

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT J.  
HARRIS'S LEADERSHIP

**HON. DAVID P. JOYCE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2018*

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a great leader of the U.S. fastener industry. He is one of the basic building blocks of virtually all manufacturing, Robert J. Harris, Managing Director of the Industrial Fasteners Institute (IFI) since 1995, retired from the Institute on December 31, 2017. Rob brought financial stability and strategic leadership to IFI, the trade organization that has represented the U.S. fastener manufacturing industry since 1931. Under his guidance, the Institute became the recognized authority in the development of all technical standards for fasteners, a critical component of ensuring capability and safety across all products.

Rob's leadership was perhaps most visible during the 1990s, when a pending regulatory burden imposed by the well-intentioned but fatally flawed Fastener Quality Act (FQA) threatened to shut down the industry and place severe limits on production of automakers, aerospace manufacturers, and a host of other U.S. and international producers. Working with a coalition of IFI members, as well as, representatives of the auto, aerospace, heavy equipment, appliance and other manufacturers, Rob developed and implemented a strategy to revamp the decades-old FQA. Congress approved the Fastener Quality Act Amendments Act in 1998, and it has been a great success in the twenty years since. Before joining IFI in 1995, Rob had already enjoyed a varied and successful career. A native of Kentucky, he graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and subsequently earned a master's degree in International Finance from the College of William and Mary and an MBA from DePaul University. He served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam as a gunboat Captain.

Along with all of the residents of the 14th Congressional District of Ohio, I congratulate Rob on a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP  
ALEXIS THOMAS

**HON. RUBEN GALLEG0**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2018*

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Bishop Alexis Thomas, who passed away on January 18, 2018.

Bishop Alexis Thomas was many things to many people. He was a pastor, a leader, and a friend. He was a father, a son and a brother. He was a dynamic and passionate leader not just at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, but throughout our community in Phoenix.

Having received his license to preach the gospel at the young age of seven, it is perhaps unsurprising that Bishop Thomas was destined for a life in service of God and his community. Before he was ordained as the Bishop of the State of Arizona in 2003, Bishop Thomas served for eighteen years as the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Rest, which grew by leaps and bounds under his compassionate leadership.

Bishop Thomas' service extended well beyond Pilgrim West Baptist Church. Not only did he serve on the Board of Directors of the Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce, but he also founded the African American Christian Clergy Coalition in 2001 and co-founded the African American Strategic Alliance Coalition in Phoenix.

I want to take this opportunity not only to remember and celebrate Bishop Thomas' many accomplishments, but also to share my sincere condolences with Bishop Thomas' family and friends, as well as with the broader Phoenix community mourning his loss.

I was fortunate enough to work alongside Bishop Thomas on issues of social justice. We served together as a part of My Brother's Keeper, and I witnessed firsthand his boundless determination to make our community—and our world—a better place. Bishop Thomas will be recalled fondly by many as a counselor, friend and mentor. He will also be remembered as a man with a sincere and remarkable vision for change. Through our work together in support of the Congressional Black Caucus, I feel incredibly fortunate that I was able to witness Bishop Thomas' inspiring leadership firsthand.

Bishop Thomas worked miracles large and small every day. He touched more lives than perhaps we will ever know.

Mr. Speaker, while we are devastated by his loss, we know that Bishop Thomas' legacy of service and love will live on forever in our community.

IN HONOR OF LEAH COSNER'S  
100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**HON. LIZ CHENEY**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2018*

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Leah Cosner on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

I join her friends and family in extending my best to her on this occasion and in celebrating her life and contributions to our great state. I hope she uses this momentous day to do the same.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Leah Cosner on her birthday. May her year be filled with happiness and blessings.

HONORING LASA JOINER

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2018*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary Georgian and a great American, Lasa Joiner.

Lasa has been involved in Georgia legislative issues for over thirty years, and is well known throughout the State of Georgia and around the country for her interest and expertise in mental health issues.

Lasa Joiner first began serving as an advocate for and advisor to the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association during the 1988 Session of the Georgia General Assembly and became their Executive Director in 2003. So respected for her leadership, the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association awarded her with the 2008 Dancing Elephant Award for excellence in administrative leadership.

Lasa was the first woman to Chair the Board of the Georgia Department of Human Resources, the largest department in state government. She also chaired the Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Committee and the Rehabilitation Services Committee.

Lasa Joiner's years of outstanding advocacy for psychiatric professionals and their patients and her tireless efforts to improve access to quality mental health care in Georgia, have undeniably made our state a better place for all of its residents.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Lasa Joiner on her retirement, and extend my sincerest wishes for her continued health and happiness.

God bless Lasa Joiner.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HANOVER PARK, ILLINOIS

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2018*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of Hanover Park, Illinois.

Hanover Park is a model for other cities and towns to follow through its continued dedication to building a friendly and welcoming community for residents and visitors alike. Located just 17 miles from O'Hare International Airport and 45 minutes from downtown Chicago, Hanover Park has thriving business parks, a growing retail community, and easy access to global markets.

