

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DAVE THOMAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dave Thomas for receiving the Award of Merit from the First Judicial District Bar Association.

An active community member of Jefferson County and within the local law community for decades, Dave serves the First Judicial District and is well-deserving on the Association's highest recognition. For the first ten years of his career, Dave worked in the Denver District Attorney's Office as a Deputy and Chief Deputy District Attorney where he tried homicide cases, white collar crime, and complex drug cases as well as spending three years in the Complex Prosecution Unit. He then spent two and a half years as Assistant United States Attorney while also serving on the Mountain States Drug Task Force and coordinated the regional drug enforcement effort. Once his term ended, he went on to serve as the elected District Attorney for Jefferson County for twelve years and as the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety for six years. During that time, Dave also served as the Executive Director of the Colorado District Attorneys' Council. He is currently is a private defense attorney in Jefferson County.

Throughout his career, Dave has been a dedicated public servant and active member of the Jefferson County community. He has served on numerous boards and local organizations including the Children's Alliance Board of Directors (1993–2005), Jeffco Action Center (1995–2005) and the Victim Outreach Information organization (1993–2005). He also helped bring positive changes to the second largest school district in Colorado as the President of the Jefferson County Board of Education from 2007 to 2011.

Dave's contributions and ongoing dedication to his community is tremendous. I extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Dave Thomas for his service to our community and to the people he represents. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition from the First Judicial District Bar Association.

NELSON L. MELLITZ

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Col. Nelson L. Mellitz, a resident of Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

In 1970, Nelson enlisted in the United States Air Force where his first career field was as a Civil Engineer, Site Development Specialist and obtained the rank of Master Sgt

(E-7). Throughout his 32-year military career, he supported U.S. war and peace-time operations from Vietnam through Afghanistan. He was a direct commission as a 2nd Lt in 1980 into the Acquisition and Contracting career field and after approximately 18 years he was promoted to Colonel (O-6).

During Col. Mellitz's military career, he had assignments in Europe and 15 other locations in the United States, including the Pentagon (SAF/AQC). While he was assigned to Defense Contract Management Command (DCMA) in the Brigadier General Reservist slot, he managed over 3,000 Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine joint service staff and billions of dollars in supplies and services.

Immediately after September 11, 2001, Col. Mellitz was assigned as the manager of the DCMA Headquarters Command Incident Mobilization Center and deployed troops and equipment in support of operations in Southwest Asia and elsewhere. In 2005, he volunteered to be recalled to active duty and was assigned to the United States State Department as a Senior Executive Service leader with the Iraqi Reconstruction Management Office in Baghdad, Iraq for 2005/2006.

In addition to his military service, Nelson Mellitz is a retired federal employee with his last assignment at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service as Northeast Area Chief Procurement Officer. Col. Mellitz has also obtained an Associate's Degree in Architecture and Building Construction Technology and a Bachelors of Business Administration in Organization and Personnel Management from Temple University, a Bachelor's of Science in Accounting from Point Park University, a Masters of Management in Acquisition from American Graduate University, and a Doctorate in Business Administration with a concentration in leadership from Walden University.

In recognition of his valiant service to our nation, Col. Mellitz humbly received numerous medals and citations including: Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award w/1 OLC, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, recipient of the U.S. Ambassador to Iraqi, Meritorious Service Award and among many other medals and citations.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Col. Nelson L. Mellitz of Cherry Hill, New Jersey who is a constant reminder of the sacrifices that our men and women of the military made so that we can enjoy the liberties we do today.

CONGRATULATING DUMARESQ
SPENCER POST NO. 145

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly recognize the 100th anniversary

since the founding of Dumaresq Spencer Post No. 145, an American Legion Post located in my district.

The Dumaresq Spencer Post was established by World War I veterans led by William Burke and its namesake honors the first Highland Park resident to be killed in the conflict. It was originally located on the second floor of Witten Hall, across the street from the former Alcyon Theatre.

Members of the Post typically took part in patriotic events such as the Memorial Day parade each year. They also led efforts to collect scrap metal, prepare for possible air raids, and offer comfort to families whose sons were killed in World War II.

