

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.

• 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.

HONORING NOAH BECKERT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Noah Beckert. Noah is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Noah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Noah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Noah has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Noah Beckert for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, on January 23, 2019, I was unable to be present for the vote on the motion to recommit on H.R. 648, offered by Rep. GRANGER of Texas. Had I been present for roll call No. 48, I would have voted "NAY."

I was also unable to be present for the vote on passage of H.R. 648, offered by Rep. LOWEY of New York. Had I been present for roll call No. 49, I would have voted "AYE."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I had an unavoidable family commitment and so I missed Roll Call vote number 44 regarding the "NATO Support Act (H.R. 676)." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 45 regarding the "Hack Your State Department Act (H.R. 328)." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 46 regarding the "Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes (H.J. Res. 28)." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 47 regarding the "Rule Provided for Consideration of H.R. 648 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 and H.J. Res. 31 Making further Continuing Appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year 2019 (H. Res. 61)." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 48 regarding the "Motion to Recommit on H. R. 648 Con-

solidated Appropriations Act, 2019, I would have voted "no."

I missed Roll Call vote number 49 regarding the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.R. 648)." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING ZARIUS BUHARIVALA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zarius Buharivala. Zarius is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zarius has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Zarius has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Zarius has been an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, and a Fire Builder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Zarius has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Zarius designed and built an educational hydroponic and aquaponic exhibit for Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zarius Buharivala for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MICHAEL "BIG MIKE" PHILLIPS

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with great admiration to honor the efforts of a humble hero in San Diego and our LGBTQ community, Michael "Big Mike" Phillips.

Big Mike may have received his namesake due to his tall stature, but there is nothing bigger about him than his enormous heart. Those who have had the pleasure to cross paths with Big Mike know him as a warm, empathetic, and gregarious soul, dedicated to improving the lives of others. He has a unique way of welcoming total strangers and making them feel included, loved, and a part of our community.

Throughout over four decades working in all aspects of the hospitality industry, Big Mike has come to be an expert in the art of serving others. Whether he's serving food and beverages to friends or new friends, hosting a charitable event, or photographing history in the making, his main concern is always the happiness and fulfillment of the people around him.

Big Mike's selflessness may be what helps to make him such a talented photographer.

When he looks through a lens, his focus remains solely on the people and the moment. He has captured local historic LGBTQ events, multiple LGBTQ Marches on Washington, and even photographed four living U.S. Presidents and First Ladies at the opening of the Clinton Library.

In all endeavors, Big Mike gives one hundred percent of his head and his heart. He has contributed to so many charitable organizations that I could not possibly list them all. When Special Delivery San Diego, a nonprofit that provides meals to individuals living with HIV/AIDS, was in need of funding, he inspired 128 other bartenders to enroll in an effort to donate to the program. He has the rare ability to inspire others to be a part of something greater than themselves. Using this skill, Big Mike helped to found Ordinary Miracles and The Rob Benzon Foundation, two non-profits with the mission of welcoming individuals to add their own light to the world that when joined together, illuminates and eases the needs of the abused, sick, and hungry.

When leaders in our community search for a sense of direction and initiative, they often look no further than Big Mike—which can explain why he has been appointed to serve on community advisory boards under almost every single mayor in recent San Diego history.

Though he has lived an accomplished life, Big Mike is quick to give credit to his caring adoptive parents, his loyal friends, and all who have supported him along the way. It is exceptional to find a person who has carried out their career and lived their life almost entirely for the benefit of others, and I can honestly say that Big Mike is one of them.

Even on his birthday, he cannot help but use the opportunity to make the world a better place to live. Every year, Big Mike hosts his Birthday Fundraiser to boost awareness and support for various non-profit organizations and invaluable local resources.

On the 20th Anniversary of his first Birthday Fundraiser, I commend Michael "Big Mike" Phillips for his continuous and substantial efforts to lend love, hope, and a helping hand to all in need. I extend my congratulations and best wishes to him for a successful event and a wonderful year ahead.

Though Mike was born in Germany, and raised in Texas, I am so pleased that he adopted San Diego as his home. San Diego is an even finer place to live because Big Mike was born.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DARLENE HATCHER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Darlene Hatcher. Darlene was so many things to so many people: a committed mother, loving daughter, fiancé, sister, grandmother, aunt, and co-worker. She was a very strong family woman and a staple of our community for all of her professional life.

After graduating from Jupiter High School in Florida, she received her Associate of Arts degree from Palm Beach Atlantic Community