

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING DR. MARY LACEY

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2019

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Dr. Mary Lacey, a pillar of our community who passed away this month at the age of 80.

Dr. Lacey made an indelible mark on our communities by tirelessly serving those at the margins. Across Lake County, children in need, the homeless, and inmates and their families directly benefited from her generosity and boundless energy.

Dr. Lacey broke multiple barriers throughout her life. She was born to humble beginnings, as one of ten children in rural Mississippi. At age 21 she moved to Florida to further her education, where she met her late husband William, and eventually settled in his hometown of Waukegan. She found work as a contractor at Naval Station Great Lakes as well as handmaking elegant hats.

Never one to rest, she continued to study and was ordained a pastor, became a foster parent, and earned a certificate in social work.

In Waukegan, her memory lives on as the namesake of Mary's Mission, a homeless shelter she founded that has provided shelter to hundreds of individuals in times of need, and has helped them develop the job training and skills they need to get back on their feet and live independently.

Dr. Lacey was also a fierce advocate for children, bringing joy to young residents during the holidays. She teamed up with the Waukegan police department to start a toy giveaway program for children who might not receive a gift during the holidays. I had the privilege to join several of her annual Christmas parades from Mary's Mission to the Lake County jail, where she handed out turkeys and toys.

Her perseverance in helping vulnerable people, touched and improved the lives of countless Illinoisans. Dr. Lacey truly lived her faith every day, and she will be sorely missed. I extend my heartfelt condolences to her many family and friends who are mourning her passing.

COMMAND WARRANT OFFICER
FIVE SEFER STEVE IMERAJ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Command Warrant Officer Five Sefer Steve Imeraj on his retirement.

CW5 Sefer Steve Imeraj was the 6th Command Chief Warrant Officer (CCWO) for the Colorado Army National Guard, appointed in November 2014. Steve retired after 36 years of service in the active U.S. Army and the Colorado Army National Guard. He graduated from Colorado State University in Ft. Collins with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in History.

CW5 Sefer Steve Imeraj is a son of Albanian immigrants and enlisted out of Detroit, Michigan into the active US Army in 1982. After serving three years with the 1–29 Field Artillery (Nuclear Surety Cohort) Battalion, he enlisted into the COARNG in 1985 with the 2/157th FA BN in Colorado Springs. In 1988, Steve transferred to HHD Headquarters State Area Command and worked various assignments in the Military Personnel Office until he pinned as an AG Warrant Officer One/HR Tech in February 1992.

Later in his career, CW5 Sefer Steve Imeraj mobilized and deployed to Iraq with the 2/135th GSAB (General Support Aviation Battalion) from March 2006 until September 2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During his combat deployment, he served as the Assistance S1 and was later detailed as the AV BN Battle Captain for all combat missions for the COARNG 2/135th GSAB. I am grateful for CW5 Imeraj's brief service in my office and to the constituents of the 7th Congressional District, but I am most grateful for his service to our country.

Steve is married to Victoria and is a proud father of five sons, and grandfather of three granddaughters. I want to extend my deepest gratitude and congratulations to Command Warrant Officer Five Sefer Steve Imeraj.

NICK GRAY TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2019

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nick Gray of Olathe, Colorado, a World War II veteran of Pearl Harbor and Guadalcanal Campaign who recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Nick is the grandson of Judge John Gray, who took up a homestead in the Shavano Valley in 1884, became Mayor of Montrose, and received local acclaim for working to get the Gunnison Tunnel built during his time as a District Judge. Judge Gray's son, Joe Gray, was Nick's father. Nick grew up on the family ranch his grandfather built with his mother Addie Hobson, his father, and the rest of his siblings.

In 1940, Nick left his family's ranch and volunteered to serve in the Army. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor with the 25th Infantry Division when the Japanese attacked on December 7, 1941. While overseas he built roads

and bridges on Guadalcanal in the South Pacific and managed a crew of 25 natives who had been bombed out by Japanese forces. After his service was complete, he used his military education to build his ranching operation back home in Colorado and ultimately created the Nick Gray Construction Company.

As a small business owner, he built more than 3,000 miles of power line rights-of-way and roads across three states. In 1963, Nick cleared 220 miles for power line structure sites, building sub-station sites and roads from Wyoming to New Mexico. Another one of Nick's major accomplishments was building the Purgatory Ski Area near Durango, Colorado. Nick built the parking lot, ski course, and by-pass road all the way to Hermosa Park. During the 129-day project, he blasted nearly 40,000 yards of rock.

Nick married his wife Margaret in June 1946, and they had a son, Stephen Gray. Nick and Margaret have two granddaughters, Nicole Lumsden and Lezlee Cox, and six great-grandchildren, Keith Lumsden, Stephen Lumsden, Sarah Lumsden, Talli Lumsden, Caralea Cox, and Kendyl Cox.

Madam Speaker, Nick's service to his country, enduring work-ethic, and love of family will continue to have an impact on the Olathe community for years to come. It is my privilege to acknowledge him here today, and express heartfelt gratitude for the important work he has done throughout his life. I wish him all the best in his future.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLIN
ALLRED AND WELCOMING HIS
NEWBORN SON

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2019

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colin Allred and his wife Alexandra on congratulating them for their newborn son, Jordan Eber Allred.

As Co-Presidents of the Democratic Freshman Class, Colin and I have bonded during this remarkable time in our lives. Colin's successes as an athlete, as a civil rights lawyer, and now in Congress have prepared him to be a remarkable father. Colin's commitment to put others before himself transcends every professional action he has taken. It is my honor and that of our vibrant freshman class to be working by his side at such a special time for his family.

The beauty of life is embodied in Jordan and reminds us of what we're all here for—to make this country a better place for our next of kin, our loved ones, and our fellow citizens. Let us reflect on this miracle and work to make this country a better country for Jordan.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Jordan into this world. I couldn't be happier.

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