March 19, 2018

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

E337

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the gentlewoman from New York, Congresswoman LOUISE M. MCINTOSH WONG.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF GUILD FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Guild for Exceptional Children on its 60th anniversary.

Founded in 1958 by the loved ones of those with developmental disabilities, the Guild for Exceptional Children has been a much-needed non-profit in my district. Starting as a group of parents supporting each other when needed, the Guild eventually evolved into an innovative advocacy organization that has initiated numerous options for community living for those with disabilities. Opening New York City’s first group home in 1970, the Guild has been the vanguard fighting for disabled individuals. The impact that the Guild for Exceptional Children has had on our community is nothing short of incredible. This outstanding organization always advocates for those who need it most.

The Guild for Exceptional Children also provides clinical, educational, social, and career support programs for those with special needs. Everyone involved with this wonderful group can see firsthand how instrumental it is in the lives of adults and children with developmental disabilities. From the parents to the volunteers to the beneficiaries, the combined altruistic work that the Guild does simply speaks for itself. Their efforts cannot be repaid, as they fight to ensure that those with special needs are able to live a normal and fulfilling life.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Guild for Exceptional Children on its 60th anniversary. Countless constituents of mine have been helped by their fantastic efforts. For everything they have done, I thank them.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE CRAIG D. JOHNSTON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable Craig D. Johnston on his retirement from a career in public service.

Craig received his bachelor’s degree from Dickinson College before serving as an infantry officer during the Vietnam War. After returning home, Craig earned a law degree from the University of Virginia. He practiced law in Manassas for 30 years where he was a board member and past president of the Prince William County Bar Association. Additionally, he represented Prince William County on the Virginia State Commerce Commission.

In 2004, Craig was appointed as a judge of the Prince William General District Court of the 31st Judicial District of Virginia. In recognition of his leadership and knowledge, Craig was appointed to the Prince William Circuit Court of the 31st Judicial Circuit of Virginia in 2009. Craig was selected to serve as chief judge of both the Prince William General District Court and the Prince William Circuit Court.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Honorable Craig Johnston for his service to Virginia. I wish Craig and his wife, Joyce, the best as they spend more time with their children and grandchildren in retirement.

IN CELEBRATION OF MS. BETTYE JEAN WILSON FRANKLIN’S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Ms. Bettye Jean Wilson Franklin’s 90th birthday.

Ms. Franklin was born on March 18, 1928 to the late Winburn Wilson and Ruby Cass Gray. A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Ms. Franklin attended and graduated from historical I.M. Terrell high school. Her passion for education inspired her to work for Fort Worth ISD for 27 years until her retirement in 1990.

But it’s her everlasting commitment to her faith that is well-known among her friends and family. Ms. Franklin has been a faithful member of Saint James Baptist for the past 77 years, which she contributed in various capacities, including her participation in the senior choir for 52 years.

In addition, she serves her community as a member of The Greater Fort Worth Area Negro Business and Professional Women’s Club and Fort Worth Zeta Amicae Auxiliary of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Ms. Franklin is also a member of the Eastern Star Southern Beauty chapter 446 and served as Grand Secretary of the Masonic Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Texas for 13 years.

She is the proud mother of two daughters, Brenda Williams and Willie Mae McQueen, grandmother of four grandchildren, and great-grandmother to seven great grandchildren.

WELCOMING THE AGA KHAN TO TEXAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 19, 2018

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has dedicated his life in service to humanity. It is my pleasure to welcome His Highness the Aga Khan IV, the 49th hereditary Imam of the world’s 20 million Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims, to my home state of Texas in celebration of his Diamond Jubilee.

The ethics of compassion and care, tolerance and equality, selflessness and service centered his Highness’ worldview for belief in and practice of the Muslim faith. Particularly in recent years, the Aga Khan has pledged his voice to articulate the values of peace, generosity and brotherhood that unquestionably compose the core of Islam. He often says his obligations to his community and to humankind are inseparable. This has driven the Aga Khan to call on us to celebrate our differences of religion, culture, language and ethnicity as evidence of humanity’s great beauty. Our inherent diversity, he says, should propel humankind to embrace pluralism.

Ismaily Muslims have a deep connection to Texas, the DFW Metropolex and myself. For more than a decade, I have partnered with the Ismaili Muslim community to host the Aga Khan Summit and Diversity Dialogue, which we held first in 2007 during the Aga Khan’s Golden Jubilee. It brings together students from my district with youth of all backgrounds to think critically about the challenges we can address through global citizenship. The program brings to light the positive impact young Ismaili Muslims make on the world around them.

Alongside his role as Imam, the Aga Khan has established many global humanitarian organizations, one of which is the Aga Khan Development Network. The AKDN promotes human dignity and self-sustaining growth by administering education and healthcare in many of the most impoverished and isolated parts of the developing world. Three of the most distinguished AKDN projects are the Aga Khan Academies, which offer world-class educations to children in remote, school-deprived regions. When I visited the Aga Khan Academy in Nairobi, Kenya in 2015, I was emotionally struck by the undeniable love of humanity evident in the AKDN’s work to help those children reach their full potential. It became clear to me that the driving force behind each of the Aga Khan’s endeavors is his desire to foster progress and peace through hope. For hope, he says, is the most powerful source of human motivation.

