

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BERNARD TYSON

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2019

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Bernard Tyson, a devoted husband, father, and health advocate. His passing is a great loss for our country and all those committed to quality, affordable health care, as well as a deeply personal loss for all of those who were privileged to call him a friend. We extend our deepest condolences to his wife, Denise Bradley-Tyson, his three sons, Bernard Jr., Alexander, and Charles, and the Kaiser Permanente family on their loss.

Bernard Tyson was a proud son of the Bay Area who embodied our city's values of equality and opportunity for all. Born in Vallejo, California, on January 20, 1959, Mr. Tyson was one of seven children of Billie and Moses Tyson. He spent his formative years in Vallejo, CA, where he graduated from Vallejo High School with the class of 1977. Mr. Tyson and his family spent much time in and out of hospitals with his mother, who had diabetes. These visits helped shape and develop his interest in the field of medicine, and inspired within him a dream of running his own hospital one day.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Tyson attended Golden Gate University in San Francisco, California. While in university, he worked as an administrative analyst for Vallejo General Hospital. In 1982, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Health Service Management and in 1984, he earned his Master of Business Administration from Golden Gate University.

Mr. Tyson spent much of his professional career at Kaiser Permanente, which he loved. He joined the company in 1987 as an Assistant Administrator. In 1992, he was appointed CEO of the Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Santa Rosa. From 1993 to 1999, he held the positions of Vice President, Senior Vice President (SVP), and Central East Division president for Kaiser Permanente. From 1999 to 2006, he was the SVP, Chief Operating Officer for regions outside California, and SVP of brand strategy. From 2006 to 2010, he served as the Executive VP of Health Plan and Hospital Operations. From 2010 to 2013, he was President and COO of Kaiser Permanente. From 2013 to 2014, he was promoted to CEO and from 2014 to 2019, he had been Chairman and CEO.

To say that Mr. Tyson knew the interworking of the Kaiser would be an understatement. He worked his way to the top one step at a time, mastering all he could along the way. Mr. Tyson's innovative, pioneering and effective leadership was recognized by many. In 2017, Mr. Tyson was named one of Time's 100 most influential people.

As one of our nation's most prominent African American CEOs and health care leaders,

Mr. Tyson blazed a trail for countless other health care advocates and leaders of color to bring their vision, values and expertise to improving the health and well-being of our communities. While he made his mark as a leader of the health care community, his reach extended to every part of our Bay Area community: to the arts, education, sports, and local activism. He brought a commitment to diversity and inclusion to everything he did, from the grassroots to the corporate suite. His bright smile encouraged others to participate. He gave people hope.

From when we first met Mr. Tyson, his visionary approach to health care stood out. His passionate advocacy for the Affordable Care Act helped protect and strengthen this landmark legislation, ensuring that every family, in every community had access to the care they needed to grow and thrive. For his many contributions to the health of families and the strength of our nation, we are deeply grateful.

Today, on behalf of California's 12th Congressional District, I join Congresswoman LEE in celebrating Bernard Tyson's impactful life and legacy. May it be a comfort to Denise, Bernard Jr., Alexander, and Charles that so many mourn with and pray for them during this sad time. May Bernard rest in power and in peace.

CELEBRATING THE 95TH
BIRTHDAY OF PHYLLIS LYON

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2019

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise with joy to recognize an icon of San Francisco, a trailblazer in the fight for civil rights and a dear friend, Phyllis Lyon, who recently celebrated her 95th birthday.

Beginning in the 1950s, Phyllis and her late wife, Del Martin, were on the vanguard in the fight to make real the promise of equality for LGBTQ Americans, forming our nation's first lesbian civil rights organization, Daughter of Bilitis, and establishing the first nationally distributed lesbian newsletter, the Ladder. They worked tirelessly to ensure that every woman could live without fear of violence or persecution.

As a journalist, community organizer and clarion voice for justice and equality, Phyllis has dedicated her entire life to uniting diverse communities to create fundamental change. From working to decriminalize homosexuality, successfully advocating to outlaw employment discrimination in San Francisco and ensuring that our city respected the dignity of everyone, Phyllis's work has had a powerful impact that has strengthened our communities and our democracy.

For 40 years, the Lyon-Martin Health Services, named in honor of their dedication to the health and well-being of all women, has been a model for community-based health care that

provides lifesaving services, case management and care for women of every age, race, disability, socio-economic condition and sexual orientation. Phyllis' unwavering commitment to caring for our most vulnerable continued as my appointee to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging, where she was a strong voice for the rights of lesbian seniors and all women.

Phyllis and Del's relationship and service to our community has been a source of inspiration to me and all who are fortunate enough to know them. In 1996, during the Floor debate on the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, I was privileged to display their picture, asking my colleagues, "If you knew Phyllis and Del . . . why would you not want them to be treated equally?" This year, I once again recognized them on the House Floor as we voted to pass the landmark Equality Act to finally, fully end discrimination against LGBTQ individuals and guarantee the civil rights of all Americans, regardless of who they are or whom the love.

Phyllis and Del's marriage in 2004, the first same-sex wedding to be recognized in San Francisco, was a joyous celebration. When the California Supreme Court voided their marriage, they recommitted to the fight for equality until the decision was finally overturned in 2008, when they became the first LGBTQ couple to be legally married in California.

While Del sadly passed away a few months later, Phyllis continues to be a blessing to our community, using her vision, values and voice to build a brighter future for San Franciscans and all Americans. On behalf of the House of Representatives, it is a pleasure to wish Phyllis Lyon a happy 95th birthday and a year filled with peace, love and joy.

RECOGNIZING MELVIN MATHIAS
ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2019

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Melvin Mathias, a resident of Illinois who will celebrate his 90th birthday on November 23rd. I came to know Melvin's story through his cousin and my friend, Sidney Mathias of Buffalo Grove, and I wish to share it today because it embodies so much of the opportunity, perseverance, and immigrant heritage that makes our nation special.

Mr. Mathias was born in Fulda, Germany, to Erich and Kathinka in 1929. A Holocaust survivor, he immigrated to the United States in October 1936 with his parents and maternal grandparents, to escape religious persecution by the Nazis.

Mr. Mathias and his family eventually settled on Chicago's South Side. He became a United States citizen on July 7, 1943. In 1951, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in

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