

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MR. EDWARD HAMBERGER ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Edward Hamberger on his retirement from the Association of American Railroads (AAR), where he has served as President since 1998. As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure committee, and having worked alongside him for 14 years, I am pleased to recognize his contributions and commitment to America's rail transportation.

As President of AAR, Mr. Hamberger was committed to improving the safety and efficiency of our nation's rail transportation network. His more than 40 years of professional experience have spanned the legislative and executive branches of government, and private legal practice. As President of AAR, he was instrumental in elevating the voice of the rail industry during the consideration of important legislation including the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2016. Working collaboratively with Members of Congress, Mr. Hamberger was able to ensure these bills put forward policies that have improved safety and contributed to the strength of the industry.

In addition to his work with AAR, Mr. Hamberger has served as an appointed member of the Private Sector Advisory Panel on Infrastructure Financing and as a member of the Presidential Commission on Intermodal Transportation. Most recently, he served on the Blue Ribbon Panel of Transportation Experts, after being appointed by the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission. He is also a Board Member with Railine, GoRail, and the University of Denver Intermodal Transportation Institute.

His impact on transportation extends to the farthest reaches of our transportation network, and I am grateful for his service and expertise. As a policymaker, I will miss his thoughtful contribution to national dialogue and his charismatic demeanor.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Hamberger's retirement and professional accomplishments throughout his career. While his presence will be missed on Capitol Hill, I wish him, and his wife Susan, a happy retirement.

CELEBRATION AND RECOGNITION OF GEORGE SCIMGER

HON. PAUL MITCHELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Elba Township Deputy Fire Chief George Scimger's 45 years of service to Lapeer County.

Born and raised in North Branch, Michigan, Mr. Scimger has served and protected our community for decades, working his way from a firefighter, to captain, to assistant chief, and now deputy chief.

In addition to his duties as a firefighter, firefighting instructor, and hazmat instructor, Mr. Scimger has contributed to many organizations serving as chairman for both the Lapeer County Fire Association and the Michigan State Firemen's Association.

George has been honored many times for his commitment to the community. The Lapeer County Fire Association awarded him the award for Firefighter of the Year and Outstanding Officer two times. Also, his home township, Elba Township, awarded him the Chief's Award two times.

He has been a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather to his wife of 53 years, Carol, their three children, and four grandchildren.

I join George's family, friends, and the Lapeer County community in thanking him for the years of service and wish him well in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF BIG TIMBER GRADE SCHOOL AND SWEET GRASS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the students and faculty of Big Timber Grade School and Sweet Grass County High School for supporting and encouraging Barrett Artukovich, a 7-year-old, second-grade student from Big Timber who is battling cancer.

In early December 2018, Barrett was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of cancer that can advance quickly throughout the body and weaken the immune system. Barrett is undergoing a unique, personalized, two-year treatment plan in Colorado where he and his parents, Bill and Heather Artukovich, will travel frequently for clinical visits.

The Big Timber community has rallied around the family, offering generous support.

Because of the treatment, Barrett's head is shaved, and he wears a hat. The boys in Barrett's class shaved their heads in support of their friend. Big Timber Grade School and

Sweet Grass County High School recently observed "Wear a Hat for Barrett Day" with students wearing hats in school with a one-dollar donation to support a fund for the Artukovichs.

The schools kicked off "Barrett's Penny War," a competition among each grade level to see which grade raises the most money through the end of February.

The high school boys basketball team named Barrett its honorary captain for the season. With his parents taking precautions, Barrett attended the emotional game where the team presented him with an autographed basketball and team picture.

With the help of a grant, Barrett participates virtually in the classroom using a telepresence robot. The device provides a two-way audio/video connection which allows Barrett to interact with his teacher and classmates from home.

Barrett's uncle set up an online campaign to help with travel, accommodations, and other expenses. The initial goal of \$20,000 was met within a day, according to Bill Artukovich.

