

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND REMEMBERING THE MEMBERS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION WHO SAVED FREEDOM IN THE WORLD

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, June 6, marks the 75th anniversary of Allied Forces' audacious amphibious landing at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.

This joint undertaking to liberate the continent of Europe from the clutches of an evil aggressor enemy was the first and most emphatic demonstration of the invincible strength of democratic nations when acting collectively.

For nearly seventy years, from April 4, 1949 to January 20, 2017, peace in Europe has been secured and no adversary, not the old Soviet Union or the contemporary Russian Federation, has dared to risk war by attacking a European ally of the United States because every American president has made clear that the United States is committed to Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty which holds that an attack on any NATO member is regarded as an attack on all of them.

Madam Speaker, "Operation Overlord," as D-Day was formally known, was the largest single amphibious assault in the history of warfare.

The success of D-Day, which was far from certain at the outset, led to the liberation of Western Europe, signaled the death knell of the German Wehrmacht, and paved the way to unconditional victory by the Allied Forces over the evils of Nazism, fascism, and Japanese imperialism.

It is no exaggeration to say that D-Day changed the course of human history.

The aim of the meticulously planned D-Day operation was to open a second front in the European war theater from which the Allied Forces could attack the German army and push east to capture Berlin.

With the Russian Army advancing from the east, coupled with the southern front opened by the Allied invasion of Italy from North Africa in 1942, the opening of a western front would set in motion the pincer movement that would catch the German Army in a trap from which there would be no escape.

The formidable German Army expected that the Allied Forces would try to launch an invasion from the western beaches of France.

They just did not know when or where.

So, in anticipation of an Allied invasion, the Nazis constructed the infamous Atlantic Wall, an extensive system of coastal fortifications built along the western coast of Europe and Scandinavia.

Under the direction of Field Marshal Rommel, the Atlantic Wall was reinforced by the addition of concrete pillboxes built along the beaches to house machine guns, antitank guns and light artillery.

Mines and antitank obstacles were planted on the beaches themselves and underwater obstacles and mines were placed in waters just off shore.

By the time of the D-Day landing, the Nazis had laid almost six million mines in northern France.

And awaiting Allied soldiers who made their way onto and away from the beaches were gun emplacements and minefields extended inland.

"War is hell," said General William Tecumseh Sherman during the Civil War.

And that is an apt description of what awaited the brave Allied warriors who set sail from England to the beaches of Normandy in the early morning of June 6, 1944, at the beginning of what has rightly been called "The Longest Day."

But they were buoyed in their resolve by the millions of prayers from Americans and others back home, of all races, religions, and creeds, invoking the Lord's blessing, mercy, and grace.

With the outcome in doubt, President Franklin Roosevelt asked the nation to join him in this solemn prayer:

"Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

"Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

"They will need Thy blessings.

"For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace.

"They fight not for the lust of conquest.

"They fight to end conquest.

"They fight to liberate.

"They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people.

"They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home."

The prayers were needed because the cost of D-Day was high; U.S. casualties on D-Day totaled more than 2,499 dead, 3,184 wounded, 1,928 missing, and 26 captured.

Our British and Canadian allies suffered terrible losses on D-Day as well: approximately 2,700 for the British and 946 for the Canadians.

German casualties are estimated at 4,000 to 9,000.

In total, the number of combatants killed, wounded or missing in the Battle of Normandy for both sides exceeded 425,000, not including the estimated 15,000 to 20,000 French civilians killed.

But the operation was a success.

More than 156,000 troops or paratroopers came ashore on D-Day, 73,000 from the U.S., 83,000 from Great Britain and Canada.

By the end of June 11, D-Day +5, 326,547 troops, 54,186 vehicles and 104,428 tons of supplies had come ashore.

And with them came the seeds for the victory in Europe that would come less than a year later, on May 8, 1945, with the fall of Berlin and the unconditional surrender of the Nazis.

On the eve of the Normandy invasion, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, addressed the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Forces and said to them that they were about to embark upon a "Great Crusade," and that the "eyes of the world" were upon them.

He told them that their task would not be easy because the "enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely."

But, General Eisenhower said, "this is the year 1944. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory."

And march to victory they did, fully justifying General Eisenhower's "confidence in their courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle."

Because of the heroism of these men who willingly risked their lives to be the tip of the spear of liberty, the war was won, and a world was saved for freedom.

Madam Speaker, D-Day was, and remains, a day like no other in the history of man's sojourn on earth.

We remember Gettysburg.

There, President Lincoln paid tribute to those "who gave their lives so that the nation might live."

It is equally fitting and proper that we never forget D-Day and that we continue to honor those who risked all and gave all so that the light of freedom would never be extinguished in the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following votes because I remained in my congressional district due to a death in the family.

Had I been present, I would have voted: yes on Roll Call Vote No. 232; yes on Roll Call Vote No. 233; yes on Roll Call Vote No. 234; yes on Roll Call Vote No. 235; yes on Roll Call Vote No. 236; yes on Roll Call Vote No. 237; yes on Roll Call Vote No. 238; no on Roll Call Vote No. 239; and yes on Roll Call Vote No. 240.

