

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DARIUS ASSEMI

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Darius Assemi, a home builder, businessman, philanthropist, and Central Valley resident of more than 40 years. Darius has been a close friend and confidant for many years, including my time in the State Senate and here in the United States House of Representatives.

Darius is currently President and CEO of Granville Homes, a real estate development company established in 1977. Over the last 40 years, Granville Homes has built more than 6,000 single-family residences in the Fresno metropolitan area, and has been involved in the acquisition, financing, and development of over 100 construction projects. Through these experiences, Darius's knowledge of building codes and resilient construction has been an important influence on me as I have pursued disaster mitigation policies.

Darius is actively engaged in public policy work at the local and state level. He is passionate about legislation that affects transportation, agriculture, health care, education, and the environment. In 2009, Darius was appointed to the California Transportation Commission by Governor Schwarzenegger, and reappointed by Governor Brown in 2012. During his 6-year term, Darius was actively engaged with legislators and key stake holders in securing much-needed transportation funding for the Central Valley. In addition to public policy, Darius is driven to educate his fellow citizens about the complex issues that affect everyone in the community.

The lack of health care options available in the Central Valley and across the world is an issue that Darius and I have focused much of our time on. In 2009, he helped to establish the Alliance for Medical Outreach and Relief (AMOR), a non-profit with a mission to build healthier communities. AMOR constructed and continues to operate a 100-bed hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan that provides medical services and health education to over 80,000 people annually. High amongst Afshar Hospital's key accomplishments is their success in reducing the maternal and infant mortality rates in the Kabul metro area. In addition to their work in Afghanistan, AMOR is in the process of building a wellness clinic and community resource center to serve the impoverished Central Valley farming community of Mendota.

Darius views his various business endeavors as vehicles to further his true passion: helping to improve the lives of those in the community and around the world through strategic partnerships and philanthropic giving. The Granville Foundation's mission is to provide food, shelter, healthcare, and education to the underserved. In 2006, Darius initiated the Granville Home of Hope, a program in which a new home is raffled off, with 100 per-

cent of the proceeds from ticket sales given to local non-profits. Over the last 12 years, the Granville Home of Hope has raised more than \$5.2 million dollars, providing food, clothing, scholarships, and resources to those in need. In addition to Home of Hope, the Granville Foundation provides support to various organizations—in 2017 alone the foundation sponsored more than 70 non-profits.

I am proud to call Darius a friend and I am grateful for his companionship throughout my years in public service. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Darius Assemi for his outstanding contributions to the Central Valley, our state, and nation.

HONORING JERRY AND VIRGINIA MORALES' 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the marriage of two outstanding individuals who have contributed to the growing diversification and development of Kansas City and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. In mid-July of 1951, Kansas City and its citizens were one of several areas that fell victim to major flooding in the Midwest United States. Following the "Great Flood of 1951," and during a trying time in which communities were facing a variety of obstacles, including family relocation, Mr. Jerry Morales and Ms. Virginia Gloria Alvarez first met.

Following the devastating events that unfolded from the flood, Mr. and Mrs. Morales would soon meet again as teenagers in their shared place of employment to support and provide assistance to struggling families. Receiving the approval of both parents to marry, in 1953, the couple began their lifelong commitment to value, respect, and cherish one another.

To join their brothers and sisters, and to start a family of their own, the Mr. and Mrs. Morales relocated from the Westside Community of Kansas City, Missouri to the thriving Historic Northeast community. The opportunities provided by increased diversity and affordable housing contributed to their decision to relocate and, ultimately, thrive in the growing community.

Since their move, Mr. and Mrs. Morales have seen their family grow just as they wished when they first married. Their eleven children all live in the greater Kansas City area and have given Mr. and Mrs. Morales the large family they always dreamed of with 22 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Apart from being loving parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Morales share a history of being both politically and civically involved in the community. Mr. Morales was a two-time Golden Gloves

champion, a boxing coach, and a referee. Furthermore, he grew up along Southwest Boulevard and went on to train other young, aspiring boxers in the community. Moreover, they continue to assist local organizations and contribute to the community through their longtime involvement with the Sheffield Neighborhood Association and as members at Our Lady of Peace Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Morales share their worldliness with their friends, family, and community. They have traveled the world in every way possible—by plane, train, canoe, and automobile. The couple have traveled from the Americas to Europe numerous times and have demonstrated their love of family by purchasing a home in Mexico for their family to spend quality time together.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Morales are a shining example of what marriage is meant to be, as well as the power of civic engagement within a community. I urge all of my colleagues to please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in honoring the marriage between Mrs. Virginia Morales and Mr. Jerry Morales.

HONORING FRED FEHSENFELD, SR

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a veteran, business leader, pillar of the community, and close friend, Fred Fehsenfeld, Sr. Fred passed away on November 28 at the age of 94.

Fred was the epitome of the Greatest Generation. Fred was born in Indianapolis in 1924, the third of four brothers. Fred enrolled at Purdue University at the age of 17. He found a passion for flying, joining the Purdue Glider Club and learning from, among others, Amelia Earhart. Ever the patriot, on his 18th birthday, Fred left Purdue and enrolled in the Army Air Corps. Just a few months later, he was assigned to the 354th Pioneer Mustang Fighter Group in France, a famous fighter group of P51 Mustangs and P47 Thunderbolts. Fred flew 89 missions in Europe and was awarded the Air Medal with three silver clusters and a silver star.

After the war was over, Fred returned to Purdue and graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Fred began his career at Rock Island Refining as a Process Engineer. A few years later, he was asked by his dad, to join the original family business, Crystal Flash Petroleum, a company that operated gas stations and sold home heating oil.

He then took over the business from his father and showed his true entrepreneurial spirit. He grew Crystal Flash Petroleum from 100 employees, operating gas stations and home heating oil sales in Indiana and Michigan into what has evolved as The Heritage Group. The Heritage Group currently employs 6,500 people around the world, with operations across

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