

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CROATIAN SONS LODGE NUMBER
170 GOLDEN MEMBER BANQUET
ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its Golden Member banquet, which will take place on Sunday, September 15, 2019.

The Croatian Fraternal Union will hold its biennial gala at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved at least fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained golden membership include the following individuals: Leslie G. Aulie, Valentine W. Bahun II, Edmund Bartowski, David Charles Batusic, Shirley Marie Blaney, Magdalene Douchette, Marlene B. Dravet, Richard Wayne Falatic, Corrine L. Fandrei, Michael W. Farrenkopf, Barbara Ann Glutting, Cheryl L. Gognski, George J. Haralovich, Peter P. Haralovich, Margaret Ispas-Hennessey, Katica Kirincic, Stjepan Kirincic, Andrew A. Klobuchar, Suzanne Kolodziej, Donald Kometz, Linda Kronberg, Carol Elaine Licari, Ana Listar, Gregory Livovich, Doris J. Loggins, Nicholas Scott Malich, Harold A. Mathews, Charles W. Mauder, Donna Lynn Mauder, Gerald Michael Medved, Susan Irene Meges, Yvonne M. Miller, Frank Joseph Mosca Jr., Mildred Preiboy, Barbara A. Saunders, Jeffrey Jon Sikora, Richard Allen Stiak, Nicholas S. Svetich, Tina Svetich, Vladimir Tadej, Joseph George Tropsich, Gerald Joseph Unmisig, and Barbara J. Zurawski.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President John Miksich and all members of the Croatian Fraternal Union, Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

REMEMBERING BAXTER LEACH

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Baxter Leach, a hero of the historic 1968 Sanitation Workers Strike that brought Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Memphis, where he was assassinated. Mr. Leach, 79, passed away on August 27. Born

on September 12, 1939, in Schlater (Leflore County), Mississippi, he worked as a sharecropper from the age of 12. He came to Memphis for a better life, took a job no one wanted for starvation wages, and ended up making history. In 1968, Mr. Leach helped organize sanitation workers for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)-backed strike protesting the inhumane working conditions that resulted in two sanitation workers being crushed to death inside a garbage truck compactor. This was a significant event in the civil rights movement and drew national attention to the poor working conditions of sanitation employees in the South. He was always generous with his time, keeping the memory of the strike, Dr. King's assassination and its aftermath alive for students, labor historians and visitors to the historic Lorraine Motel which has been transformed into the National Civil Rights Museum. He often quoted Proverbs 22: "a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches and loving favor rather than silver or gold." Mr. Leach was a voice for the dignity of all workers and an advocate for civil rights and equality. Just last year, he received the National Civil Rights Museum's Freedom Award and played a prominent role in the MLK50 events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the strike and Dr. King's assassination. In addition to his Freedom Award, Mr. Leach received the keys to the cities of Memphis and Jackson, Tennessee, and received recognition from Operation PUSH, the National Action Network, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the University of Memphis School of Law, Cossitt and Benjamin L. Hooks Libraries, and the Henry Logan Starks "Lighting Our World" Award from Memphis Theological Seminary. In 2011, he joined all the living 1968 sanitation workers in being inducted into the White House Hall of Fame by President Obama. On that same visit, he and his fellow strikers were inducted into the U.S. Department of Labor's Hall of Honor by Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis. Often sought out as a guest speaker, he typically finished his speeches with the unforgettable motto of the picketing strikers' placards: "I AM A MAN." When he retired in 2005, Mr. Leach had worked for the City of Memphis for 43 years. In 1984, he and his wife, Jimmie, established Melanie's Soul Food Restaurant which served the Mid-South until it was destroyed by fire in 2012. Melanie's was one of the absolute best soul food restaurants, and Mr. Leach served pastors and community leaders like they were royalty. After the disastrous fire, he and Jimmie established Girlee's, another great soul food restaurant. By the end of his life, he had worked with presidents, union organizers, academics and a wide circle of admirers. At his funeral on Saturday, AFSCME International president Lee Saunders said that, even though he never finished high school, talking with Mr. Leach made you feel good about yourself, a rare quality. He also called Mr. Leach a bold pioneer and a steadfast and true trade unionist, and a friend. Retired AFSCME secretary-treasurer Bill Lucy,

who saw the 1968 strike to its successful conclusion, spoke of Leach's work improving working conditions and said a part of Leach's character was to never quit. Mr. Lucy also said Mr. Leach was "one of a group of men who made the decision to change the course of history." Mr. Leach was a big man physically but he was also a big man in every facet of his personality—in heart, courage, generosity and integrity. I wish to extend my deep condolences to Baxter Leach's family and friends. America has lost a true hero. His was a life well lived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, had I been present for the vote to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1420, the Energy Efficient Government Technology Act (Roll no. 515), I would have voted "aye."

Additionally, had I been present for the vote to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1768, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2019 (Roll call no. 516), I would have voted "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF KELSEY
KOLOJECHICK ON HER INDUC-
TION INTO THE LUZERNE COUN-
TY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete and Northeastern Pennsylvania native Kelsey Kolojchick. This year, Kelsey was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame on August 11, 2019 for her distinct athletic achievements in the sport of field hockey.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

At Wyoming Seminary, Kelsey was a standout, three sport athlete on the swimming, soccer, and field hockey teams. As a four year midfielder starter, she helped her school earn two state championships and three district championships. In 2008, she was named Player of the Year by both the Citizens Voice and Times Leader newspapers, Sem's Outstanding Female Athlete, First Team All-State and All-American. She ended her high school career with a record 87 wins and 5 losses.

Kelsey then moved on to the University of North Carolina where she was a four-year starter for the Tar Heels, never missing a game in her career. She helped lead UNC to

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