

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE INDIAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Indian Business Association (IBA) for its outstanding achievements representing Indian-American businesses, and its service as the voice for thousands of Indian-Americans across the country. The IBA began as a group of concerned citizens in Edison, New Jersey, who found the courage to confront hate crimes and hate speech occurring in their communities. The values of fairness, solidarity and social activism drive its mission and objectives, as the members of the IBA continue their work to build a better America for all its citizens.

The IBA has promoted entrepreneurship within the Indian-American community, contributing to the creation of many small businesses and jobs. It has strengthened our democracy by working with elected officials and organizing non-partisan voter registration drives. It has supported our communities by aiding—both financially and through the donated expertise of its members—countless civic and charitable endeavors.

The IBA also continues to preserve and introduce Indian culture to Americans of all walks of life. Now in its 38th year, the IBA hosts the annual New Jersey India Day Parade, our country's largest parade honoring India's independence. Attended by more than 35,000 people and joined by more than 100 organizations, the New Jersey India Day Parade celebrates the rich cultural heritage of its members and their many contributions to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the great achievements of the IBA, and acknowledge its tireless efforts to support Indian-American entrepreneurs and the jobs they create, its contributions to our common good, and its work to protect the civil rights of all Americans, regardless of color or national origin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 329 and 330 on Monday, July 16, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on both votes.

IN RECOGNITION OF 50 YEARS FOR CONCERN HOTLINE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and thank Concern Hotline for 50 years of selfless service to the people of the Northern Shenandoah Valley. In 1968, prompted by the stark reality of the highest rate of suicide among Vietnam Veterans on the East Coast, a group of caring community leaders in Winchester and the northern Shenandoah Valley, decided to intervene. They formed the first valley suicide and crisis center, where those feeling confused and desperate could call a number at the George Washington Hotel and be patched to a volunteer ready to be of support.

Fifty years later, the organization is still doing extraordinary work, sometimes as a bridge-builder for Northwestern Community Services, before patients can make an appointment with a clinician. A trained staff of 35 volunteer "listeners" and two paid employees, are on duty 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, receiving calls on their cell phones and providing objective, confidential and anonymous contact with a fellow resident of the northern valley, anytime a person needs them and for as long as he or she needs them. The positive culture of Concern Hotline does not label any caller a "chronic caller" but welcomes all callers, including "frequent callers."

The personal touch is what distinguishes Concern Hotline from many other telephonic support organizations. Their mission is "to comfort and calm community members experiencing stress and crisis" and they do what no other program in the community does: they simply listen compassionately. For its long history, the Concern Hotline team has kept the following commitment: "We listen to your troubles and stresses, we hear your stories of hardship and pain, and we bear witness to your struggle to lead a happy, healthy life."

Mr. Speaker, I have always considered it a great honor to recognize and thank our community heroes such as our law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians for their willingness to help us during some of the most desperate times of our lives. Similarly, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking another group of community heroes, the volunteers and staff of our suicide prevention programs, and most especially the heroes of Concern Hotline, who, as listeners, have been saving lives and giving hope to the residents of the Northern Shenandoah Valley, for the past half century.

HONORING JOHN AND BENJEAN RAPP OF SUMMERSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John and Benjean Rapp of Summersville, West Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Rapp are cornerstones in their community, who have dedicated their lives to bettering our nation and improving West Virginia.

John Rapp served our country in the United States Air Force and returned home to the Mountain State to serve as a West Virginia State Trooper for over 20 years. Outside his time in uniform, John also served as a county commissioner for Mercer County from 1990 to 1996. As a county commissioner, he prioritized growing the economy and investing in infrastructure development.

Benjean Rapp has been an active member of her church and serves as a leader in multiple civic groups. Benjean played an integral part in working to restore the historic Old Main High School in Summersville.

Together, they have made a tremendous team and have had a positive impact on their community and the Mountain State.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 16, I missed the following votes due to significant delays with my flight back to Washington.

For Roll Call Vote 329, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4946, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1075 North Tustin Street in Orange, California, as the Specialist Trevor A. Win'E Post Office, I would have voted "yes."

For Roll Call Vote 330, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4960, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 511 East Walnut Street in Columbia, Missouri, as the Spc. Sterling William Wyatt Post Office Building, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE WACO EAGLES MOTORCYCLE CLUB

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Waco Eagles Motorcycle Club

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.