

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MORTON "MORT" KIMMEL

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2018

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Morton Kimmel, or Mort to those who knew him. As a lifelong Delawarean, Mort was a great husband, father, grandfather, lawyer and philanthropist. He founded several non-profits and charities and devoted his life to serving others throughout Delaware.

After graduating from law school, he began practicing in the Wilmington area, eventually becoming a founding partner of Kimmel, Carter, Roman, Peltz and O'Neill PA. An attorney by trade, Mort tried more than 100 cases while simultaneously working on the charities that were the center of his life.

After Mort's son, Larry Kimmel, participated in the 1997 Blue-Gold Senior All-Star Games, Mort saw an opportunity to enhance the annual event as a fundraiser for local non-profits and charities to rally community support around the games. Today, because of Mort's work, the Blue-Gold Games are now played at the University of Delaware's Bob Carpenter Center and have become a statewide affair attracting people from all over. Proceeds from the game directly benefit Best Buddies Delaware, a non-profit providing aid to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Mort's love of Delaware and philanthropic efforts extended beyond the Blue-Gold Games. He founded the First State Police Foundation, a non-profit organization that funds public safety initiatives with private sector donations. He also led the Kimmel-Spiller Charitable Foundation and served on the board of directors for the Ronald McDonald House and Cancer Care Connection. In recognition of his generous spirit and life of service to Delaware, Mort was awarded the Order of the First State by then-Governor Jack Markell in 2017. Fittingly, he was inducted into the Delaware Basketball Hall of Fame earlier this Year.

It is with heavy hearts that we grieve the loss of our dear friend. Mort's selflessness touched the lives of Delawareans from all backgrounds, including the most vulnerable citizens, and I want to express my gratitude for the opportunities, services and care he provided to so many. It has been one of the greatest pleasures of my life to call Mort my friend, and there is no doubt in my mind that Mort Kimmel's impact will be felt in Delaware for decades to come.

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, we recently marked the passage of seven years since peaceful protests against the ineffective, cruel, and undemocratic regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad were escalated by President Assad into a brutal civil war. It has cost hundreds of thousands of lives, displaced 6.1 million people inside Syria, caused another 5.4 million Syrians to flee to nearby countries, and left nearly 3 million people in besieged areas. Assad has gassed his own people, and dropped barrel bombs on his own cities. Assad's actions set the conditions for ISIS to metastasize into Syria, prosper, and spread terror and chaos in the region. He and his closest friends on the international stage, President Putin of Russia and the leadership of Iran, demonstrate no regard for the safety or wellbeing of the Syrian people.

The continuation of this war into its eighth year is a tragedy. The United States is right to stand in opposition to Assad's brutality and against the countless non-state groups that have seized on the chaos to pursue their own agendas, many of which are apocalyptic and dangerous to our national security.

Consistent with our national interest, we must do everything in our power to bring this conflict to a halt and prevent Syria, its ungoverned spaces, and the refugee camps on the territory of Syria's neighbors from becoming a breeding ground for the next generation of radical terrorists. This effort requires continued efforts by the military and our intelligence services, but also demands muscular diplomacy to find a lasting political solution and robust foreign aid to provide a generation of Syrians with opportunities other than picking up a rifle.

Until a lasting solution is found I believe our country needs to do so much more to relieve the suffering of those injured and displaced. We are an immigrant nation of 330 million, and yet from Fiscal Year 2011 to the end of February this year, we permitted less than 22,000 refugees from Syria to enter the United States. This is a failure to act compassionately, and I fear that history will judge America harshly for its tepid response to the torment and suffering of untold souls.

I encourage my colleagues and the Administration to not lose sight of the ongoing violence perpetrated by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his allies and to redouble our efforts to bring this horrific humanitarian crisis to a close.

HONORING CHARLIE RICHARD AND ORA LEE BENSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Richard and Ora Lee Benson for their 73rd year of marriage.