Madam Speaker, for their encouragement and support of a classmate battling cancer and his family, I recognize the students and faculty of Big Timber Grade School and Sweet Grass County High School for their spirit of Montana.

IN MEMORY OF TROOPER LUCAS B. DOWELL

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, the Commonwealth of Virginia mourns the loss of Trooper Lucas B. Dowell of the Virginia State Police. Trooper Dowell was killed in the line of duty on February 4, 2019, at the age of 28. His life, although too short, showed a commitment to the rigorous calling of law enforcement.

Trooper Dowell was a native of Chilhowie in Smyth County. He participated in athletics during his days at Chilhowie High School, playing football and baseball. After graduating in 2009, he pursued an interest in law enforcement. At Radford University, he earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He graduated from the Virginia State Police's 122nd Basic Session in November 2014 and subsequently served in its Appomattox Division. While executing a search warrant in Cumberland County as part of a Virginia State Police Tactical Team, a suspect opened fire and Trooper Dowell was hit. He later died at Southside Community Hospital in Farmville.

Law enforcement can be a demanding vocation, requiring sacrifices that may include, as the example of Trooper Dowell shows, the ultimate sacrifice, one's life. This is a loss for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Smyth County, and the Town of Chilhowie. I mourn his loss, yet I am grateful that he and the other men

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and women of law enforcement step forward to protect us knowing full well the risks they face. Trooper Dowell's survivors include his parents, Mike and Rebecca, and his sister, Erica. His family is in my prayers.

IN HONOR OF THE 2019 CABARRUS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NON-
PROFIT OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the NorthEast Foundation for receiving the 2019 Cabarrus Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year Award.

Carolinas HealthCare System NorthEast has provided high quality health care and assistance to those most in need in our community, including when my young son, Lane, was delivered there just a few years ago. The hospital's NorthEast Foundation has been the driver of so much development and advances to help better serve our people, including raising the money needed to build the Jeff Gordon Children's Center, the Breast Health Center, Cabarrus College of Health Sciences and expanding the Tucker Hospice House.

Led by President Charlie Sastoque, the NorthEast Foundation was formed in 1994 to support one of our community's most valued assets, NorthEast Hospital. Utilizing a community-driven and donor-centric approach, the NorthEast Foundation has provided a platform for which donors can provide to specialty areas that interest or impact them the most. This approach allows donors to directly see the results of their donation, from a new piece of equipment in the neurology lab to support for a scholarship for aspiring nurses and doctors. These creative programs have led directly to Cabarrus County being at the forefront of many medical innovations the last 25 years.

Our community—and my home—is a much better place to live because of the work of the NorthEast Foundation, and I wish them success for the next quarter century.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating NorthEast Foundation on their achievement of the 2019 Cabarrus Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year Award.

CONDEMNING THE STATE OF
AFFAIRS IN VENEZUELA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the human rights atrocities that are occurring in Venezuela. Under the leadership of Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela has reverted from one of the most prosperous nations in South America to a country into severe crisis.

Venezuela's economy, once the envy of South America, currently faces one of the worst cases of hyperinflation in modern history. The International Monetary Fund expects the inflation rate to reach an astounding 10

million percent this year. Across the country Venezuelans are struggling to survive, facing immense difficulties putting food on the table or affording basic necessities such as fuel and medicine. More than 80 percent of Venezuelan households have insufficient access to food. As grocery stores become increasingly bare, hospitals too are running dangerously low on supplies as the medical system continues to crumble. Even though the Ministry of Health has stopped reporting national health data, we know that rates of malnutrition are rising, as are outbreaks of preventable diseases and the rate of infant mortality.

