EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING MS. JO ANN FLIRT

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Ms. Jo Ann Flirt. Jo Ann was a vibrant member of the Mobile community. To me, Jo Ann was a dear and trusted friend.

Jo Ann attended both undergraduate and graduate school at the University of Alabama, where she went on to teach journalism and public relations. Upon returning to Mobile, she was a founding member and former president of the Press Club of Mobile and a founding member of the Mississippi-Alabama chapter of the Public Relations Society of Alabama.

Jo Ann was known for her immeasurable work ethic. She started two businesses in Mobile, the Public Relations Counsel Inc., an advertising and public relations firm, and the Mobile Record, a daily legal publication with real estate and other civil business news. She also founded a group called Alabamians Behind Local Education with the purpose of peacefully integrating schools in Alabama.

Jo Ann was also a passionate advocate and champion for historic Blakeley State Park, where she served as director for almost fifteen years. It would not be a surprise to see Jo Ann out working on various projects at Blakeley, in addition to her administrative tasks. As a true testament to her character, Jo Ann was regularly called upon to serve in her community and was well known for her determined, caring spirit.

Sadly, Jo Ann passed away on February 2, 2018 at the age of 85. So, to her family and friends who will miss her dearly, I want to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences. May they take comfort in the warm memories of Jo Ann and the lasting impact she had on so many.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 26 and Tuesday, February 27, 2018, I was not present for recorded votes. I would have voted:

''YES'' on roll call vote No. 81 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1222, as amended),

''YES'' on roll call vote No. 82 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2422, as amended),

''NO'' on roll call vote No. 83 (on the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair),

''NO'' on roll call vote No. 84 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 748),

''NO'' on roll call vote No. 85 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 748),

''NO'' on roll call vote No. 86 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 747),

''NO'' on roll call vote No. 87 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 747),

''YES'' on roll call vote No. 88 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 4296, with instructions),

''NO'' on roll call vote No. 89 (on passage of H.R. 4296),

''NO'' on roll call vote No. 90 (on agreeing to the Walters Amendment to H.R. 1865), and

''NO'' on roll call vote No. 91 (on passage of H.R. 1865).

BILL LOPER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my close friend Bill Loper. My brother, sister and I grew up in one of the best neighborhoods a kid could ever grow up in. As youngsters we roamed from one house to another. No matter where we were, we knew we were under the watchful eyes of parents and adults who treated us like their own—the Wehdes, the Driftmiers, the Fisks, and especially, the Lopers. So, as I write this recognition and celebration of Bill's life, I cannot do it in isolation and think of Annie and the other families and my own mom and dad.

As close as we were to all of our neighbors, Bill and Annie and my mom and dad had something special. They all met at the University of Colorado just after WWII, and from that time on were the best of friends and partners. This was due, in no small part, to the kindred spirit that Bill and my dad shared and still share even with Bill's passing.

Dad and Bill were native Coloradans, Bill from Olathe and Dad from Denver. Bill followed in his big brother Bob's footsteps when he enrolled at CU after serving a hitch in the Navy at the end of WWII. My dad followed in his big brother Jack's footsteps, when he enrolled at Boulder. Both studied liberal arts, Dad—Political Science and Bill—Economics. They were friends, classmates and roommates. Both enjoyed politics and were left in their leanings. They were pretty rebellious too and despite Joe McCarthy's ''Red Scare'' of the late 40's and early 50's, they named their intramural softball team ''The Social Science Reds.'' Bill excelled at everything while at CU, except spelling. According to my dad, Bill's friends had to help him correct his term papers so he could graduate.

After graduation, Bill announced he was moving to Alaska to find his fame and fortune, and follow his brother who had moved up to the Northwest. Apparently he didn't find fame or fortune and wasn't too enamored with his brother, because he returned to Colorado shortly thereafter.

My dad, grandfather, Uncles Mike and Jack, and Aunt Ann knew Bill could build or fix just about anything and that whatever he worked at or worked on he would master. So, upon returning from Alaska, he joined them in business at Perlmutter & Sons Construction and Prestressed Concrete/Stanly Structures where he was the head of operations. As the head of operations, Bill learned and mastered new products and construction techniques for the next 50 years or so.

Bill, together with the others, helped build much of the West, whether it was roads, bridges, apartments, hotels, offices, warehouses or shopping centers. If there was a construction problem, Bill was the trouble shooter to figure out what went wrong and how to fix it. Bill helped build much of Vail and the Gore Valley, and even the precursor to the building hosting Bill's memorial, the Tivoli. He was also a risk taker, helping to stake and support young entrepreneurial developers and owners like Bob Lazier, the owner and proprietor of the Tivoli. Besides the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Business, Bill also headed up the Air Structure business which built big air bubble structures to cover virtually anything from tennis courts to football fields. He founded Cygnus with his friend and fishing buddy, Tom Obermeyer, which made the precast facia and cladding for buildings all over the country.

But of greater importance to me, Cassie and Joe, was the way that Bill and Annie treated us, whether it was barbecues in their backyard on Upham Court (where the hamburgers were a little too rare) to badminton, or pool, or tennis or going to football games, or of course, skiing. We all spent countless hours together learning and playing and enjoying each other's company. One time, Bill agreed to teach me how to drive a stick shift over Loveland Pass just after I got my learner's permit. It was snowing and icy and I remember how scared I was; he must have been petrified, but he never showed it.

Annie taught all of us, including my mom and dad, how to ski. When Annie was teaching a class, Bill was always with us and his kids on the slopes. It didn't matter whether it was at Eldora, Winter Park, or Vail. We spent many nights and weekends bunking in the Loper's cabin in Fraser or their condo at the Villa Cortina in Vail.

Bill loved his sports, especially tennis, skiing, and squash. At one time he was one of the best squash players in Denver and was a regular at the downtown YMCA. He loved Bronco football and attended many games with Jerry Shpall and other Bronco fanatics.

Whatever Bill did, he did it to his best ability. One of the things he did best was to encourage people. He loved his children and grandchildren and encouraged them in every way possible. That encouragement and support led Amy, Steve, and Ted to take risks and accomplish things that most people fear to undertake, whether it's starting a business, moving overseas or telemarking down the Minturn Mile.

Bill loved politics. He and my dad were Democratic precinct committeemen in Wheat