Following World War II, the Post gained substantially more members and its headquarters was relocated to a larger venue, the second floor of the then-Masonic Temple. In the late 1940's, the Post donated \$2,400 to the Highland Park Hospital because of a lack of basins in their nurseries. Post members also assisted disabled veterans at Downey Veterans Hospital by frequently visiting them and providing them with entertainment.

The Post eventually constructed its own building at 1957 Sheridan Road and its members made enormous financial and material sacrifices to this end. This location hosted many events, including Tenth District meetings and Scouting events. It was eventually sold and a portion of the proceeds funded the construction of the Veterans Memorial on the corner of Central and St. Johns Avenue.

The Post now has approximately 100 members and it continues to serve our community and champion the causes of veterans. I congratulate all its members on their 100th anniversary, and look forward to working with Post No. 145 for many more years to come.

IN CELEBRATION OF MR. ROBERT
F. KELLEY, SR.'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and Happy Birthday wishes to a true man of God and public servant, Mr. Robert F. Kelley, Sr., who celebrated his 100th birthday on Wednesday, August 14, 2019. He celebrated this milestone with family and friends on Saturday, August 17, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. at The Cunningham Center located on the campus of Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia.

Robert F. Kelley, Sr. was born on August 14, 1919, in Ellaville, Georgia as the fourth of six children to the late Will Lee and Little Hardison Kelley. The values of Christian discipleship, hard work, and education were instilled in Robert at a young age. Although his studies in the Chatahochee County Public School System were cut short because he had

• 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.

to assist his father in tending to the needs of the family farm, he remained passionate about learning. Consequently, as an adult, he continued to learn and prepare for his future employment opportunities, such as the United States Civil Service, the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, and the Muscogee County School District.

On April 27, 1939, at the age of 19, Robert married the love of his life, Flossie McCray. They were faithfully married for 56 years until Flossie's passing in 1995. Over the years, they were blessed with eight children: Zelma (deceased), Robert, Jr., William, Carolyn Ann, Shirley, Doris, Dorothy, and Rosalyn; 14 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. As doting parents, Robert and Flossie always created a nurturing environment of unselfish love, encouragement, and values to carry their children, grandchildren, and a host of other family members through life.

In addition to being a committed family man, Mr. Kelley is also a proud Veteran who served his country during World War II, receiving an honorable discharge in 1944. His service was a true testament of his devotion to his country, as African-American soldiers during this time were in a segregated Army and fought in a war with limited chances of receiving a promotion or even an acknowledgment.

After his distinguished military career ended, Mr. Kelley continued to contribute to his community. On September 29, 1944, he became a member of the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia and served over many years in several leadership capacities including Chairman of the Deacon Board, Chairman of the Trustee Board, Church Clerk, Financial Secretary, Boy Scout Leader, and Tribe Leader. He continues to serve to this day.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 says "The race of life is not given to the swift nor to the strong, but to those who endure until the end." Robert F. Kelley, Sr. has run the race of his life with zeal and dignity. As patriarch of his family, the legacy of the exemplary life he has led stands as a guiding light for the Kelley family and generations yet to come. God has blessed him for over 100 years and for that, and the lives he has touched, we can only say "To God be the glory!"

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the almost 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in honoring an outstanding citizen, family man, and man of God, Mr. Robert F. Kelley, Sr., for a lifetime of dedicated service to his family, his community, and his Nation. We extend our best wishes and God's blessings to him on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

IN HONOR OF THE VISION
FORWARD ASSOCIATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Vision Forward Association which serves Southeastern Wisconsin, as they mark their centennial in 2019. For more than 100 years, Vision Forward has provided services to a diverse community of individuals who are

blind or visually impaired as well as their families.

What began as an advocacy group for the blind has transformed itself into a consortium, which provides comprehensive services to individuals experiencing all stages of vision loss. From birth through adulthood, this organization provides critical resources to those who have been impacted by vision loss, helping them achieve important developmental milestones, as well as, educational, personal and professional goals.

