

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MARKING THE RETIREMENT OF STEVE HEMINGER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues to pay tribute to an outstanding regional leader who has had a powerful national impact: Steve Heminger, Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Area's Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). Steve is retiring on February 28, 2019, after 17 years in this position and 25 years of leadership at the agency. It is a pleasure to be joined by other members of the Bay Area delegation, including Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON and Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, in honoring his many accomplishments.

In the Bay Area and around the country, he is known for the boldness of his vision and the quality of his leadership. At the helm of MTC, he positioned the Commission not only to take on the challenges of the 21st Century Economy, but also to take a strong, active role in the fight against the existential problem of our time: the climate crisis. His leadership has helped shape the Bay Area's economic landscape and transform the way our community lives, works and commutes.

Under Steve's leadership, MTC has played a vital role in growing the Bay Area in a more green and sustainable way, encouraging transit-oriented development, containing sprawl and making public transit, bicycling and walking viable alternatives to solo driving. Through the Committee to House the Bay Area (CASA), Steve has brought together a "who's who" of housing policy and development to address the region's affordable housing crisis.

Under Steve's direction, MTC has helped achieve historic achievements, including: the Fourth Bore of the Caldecott Tunnel; the suicide barrier for the Golden Gate Bridge; the Presidio Parkway approach to the Golden Gate; the BART extensions to East Contra Costa County and Warm Springs, and ultimately to San Jose; the stunning new East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge; and a new commuter rail line tying together Marin and Sonoma counties. We also commend his vision in launching Clipper®, the all-in-one transit fare card that lets riders hop between 22 bus, rail and ferry systems that cross the Bay Area.

Steve is widely recognized nationally as an expert in transportation policy, and for this reason I was honored to appoint him in 2005 to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, which helped chart the future course for federal transportation investments. Under Steve's direction, MTC has been a key voice in the crafting of multiple multiyear transportation authorization bills passed by Congress, from TEA-21 to SAFETEA-LU to MAP-21 to FAST.

Congratulations, Steve, on an outstanding career and please accept our deepest appreciation for dedicating twenty-five years to advancing a cleaner, safer, greener and more sustainable home for our children and grandchildren.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HAYDON MICHELLE PAYNE ISHMAEL

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Haydon Michelle Payne Ishmael, a loving wife and mother who was taken from her family too soon after losing her battle with breast cancer. She was a vivacious and loving spirit with a heart for service, and she gave everything one hundred percent. Whether she was racing cars, scoring goals in a soccer game, volunteering, or cheering on her kids, her energy and enthusiasm shined through.

She leaves behind her husband and childhood sweetheart Todd, her children Madysen, Jewele, and William, her mother Gail (Curtis) Payne and her mother-in-law Penny (Cornel) Ishmael. Her siblings Anne (Payne) and Scott McGarry, Kelly (Payne) and Brad Spears and Will and Brandi Payne, Todd's siblings Tripp and Kelly Ishmael and Thomas and Michelle Ishmael, eleven nieces and nephews, aunt and uncles, cousins and great nieces and nephews. She has gone to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING FAITH BLACKABY OF WHITEFISH AND JULIA AND JILLIAN WYNNE OF BIGFORK

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Faith Blackaby of Whitefish and Julia and Jillian Wynne of Bigfork, teenagers who encourage girls to read and whose work has benefited veterans and pet adoption centers in their communities.

Julia, a student at Flathead High School in Kalispell, hosts a weekly book club to inspire third and fourth grade girls to explore their world through reading. She also wrote Shelter Tails, a book featuring pet adoption stories from her community. The proceeds from her book benefited the Flathead County Animal Shelter.

Inspired by her older sister's community service, Jillian, a student at Flathead High School, and Faith, a close friend and student at Whitefish High School, also hosted a book club for girls.

Jillian and Faith designed and published a calendar featuring photographs and stories about local veterans. The proceeds benefited the Northwest Montana Veterans Food Pantry.

For a calendar the next year, they focused on pet adoption, and the proceeds benefited the Humane Society of Northwest Montana.

Mike and Renee Wynne, and Dean and Janet Blackaby have reason to be proud of their children. I thank the Wynnes, the Blackabys, and all in the community who support and encourage Julia, Jillian, and Faith in their service.

Madam Speaker, for their inspiration, leadership, and community service, I recognize Faith Blackaby and Julia and Jillian Wynne for their spirit of Montana.

FARM SHOW CONGRATULATIONS

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of residents from my district, who recently competed in the 103rd Annual Pennsylvania Farm Show, which is the nation's largest indoor agricultural exposition.

For one week each January, residents from across the Commonwealth come to view and interact with the best of Pennsylvania's farming community.

Lancaster and York Counties in the district I represent, proudly boast the most fertile soil of anywhere in the world. In our communities, our agricultural traditions and heritage run deep.

We have award winners from all across the district: Steve Topper from Hanover won numerous 1st place awards for his chicken entries; the Espenshades—Evan, Alan and Charlene of Bainbridge won numerous awards for their dairy cattle entries; the Manheim Central FFA Chapter won the "Best of Show Award" for Antique Tractor Restoration; a mother and daughter team, Dorothy Martin and her daughter Debra Berkoski of Conestoga, won awards for baked goods while competing against one another.

Alpine Heritage Creamery in Paradise had award-winning cheese; Kermit Miller of Felton and Charles Hess of Pequea have award winning soybeans; and Madam Speaker, breweries and vineyards from across the district were remarkably successful—St. Boniface, Aldus Brewing, Swashbuckler Brewing, Stoudt Brewing, Mount Hope Winery, Nissley, Levengood's and Wynridge all took awards home this year.

I'd also like to congratulate all the members of the Future Farmers of America from my district who received their Keystone Degrees this year and who entered exhibits.

Their dedication of learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live and living to serve—the FFA motto—will provide them lessons that they will use all of their lives.

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