

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF ILLINOIS
STATE POLICE TROOPER GER-
ALD ELLIS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Illinois State Police Trooper Gerald "Jerry" Ellis, who passed away Saturday, March 30, 2019, while on duty.

Gerald Ellis was born and raised in Colchester, Illinois, and in 2002, graduated from Colchester Highschool. It was clear early on that Ellis was destined for a career in public service. As a child, he was a member of the Macomb Police Department Explorers post. Ellis also bravely served in Iraq as a soldier in the United States Army. Ellis continued his schooling at Western Illinois University. While pursuing his education, he was selected to participate in the Illinois State Police internship program. This led to Ellis eventually deciding to become a full-time member of the force.

Trooper Ellis had always been committed to his work and his community. He had a tendency to put others before himself. In school, Ellis was known as a hard worker, great student, and to be the one to reach across social lines and bring different groups of people together. Ellis was injured by a distracted motorist earlier in his career while attempting to prevent a man from jumping from an overpass.

In honor of the sacrifice that Trooper Ellis made, it is my privilege to commemorate his life and service today. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Stacy, and their two daughters, who have lost a loving husband and father. We are all blessed to have those like State Trooper Gerald Ellis serving and protecting us.

HONORING PAULETTE LYNCH

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paulette Lynch for her 30 years of leadership to Monterey County's creative sector and to congratulate her on her retirement after 15 years as executive director of the Arts Council for Monterey County. The 20th District of California appreciates Paulette Lynch's dedication to the community and the great progress she has made over the past three decades.

Paulette Lynch spearheaded First Night Monterey in 1992 and successfully led the organization for ten years before becoming Executive Director of the Arts Council for Monterey County in 2004. She also reshaped the Arts Council's mission, creating a greater equity in funding for the arts throughout the

county, developing award-winning programs, and providing unifying leadership in the creative sector on the central coast of California. Further, Paulette restored county funding, diversified the Arts Council revenues, and created the annual Champion of the Arts Gala, an event which honors seven arts nonprofit organizations and individuals who have made profound and lasting contributions throughout Monterey County.

Paulette Lynch has been guided by the phrase "the Arts are the Answer," and demonstrated the transformational benefits of arts in the classroom, community, the juvenile justice systems, and health systems. 35 school districts and 20,000 students, as well as numerous communities, benefited from her dedication. Paulette was previously recognized for her work to improve the quality of life within California's 20th District. She has won several awards and honors throughout her tenure, including the 2008 Monterey County Weekly Editor's Pick for Community Leadership Best of Monterey County, the 2009 City of Seaside 25th Anniversary Award for Lifetime Support of Youth in the Arts, the 2013 Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women Outstanding Woman of Monterey County, the 2013 Monterey County Weekly Top 25 Game-Changing Leaders of Monterey County, and the 2015 National Association of Counties Award for Innovation program Art as Healing Intervention for incarcerated youth at the Monterey County Probation Department Youth Center.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking Paulette Lynch for her 30 years of service and leadership to Monterey County. Her tireless commitment to improving the lives of everyone in California's 20th District through the arts will not be forgotten, and her legacy in the community will certainly be long lasting. On behalf of Central Coast residents, I thank Ms. Lynch for her contribution to our community and wishing her a long and healthy retirement.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMU-
NITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER
BUFFALO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge with gratitude and admiration the Centennial Anniversary of the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, which since its establishment in 1919 has enhanced and encouraged long-term philanthropy in Western New York. Throughout the decades, visionary leadership, dedicated staff and giving donors have built on this Foundation's century of commitment to connecting people, ideas and resources to improve lives throughout our region. For 100 years, the

Community Foundation's proven record of accountability, sustainability and transparency has made the most of the generosity of individuals, families, foundations and organizations who entrust charitable assets to the Foundation's care. Currently, the stated goals of the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo are to improve educational achievement and workforce readiness for low-income residents, increase racial equity, protect and restore significant environmental resources and promote equitable access, and strengthen the region as a center for architecture, arts and culture.