As an organization, Vision Forward chooses to focus on enhancing every client's ability not their disability; they know what people can achieve is far more impactful than what they can't achieve. Vision Forward clients are talented and spirited citizens who want the same things as all of us: a good education, a loving family and community, and a fulfilling career with success. They are a part of all of our lives in Southeastern Wisconsin; they are our family members, coworkers, friends and neighbors.

The success stories of individuals who came through the doors of Vision Forward on Hawley Road are countless. All their stories touched my heart because they demonstrated the resilience of people under extreme adversity. At Vision Forward, they give every client hope and show them the amazing things they can achieve.

The work of Vision Forward has helped create a reality in which all individuals with vision loss can reach their full potential to lead active and independent lives. The empowerment, education, and enhancement Vision Forward has provided over the years serves as a national model to the adage: "it doesn't matter who you are, every person has the potential to do great things." Madam Speaker, for these reasons I am pleased to honor the Vision Forward Association, because they make the 4th Congressional District a better place to work, live and play.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial of The American Legion, which was founded in Paris, France on March 15, 1919 by delegates from combat and service units of the American Expeditionary Force. For those who do not know this history, the United States Congress granted a national charter to the delegates on September 16, 1919.

While initially The Legion was composed only of those who served during World War I, it later admitted veterans of World War II (1942), the Korean War (1950), the Vietnam War (1966), the Lebanon, Grenada, and Panama hostilities (1990), Operation Desert Shield/Storm (1991), and the wars in Afghanistan (2001) and Iraq (2001).

To this very day, the focus of The American Legion is on the care of disabled and sick veterans. The American Legion has been instrumental in establishing hospitals and other support services for veterans. The hard work of those involved with The American Legion was

influential in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Administration in 1930 and the enactment of the GI Bill of Rights in 1944. These two policies have helped more than 10,500,000 veterans afford college or vocational training programs and assisted more than 5,600,000 veterans in their efforts to purchase homes.

The American Legion does not just help the veterans who are members. It is an organization dedicated to charity and community. Posts across the country donate more than 3.7 million hours of volunteer service. Posts have also helped collect more than 80,000 pints of blood every year for donation. This makes The American Legion the single largest blood donor. And The Legion and its members are focused on future generations by awarding more than 8,000 medals to Junior ROTC students and sponsoring more than 2,500 Scout units that serve over 64,000 young people. Finally, they have awarded more than \$4 million in awards to support individuals to go to college.

In New Jersey, The American Legion is currently led by Department Commander Robert B. Newell. It does an extraordinary job advocating on behalf of veterans and their families. With a membership of over 4,000, American Legion Posts in Bergen County, New Jersey are celebrating 100 years of service with a celebration in Lodi, New Jersey on September 29. I am pleased to recognize the positive contributions and role The American Legion serves in our community. The Legion's myriad of contributions to the good and welfare of veterans, service members and the community at large cannot possibly be measured. But it is important that they continue to receive our full support.

IN RECOGNITION OF BEVERLY
ELIAS MILLER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her well-deserved retirement, I rise to honor Beverly Elias Miller, an exceptional woman, an exemplary community leader and an extraordinary human being. In her 29 years on the coast of San Mateo county, Bev touched the lives of just about every coastsider and her contributions are ingrained in the fabric of this wonderful community. I feel very fortunate to count her as a close friend. We first met in 1992 at a Soroptimists award event that she, of course, choreographed.

Originally from Marinette, Wisconsin, Bev launched her career in the banking industry in Spokane, Washington in 1967. Starting out as a trainee in the key punch department she learned almost all aspects of banking over the following 32 years. She came to the coast in 1991 and served as the branch manager of First National Bank before being promoted to vice president and regional manager. When the Bank of America shut down its earliest branch, located in the tiny rural town of Pescadero, Bev and local farmers and businesses came together to open a branch of her bank so that loans and banking services remained available. In an era before the term "unbanked" was popularized, Bev ensured that farm workers could cash their paychecks