

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NEW ORLEANS ATTORNEY KENNETH CARTER

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of New Orleans Attorney Kenneth Carter, the first African American tax assessor in New Orleans, who died on August 3, 2018 at the age of 74.

A native of New Orleans, Mr. Carter grew up in the Callopie public housing development, also known as B.W. Cooper apartments.

Mr. Carter, the father of Louisiana State Senator and state Democratic Party Chairwoman Karen Carter Peterson, was elected to the powerful post of tax assessor for the 1st Municipal District assessor's job in 1985 and served until 1994. This district contains the Central Business District and much of the city's most valuable real estate.

Mr. Carter attended Xavier Prep in New Orleans, received a B.A. degree in political science from the University of New Orleans (UNO) in 1976, and a J.D. degree from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 1978. He was a leader in the political organization BOLD. Mr. Carter's other leadership roles included a period as head of the New Orleans' Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and president of the Freret Street Development Corporation. In 1994, Mr. Carter ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of New Orleans.

Mr. Carter was also one of the attorneys involved in a Louisiana lawsuit against tobacco companies. He represented the plaintiffs and helped secure smoking cessation programs for people in Louisiana.

Mr. Carter played basketball at Xavier Prep in New Orleans. In 1962, one-year before the 1963 March on Washington, Mr. Carter also made history by being one of the first four African-Americans to integrate Loyola University's undergraduate program but could not join the basketball team because other colleges would boycott games rather than play against any African American players. The outright hostility shown by others, and ultimately not being allowed to play, caused Mr. Carter to give up his scholarship. It would take Mr. Carter a decade to return to college, the University of New Orleans, and ultimately back to Loyola for law school.

Mr. Carter and his wife Gigi celebrated 50 years of marriage in May of 2015. His daughter, Senator Peterson, and other state senators presented the couple with a resolution honoring their golden anniversary.

Mr. Kenneth Carter was a man of many firsts and deep conviction. He blazed trails as the first African American elected Assessor in the city and the first African American President of the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association. He believed in the power of civic engagement and worked hard to ensure government reflected the diversity of the citizenry. Addition-

ally, he took the time to mentor young men and women who sought to make their mark in politics and business. While he is no longer with us, his legacy lives on. New Orleans is a better place because of his efforts. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Mr. Carter, but surely, we can try to match his sense of service. We cannot match his courage, but we can strive to match his devotion.

Mr. Kenneth Carter is survived by his wife, Gigi; three daughters, Tara Hernandez, Karen Carter Peterson and Eileen Carter; and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Kenneth Carter.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE 1968 SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of the 50th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Even at the height of the Cold War, the Soviet Union was struggling to maintain order in its brutally enforced communist bloc.

Czechoslovakia, a vibrant democracy prior to the Second World War, had been annexed by the Nazis then subjugated by the Russians in the postwar Soviet takeover in 1948.

For 20 years, the pro-Soviet government installed in Prague stifled public dissent and maintained the charade of communist paradise amidst a crumbling economy.

But in early 1968, conservative leader Antonin Novotny was ousted as the head of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, and he was replaced by Alexander Dubcek.

The Dubcek government ended censorship in Czechoslovakia, and in April, the Czech Government issued a formal plan for further reforms.

Recalling the 1956 uprising in Hungary, leaders in Moscow worried that if Czechoslovakia carried reforms too far, other satellite states in Eastern Europe might follow, leading to a widespread rebellion against Moscow's control of the Warsaw Pact, the eastern bloc of nations created by the Soviets to rival the NATO alliance.

These fears, rising from the Kremlin's determination to maintain totalitarian control of its subjugated peoples, was the chief reason for Russian aggression 50 years ago today.

In addition, the Kremlin guessed—correctly—that given past U.S. pronouncements on non-intervention in the Eastern Bloc, the United States would condemn the invasion but might refrain from intervening.

An emboldened Soviet government under Leonid Brezhnev asserted as justification for the invasion “the Brezhnev Doctrine,” which held that Moscow would intervene in any nation where a communist government was under threat.

Mr. Speaker, I hope to have spoken today of these egregious Russian violations of sovereignty and self-determination as a recollection of times past; an episode consigned to the annals of history.

