

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT PAUL ROBERTS

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Paul Roberts, born August 22, 1922 in Lexington, Tennessee.

Mr. Roberts graduated from Lexington High School in 1941 and attended the University of Tennessee-Martin in 1941 through 1942 when the nation was swept into World War II.

About one year after Pearl Harbor, Mr. Roberts entered active duty in the U.S. Army on December 5, 1942. Roberts served in the 84th Infantry Division/9th Army Company. He served in Holland, Belgium, and Germany, including battles and campaigns in the Rhineland. He landed in Omaha Beach in the fall of 1944.

Mr. Roberts returned home on the Queen Elizabeth II and was honorably discharged on February 21, 1946 in Ft. McPherson, Georgia. Upon his return, he worked as a farmer and a brick and stone mason, helping to build many homes, schools, and churches in West Tennessee.

Mr. Roberts is a decorated veteran, having earned the World War II Victory Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, and a Bronze Star American Service Medal.

Mr. Roberts is married to Betty Wood. They have six children, eleven grandchildren, eighteen great grandchildren, and a loving church family.

Madam Speaker, I commend this great American on another year lived. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and thanking him for his service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING KENNICE ALEX OF LOS ANGELES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Kennice Alex in 40 years of service to the California Highway Patrol and the Los Angeles Communications Center.

"Wow! Thank You!" & "There she goes!" These are just a few expressions Kennice Alex hears from her co-workers on a daily basis. But before you can truly understand these expressions, you must first hear the many accomplishments of a woman who began her career with the California Highway Patrol 40 years ago.

Kennice is a native of Los Angeles, California. She was born on September 26th, and

has raised two amazing daughters: Tiffany and Brittany. While doing so, she was able to nurture and love three additional children, and is currently assisting in raising her grandson, all within Los Angeles. In addition to spending time with her family, Kennice enjoys many activities such: Water Aerobics, Zumba, and AARP Soul Steppers. Not only has she volunteered at different food banks in Los Angeles, she has also worked with the Lakers organization, helping feed the homeless on Thanksgiving Day. Her volunteer work does not stop there. She has donated items and worked with the Dream Center assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina; recruited coworkers, dubbed "Chippies Angeles," to donate items at the Louis Dantzer Preparatory Academy Middle School; and raised money for breast cancer patients at the City of Hope.

Kennice began her career with the California Highway Patrol on July 23, 1979. At work, Kennice is well-respected and referred to as "Ms. Kennice". She was part of the last training class to work on cards and one of the first to work on computers, as Los Angeles Communications Center served as the Pilot for CHP going live on Computer Aided Dispatch. During her tenure, Kennice served as a union representative for 26 years. While in this position, she attended numerous meetings in Sacramento with state legislators to discuss allocating funds for programs in public safety and 911 issues. During the many incidents Kennice has worked over the years, the 1199 Officer-involved shooting of Officers Martinez and Szabo is one she will never forget. While on duty, Kennice received the call for help from the Officers, and immediately began to work diligently to ensure both Officers received immediate assistance from all field personnel and allied agencies. Unbeknownst to Kennice and her beat partner, the outcome of this incident would leave Officer Martinez fatally wounded and Officer Szabo severely injured. Kennice remained calm and professional under the most stressful situation a dispatcher can ever face. Throughout her career, she has also worked numerous events such as the 1984 Olympics, the 1991 LA Riots, the Northridge Earthquake, the OJ Simpson Pursuit and trial, the 2000 Democratic National Convention, and the Y2K changeover, just to name a few.

Throughout the years, Ms. Kennice has benevolently and continuously met the needs of her peers. She was one of the main coordinators in creating the Relaxation room at our Communications Center, where she continues to maintain and purchase supplies. She generated "Team CHP" where she and coworkers help raise awareness and funds by participating in charity events such as the Revlon Breast Cancer Walk, the Multiple Sclerosis Walk, and several Chips for Kids toy drives.

Ms. Kennice has not only dedicated her time and talent but has given us 40 illustrious years of hard work and dedication to the community and the California Highway Patrol.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTH AMERICAN GAY AMATEUR ATHLETIC ALLIANCE GAY SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to celebrate the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) Gay Softball World Series this year being held in Kansas City, Missouri. On behalf of myself and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, we are honored and overjoyed to have been selected as the 2019 host of the Gay Softball World Series.

In 1977, teams of athletes from New York and San Francisco, met to form the organization that would become NAGAAA and organize the inaugural Gay Softball World Series. Today, over four decades later, the NAGAAA is an international sports organization committed to providing and promoting opportunities for LGBTQ+ communities to participate in amateur athletics across the United States and Canada. In 2019, more than one thousand NAGAAA teams competed across seven divisions of play in forty-six cities throughout North America. The organization is focused on creating a safe and inclusive environment where its athletes can compete and be themselves.

Kansas City has a longstanding tradition of LGBTQ+ activism and advocacy, which was kindled in 1966 when the city hosted the National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations. After the conference, the city became a leader on the national stage for the movement for LGBTQ+ civil rights, spearheaded by the Phoenix Society for Individual Freedom. The Phoenix Society for Individual Freedom was committed to "improving the legal, social, and economic status" of members of the LGBTQ+ community while providing a safe space for LGBTQ+ Kansas Citians to live freely. In the face of discrimination and inequality, LGBTQ+ individuals found refuge and community in Kansas City.

Kansas City, with its history of championing LGBTQ+ rights and culture, is extremely proud that the NAGAAA selected us to host the Gay Softball World Series this year. Today, Kansas City continues to be a metropolis of LGBTQ+ culture nationwide. Through cornerstone institutions such as the Kansas City Center for Inclusion, Empowering Queer Activists and Leaders (EQUAL), and the Mid-America Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, to name a few, the city fosters a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for the uplifting of LGBTQ+ individuals. LGBTQ+ arts thrive in Kansas City as well via the Heartland Men's Chorus, performances at Hamburger Mary's and Missie B's, and at the annual KC LGBT Film Festival. In April, the AIDS Walk of Kansas City is held to raise awareness for the disease, and in June, the entire city celebrates

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