

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOE'S PLACE PIZZA & PASTA

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 13, 2018*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe's Place Pizza and Pasta, which has been proudly serving Arlington and Northern Virginia for 40 years, beginning with its first location in 1978. Joe Farruggio came to the U.S. from his Sicilian hometown of Agrigento, Italy in 1970 to pursue the American dream. After opening his first location in Bailey's Crossroads in 1978, the family added additional locations with ongoing success, finally consolidating the locations to Arlington so family members could remain closely involved and ensure the superior customer service they proudly provide every day.

Over time, Joe's Place has developed a reputation for the best pizza in town, along with a warm, friendly atmosphere and strong support for the community, especially our local schools and nonprofits helping others less fortunate. Many of Joe's staff have been with them for 10, 20, even 30 years. They and their many longtime regular customers truly are like family. The entire Farruggio family, made up of Joe and his sons Roberto, Enrico and Alessandro; his wife Rosa and children Rosario and Gabriella; Rosabel and her husband Anthony and daughter Gemma; Calogero and his wife Maria; Rosario, his wife Patricia and son Alessandro; Marisa and her husband Sami and daughter Sofia; Fortunato and his wife Maria; Franco and his wife Anna and daughter Isabel; Federica and her husband Max and sons Adam and Matteo, and all of Joe's dedicated, hardworking staff are proud of this 40th anniversary milestone and truly grateful for their success, for being part of the wonderful Arlington community, and for representing one local family's achievement of the American Dream.

TRIBUTE TO MEDEA KALOGNOMOS—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 13, 2018*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Medea Kalognomos of Sunland, California.

In 1962, Medea moved to the United States from Iran to pursue her education. After grad-

uating from Belmont High School in Los Angeles, she attended North Carolina State University and Point Loma Nazarene University in California, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in French and a Master's Degree in Pupil Personnel Services.

Medea fulfilled her lifelong dream of becoming a school teacher when she was hired by the Glendale Unified School District, where she worked for a quarter of a century. She taught French and English as a Second Language (ESL) at Eleanor J. Toll Middle School, and then became an ESL Program Specialist at Eleanor J. Toll Middle School and Woodrow Wilson Middle School, and was also a Counselor at Glendale High School, where she patiently and compassionately advised students. She also guided many immigrant students and made a lasting impact in their lives, by instilling in them the importance of civic involvement and education.

An avid student advocate and civic leader, Ms. Kalognomos has dedicated countless hours to the community, and has served in over sixteen community and academic organizations in the past thirty-five years. Currently, she is a member of the Armenian Educational Foundation, the Armenian National Committee of America—Western Region Education Committee, and co-president of the Committee for Armenian Students in Public Schools, which is an organization that has been a positive influence and inspiration to students in public schools. Most recently, Medea served as chairperson of the Committee for Armenian Students in Public Schools Leadership Workshop, where Glendale Unified School District and Los Angeles Unified School District high school juniors with a 3.5 and higher grade point average gathered to learn valuable leadership skills and the importance of volunteering in the community. In addition to her tireless service in the local communities, Medea has volunteered at schools, orphanages and hospitals in Armenia for many years.

Medea's extraordinary work has not gone unnoticed as she has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Ruby Award from the Soroptimist International of the Verdugos.

Ms. Kalognomos has been married to Sergeant Major Alexander Kalognomos for 50 years, and they have two children, Alex and Helen.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Medea Kalognomos.

HONORING MS. VERONICA "RONNIE" BRADLEY

**HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 13, 2018*

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of

Veronica "Ronnie" Bradley, a groundbreaking Marine Corps veteran. Ronnie, a longtime resident of New Milford, Connecticut, passed away on February 25 at the age of 95 after a long and inspiring life.

As a young woman, Ronnie became one of the first women to join the Marine Corps in 1942 during the Second World War. Following boot camp and training, Ronnie was stationed at an air base in Santa Barbara, California. The Marine Corps was one of the last to welcome women into service, and Ronnie and her compatriots were instrumental in changing the service's culture to recognize the passion and value women brought to the Marines. During the war, Ronnie literally became a poster child of the Marine Corps—her image was used in a recruiting flyer encouraging women to enlist and serve.

After the end of World War II, Ronnie left the Marines and began her family, but she remained active in the veteran community throughout her life. She shared her story and passion for service with countless others across Connecticut and our country, and was recognized by the Marine Corps as the 2011 Marine of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, Ronnie Bradley not only volunteered to serve her country during a national crisis, but also broke the ground for generations of women to follow her in serving as Marines. Her passion and humility are examples to all of us who pursue public service. My condolences go out to Ronnie's family and all those who will miss her special spirit, and it is right that we celebrate her achievements here today and keep her story and memory alive.

CRISIS OF OUR NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 13, 2018*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, we need to address the crisis of our federal debt. We need fiscal responsibility. As Members of Congress, we are entrusted by the public to be wise stewards of taxpayer dollars. The deficit is a long-term threat to our country's stability, but this proposed amendment is not a realistic solution to that problem. We need a bipartisan, adult conversation about the need for both budget cuts and additional revenue to bring our country's finances into balance. This shouldn't be rocket science.

A Balanced Budget Amendment would be worthy of consideration if properly crafted to provide flexibility in times of war, recession, or national emergency. However, this rigid amendment fails to anticipate these unfortunate, but inevitable, contingencies. Instead, it is a cynical attempt to paper over the enormous cost of the Republican tax bill that disproportionately benefits wealthy and corporate interests in the United States. That's not a solution for serious investment in our country, nor is it a plan for smart growth.

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