It is this spirit, born of the example of the Aga Khan, which led 2,500 Ismaili Muslim volunteers to help their neighbors in Houston recover from the devastation triggered by Hurricane Harvey last August. For this selfless generosity, they were presented one of the five Points of Light awards by the five living former presidents. The Ismaili Muslim community’s response to the unsound call of duty exemplifies their unrelenting effort to serve humanity at large.

Mr. Speaker, His Highness the Aga Khan—through his work, rooted in the Muslim faith—is a testament to Islam being a religion of both the intellect and humility, of both tradition and progress. The celebration of the Aga Khan’s Diamond Jubilee is a monumental occasion for Ismaili Muslims across the world. I wish to congratulate the American Ismaili Muslim community to host the Youth Summit and Diversity Dialogue, which we held for the first time in 2007 during the Aga Khan’s Golden Jubilee.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF POLLY MILLHouser

HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House’s attention to recognize the 100th birthday of Polly Millhouser.

After the war Polly and Charles moved to his hometown of Evanston, Illinois, where their children Mary (Latta), Jean and Robert were born. Later they lived in Arlington Heights, Illinois, where Polly was a homemaker and school volunteer. Polly and Charles retired to Mountain Home, Arkansas in 1987 where she quickly became active in the community, volunteering at the elementary school and the Mountain Home library. Charles passed away in October 1990 at 71 years of age.

Polly encouraged Gini to keep training in spite of his own bout of lung cancer. Sadly, six weeks before her race in Kona, Bill passed away.

When asked how one mentally handles the physical challenge of a triathlon, Gini explained that she focused her thoughts on her various friends within each portion of the event. During the 112-mile bike ride, she thought of her friends with whom she likes to ride; likewise with the 26.2 mile run. During the 2.4-mile swim, she thought of the lifeguards who look after her as she trains and races. She thought of her family, their children and 11 grandchildren, but she saved her "Last Mile" for Bill, focusing her thoughts on their 47½ years of marriage, the love they shared, and the lifetime of memories created between them.

Gini is an inspiration and encourager to those who show interest in running or competing. Gini says to start with that first step and to start by walking. At age 71, Gini has found a passion for triathlons and says, "I plan to stick with it, as long as I'm able.” I am proud to honor Gini Fellows, an inspirational triathlete and Ironman from Mississippi's Gulf Coast.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT CARL PHILIPPE ENIS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN OF FLORIDA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Monday, March 19, 2018

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect that I recognize the tragic loss of Staff Sgt. Carl Philippe Enis, one of seven brave U.S. service members killed in a helicopter crash last Thursday, March 15, 2018 in western Iraq.

Carl, a South Florida native who grew up in my Congressional District in Pinecrest, was an Air Force pararescueman serving in a combat role in Iraq for the 308th Rescue Squadron from Patrick Air Force Base supporting Operation Inherent Resolve when his helicopter went down.

Sergeant Enis was a Reserve Citizen Airman combat rescue and recovery specialist who supported Air Force and special operations.

Carl’s job truly embodied his heart and spirit where he consistently put his own life at risk to save others both in combat and humanitarian environments.

He always tackled every challenge with a smile on his face, no matter the danger or difficulty.

Carl was also an active outdoorsman who embraced his passion for fishing, hiking, hunting and scuba diving and lived his life to the fullest.

Sergeant Enis was a graduate of Gulliver Prep and Florida State University.

Carl is survived by his wife Angela, his mother Colleen, and his brother Edward.

Their families, the community, and all Americans can be proud knowing that Sergeant Enis gave his last full measure performing his mission and serving the most noble Pararescue creed: 'These things we do, that others may live'.

BILL JImmerson, a very happy 100th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Mrs. Millhouse a very happy 100th birthday.

HONORING MISSISSIPPI IRONMAN CHAMP, GINI FELLOWS

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO OF MISSISSIPPI IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Virginia “Gini” Fellows, a resident in my district and 71-year-old Ironman triathlete. Gini was born and raised near Detroit, Michigan, became a Registered Nurse, and married Dr. William Fellows in 1970. In 1978, the couple was recruited by Gulf Coast Medical Center and moved to Long Beach, Mississippi, making the coast their home.

A skiing injury in her twenties resulted in knee surgery and many years later, rehabilitative therapy. Meanwhile, their son Patrick, a race event organizer, saw an opportunity to put his mom’s freshly revived knee to work in an upcoming all-women’s triathlon held in April 2007. She agreed to do the race; she taught her own pace, and won her age division at age 59.

That first race gave Gini the confidence to enter more races, and over the next couple of years, she completed two Ironman half-marathons leading up to competing in the Florida Ironman Triathlon in 2016.

Winning her age division in Florida qualified Gini for the 2017 World Championship Ironman Triathlon in Kona, Hawaii. Husband Bill encouraged Gini to keep training in spite of his own bout of lung cancer. Sadly, six weeks before her race in Kona, Bill passed away.

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