This stalwart organization for local philanthropy proposes, plans, implements and supports many impactful collaborative initiatives. These include Say Yes Buffalo, working to remove barriers preventing Buffalo students from achieving academic success and Read to Succeed, helping children reach their highest potential and awards over two million dollars in annual scholarships to students in the area. Insistent on results-oriented outcomes that improves the health outcomes for families and neighborhoods remains a primary focus of this Foundation's award winning Green and Healthy Homes Initiative and the Wipe Out Lead program.

Racial equity is one of the primary community goals of the Community Foundation believing that we must ensure all members of our region can fulfill their highest potential. Through active support of the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable which includes more than 210 partners working together in different capacities to advance racial and ethnic equity and accelerate shared regional prosperity. Preserving and protecting the heritage of the Michigan Street Baptist Church, Buffalo's oldest African American church remains the life work of the Buffalo Freedom Station Coalition. Capacity building provided by the Community Foundation has helped enhance the efforts of this all-volunteer group dedicated to commemorating and deepening the understanding of the historical role Buffalo residents played in the civil rights and abolitionist movements.

Twenty percent of the world's freshwater runs through our region and the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo is playing a critical role in preserving and restoring Western New York's environmental resources. Convened by the Community Foundation, the Western New York Environmental Alliance, is now an independent, member-run coalition of more than 80 organizations working to protect and steward our natural assets. Our proximity to two Great Lakes and a series of rivers, creeks and streams is highly valued by the Community Foundation as they team with other similar foundations to form the Great Lakes One Water Partnership to advance a new era of water management to benefit people and businesses in the Great Lakes Basin. Cleaner water, remediated land and greener public parks help to foster stronger communal bonds and as such, it is imperative that it is truly accessible to all in our community, region and beyond our borders.

• 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.

The Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo proudly extols and celebrates the rich history of architecture, arts and culture that makes Western New York home to the work and legacy of such legends as Louise Bethune, Joseph Dart, Frank Lloyd Wright, H.H. Richardson, Frederick Law Olmsted and Louis Sullivan. Recognizing the value of preservation, performance and visitor experiences delivered with authenticity and creative energy, the Community Foundation continues to invest in organizations that strengthen these sectors. Their understanding of the significant economic impact of such inspirational and unique treasures has led to more than doubling their investment in just the last five years. Arts and culture are alive, thriving and attracting international recognition and adding to our quality of life thanks to such sustained support.

It is in making that connection between the past and present that the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo has chosen the Kleinhans Music Hall as the venue for "The Centennials" celebration on Tuesday, September 24. Edward and Mary Seaton Kleinhans left a gift in 1934 directing the Foundation to build "a suitable music hall for the people of Buffalo." The Foundation ensured their vision was realized and now, 80 years later, their gift continues to provide a home for the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, world-class performances and personal milestones. Looking to the future, this celebration will award one million dollars in honor of 12 local change makers who have made a difference in the lives of Western New Yorkers through a community-wide nomination process. As stated by the Foundation's current President and CEO Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker, "The Centennials will celebrate everything we stand for as an organization—focused forward."

Again, I wish to acknowledge, congratulate and praise the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo on their Hundred Years of extraordinary generosity, impressive accomplishments and collaborative engagement that has improved lives and continues to drive positive change throughout Western New York. Their celebration is well-deserved, and we stand ready to work with them as the next century of opportunity and growth begins for The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

HONORING SPECIALIST FOURTH
CLASS JOHN WESLEY DAHR

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Tenth District of Pennsylvania and a grateful Nation to honor the memory and exceptional service and sacrifice of Specialist Fourth Class John Wesley Dahr of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania. Specialist Dahr earned the Distinguished Service Cross for his unhesitating and selfless bravery in combat during the Vietnam War, and made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of his fellow Soldiers, and for our Nation.

On 8 January 1967, Specialist Dahr was participating in search and destroy missions near Cu Chi with elements of the 25th Infantry Division, when his company was pinned down

by Viet Cong and received heavy incoming fire. Specialist Dahr willingly subjected himself to enemy fire and waded through waist-deep water to aid a wounded comrade. After carrying the wounded Soldier 100 meters to safety, he repeated his heroic actions, rescuing two more Soldiers before returning to the center of the battlefield to combat the enemy.

