either on active duty or during retirement will continue to receive \$310 per month plus a Cost of Living Allowance indefinitely. My predecessor, the late Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Floyd Spence, championed this kind of relief for our military families, and I have continued that fight because our military personnel risk their lives to defend our nation and they should be able to trust that the benefits they designate for their spouses and families will always be there.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Monday, November 13. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 623, 624, and 625.

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF DIS-  
TINGUISHED SERVICE—KEITH S.  
PARKER

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the retirement of Keith S. Parker—public servant, fierce education advocate, public servant, and community leader, after 36 years of service.

Keith began his career with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1981 and has held numerous positions since that time including Senior Consultant in the Staff Affirmative Action Officer, Staff Affirmative Action Officer, and Executive Officer in the Administrative Services division. He has held the position of Assistant Vice Chancellor, Government & Community Relations since 1998 and has devoted his career to advocating for important issues for UCLA. Keith is the true embodiment of a public servant.

During his impressive career that spans over three-and-a-half decades, he has worked on many important issues affecting students and faculty, including building relationships with community leaders, organizations, and elected officials at the local, state and federal government throughout the Greater Los Angeles area, integrating community service projects into advocacy activities, and UC systemwide Advocacy Days in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

Prior to his service with UCLA, Keith worked at the Minnesota Department of Education in the area of staff development and as an Instructor in the Afro-America Studies Department at the University of Minnesota. Keith has truly been a champion for UCLA and has devoted his life to helping others and the greater Los Angeles community.

UCLA has been extremely fortunate to benefit from his experience, leadership and kindness. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Keith's 36 years of distinguished service to the University of California, Los Angeles and wish him peace, happiness, and joy in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN K. DELANEY**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 646, No. 647, No. 648, and No. 649. Had I been present to

vote on Roll Call No. 646, I would have voted AYE; had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 647, I would have voted AYE; had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 648, I would have voted NO; and had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 649, I would have voted YEA.

BICENTENNIAL OF PERRY  
COUNTY, OHIO

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to recognize the bicentennial of Perry County, Ohio. Since German settlers first made their way to Southeastern Ohio from Pennsylvania, Perry County has exemplified many of our nation's core values.

From its foundation, Perry County has preserved our proud tradition of military service, its first residents choosing to name the area for Oliver H. Perry, a hero of the War of 1812. Today, there are over 2,700 veterans living in Perry County, all of whom have made tremendous sacrifices to preserve our freedoms.

For the past 200 years, the overwhelming characteristic of the people of Perry County is the compassion they hold for one another and their determination to do what is right and just. In the 19th century, residents worked diligently in support of the Underground Railroad. Today, the people of Perry County refuse to have their communities destroyed by the opioid epidemic, and are uniting to support their neighbors and find paths to healthy, productive lives.

Much like the kindness of its citizens, the natural beauty of Perry County is unparalleled. From the picturesque landmark of Buckeye Lake, to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, there is a steep appreciation for the scenic landscape of the County, as described in Clement L. Martzoff's poem, "The Beauty of Our Hills."

There is beauty in these hills of ours for him  
with eyes to see;  
There is beauty smiling at us from the meadows  
broad and free;  
There is beauty in the woodlands; there is  
beauty 'long the brooks;  
There's beauty in the violet light as it  
gleams through leafy nooks.  
And a beauty out of heaven over all the land-  
scape rills  
When the sun shines down upon these Perry  
county hills.

Today, Perry County remains a beautiful place to work, live, and raise a family. I am grateful for the leadership of the County Commissioners, James O'Brien, Ben Carpenter, and Dave Freriks, and all of the neighbors and friends who have maintained Perry County's beauty and history.

I am honored to represent this county, where community, faith, and freedom are celebrated not just in recognition of the 200th anniversary of its founding, but each and every day.