

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and sincere appreciation that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and its 2018 theme, Hispanics: One Endless Voice to Enhance our Traditions. From September 15, 2018, through October 15, 2018, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the people of the United States will once again celebrate the cultures and traditions and reflect on the many outstanding contributions our Hispanic brothers and sisters have made throughout our country's history.

Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins each year on September 15, recognizes the anniversaries of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile observe their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Since its inception as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, which later became National Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988, Americans have taken this time to not only honor the rich culture and traditions of Hispanic Americans, but also to reflect on the tremendous impact Hispanic Americans have had within their communities and throughout our nation. The tireless efforts of generations of Hispanic Americans have resulted in a better America.

America's success is reliant upon the rich heritage and cultural diversity of its people. Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the many Hispanic leaders and members of our communities who have added to the prosperity of the United States in every facet of our society.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to once again join me in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month. Throughout America's history, present, and future, the Hispanic community has played and will continue to play a major role in enriching the quality of life for the people of the United States, and for their outstanding contributions they are worthy of our respect and gratitude.

INTRODUCTION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION, PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION OF A FREEDOM TO CHOOSE THEIR DESTINY FOR THE NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE AND EURASIA WEEK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my fellow co-chairs of the bipartisan Con-

gressional Ukraine Caucus to introduce a Joint Resolution, which reaffirms the sovereignty and the freedom to choose their destiny for the people of Europe and Eurasia.

Since the fall of communism, the countries of Eastern Europe and Eurasia have made great progress in developing democratic institutions, free markets, and strong civil societies. Many have demonstrated their commitment to these important ideals through their accession in liberal institutions such as the European Union and that NATO Alliance, which are critical to our national security.

Indeed, the American people have stood with freedom-lovers across this region, to spread the blessings of liberty and democracy to these nations. For this reason since 1959, the President of the United States has proclaimed the third week of July as "Captive Nations Week." This very special occasion shined a light on the plight of nations oppressed by Soviet Russian regime, and continues to reaffirm America's commitment to those dedicated to democracy, rule of law, freedom, and justice.

Tragically, Russia's thirst for power would seek to thwart the forward progress of these nations. Russia seeks to undermine democratic institutions, and thus strengthen its dictatorial and tyrannical hold on that region through hybrid warfare. This includes election meddling, disinformation campaigns, extrajudicial assassinations, the intimidation of journalists, and other forms of despicable behavior. Russia invaded and illegally occupies regions of Ukraine and Georgia, and seeks to rip away these nations' ability to choose their democratic future. It is a shame to have such bestial behavior on this earth.

This resolution builds on the "Captive Nations Week" Resolution, and invites the President through an annual proclamation to set the record straight that all nations have the right to self-determination, territorial sovereignty, and to choose their own destinies. It sends a message to our partners in the region that we stand with those that embrace liberty, instead of those that seek to tear it down. By standing together, we ensure a more democratic, secure, and prosperous world.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD AND MARIA STONE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two wonderful Texans, Maria and Richard Stone, who are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on November 14, 2018.

In addition to being a living husband and father, Richard is a decorated Army veteran who honorably served for over 25 years, including two tours in Vietnam. He then worked for the government in logistics at Fort Sill in Oklahoma. He received the Bronze Star, Army

Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the German Army Marksman badge in bronze.

Maria and Richard now reside in Frisco, Texas. Congratulations to them on this 60 years of marriage together. May they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many more years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF A CONCERT COMMEMORATING THE SACRIFICE OF CZECH, SLOVAK, AND CROATIAN PEOPLES IN WORLD WAR I

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an event taking place in my district, the Fifth District of Missouri, at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. On September 13, 2018, the Concert to Commemorate Sacrifice will take place in remembrance of the immense sacrifice of the Czech, Slovak, and Croatian peoples, as well as the centennial of their independence and an end to the Great War. This concert is provided by a global partnership between the National World War I Museum and Memorial, the Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City, University of Missouri—Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, Embassies of the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, the Republic of Croatia, and the honorary consuls of the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, and Republic of Croatia in Kansas City, MO and Kansas City, KS.

A plethora of works from the Czech, Slovak, and Croatian lands will be performed under the direction of William A. Everett, the Curators' Distinguished Professor of Musicology at UMKC; guest conductor and pianist, Ivan Pernicki of Zagreb, Croatia; and Music Director, Rick Mikesic. The concert will prominently feature the national anthems of the United States of America and of the Republics of Czech, Slovak, and Croatia, along with works by famed Czech, Slovak, and Croatian composers such as: Fratišek Drdla, Rudolf Friml, Dora Pjačević, Josip Štolcer-Slavenski, Ján Levoslav Bella, Franjo Marković, Ivan Zajc and Ludwig van Beethoven.

Furthermore, it is important to note that the valiant service and sacrifice of the Czechoslovak Legion contributed to the formation of a sovereign Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, and Republic of Croatia. The Czechoslovak Legionnaires were an entirely voluntary force of 100,000 strong and their contribution to the war effort spanned many conflicts among every front of the war. I cannot think of a more fitting way to honor the sacrifice of these individuals than by a performance of their adopted battle cry, the "U boj", at a concert in their honor, held at a memorial dedicated to all lives lost in World War I.

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