COMMEMORATING THE 115TH ANNIVERSARY OF THAYER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Thayer United Methodist Church of Thayer, Illinois, for celebrating their 115th anniversary.

• 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.

In 1904, Thayer United Methodist Church was officially opened as a place of worship for the residents of the town. Since then, the church has grown immensely; it now provides the area with far more than a place to pray. This is where the residents of Thayer come to make strides towards improving their local community.

The Thayer United Methodist Church is known throughout the area for the services that it has provided for the community over the last 115 years. Today, we celebrate the church for their dedication to serving Thayer. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Thayer United Methodist Church for a successful 115 years, and I wish them even more success going forward.

HONORING LAUREN BROWN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, a biology teacher in the Second Congressional District has been selected as the 2019 Outstanding Biology Teacher of the Year of South Carolina by the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT).

According to the New Irmo News, “the award is given annually to a teacher who shows a passion for teaching biology. Each state, province, and territory recognizes an Outstanding Biology Teacher.”

Ms. Lauren Brown has been teaching biology for 9 years, the last five years have been at Spring Hill High School. She was also honored as the American Legion Teacher of the Year from Chapin Post 193. She has also served for three years as a coaching teacher with the University of South Carolina’s Education program.

Our communities in the Second Congressional District are grateful for leadership like Ms. Lauren Brown’s. Congratulations to Lauren for earning this distinct honor.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on June 3, 2019, I missed Roll Call Number 234, On Approving the Journal, due to a longstanding prior commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
MONTH

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind everyone that we have a

responsibility to do everything we can to address the epidemic of senseless gun violence that is plaguing our nation.

June is Gun Violence Prevention Month and we must use this opportunity to come together to not only raise awareness of gun violence but also take action.

We’re reminded again after the recent Virginia Beach Shooting that too many of our loved ones are lost to senseless gun violence that could be prevented by keeping firearms out of dangerous hands.

That is why I was proud to vote for H.R. 8 and urge my Senate colleagues to do the same.

This common-sense bill will prevent private firearm sales to prohibited purchasers, and close online and gun show loopholes. Thus, we will move towards ensuring firearms are obtained responsibly.

While this bill does not cover everything, it is a step in the right direction that will make the United States safer for our families and communities.

CONGRATULATING KENN AND
BETH ZELTEN FOR BEING
NAMED 2019 CITIZEN DRIVERS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it’s my honor to recognize Kenn and Beth Zelten for being named 2019 Citizen Drivers. Through their dedicated service, exceptional leadership, and steadfast devotion to their community, Kenn and Beth have become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Citizen Driver program honors the hard-working professional truck drivers that demonstrate good citizenship, safety, community involvement, and leadership. None are more deserving of this honor than Kenn and Beth. During their more than 30-year career as a team, they have driven nearly 5 million miles, receiving multiple awards for their customer service, safety, efficiency, and overall excellence. When they’re not driving, Kenn and Beth are active in their community—supporting charities like the St. Christopher Fund, The Salvation Army, Mission of Hope, and Landstar BCO Benevolence Fund, and working with several groups to help the less fortunate like Abundant Life Mission and Project Give.

There are more than 3.5 million professional truck drivers in the United States. While their work often goes unnoticed and underappreciated, it is vital to keeping our economy moving and daily life on track. Programs like Citizen Driver are a tremendous opportunity for us to recognize the hard work and dedication of professional drivers like Kenn and Beth that go above and beyond and serve as role models for every American.

Madam Speaker, it’s my honor to congratulate Kenn and Beth Zelten for their decades of service and for being named 2019 Citizen Drivers. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such selfless and devoted individuals. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Kenn and Beth all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from the floor on Monday, June 3rd. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 232, YEA on Roll Call No. 233, and YEA on Roll Call No. 234.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL
RICHARD BELAND

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor life of Colonel Richard Beland of Poquoson, Virginia—a dedicated patriot and public servant who passed away surrounded by family on Friday, May 10, 2019.

His 30 years of service in the United States Air Force included training students for a decade, flying 290 combat missions in Vietnam, serving as an Advance Agent for Support and Security for Air Force One for two different administrations, and serving as a member of the NATO Flight Safety Group. Following his retirement in 1989, Colonel Beland served his local Poquoson Community’s Board of Zoning Appeals for 18 years, with eight of those years as Chairman. He also faithfully served as a lector and usher at Langley Air Force Base Chapel.

Colonel Beland’s dedication to his country and local community brings great honor to our district. I am proud to recognize Colonel Beland’s leadership and the role he played in making America a better place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, as an original co-sponsor of H.R. 6—American Dream and Promise Act, I would have voted YES on roll call No. 240, had I been present.

TORNADOES AND HEROISM

HON. WARREN DAVIDSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of heroes, in support of unity, and in support of the compassion that I witnessed in the Eighth District of Ohio after 19 tornadoes devastated Southwestern Ohio last week.

On May 27th, communities in Mercer, Miami, Darke, and Preble Counties, and counties adjacent to the Eighth District, were devastated by tornadoes with winds upwards of 140 miles per hour.