As he fired upon the Viet Cong, he saw yet another wounded Soldier and ran to his aid. Despite extreme risk to his own life, he stood up in the open to hold the injured warrior above water while he sought help to get them both to safety. Specialist Dahr was mortally wounded during his attempt to rescue a fourth Soldier.

Specialist Dahr's actions set the standard by which all others should be judged. Our Country owes him a debt of eternal gratitude for his extraordinary actions in the line of duty and in the face of terror. Specialist Dahr's tireless, selfless and heroic actions are a credit to himself, his Family, the United States Army and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my votes on the following dates, September 24, 25, and 27, due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" Roll Call No. 541; "yea" Roll Call No. 542; "yea" Roll Call No. 543; "yea" Roll Call No. 544; "nay" Roll Call No. 545; "yea" Roll Call No. 546; "yea" Roll Call No. 547; "yea" Roll Call No. 548; "yea" Roll Call No. 553; "yea" Roll Call No. 554; and "yea" Roll Call No. 555.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY
CONSERVATION CORPS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC), now celebrating their 25th anniversary. Founded in 1993, the OCCC provides at-risk and disadvantaged youth a chance to learn valuable skills while giving back to their community. The OCCC is considered a "Second Chance at Success," ultimately ensuring a positive life for our youth.

The OCCC provides youth with a pathway to earning a high-school diploma, via an on-site charter school. By embracing a culture of teamwork and cooperation, the OCCC instills a strong work ethic in our youth, providing experience and job skills that will make them valuable members of our workforce.

Since 1993, OCCC has served more than 8,000 young adults, recycled 9,000 tons of recyclable materials, and planted over 120,000 trees. Preserving our environment empowers our youth, allowing them to help others and positively affect our community. These stu-

dents can develop their educational, professional, and personal skills.

OCCC has provided corpsmembers with more than \$1.5 million in financial assistance. Over 3,000 high school diplomas and job training certificates have been provided to corpsmembers to seek higher education. OCCC's Corps-to-Career Specialist assists students in transitioning from the corps to their future goals by introducing them to local colleges, trade schools, and ROP programs. Corpsmembers learn resume writing, interviewing skills, and a professional demeanor that will prepare them for a bright future.

Today, we celebrate not only 25 years of success for OCCC, but we honor its future. A future that continues to uphold the values of hard-work, teamwork, and service. It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing the Orange County Conservation Corps for their commitment to our youth and our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF FIREFIGHTER STEPHEN ALMEIDA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Mr. Stephen Almeida, a 41-year veteran of the Fairhaven Fire Department.

Stephen began his career in 1978 as a call-firefighter and was later appointed as a full-time firefighter for the town of Fairhaven, where he would serve for the next 32 years as a full-time firefighter. Once a full-time firefighter, Stephen rose quickly in his career. He was elected to the Fire Union's Executive Board, and in a few short years would assume the role of Union President of the Fairhaven Firefighters Association, a position he would hold for the next twenty years.

During Stephen's tenure, the town transferred the ambulance service from within the Police Department over to the Fire Department. As Union President, Stephen worked closely with the town and Fire Chief to ensure this undertaking went smoothly. Embracing a proactive approach to fire safety, Stephen was also heavily involved in Fairhaven's fire prevention program. Going above and beyond his duties to permit and inspect, Stephen also volunteered as the town's Santa Claus, arriving not in a red sleigh but rather a red fire truck.

Stephen attributes much of his passion and success to his mentor, Lt. Earl Faunce, who instilled in Stephen the values and traditions of the Fire Department.

Stephen has been married to his wife Cheryl for 37 years. They have 3 children and 4 grandchildren, and I wish them many years of happiness and more time spent with their family.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Stephen Almeida and his commitment to ensuring the safety of his community. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his hard work and dedication as he celebrates his retirement.