

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly recognize Congregation Beth Shalom in Northbrook, Illinois on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Congregation Beth Shalom is the spiritual home to more than one thousand families and is, without a doubt, an integral part of the Northbrook community.

For the past half century, from generation to generation, the synagogue has pursued a mission of enriching lives through inclusion in the ever-evolving ideals of Jewish observance, life-long learning, and acts of kindness.

Across the years, Beth Shalom has built an extraordinary community of Jewish faith, family and tradition. Every day, through the annual cycle of the seasons, and across the long arc of life's events, multiple generations join together to pray, learn, teach, and work together in service to the community, the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

Through Limud (study), Tefillah (prayer), and Tzedakah (acts of justice and loving kindness), Beth Shalom is a living example of Jewish values and vibrant Jewish life.

The Congregation prides itself on warmth and friendliness to members, celebrating that "Shalom" is the Hebrew word meaning welcome. I can think of no better example of this warmth than the special holiday services customized to embrace people with special needs.

Beth Shalom is also a force for positive social action in the Tenth District. Their activities include delivering groceries to families in need, feeding the homeless, supporting our military troops overseas, hosting blood drives, and mentoring youth attending school in inner city Chicago.

As well, Beth Shalom is proud home to countless community leaders, young and old, who work tirelessly to improve lives in the Chicago area, our nation and the world.

I congratulate my dear friends, Rabbi Aaron Melman, Assistant Rabbi Ari Averbach, Cantor Steven Stoehr, and Rabbi Emeritus Carl Wolkin, and the entire Beth Shalom Congregation on this anniversary.

I wish Congregation Beth Shalom many more years of success as they write the next fifty years of their history.

IN CELEBRATION OF CARLO
VERARDI

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize WWII veteran Carlo Verardi upon the oc-

casation of his 100th birthday. Carlo was born on June 8, 1918, in Bernardsville, New Jersey. He was one of 13 children in a proud Italian-American immigrant family.

Upon completing basic training, Carlo was assigned to the 9th Division, 60th Infantry, Front Line Medical Battalion as medic. He served with distinction in the European and African Theaters. During his service in the European Theater, Carlo was seriously wounded by a grenade as he rescued a soldier from the field of battle. The blast from grenade was so strong that both Carlo and the wounded soldier were thrown through the air. Miraculously both men survived, but Carlo was paralyzed from the waist down for over a year and was evacuated to London hospital to recover from his injuries. For his actions, Carlo received the Bronze Star Medal. After nearly four years of service, he received an honorable discharge with the Combat Medical Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, WWII Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three service stars, Army of Occupation Medal and American Defense Service Medal.

Upon returning home, Carlo met and married his wife, Mary. Together they raised five children. Carlo worked for the City of New York in the Parks Department and retired after 30 years. A passion for remembering and honoring those who fought during WWII is a cause that drove Carlo and his wife Mary to contribute greatly to the construction of the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. A contribution that will serve as an eternal monument to the brave service members, like Carlo, who sacrificed so much in defense of our great nation.

MARGARET AGNEW

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Margaret Agnew for receiving the 2018 Trivium Health and SilverSneakers National Instructor of the Year Award.

This award honors SilverSneakers instructors who put in tireless dedication and efforts into making their classes a great experience and encouraging members to get more out of life. Margaret was selected as the winner based on her experience and teaching style. She has more than 34 years of experience as an instructor and teaches nine different SilverSneakers classes at Apex Community Recreation Center in Arvada, Colorado.

Margaret's commitment to those she teaches is commendable and has helped many class members become inspired and motivated to live their best life.

Congratulations to Margaret Agnew for this well-deserved recognition by Trivium Health and SilverSneakers.

IN HONOR OF MRS. VEOLA
DOTSON PORTER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great woman of faith, compassion, dignity, grace and a dear friend of longstanding to my wife Vivian and me, Mrs. Veola Dotson Porter. Sadly, Mrs. Porter passed away on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. Her funeral service was Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 11:00 am at the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Mrs. Porter was born on November 28, 1921, in Gentian, Georgia to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Dotson, Sr. She was the eldest of six children that were born to this union. Her formative years were spent in what is now the Milgen Road-University Avenue area in Columbus, Georgia.

Her life would change forever when she met Mr. Jake D. Porter, Sr. at the Smith Grove AME Zion Church. She married Mr. Porter in 1942 and five children were born to this union.

Her life was truly blessed because of her love for God and her family. She learned from the Christian example of her parents and passed the lessons learned on to her children who in turn are passing them on to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Moreover, she had a love for people and this fueled her desire at a very young age to become a nurse. She attended and graduated from Practical Nursing School in Columbus. Her nursing career began at St. Francis Hospital and ended with her becoming a private duty nurse with a specialization in New Born Care. During her nursing career, she upheld the principles as enunciated in the last sentence of the original Florence Nightingale Pledge: "I shall be loyal to my work and devoted toward the welfare of those committed to my care." I believe Florence Nightingale would have been proud that such a woman entered her beloved profession. She ended her distinguished nursing career after 40 years and went on to serve as a faithful volunteer at the information desk at the Columbus Government Center.