But this history provides a lesson that we dare not ignore.

In 2008, Vladimir Putin's Russia invaded the nation of Georgia in coordination with separatists in South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Putin's Kremlin claimed that it was protecting Russian nationals in the region, but the American intelligence community accurately assessed that Moscow's involvement in South Ossetia and Abkhazia was a gambit to prevent Georgia's accession to NATO.

In Crimea and the Donbas, too, the Kremlin pursued its aggressive violation of international laws to illegally occupy those territories under the pretense of protecting Russian nationals and Russian interests.

The emboldened Putin regime continues its efforts to destabilize not only Georgia and Ukraine, which have expressed interest in joining the Western Alliance, but also linchpins of liberalism in Europe—from supporting populist nationalists in Austria and Hungary, to conducting extralegal assassinations in England, to influencing our very own elections in the United States.

Putin's actions have been further emboldened by the President's pronouncements casting doubt on the value of the Western Alliance and his moral ambivalence on Russian violations of international law.

Mr. Speaker, those who forget history are doomed to repeat it.

Russian aggression in Georgia, Ukraine, and elsewhere—as well as the continued human suffering thereafter—unequivocally reveals Vladimir Putin's disregard for international law and hostility to our Western alliance.

When confronted with such a foe, the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia demonstrates that it is imperative that we draw our allies and partners in Europe closer, not antagonize them.

Between its oppression of the Georgian people, poisoning of expatriates, assassination and imprisonment of dissenters, ruthless bombing of Syrian civilians, illegal occupation and deployment of mercenaries in Ukraine, and its active undermining of U.S. alliances and political systems, we must now, more than ever, stand fast with our allies and clearly signal our commitment to democratic institutions and international organizations and alliances.

Mr. Speaker, our partnerships in Europe advance U.S. interests and protect our allies from Russian aggression.

So on this 50th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, it is critical that the United States Congress reaffirm our nation's unwavering commitment to Article 5 of the NATO Treaty and maintain its vigilance to the lasting humanitarian, social, and other costs that Russian aggression has imposed in Georgia, Ukraine, and elsewhere.

• 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.

PALM HARBOR 9/11 MEMORIAL

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Palm Harbor 9/11 Memorial located at Curlew Hills Memory Gardens in Palm Harbor, Florida and to recognize all those who worked diligently to make this venerable memorial a reality.

On September 11, 2001, the world was changed forever by a senseless act of terrorism; the worst attack against civilians on U.S. soil in our nation's history. In August, 2011, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control and Rescue District received a steel beam from the remains of the World Trade Center, identified as I-0053B. On December 12, 2011, the Palm Harbor Board of Fire Commissioners and Curlew Hills Memory Gardens entered into an agreement to lease the artifact as a focal point in a permanent 9/11 Memorial located at Curlew Hills Memory Gardens in Palm Harbor, Florida.

Through the efforts of the original committee, the Palm Harbor 9/11 Memorial was unveiled on September 11, 2012. Since then, the Palm Harbor 9/11 Memorial Planning Committee, consisting of members from Palm Harbor Fire Rescue, Curlew Hills Memory Gardens, Gene O'Kane Division of FDNY Retired, NYPD Retired Suncoast 10-13 Club, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, and others, organize the annual Palm Harbor 9/11 Memorial Ceremony. This ceremony is attended by thousands to pay tribute to the heroes who gave their lives on September 11 and to the countless others who have perished in defense of liberty since that day.

I am proud of these wonderful and patriotic constituents and ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the efforts put forth by this committee to ensure that the events of September 11, 2001, will never be forgotten.

IN MEMORY OF GENE CONNOLLY,
CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Gene Connolly, the beloved former Concord High School Principal, who inspired his community through his unmatched strength and grace in the face of adversity. Connolly epitomized the slogan "Connolly Strong". Despite his diagnosis with ALS in 2014, Connolly constantly showed persistence, humility and courage, continuing to greet his students every morning as they arrived at school. Even after retiring in 2016, Connolly remained an educator at heart, dedicated to teaching and serving as a trusted mentor to many Concord High students.

