

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY AND IMAGINATION LIBRARY

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, this week, teachers, students and families across the country will celebrate the importance of reading by taking part in the National Education Association's Read Across America Day. Research shows that literacy begins before school even starts. Young children who have been read to at home and have had access to a variety of reading materials, develop into stronger readers. That's why programs like Dolly Parton's Imagination Library are so important.

Each month, Imagination Library mails over one million free books to children around the world, including seven thousand in Baltimore. Today, as Dolly donates her hundred millionth book to the Library of Congress, I thank her for her inspiring dedication to children's literacy and I applaud everyone participating in Read Across America Day.

IN HONOR OF DON AND BETTY JO MATHIS' 72ND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Don and Betty Jo Mathis on the celebration of their 72nd Wedding Anniversary.

This significant benchmark is a symbol of their commitment to each other and to their family. I am happy to join their friends and family in extending my best to them on this special occasion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Don and Betty Jo on the celebration of their 72nd Wedding Anniversary. I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Chamber on Thursday, February 15, 2018, due to official business in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on roll call no. 80, on the passage of H.R. 620—legislation that I strongly oppose. This bill would prevent Americans with disabilities

from getting their day in court when their right to access is violated. In the twenty-eight years since the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act was passed, people with disabilities have made important gains in access and inclusion to public buildings, schools, workplaces, and businesses. The ADA is a fundamental part of American civil rights law; like many of our other civil rights statutes, it depends on voluntary compliance and private rights of action for its enforcement. Shifting the responsibility for compliance to persons with disabilities undermines the spirit of the law and the structure of civil rights statutes more broadly.

H.R. 620 requires a victim of discrimination to provide specific notice of the ADA violation to a business, and then allow 120 days for the business to make "substantial progress" toward remedying the violation. The bill does not define substantial progress, further weakening the business's incentive to comply, and loosening enforceability of the ADA, in turn allowing discrimination against persons with disabilities to continue. While some egregious portions of this bill were removed during floor consideration, including the requirement that a claimant name the specific section of the ADA violated before even notifying the business, its underlying purpose remains clear: making it harder for persons with disabilities to fight for their day in court.

As members of Congress, it is our duty to promote the welfare and dignity of all of our constituents, particularly those who have spent so long on the outside looking in. We ought to defend and strengthen the ADA, reforming it where needed and building on its successes, rather than dismantling its efficacy and closing our legal system off from those who need it. I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 26, 2018 I missed the following votes and was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 81, and YEA on Roll Call No. 82.

LAMAR CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL'S AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC EARNS HIGHEST ASSESSMENT SCORE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the instructors and cadets of Lamar Consolidated High School's Air Force Junior

ROTC for receiving the assessment score of "Exceeds Standards."

The JROTC program received the "Exceeds Standards" designation, the highest rating attainable by a JROTC program, based on a formal Unit Evaluation on December 4. Major Jeffrey M. Shelton and Senior Master Sergeant Jeffrey T. Moffet have created a learning environment where cadets take great pride in accomplishing their goals and making a positive impact on their community. They are outstanding leaders and role models for their cadets, Maeseille Colonia, Jesus Lopez, Christopher Coats, Manuel Arriaga, Carolina Garcia, Adrianna Rios, Matthew Alfaro, Azahel Vazquez, Julian Vinsonhaler and Isabel Arviso, who performed exceptionally well during their evaluation. Thanks to this JROTC program, they are paving the way to make outstanding military leaders.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second District of Texas, congratulations again to Lamar Consolidated High School's Air Force JROTC for receiving this high assessment score. Keep up the fantastic work.

SPRINGFIELD CLINIC LEADS ILLINOIS IN OPENNOTES

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the Springfield Clinic, one of the first multi-specialty clinics in downstate Illinois. With more than 400 physicians and advanced practitioners practicing in 80 medical specialties and sub-specialties, Springfield Clinic now proudly stands as one of Illinois' largest private multi-specialty clinics and serves nearly one million patients throughout the central Illinois region.

In 2010, as part of their "leading the way" initiative, all Springfield Clinic offices began working with the OpenNotes movement. This puts them among the nation's leaders in integration of electronic health record technology, which enables clinicians to share their visit notes with patients through fully transparent medical records. This secure system encourages patients to become active participants in their health care by providing a convenient way to access and manage personal medical records, communicate directly with medical professionals, schedule appointments and prescriptions, receive email and text reminders for preventive care and upcoming appointments, and pay bills online.

This dynamic state-of-the-art system provides Springfield Clinic the necessary tools to expand patient services. However, we cannot hope to automate and streamline provider workflow unless more patients sign up for and participate in these portals. I'm proud to represent Springfield Clinic, which is on the forefront of this innovative approach to the doctor-patient relationship. 19 million patients are already taking advantage of their new ability to

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