Mr. Charlie was the only child born to the late Beatrice Anderson-Benson and the late Pinkney "Bill" Benson, Sr. on February 21, 1925. His mother died after giving birth to him. His father later married the late Martha Ross-Benson and had four children from this union. Pinkney "Nick" Benson II, Robert "Bob" Benson, Mayzle Dean Benson who are all deceased, and his youngest sister, Gloria Benson-Remus, who lives in Lexington, MS.

Charlie's father and grandfather were both farmers and he followed in their footsteps. He was also a self-taught carpenter, worked at a coal factory and retired from Fleetwood Homes both in Lexington, MS.

On September 30, 1944 Charlie married his sweetheart, Ora Lee White. She is the third child of Lou Etta Thurmond-White and Cleveland White. She worked by her husband's side as a farmer and later worked many years as a cook at Lexington Elementary School until she retired.

There were twelve children born from this union: Frank McKinley Benson, Beatrice Benson-McKennie, Mayzle Jean Benson-LeSure, Howard Benson, Sylvester P. Benson, Maxcine Benson-Cobbins, William Carl Benson (deceased), Billie A. Benson-Ramsey, Jimmie Louis and Mildred Louise Benson are twins (Mildred is deceased), Leon Benson and Laverne Benson.

They have two god sons, Calvin Friar and Dennis Moore, also one god daughter, Diana Randle. There are 30 grandchildren, 41 great grandchildren, and 4 great, great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Mr. Charlie Richard served as a deacon until his health failed, and Mother Ora Benson served as a Mother on the Motherboard from the Guiding Light C.O.G.I.C. of Lexington MS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this beautiful couple that is celebrating their longevity of love and affection for 73 years of marriage.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF EDWARD G. SACCO

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2018

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a longtime constituent and World War II veteran Edward G.

• 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.

Sacco, who passed away peacefully on February 25, 2018 at the age of 97.

For the past 25 years Mr. Sacco was a resident of Bayport New York and the loving husband of Patricia Sacco. Mr. Sacco was also an employee of Hewlett-Packard for over 40 years.

During World War II, Mr. Sacco enlisted into the Army and after basic training was deployed to Northern Africa where his troop fought numerous battles.

After serving his country with honor, Mr. Sacco returned home and joined the Patchogue NY VFW post, where he proudly marched in Memorial and Veterans Day parades. During the Iraq War Mr. Sacco again showed his strong patriotism and commitment to his country by organizing his VFW post's efforts of gathering and shipping supplies to our troops overseas.

Those who knew Mr. Sacco have said he was a working man of great strength that never took life for granted. An avid runner who showed great commitment for health and exercise, including running marathons. He was a man that honored his country, his family and the company he worked for. A life well lived and a great example to his fellow citizens.

HONORING MR. BARRY SHRAGE

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2018

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Barry Shrage, the President of Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, who is stepping down after more than three decades of distinguished leadership.

Barry has dedicated his life to the service of others. From his time as a social worker in Mid-Westchester, New York, to his current role in Boston, he has worked to improve lives every day. He has taken action and made an impact on thousands of people, both Jewish and non-Jewish, in the Greater Boston area, in this nation, in Israel, and around the globe.

With everything he does, Barry demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the highest principles of Judaism, particularly *tzedeq* (justice), *torah* (learning), and *tikkun olam* (the repair of the world).

He has also upheld the deepest American values of liberty and justice for all. In the 1980s, he was instrumental in bringing Jewish people from the Soviet Union, where they were not allowed to practice their religion, to the United States. Just last year, he founded the Combined Jewish Philanthropies Legal Aid Fund for Immigrants, an interfaith effort to assist those who are trying to start new lives of hope in this nation. He has stood throughout his tenure as a steadfast partner to all those who strive in common purpose to create a more just and peaceful world.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is not only his service that I celebrate today. Barry is a man of integrity and kindness whose abiding love for humanity is an example to us all. I offer him my sincere gratitude and best wishes for good health and continued success as he goes from strength to strength.

