

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE 2019 HONOREES OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS ILLINOIS DIVISION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 10 individuals who are being recognized as the 2019 Polish American Congress, Illinois Division, Honorees. These Polish-Americans will be honored on Sunday, October 20th, at the 50th Annual Polish American Heritage Award Banquets.

Each year, the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress presents awards to recognize notable work in public service, philanthropy, heritage, community service, the arts, and other notable accomplishments. This year's honorees are The Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, Richard Owsiany, Lucie Bucki, Dominic A. Pacyga, Ph.D., Jacek Niemczyk, Tom Startek, Martin Obrecki, Maria Roszek-Kucharski, Ewa Milde, and Bogdan Lanko. The Polish American Congress, and its mission to unite the Polish-American community and to aid its members to become better informed American citizens, have benefitted from the contributions of these individuals.

The Illinois Division is one of 25 state divisions under the national Polish American Congress, and it represents 39 Polish-American organizations and over one million Americans of Polish heritage from across the state. In Chicagoland, and Illinois as a whole, we are blessed to have the most robust Polish-American community in our nation. The Illinois Division works to bring community members together, and it is a privilege to represent and work closely with so many members of this organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the award recipients on this tremendous honor. They deserve praise for the energy and time they have dedicated to strengthening Polonia and our nation. I wish them the best in their future endeavors where they will surely continue their success.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND
JOBS PARITY ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2019

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Employment Services and Jobs Parity Act. This legislation would make long overdue amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act to include the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa.

Presently, the Marianas and American Samoa are not eligible for the employment

services formula grant that is currently awarded to all other states and insular areas. Congressional action is needed to ensure all Americans can get the help they need to develop the skills necessary to enter in-demand jobs and career paths. Special Representatives of the Marianas and the President recommend in 2017 that the Department of Interior work cooperatively with DOL to extend the Wagner-Peyser Act to the Marianas.

At a time when our island economies continue to recover from major natural disasters, the annual Wagner-Peyser grant would provide timely support to the Marianas and American Samoan workforce through skills assessment, career guidance, and referrals to training for job seekers.

Now is the time to make things right and ensure parity for all Americans. The gentleman from American Samoa, Mrs. Radewagen is an original co-sponsor. This bill is important to the workers in the Marianas and American Samoa. I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
CITY COUNCILMAN DR. JOE LEE
SMITH

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2019

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize and celebrate the service of Councilman Dr. Joe Lee Smith, who after 36 years of faithful service to our Rockledge City Council, will enter retirement this November.

Having been elected to the city council twelve consecutive terms, serving 3 years as council chairman and as deputy mayor, the city of Rockledge owes much to Dr. Smith for his unmatched dedication and service to its residents.

A life-long Brevard County resident, Dr. Smith began his career as an educator, having earned his doctoral degree in education from University of Florida and serving as the President Emeritus of Brevard Community College (BCC) until 2000. He then came out of retirement to become provost of the Palm Bay Campus location and served as BCC's college ambassador until 2017.

In both his personal and professional life, he was viewed as a mentor for students in the community and his coworkers. He was a founder of the Brevard Recreation Association and served on the board of directors for many community organizations such as the Salvation Army, Circles of Care, Rolling Readers, and the Boys and Girls Club.

Mayor Tom Price of Rockledge says of Councilman Smith, "He's the definition of a true statesman, someone that you rarely see in politics anymore. He's done 36 years of great work on the board and will be greatly missed by the City Council."

In recognition of his work to advance higher education in the community, Dr. Smith has

had several educational facilities named in his honor such as the Joe Lee Smith Recreational Center in Cocoa and the Dr. Joe Lee Smith Teaching Center on the Brevard Community College Melbourne Campus.

A revered and distinguished member of the community, he has been the recipient of multiple awards including the Brevard Community College Distinguished Servant Award, Onyx Magazine's Humanitarian Award, and the United Third Bridge Puerto Rican Taino Award for his work advancing the Hispanic community in Brevard.

Aside from his distinguished role as an educator for the community, Dr. Smith has also been honored as an athlete, having been inducted into Florida A & M University's Sports Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as a talented baseball player in addition to the Space Coast Sports Hall of Fame for his contributions in sports program development.

On November 20th, the Rockledge City Council will recognize Dr. Smith's long and accomplished tenure. His contributions to the community are immeasurable and will surely be felt and appreciated by generations of Floridians to come.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives along with the residents of Rockledge to join me in saluting his work.

RECOGNIZING BETTY WIECHERT
AS SHE CELEBRATES HER 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 18, 2019

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Betty Wiechert, a resident of Muskingum County, who is celebrating her 100th birthday this Saturday, October 19, 2019.

Betty has lived a life characterized by devotion and an unyielding selflessness, making her a pillar of this congregation. A woman of family, community, and faith, Betty was a Sunday School teacher and taught my very first Sunday School class. Her devotion and unwavering loyalty for the Coburn Church community is still evident today as she attends each and every Sunday service, even if that requires taking a taxi to mass. Betty is an incredible inspiration and role model to us all and I am sure turning 100 will not slow Betty down in the slightest.

I join Betty's friends and family in extending my best and warmest wishes to her on this special day, and in celebrating her life and contributions to our congregation and community. Happy 100th Birthday to Betty; it is an honor celebrating with her.

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