Mrs. Porter achieved much success in her life, but none of it would have been possible without her strong faith in God. Her spiritual journey after Smith Grove took her to Hopewell Baptist Church in Upatoi, Georgia. Following her beloved husband's death in 1980, she joined the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church where she served diligently as a Sunday School Teacher, member of the Choir No. 2 and the Deacons' Wives.

She is survived by her children, Deloris, Jake, Ibrahim, Melvin, and Gwendolyn; two sisters; Deborah and Ange; her 21 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren; and many other family members and friends.

George Washington Carver once said that, "How far you go in life depends of your being

• 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.

tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Likewise, Mrs. Porter did so well in her life because she never forgot where she came from and always she treated people with dignity and respect. She used her God given talents to help babies enter the world and to help all people from all walks of life. The scripture tells us that the race of life "isn't given to the swift nor to the strong, but to those that endure until the end." Mrs. Porter ran the race of her life with dignity and respect and she has now claimed her greatest reward.

On a personal note, Mrs. Porter and the Porter family have been cherished friends to my wife, Vivian, and me, and we have been truly blessed by their friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, along with the almost 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in extending our deepest condolences to Mrs. Porter's family, friends, and the Columbus, Georgia community during this difficult time. We pray that they will be comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

OATH OF CITIZENSHIP ON JUNE 8,
2018

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, It is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on June 8, 2018. This memorable occasion will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On June 8, 2018, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Hua Lin, Elvira Garcilazo, Mayra Medina Alvarado, Jaime Francisco Osorio Perdomo, Rosaelin Garcilazo Mendoza, Gladys Wanjiru Muchemi, Jocelyn Cappello, Hector Castellanos, Marijana Celakoski, Sonia Chavez, Daniel Garcia, Paulina Gonzalez, Marilynn Rose Hoang, Pablo Lara, Sandip Singh Lidhar, Guillermo Artemio Lopez, Jose Martinez, Bertha Medina, Benson Kingori Muchemi, Daniel Bapfutwabo, Devote Niyondiko, Francis Kwarteng Oduro, Shirley Oduro-Nkansah, Maria E. Palmerin, Ly Pham, Aisha Usman Qadeer, Engracia Rangel, Mina Franklin Roosevelt, Lizzy Salazar Strantz, and Janet A. Vazquez.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupa-

tion, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on June 8, 2018. They, too, are American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

RECOGNIZING ALLEN GRAFFAM
FOR HIS 43 YEARS OF SERVICE
IN MAINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an outstanding educator from my District who has spent the past 43 years working as a band director in Maine's public schools.

Allen C. Graffam graduated from the University of Maine in 1975 and soon after, took a job at Brunswick High School. After eight years of service in Brunswick, Allen became band director at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham, Maine. Since becoming band director in 1983, Allen has been an inspiration to his students and is greatly admired for his ability to listen, to advise, and to teach. Allen's leadership and dedication to educating in the classroom has prepared countless students to become important leaders in their communities.

In addition to his role as band director, Allen has also served as the Coach of the Girls' Softball team at Mt. Ararat High School. Allen's ability to fill multiple roles perfectly exemplifies his life long commitment to Maine students.

This June, Allen is retiring after 43 years of incredible service in Maine's public schools. Allen's nearly half a century as a band director and leader in our schools makes me very proud to represent him and the State of Maine in Congress. I wish Allen and his family the best in his retirement, and I wholeheartedly thank him for his many years as an educator in Maine's schools.

YADIRA TISCARENO ESCALERA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yadira Tiscareno Escalera for receiving the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Yadira Tiscareno Escalera is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Yadira Tiscareno Escalera is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Yadira Tiscareno Escalera for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE
JAMES REDDINGTON, LANCE
CORPORAL UNITED STATES MA-
RINE CORPS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late James Reddington, Lance Corporal USMC. A medal presentation at Lackawanna County Courthouse and memorial service at Cathedral Cemetery was held in his honor conducted by Lieutenant General Ron Christmas, Colonel Terry Ebbert, the U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard, and the Greater Scranton Black Diamonds Pipe Band over Memorial Day Weekend 2018.

Jimmy was a Lance Corporal with Echo Company 2nd Battalion 5th Marines and served his country during the Vietnam War. On March 23, 1967, nineteen year old Lance Corporal Reddington charged an enemy position to draw fire away from the rescue and recovery from the field of a wounded fellow Marine. He was fatally wounded during this exchange.

Because of his actions, Jimmy was posthumously awarded two Purple Hearts. He also received ten additional medals and awards for his service. However, because his family was deceased, these medals had gone unclaimed for fifty-one years. Lance Corporal Reddington's medals will be presented to the Marine Corps League, N.E. Detachment, where they will be held in repose and displayed.

It is a solemn honor to recognize the memory of Lance Corporal James Reddington, USMC. I am grateful to him for his service in defense of his country and his willingness to sacrifice his life so a fellow Marine might live. We shall never forget his selfless actions that day and we are thankful for his service and the service of all who served in Vietnam. May he rest in peace.

HONORING ROBERT KILLIP

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Killip, a leader and integral part