HONORING TAYLOR CANDY COMPANY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Walter and Ozie Taylor, who are well respected Jackson entrepreneurs, set the bar high years ago when crafting a business model that's helped propel Taylor Candy to success in the Washington Addition community in Jackson.

Mr. Taylor came from a family of entrepreneurs. His father operated several stores and Laundromats and several other relatives owned various businesses. Mr. Taylor got his feet wet in business by establishing his own route while operating his first truck as an independent distributor through his cousin's wholesale candy distributorship. This led to the Taylors obtaining an SBA loan and establishing Taylor Candy Company at 1519 Cox St., which was later moved to the present location next door at 1523 Cox St. During this time, Mrs. Taylor joined in operating the company full time, after a nine-year teaching career. Mr. Taylor, also a short tenured school teacher, said "I needed a dependable and trustworthy associate, if the business was to be successful and so I beckoned her from the classroom and the rest is history." At the height of the business' activity in the 1980's, the company had many employees and a total of nine independent distributors. The Taylors now operate the business solely, with occasional assistance from part-time workers.

In 1974, the Taylors received acclaim from a prestigious minority business organization that named them "The Most Improved Business of the Year." Also in 1997, the business was featured as an outstanding small business in a local publication.

The Taylors offered these words of wisdom to budding entrepreneurs: "You should have the right attitude toward your business pursuit. Don't be afraid of failure. Failure gives you an opportunity to set a goal to understand what you have to do to improve. There are going to be downfalls. Let downfalls or failures be used as motivations for growth rather than reasons for giving up."

They said when they first started the company, the School of Business at Jackson State University, the couple's alma mater, provided counseling.

Through the years, the Taylors have supported community activity through giving to and participating in religious, social and educational programs and projects. Fellowship of Christian Athletes has been a benefactor, as well as numerous neighborhood schools and churches.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Taylor Candy Company for their dedication to serving others.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILLY" LEO

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2018

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William "Billy"

Leo, a public servant, small business owner, and proud resident of La Joya, Texas, who passed away Saturday, March 17, 2018.

From 1974 to 2011, Billy, known as "Mr. Democrat," served his community in a number of capacities. He served as County Clerk for Hidalgo County, Mayor of the city of La Joya, School Board Trustee for La Joya ISD, and from 1988 through 1996, Billy served as a delegate for the Democratic National Committee. During this time, Billy was also the proprietor of beloved local convenient store chain, Leo's Food Mart.

In 1960, Billy graduated from Texas A&I Kingsville with a degree in political science. Shortly thereafter, he emerged as a political leader, following in his father, Leo J. Leo's, footsteps. Both men served the people of Hidalgo County with great honor. He once said of La Joya and his life, "I worked hard and cared for my city. That's all I want to be remembered for. I was here and I think this is the best city there is."

Mr. Speaker, South Texas lost one of our greatest public servants, but his legacy will live on. It is a privilege to continue the fight William "Billy" Leo championed his entire life: making sure every voice in Hidalgo County, and South Texas, is heard.

HONORING SCOTT MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott Memorial Funeral Home, a Yazoo City business striving to offer good services to families.

Scott Memorial Funeral Home located at 1401 East Broadway in Yazoo City is locally owned by Benjamin D. Scott and has operated under a standard of excellence for their customers since 2010. Their mission statement is: "To provide funeral services that are dignified and caring, highly professional and dedicated to excellence in all details, with prices suited to each family's circumstances."

Scott Memorial Funeral Home offers burial and cremation services, burial insurance, life insurance, limousine services, and also has a notary public. The business also offers a plan that meets any family's individual needs, no matter the situation.

Scott said his favorite part about the job is serving the families who entrust their funeral service needs to him. He makes sure that the families' needs are carried out as professionally as possible during the most difficult time of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Scott Memorial Funeral Home and its owners for their desire to make a difference in the community.

LI BAIGUANG

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I remember Dr. Li Baiguang who died