

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2017

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to act and pass much needed supplemental appropriations to help victims of the recent hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Hurricane Harvey brought unprecedented destruction to the Texas Gulf Coast, dropping a record 52 inches of rain and causing catastrophic flooding in Houston and all along the Gulf Coast.

Earlier this week, a report released by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Episcopal Health Foundation found that one in nine Texas Gulf Coast residents remain displaced, three months after Harvey's landfall. Four in ten Texas Gulf Coast residents report sustained damage to their homes and nearly half of affected Texas Gulf Coast residents said they are not receiving the help they need to recover from the hurricane.

To date the federal government has provided \$10 billion in aid to Harvey victims in Texas, mostly advance payments through the National Flood Insurance Program. However, far more federal aid is needed to rebuild Houston, Harris County, and the Texas Gulf Coast.

After Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana and Mississippi, and Hurricane Sandy impacted New York and New Jersey, Congress responded by passing substantial disaster supplemental bills. In 2013, Congress provided over \$50 billion for recovery and rebuilding efforts as a result of Sandy, and \$120 billion to rebuild New Orleans and surrounding areas.

I cannot and will not vote for a continuing resolution until House leadership puts disaster relief front and center and passes a substantial supplemental disaster bill that will help Texans fully recover from Harvey's destruction and prepare the Texas Gulf Coast before the next major storm strikes.

We cannot continue to kick-the-can down the road while thousands of families in Texas and other parts of our country continue to suffer, months after these terrible storms made landfall.

I urge my colleagues, regardless of state and party, to join me in standing up for disaster victims and calling on House leadership to pass a substantial emergency supplemental.

100TH BIRTHDAY OF MARY KOWALSKI

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Staten Island's Mary Kowalski.

On December 18, 1917, Mary Kowalski was born to joyous parents, Thomas and Nellie. A lifelong resident of Elm Park, Staten Island, Mary grew up in a loving household with two brothers and three sisters. She attended Saint Adalbert School and Ralph R. McKee High School. Several years after graduation, she received a job at the Procter and Gamble factory in the Port Ivory neighborhood where she worked for 36 years until her retirement. Before and after retirement, however, Mary loved to travel the world by land, air, or sea. As a devout Catholic, one of her favorite vacations was her holiday to the Vatican, a visit that she treasures to this day.

Mary is also an avid television viewer. She loves watching Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, The Bachelor, The Bachelorette, and Dancing with the Stars. Moreover, she is a massive sports fan. She loves watching NFL games, as well as her beloved Notre Dame Fighting Irish. Even though she wishes they would play better, she still loves to watch the Mets too. I certainly hope that this birthday wish is granted when baseball season starts again next year.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Mary Kowalski a very happy 100th birthday. Her love for her friends, family, community, and church knows no bounds. I am immensely proud to have her as a constituent, and I hope that her 100th year is the best one yet.

RECOGNITION OF CAITRÍONA PERRY

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Caitríona Perry has been the Washington Correspondent for RTÉ, Ireland's public broadcaster, since 2013. She will soon be leaving D.C. to take up a new role as co-anchor of Six-One, the main evening news in Ireland.

As the paragon of 21st century multi-media journalism, Caitríona has provided high quality coverage and commentary on the many facets of American life via television, radio, and online content. She has provided live updates to bulletins throughout the day and night from Washington and from major events throughout the United States and overseas, including the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake, the Oscars, and the Papal visit to Cuba.

Caitríona has been featured in, shot, edited, and produced everything from radio reports on

the political happenings of the day, through television packages on the 2016 election to full programs on the Irish in the White House, the Irish in Canada, and the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles. She has reported on humanitarian and political stories from throughout Europe, from Australia, Canada and from the UK.

She grew up in Knocklyon, Dublin attending Sancta Maria College before receiving a First Class Honours degree in Journalism and a Masters in International Relations from Dublin City University. Prior to joining RTÉ, Caitríona was with the Irish national radio stations, Today FM and Newstalk.

A proud Irishwoman, Caitríona has strongly contributed to Ireland's links with the United States. She has hosted, contributed to and compered various Irish-American events throughout the country on behalf of the Ireland Fund and the Irish Network amongst others. Caitríona also founded the DCU Alumni Chapter in Washington, D.C.

Most recently, she fulfilled a life-long ambition when she penned her first book, "In America: Tales from Trump Country", published by Gill. A bestseller, 'In America' was nominated for an Irish Book Award in November 2017.

In acknowledgement of her many achievements Caitríona was named a DCU Distinguished Alumni in 2015. She has also won several awards for her journalism, including multiple National Justice Media Awards for her television work and a PPI National Radio Award for her radio news reporting.

During her time in the United States, Caitríona has done meaningful work to shed a spotlight on modern U.S.-Ireland relations. Through her work, she has highlighted important issues, and informed audiences in both America and Ireland. Caitríona will be greatly missed in Washington, D.C. I am grateful for her efforts and know that she will continue to make a meaningful impact in her new role.

HONORING USC PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR JANICE
TRAMEL

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to echo the praise heaped on my friend and mentor, Janice V. Tramel, over the past weekend at a surprise ceremony held by the University of Southern California (USC) honoring her 40 years of service to her patients, to nursing and to the profession of Physician Assistant (PA). She was instrumental in my own training as a Physician Assistant, first as a professor, then as a mentor, and eventually as a close friend.

A California native, Mrs. Tramel completed both a vocational nursing and registered nursing program prior to graduating from the USC Primary Care Physician Assistant Program in

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