

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,

• 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.

MSgt McAnulty was selected for service with Marine Security Guard Battalion. Later he was assigned to Marine Security Guard detachments in Asuncion, Paraguay, Seoul, Korea, and Budapest, Hungary. In 1996, orders brought him to 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California, for duty with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines. During that same assignment, he deployed with Battalion Landing Team 2/4 as part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit from November 1998 until April 1999.

MSgt McAnulty would further distinguish himself in 2001. When he was reassigned to Marine Security Guard Battalion and trained to serve in the coveted position of detachment commander. MSgt McAnulty commanded Marine Security Guard detachments at U.S. embassies in war-torn Bujumbura, Burundi, and in the dangerous city of Bogota, Colombia. After excelling as a detachment commander and being named "Detachment of the Year" in South America, MSgt McAnulty was selected to serve as an instructor/advisor at the Marine Security Guard school in Quantico, Virginia from April 2004 to April 2006. Weeks prior to this assignment, during civil unrest in Haiti, MSgt McAnulty's expertise in embassy security and low intensity conflict was needed. He was sent to the U.S. embassy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to ensure the readiness of the embassy's Marine detachment and provide tactical advice to security personnel.

When MSgt McAnulty returned to the United States, he assumed the duties of instructor at the Marine Security Guard Battalion headquarters in Quantico, VA, where he revamped the weapons training for the Marine Security Guard Battalion and was directly responsible for improving the overall marksmanship capability of Marine Guards. This proved vital to the battalion's role in the Global War on Terrorism. In conjunction with teaching duties, he continued an active security role within the Marine Security Guard Battalion. In December 2004, when terrorists attacked the US Consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, MSgt McAnulty was immediately sent in to provide extra security and provide tactical and personal guidance to the Marines. In March 2006, MSgt McAnulty was transferred to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division in Twentynine Palms, California, and served as the company Gunnery Sergeant for Weapons Company and later as the Operations Chief. He deployed to Iraq with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines for combat operations in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brian McAnulty, MSgt McAnulty's brother, described his brother's devotion to service in an Associated Press news article. "He loved what he was doing," Brian said. "He wouldn't have rather been anywhere else."

His many awards include the Navy And Marine Corps Commendation Medal (With Gold Star), the Navy And Marine Corps Achievement Medal (With 3 Gold Stars), the Navy Unit Commendation (With Bronze Star), the Navy Meritorious Commendation Medal (With 3 Bronze Stars), the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (With 4 Bronze Stars), the National Defense Service Medal (With 1 Bronze Star), the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (5th Award), the Navy And Marine Corps Overseas Service

Ribbon, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Marine Security Guard Ribbon (3rd Award), the Expert Pistol (6th Award), and the Expert Rifle (9th Award).

MSgt McAnulty is survived by his parents, Robert and Frances McAnulty; brother and sister-in-law, Brett and Stacy McAnulty; and his two nieces, Cora McAnulty and Lily McAnulty.

MSgt McAnulty distinguished himself throughout his military career. His service and sacrifice will always be remembered.

CONGRATULATING BRIANNA
HALLER OF THE FATIMA COMETS
CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brianna Haller of the Fatima Comets Cross Country team on winning the Class 2 Girls Individual Cross Country State Championship.

Brianna Haller and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Brianna Haller on a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF BILL
NALEVANKO FOR TWENTY-
SEVEN YEARS OF FEDERAL
SERVICE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Nalevanko, who will retire from the National Park Service on January 3, 2018. Bill spent twenty-seven years in federal service, twenty of which were with the National Park Service at the Steamtown, a national historic site dedicated to Scranton's industrial heritage and steam railroad transportation.

Bill began his tenure with the National Park Service as Volunteer-in-Park in 1996, shortly after Steamtown's grand opening in 1995. He worked his way up the ranks, becoming a seasonal employee and eventually a Public Information Officer and Webmaster for the historic site. For two decades, Bill has helped thousands of park visitors discover the wealth of history featured at the Steamtown National Historic Site.

It is an honor to recognize Bill as he enters a well-deserved retirement. I am grateful to him for his career of service helping to preserve the history of America's railroads. His twenty-seven years on the job is a credit to his community devotion, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 674 and 675 on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call vote 674 and Nay on 675.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN
SOLDIER ARMY STAFF SERGEANT
(SSG) MILTON RIVERA-VARGAS

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 Staff Sergeant (SSG) Milton Rivera-Vargas who paid the ultimate sacrifice on December 8, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSG Rivera-Vargas suffered a heart attack and died while on guard duty in Kalsu, Iraq. SSG Rivera-Vargas was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 296th Infantry Regiment, Puerto Rico Army National Guard, Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico.

Minerva Rivera, SSG Rivera-Vargas' niece, paid tribute to her uncle on a memorial website. "My uncle was the best person around," Minerva said. "He always had a smile on his face. He always protected us in every way. It has been three years since he passed away and there is not a day that passes that I don't think of him or speak of him. I still remember the last day I saw him. The last thing he told us was to pray for him and to not worry about him because he would be home soon. That day never came."

SSG Rivera-Vargas was laid to rest at Los Robles Memorial park in Cabo Rojo, Cabo Rojo Municipality, Puerto Rico, USA.

SSG Rivera-Vargas proudly served our nation. His service and sacrifice will always be remembered.

CONGRATULATING THE FATIMA
COMETS GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY
TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fatima Comets Girls Cross Country team on winning the Class 2 Cross Country State Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Fatima Comets Girls Cross Country team for a job well done.