While Connolly commonly cited the Concord community and schools as sources of consistent and loyal support throughout his battle with ALS, I know that his fighting spirit and openness about his struggle also inspired and

elevated the entire Concord community. The 2017 documentary, Mr. Connolly has ALS, highlights how Connolly inspired his students, colleagues and friends. The documentary, revolving around questions submitted by his students, tells a powerful story of how disabled members of our society can still live fulfilling lives and give so much to their communities.

As a proud alumna of Concord High School and the Concord public schools, I express my profound gratitude for Connolly and his many years of devoted service to New Hampshire's students. He will be greatly missed, but his memory and spirit will live on in the students and the community he loved so deeply. I extend my deepest condolences to his family and wish them and the entire Concord High School community comfort during this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING THE FIRST
CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my congratulations to the First Chinese Baptist Church located in Chinatown, one of Manhattan's historic neighborhoods, as it celebrates its 92nd year anniversary on August 12, 2018.

It is with great pride that I congratulate this longtime church from my district on its 92nd anniversary. The First Chinese Baptist Church, established in 1926, evolved from the Morning Star Mission in a then strife-torn neighborhood and became part of the rich fabric and history of the Chinatown community. Over the past 92 years, the church served as a safe haven for the community's Chinese Americans and immigrants during the early half of the 20th century at the time of the Chinese Exclusion Act and turmoil in China. Founded by Dr. Mabel Lee, a Chinese-American pastor, community organizer, feminist and suffragist, the church created a community that has served thousands of Chinatown residents. Lee advocated for continuous education and taught English to congregants who passed down her teachings to those who arrived later. Additionally, during World War II, many men from the church served in the United States Armed Forces.

Today, the First Chinese Baptist Church continues to hold weekly worship services open to all and offers English classes, sponsors basketball teams, manages youth summer mentorship programs, and assists those seeking citizenship. It works with community-based organizations to conduct special events and support immigration rights and social justice throughout the year. Its dedication to service for God and country, education, advocacy and respect for individuals has been the cornerstone of the First Chinese Baptist Church and has not diminished in its 92-year history.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the First Chinese Baptist Church and its leadership on this special 92nd year anniversary. The Church has long exemplified outstanding community and public service to the greater New York City community. I wish them continued success and many more years of service.

CONGRATULATING VICTOR RANGEL
ON ACHIEVING THE CONGRESSIONAL
AWARD GOLD MEDAL**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brownsville resident Victor Rangel. A student at Harmony School of Innovation-Brownsville, Victor is being honored with the Congressional Award Gold Medal, the only Congressional award specifically for young people. Recipients of the Congressional Award Gold Medal complete 400 hours of voluntary public service, 200 hours of personal development, 200 hours of physical fitness, and a four-night expedition of their choosing.

Victor went above and beyond these requirements on the path to the Congressional Award. For the public service component, Victor completed over 450 hours of volunteer service at a local hospital in South Texas, helping with patient and family care. Additionally, Victor learned traditional martial arts for personal development, and pushed himself as he is now only one level away from the black belt. For physical fitness, Victor performed aerobic exercises to help build his strength. An enthusiast of history, Victor traveled from Brownsville to San Antonio to learn more about the rich history of Texas, immersing himself in the culture through observation and conversation.

I am very proud of Victor's success in earning the Congressional Award. Most importantly, I commend him for his dedication and passion to help those most in need and give to our community with an open heart. Victor demonstrated tremendous courage and leadership, and made a positive impact in our community. I am honored to congratulate Victor Rangel on his special accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
EDWARD A. PEASE**HON. LARRY BUCSHON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Edward A. Pease for his tireless commitment to the Boy Scouts and continued leadership within the Terre Haute community.

Pease, a former member of this House representing the Hoosier state, has been extensively engaged in the betterment of his community, holding many positions on the boards of local, state, and national organizations most notably the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

He has been involved with the Boy Scouts for more than five decades, earning the Eagle Scout Award in 1965 and was selected as the Boy Scouts of America Alumnus of the Year in 2015. Pease has not only served as the chairman of the organization but has also received the Distinguished Eagle Scout, Silver Antelope, and Silver Beaver awards in recognition of his outstanding volunteer service.

Congratulations on another well-deserved recognition of service to our community and for leading by example.