In the years since its first permanent settlers in 1874 and its incorporation in 1958, Hanover Park has become a center of culture and commerce. As a home to 80 nationalities and 30 spoken languages, it is a diverse village. Hanover Park is a great place to work, live, and

• 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.

raise a family. The Village's police and fire departments are consistently recognized as two of the finest in the state and the local government is highly engaged and enthusiastic. The residents, families, businesses, professionals, churches and organizations have made Hanover Park a vibrant and thriving community.

On the occasion of this 60th anniversary, we join together to celebrate Hanover Park's legacy of growth and prosperity and look ahead to the opportunities facing this great village and our nation. Today both marks 60 years of working together to build a brighter future and reminds us that our work continues.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of Hanover Park, Illinois, and wishing its residents great success in the years ahead.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2018*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for Roll Call votes 45 and 46 on Monday, January 29, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 45 and 46.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2018*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 29, 2018 a flight delay prevented me from participating in the 6:30 p.m. vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 45, and YEA on Roll Call No. 46.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FIRST LIEUTENANT CLAY CULLEN

### HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2018*

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of First Lieutenant Clay Cullen. On the weekend of January 20, 2018, Lieutenant Cullen was killed in a training accident while serving in the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. He was an American hero and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Lieutenant Cullen was 25 years old and the son of Robert and Julie Cullen of Bicknell, which is located in Knox County, Indiana. He was an enigmatic young man that left a wave of positive impressions on the people he touched. He attended North Knox Junior/Senior High School where he excelled both in the classroom and on the field. He was named most valuable player of the soccer team while also being an active member of the National Honor Society and the student council.

After graduating from high school, Lieutenant Cullen enrolled and attended Vincennes University before moving on to attend Indiana University where he served in the National Guard. Upon graduation from IU in 2015, he became a commissioned officer on active duty.

During his years of service, Lieutenant Cullen received several awards including the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Cullen served his country to his fullest ability and his service will never be forgotten. Please join me today in commemorating the life of First Lieutenant Clay Cullen for his service to our nation.

#### PANAYIOTA VURNAKES VALLAS

### HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2018*

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mrs. Pota Vurnakes Vallas.

Mrs. Vallas grew up in Krissafa, Greece, a small village near Sparta, where she was born in 1908. Her father, Gus Vurnakes, immigrated to the United States in 1924 and brought Pota, who was the eldest of the ten Vurnakes' children, with him.

It was at that time, Mr. Speaker, that Pota's father put her to work assisting him at the California Fruit Store on Fayetteville Street in Raleigh, North Carolina where she made homemade ice cream and chocolates.

By 1927, just before the Great Depression Pota married her husband, the late George Theodore Vallas, himself a fellow immigrant. Mr. Speaker, like many families at the time, the Vallas' and Vurnakes' were overwhelmed by the Depression. Pota's family lost their home, their life savings, and the California Fruit Store during that time. But they never lost their will to striving for a better life.

And in 1944, Pota and George travelled to Chicago and where they were able to purchase the distributorship of the National Sewing Machine Company. Their business grew into National Art Interiors—a landmark in Raleigh—supplying furnishings for both homes and businesses.

Mr. Speaker, Pota served on the North Carolina Community Foundation, the First Citizens Bank Board and was a life-long member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. She was presented with the Saint Michael's Award for her years of dedicated service by the Greek Orthodox Diocese of America.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, Pota Vallas passed away December 12, 2017 at the age of 109.

She was a loving wife, and mother, as well as a pioneering entrepreneur and businesswoman in North Carolina and she will be missed.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2018*

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 45, a re-

corded vote on a motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 534. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH RUNNING OF THE SAULT SAINTE MARIE INTERNATIONAL-500 ENDURANCE SNOWMOBILE RACE

### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2018*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Sault Sainte Marie I-500 Endurance Snowmobile Race as it celebrates its 50th annual competition. We Michiganders are proud of the I-500's half-century of world-class racing and commitment to the people of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The first official running of the arduous 500-mile snowmobile race took place on February 8, 1969. The 100% volunteer-run event initially hosted 47 racers on the 1-mile oval ice track—the only such track in North America. Since then, the I-500 has become respected as the most prestigious and grueling snowmobile race in the world. Hundreds of racers vie for the winner's purse while snowmobile manufacturers from around the world look to showcase their machines' reliability and durability. Every year, thousands of visitors come to Sault Sainte Marie to watch the race and enjoy the festivities.

The week-long celebration includes days of qualifying laps, open ice skating on the track, vintage snowmobile exhibitions, youth snowmobile races, food truck competitions, the Winter Pub Crawl, and the Miss I-500 Pageant—all leading up to the day of the race. This year, to help celebrate the 50th anniversary, there will also be an attempt to break the world record for the largest snowmobile parade. Through its week of competition, community, and camaraderie, the impact of the I-500 on the people of the Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Sault Sainte Marie I-500 Endurance Snowmobile Race for 50 years of exciting competition and community engagement. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing that the First District is home to such a prestigious and dynamic event. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Soo I-500 all the best in its future endeavors, and best of luck to the racers.

#### REPRESENTATIVE FRELINGHUYSEN RETIREMENT STATEMENT

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2018*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today as I announce my retirement at the end of this session of Congress, I want to use the opportunity to strongly encourage the many young people I meet to consider public service. Public service is an incredible way to turn your convictions into something that serves the greater good and to do it alongside people