

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RUTH PASSEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a beautiful life. Ruth Passen was a pioneer of community journalism, a champion for social justice and a strong voice for our American values of equality, fairness and progress. Her passing is a great official loss for our San Francisco community and a deep personal loss for all who were blessed to call her friend.

Ruth Passen was a San Franciscan through and through. Born and raised in the city of Saint Francis, she dedicated herself to being an “instrument of peace” and spent a lifetime sowing love, hope, light and joy in our community and around the world.

Ruth made a difference in so many ways. Together with her dear friend, the late, legendary Enola Maxwell, Ruth helped build the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, known as the Nabe, into a transformative beacon of hope, healing and help for so many in our community. Understanding the unifying power of the arts, Ruth was also an inspired, effective force in bringing her beloved jazz and theater to the Nabe and our wider Bay Area community.

Ruth earned the deep respect of all as an innovator and a leader of local journalism. In 1970, she made history as she launched the Potrero View, which has become San Francisco’s longest running community newspaper, as well as one of its most respected. Ruth’s visionary leadership over four decades has brought local news and community services to countless families in our City, and has helped set the standard for editorial integrity in the field.

All San Franciscans can take great pride in the progress that Ruth advanced for equality, fairness and freedom around the world. She worked tirelessly to bring peace and justice to communities in need, first through the Women’s International League of Peace and Freedom during the 1960s and 70s, and then through her work with the people of El Salvador in the 1980s.

She brought that same persistence and dedication to progress to the labor movement, where along with her late respected and remarkable husband Joe, she was a fearless voice for the rights of working men and women throughout the West Coast, on the waterfront, in the farms and in all workplaces. Through their involvement in Young Democrats, Ruth and Joe also helped bring more progressive voices to Washington, ensuring that the People’s House would serve the American people.

San Francisco and America have been blessed by the life and leadership of Ruth Passen. May it be a comfort to her son Marc, daughter-in-law Dianne, granddaughters Nat-

alie and Teresa, and all her loved ones that Ruth and her beloved Joe have been reunited. May it also be a comfort that so many mourn with and pray for them during this sad time.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ERNEST “CHUCK” AYALA

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the incredible life of a dear friend, Ernest “Chuck” Ayala. Chuck Ayala was a visionary leader and entrepreneur who dedicated his life to serving the people of San Francisco and our nation. His passing on April 22, 2019 at the age of 94 is a profound official loss for the countless San Franciscans whose lives he touched and a deep personal loss for his many loving friends and family.

Chuck Ayala was a life-long San Franciscan whose deep faith compelled him to honor the words of our patron saint, Saint Francis who said, “Preach the gospel, sometimes use words.” Whether serving in the Army during World War II, directing the Catholic Youth Organization’s Youth Services or mentoring countless at-risk young people to put them on the path toward a brighter future, Chuck lived his faith through action and always looked for ways of giving back to the community he loved.

In 1973, Chuck was inspired by his mother’s immigrant experience to create the Centro Latino de San Francisco, a senior center dedicated to feeding our city’s seniors and providing the resources they need to thrive. For over 46 years, Centro Latino has helped countless underserved and underrepresented seniors receive a hot meal and find a sense of community.

Since Chuck started Centro Latino, it has become a full-service community center for over 2,500 low-income multi-ethnic seniors and families. The center’s education initiatives have helped new immigrants learn English, apply for vital services and fulfill their American Dreams by becoming citizens. In short, Centro Latino has done nothing less than give thousands of San Franciscans a sense of dignity and worth.

From city hall to the White House, Chuck never failed to make his voice heard. It was an honor to nominate Chuck to the White House Conference on Aging to ensure that our nation’s leaders were listening to the grassroots activists who are on the ground caring for our seniors and their families.

For Chuck and the love of his life, his late wife, Bernice, their greatest source of joy was family. Over their 56 years together, Chuck and Bernice raised a beautiful family and created a legacy of service and advocacy that will continue to improve the lives of San Franciscans and all Americans for generations to come.

May it be a comfort to Chuck’s daughter, Darlene, sons, Mike and Joe, grandchildren and the entire Ayala family that Chuck and his beloved Bernice have been reunited. May it also be a comfort that so many mourn with and pray for them during this sad time.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF T.J. McGRATH AFTER NEARLY 27 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN SERVICE

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the outstanding service of T.J. McGrath on her retirement after nearly 27 years of distinguished public service, the past 10 years at the Congressional Budget Office, most recently as its General Counsel.

T.J. was promoted to that position in late 2016, in recognition of her dedication, ability, skillful work, and breadth of experience. In that capacity, she has served as CBO’s principal legal officer and an integral part of the agency’s leadership team. She has overseen CBO’s legal staff and their work, skillfully leading them in interpreting legislative proposals and providing high-level analysis regarding significant judicial decisions, scorekeeping guidelines, and relevant budget laws. She has been a leader in making CBO’s analysis more transparent.

Moreover, since becoming CBO’s General Counsel, she has worked tirelessly, building professional relationships across the legislative branch, focusing on creating a positive work environment at CBO, and providing training so that employees have the skills they need to interact more effectively. One example that encapsulates all three of those efforts is bystander training. T.J. worked closely with the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights to develop training to prevent harassment in the workplace. The training provided participants with practical tools for taking ownership of their work environment and encouraged bystanders not to remain silent if they witness an incident that might make someone feel uncomfortable. As a result of T.J.’s efforts, CBO was the first agency in the legislative branch to receive bystander training.

From 2009 to 2016, T.J. served as CBO’s Deputy General Counsel. In that position, she dealt with many operational matters and quickly demonstrated her ability to develop practical solutions. She instituted CBO’s successful legal intern program, updated and refined CBO’s internal policies, served as lead attorney in cases involving the Congressional Accountability Act, and worked closely with a Justice Department attorney in a case brought in U.S. District Court. T.J. also made valuable contributions to numerous reports, testimonies, and cost estimates in just about every subject area covered by CBO, including the economy, national security, and health care.

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