

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING METRA CEO DON ORSENO ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Orseno on the occasion of his retirement from Metra, Northeast Illinois's commuter rail agency. Don's retirement is well-deserved after 4 years leading the agency and 44 years in the railroad industry.

Don began his railroading career in 1974 when he was hired by the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company as a commuter train ticket taker, later working his way up to become a locomotive engineer. These experiences gave Don the applied knowledge that helped propel him to the top spot at one of the nation's premier commuter railroads. After joining Metra in 1984, Don continued his upward trajectory by advancing to Deputy Executive Director before his appointment as CEO/Executive Director in 2013 and confirmation in 2014.

Don's leadership at Metra could not have come at a more critical point in the agency's history, as he faced an uphill battle in tackling the many issues with Metra's operational performance and overall health. Leading a \$1 billion commuter rail agency that runs 750 trains per day across a 3700-square mile, six-county region is a challenge under normal circumstances, but Don quickly showed he was the right fit for the job. Under Don's tenure, Metra has pursued ambitious modernization efforts while dealing with political uncertainties and complex regulatory mandates. Don's recent successes at Metra include improving on-time performance, expanding train car rehabilitation programs, modernizing the ticketing and fare system, and beginning the installation of wireless internet on Metra trains.

Don is not just an excellent leader and seasoned railroader, but he is also a great person and those of us who have worked with him or have come to know him are fortunate for that opportunity. Metra is a better place because of Don and he will be missed as he starts a new chapter to spend more time with his wife, Charm, two children, and five grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Don Orseno for his many years of service to Chicagoland commuters and wishing him well in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) ADRIAN NOE OROSCO

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant

(SGT) Adrian Noe Orosco who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on December 9, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Orosco was killed when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted position during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq. SGT Orosco was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, California.

Elizabeth Orosco, SGT Orosco's wife, paid tribute to her husband on a memorial website. "He was a wonderful father and a beautiful person," Mrs. Orosco wrote. "He was the love of my life and I had ten beautiful years with him. I love him. I miss him and he's not forgotten." Sergeant (SGT) Reynaldo Salazar served with SGT Orosco. He also paid tribute to SGT Orosco on a memorial website. "I met Adrian at Fort Irwin, California," SGT Salazar wrote. "He was a great soldier and foremost a father, husband, and friend. I will never forget you, brother, and I will always remember you." Janey Medina, SGT Orosco's aunt, also wrote a tribute on a memorial website "I know in my heart Adrian is in heaven today, watching over all of the rest of the family left behind," Ms. Medina wrote. "I truly grieve and miss him very much. He came to visit me before he left to serve in the war. I felt it was something he truly wanted to do in his life. He was proud of his career in the Army. I loved Adrian. I loved him like a son."

According to the Associated Press, SGT Orosco, a native of Corcoran, California, played football and was a member of the band. He graduated from Corcoran High School in 1997. SGT Orosco enlisted in the Army in November 2001.

Noe Orosco, SGT Orosco's father, had many fond memories of his son. "He was always happy, that boy," Mr. Orosco said. "In grade school, he enjoyed assembling model airplanes and rockets." Alexander Medina, SGT Orosco's uncle, recounted his nephew's military service. "He fully understood the circumstances and consequences of everything going on," Mr. Medina said. "He still believed it was the right thing to do."

SGT Orosco is survived by his father, Noe Orosco; his wife, Elizabeth; his three children, Adrian Orosco, Junior, Andrew Orosco, and Isabelle Orosco; his uncle, Alexander Medina; and his aunt, Janey Medina.

SGT Orosco proudly served America. His service and sacrifice will always be remembered.

CELEBRATING THE MEMORY OF JOANNE COONTZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, we have lost an incredible individual to our society. Joanne Coontz, a trailblazer for women in the City of

Orange has recently passed away at the age of 88.

Ms. Coontz was the city's first female council member and the first woman elected as mayor. She will always be remembered for her political pioneering and her tremendous dedication to the community. During her long political career, Ms. Coontz contributed and advocated to various causes, some of which include the expansion of the Orange Public Library and the creation of its history center. Moreover, Ms. Coontz helped establish a Veterans Memorial at Depot Park and Pitcher Park.

After her time in politics, she spent the rest of her life helping her community through non-profits such as Friendly Center and the Orange Community Historical Foundation, volunteering with the Orange Unified School District, and much more.

Ms. Coontz has contributed to the City of Orange in numerous ways and will always be remembered as one of the first trailblazers. The City of Orange will never be quite the same without Ms. Coontz.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I celebrate the memory of Ms. Joanne Coontz. A vibrant member of the City of Orange community, taken from us too soon.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI MARINE MASTER SERGEANT (MSGT) BRIAN PATRICK MCANULTY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi Marine Master Sergeant (MSGT) Brian Patrick McAnulty who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on December 11, 2006, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. MSGT McAnulty was killed when the CH-53 helicopter he was riding in crashed just after take-off in Anbar province, Iraq. MSGT McAnulty was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, California.

MSGT McAnulty grew up in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and graduated from Warren Central High School in 1985. MSGT McAnulty then attended Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi for three semesters before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in April 1988.

A Department of Defense (DoD) news release included details of MSGT McAnulty's personal life and his many professional accomplishments. His first assignment was to Marine Corps Security Force Battalion, Norfolk, VA, for service onboard the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) In 1991, he was assigned to Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team (FAST) Company, Norfolk, Virginia. In 1992,

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