

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 101ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 101st anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan, and to extend my best wishes to all Azerbaijanis. May 28th marks the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, when the people of Azerbaijan first gained their independence from the Russian Empire in 1918. Although Azerbaijan's independence was ended by Soviet forces in 1920, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was the world's first secular parliamentary democratic republic in a predominantly Muslim nation—earning diplomatic recognition from the United States during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson. We also recall that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan granted universal suffrage to its citizens in 1918, making it the first Muslim country to give women the right to vote.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan restored its independence on October 18, 1991, when its Parliament adopted the Constitution Act on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan has emerged as a key player for enhancing global energy security. Azerbaijan also provides roughly 40 percent of Israel's oil consumption and enjoys friendly ties with Israel beyond oil sales.

Jews have resided in Azerbaijan for 2,500 years without persecution and today, the Jewish community in Azerbaijan numbers over 12,000. Azerbaijan is also home to Christian communities and has been praised for its religious tolerance by the European Parliament.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. As an active member of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States in countering terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and narcotics trafficking. Azerbaijani troops serve shoulder to shoulder with U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan, as they previously did in Kosovo and Iraq. In support of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights as well as regularly providing landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces.

As co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I stand with the Azerbaijani people as they continue to work towards independence and security as well as to embrace human rights and democratic values. I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan on the centennial of their Republic Day. May the partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan progress and continue to benefit both of our nations.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS "D.J." JEWELL

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dennis "D.J." Jewell for receiving the Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence Award in the Outstanding Volunteer Service by a U.S. Veteran category.

D.J., a resident of Columbus, Mississippi, was a past commander for VFW Post No. 4272 and completed over 1,000 community service hours in 2018. As a veteran, one of his main concerns is the mental health of fellow service members, specifically veterans suicide rates. To prevent this issue in his community, Jewell established a monthly support group for combat veterans at the VFW and has also traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for mental health support for veterans.

I am honored to have the privilege to represent outstanding servicemen such as D.J. His selfless service to our country extends past his military career as he continues to go above and beyond for Mississippians each day. It is individuals like him that make Mississippi, and America, great.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, had I been present for roll call vote No. 232 on Senate Amendment to H.R. 2157—Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019, I would have voted yes on the measure.

RECOGNIZING THE GOREVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Goreville High School girls' softball team on winning the 2019 Illinois Class 1A championship. Goreville overcame the Glasford Illini Bluffs by a score of 4–2 in seven innings. This win marked the season with a 29–9 overall record for the Blackcats.

The team's overall tenacity and determination were observed through the commanding victories during postseason action. Throughout all of the postseason bracket games, the lady Blackcats scored over 70 runs as a team,

causing many games to end early due to the run rule. This is Goreville's second state championship title in three years.

Head Coach Shanna Green conditioned the team with a spirit of competition and passion of working for one another. In the championship game, the Blackcats only committed one error and batted an impressive .346 as a team.

It is an honor for me to extend my profound congratulations to the entire team which includes Abigail King, Kelsey Ray, Miley Kwiatkowski, Emma Vaughn, Kyleigh Massey, Ellie Grammer, Cheyenne Walker, Chloe Wolaver, Alexandria King, Adrianna Licka, Destani Bennett, Samantha Licka, and Payton Sopczak.

Madam Speaker, the athletes, coaching staff, and the community should be proud of their accomplishments. I wish the graduating seniors the best in their future endeavors and best of luck to those returning for a chance of a third state title in four years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2019 OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BREAKFAST ON THE FARM HOSTED BY STEFFENS DAIRY FARM

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tradition of Breakfast on the Farm in Outagamie County.

Breakfast on the Farm is an iconic Wisconsin tradition that provides the community an opportunity to see first-hand how a dairy farm operates and learn about the significant role the dairy industry plays in Wisconsin's economy. Community members meet dairy farmers, explore the barns and equipment, and enjoy a delicious meal prepared on the farm.

Outagamie County Dairy Promotion organizes the annual Breakfast on the Farm by recruiting host farms, sponsors, and volunteers to support this terrific event. In addition, Outagamie County Dairy Promotion provides educational opportunities to the community to increase awareness of Wisconsin's dairy industry and the products produced by area dairy farmers.

I am grateful to Steffens Dairy Farm for hosting the 2019 Outagamie County Breakfast on the Farm. Steffens Dairy Farm was established in 1971 when Joe Steffens purchased farmland in Seymour. Since 2004, the farm has been maintained by his wife, Lorraine, and sons, Dan and Steve. Today, Steffens Dairy Farm, LLC milks 120 cows and manages over 280 acres of crop land. Always pursuing innovative practices, the Steffens equipped their barn with two Lely Robotic milkers, resulting in cleaner, healthier, and more comfortable cattle.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in commending the efforts of

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