Madam Speaker, more than three million Venezuelan citizens have fled their home to nearby nations, including nearly 300,000 who have come to the United States seeking refuge in 2018. As the situation continues to deteriorate, tens of thousands of protestors have taken to the street to protest the economic and humanitarian crises and demand change. We must stand with those who are putting their lives on the line to ensure that future generations of Venezuelans live in a peaceful and prosperous country.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GEORGE
KLEIN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Klein, a Memphis original and one of the late Elvis Presley's longest and closest friends after they met at Humes High School in 1948, both aged 13. Mr. Klein died Tuesday evening in Memphis at the age of 83. George Klein, known as "GK," was Memphis disc jockey and protégé of pioneering disc jockey Dewey Phillips, hosting WHBQ-TV's "Talent Party" (1964 to 1973) and WMC radio's "George Klein's Rock & Roll Ballroom." He later hosted SiriusXM satellite radio's Elvis Radio channel until last year. Mr. Klein was inducted into the Memphis Music Hall of Fame in 2018. A member of King of Rock & Roll's "Memphis Mafia" traveling entourage, Mr. Klein was a groomsman in Presley's wedding to Priscilla Beaulieu in 1967 in Las Vegas (Elvis served as his best man when Mr. Klein married in 1970) and served as an Elvis pallbearer after the singer's death in 1977. Mr. Klein also had bit parts in some of Elvis' movies, including "Jailhouse Rock" in 1957. When Elvis was posthumously inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1986, it was his loyal friend Mr. Klein who gave the acceptance speech. For Memphis, Mr. Klein was our Bob Hope, hosting many civic affairs programs and producing the annual George Klein Christmas Charity Show that people looked forward to seeing for years and which raised a lot of money for various charities. As a radio personality, he had a variety of career highlights, hosting Johnny Cash's radio debut; bringing the first African American recording artists—Fats Domino, Sam Cooke, James Brown, and Jackie Wilson—to play on live Memphis television; and introducing The Beatles when they played the Mid-South Coliseum in August 1966. Everybody loved George Klein. He was always cheerful and up-

beat and made life better for all he met; you could say he helped make your day. Mr. Klein very closely followed Memphis State and later University of Memphis sports, particularly basketball. University of Memphis basketball coach John Calipari said he used to talk to Mr. Klein before basketball games and called him "an unbelievable ambassador" for Memphis. George and I had a mutual friend in Irvin Salky, who was his contemporary and occasionally his counselor. Priscilla, who visited my office last month, recognized Mr. Klein's influence. She released a statement Tuesday evening calling Mr. Klein "a legendary broadcaster," adding "but he was so much more to our family. George has been there from the beginning . . . He was a true Memphian and always made it feel like home on trips back to Graceland. I will forever cherish our memories together, they will stay with me always." George was my friend and his was a life well-lived. He will be missed.

PASSING OF SHIRLEY RODRIGUEZ
REMENESKI

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my friend, Shirley Rodriguez Remeneski, a dear friend and fellow New Yorker who passed last week. Shirley was an inspiration to all of us, a trailblazer and a leader. To me, she was a friend. Her passion was for people and community and her rich career encapsulates those values.

In 1965, she created and directed the first Social Services Unit in the Bronx Borough President's Office under the leadership of Herman Badillo and, later, Robert Abrams. Six years later, she became the District Administrator for then-Congressman Herman Badillo, serving as a vital bridge between New York City and Washington, D.C.

Shirley's next step was in the Koch Administration, working as Assistant Deputy Mayor for affirmative action, intergovernmental relations, and community development in South Bronx, Harlem and other underdeveloped areas in New York City.

When President Carter visited South Bronx, calling it the nation's disgrace, Shirley became the Legislative Coordinator for the South Bronx Development Organization. In that role, she secured funding for vital programs like Bathgate Industrial Park and the Charlotte Gardens Housing Development Project. She helped to create the South Bronx Job Corps Center, and other land revitalization projects. By helping South Bronx become an Empowerment Zone, she channeled needed business development and economic opportunity to the area.

Later, as Executive Director of Governor Mario Cuomo's Office for Hispanic Affairs she initiated the Puerto Rico Exchange of Officials Program to enhance governmental services to Puerto Ricans on the island and in New York state. In 2002, Governor Pataki appointed her Senior Vice President at the Empire State Development Corporation's Economic Development Division.

While Shirley's professional accomplishments are impressive, to me she was so much