

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HOWARD  
BLACKBURN

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 20, 2019*

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the late Howard Blackburn of Hays, North Carolina for his recent induction into the Wilkes County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Howard Blackburn epitomized a life of excellence and service. He served in the military during World War Two and the Korean War. Howard Blackburn influenced thousands of lives through his leadership in education and agriculture. Through his work at Wilkes Community College, where he served as director of the life sciences program, Mr. Blackburn helped thousands of students develop farming skills.

Howard Blackburn is perhaps best known throughout Wilkes County for his contributions to beekeeping. He helped found the Beekeepers of Wilkes, and personally served as an instructor and mentor for decades. He helped many, many other people understand the importance of bees to our lives. He always maintained the highest standards of meticulous conduct and expected others to strive to the same level of excellence. Howard Blackburn is a shining example of service that we should all seek to emulate.

HONORING THE POLISH HIGHLANDERS ALLIANCE OF NORTH AMERICA ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 20, 2019*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Polish Highlanders Alliance of North America as the organization prepares to celebrate its 90th anniversary. I am proud of the relationship I've developed over many years with the Polish Highlanders Alliance and President Jozef Cikowski. It is a privilege to represent so many Polish Highlanders and I look forward to gathering with them on Saturday, November 23rd for this historic celebration.

The Polish Highlanders Alliance traces its roots back to 1929 when its first chapter, known as a circle, was founded in Chicago. Since its inception, the Alliance has sought to organize Polish Highlanders throughout North America into a unified Highlander family. For the last 90 years, members of the Alliance have worked hard to preserve the unique cultural heritage of the Polish Highlands region, including music, dance, folk costumes, and other traditions. Through the years, the organization has grown to over 80 circles throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Today, the Polish Highlanders Alliance is headquartered on the Southwest Side of Chicago in the Highlander Home on Archer Avenue. The Alliance organizes many cultural events for the Highlander and the Polish-American community including the Highlander Picnic which attracts nearly 3,000 people every year. For its numerous cultural activities, the Alliance has received awards including the Gloria Artis Cultural Achievement Medal. The medal was awarded by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland for the Alliance's distinguished contributions to Polish culture. In addition to cultural activities, the Polish Highlanders Alliance raises money to provide assistance to churches, schools, and other establishments within Poland and the Highlands region.

This year marks 100 years of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Poland. I am overjoyed that as we celebrate this anniversary, the U.S. is finally including Poland in the Visa Waiver Program. As a result, as of November 11 citizens of Poland no longer need a visa to visit the United States. For years I helped constituents obtain visas for their Polish relatives to visit the U.S. for baptisms, weddings, and other family events, and I advocated alongside the Polish Highlanders Alliance for Poland's inclusion in the VWP.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing all that the Polish Highlanders Alliance of North America does to promote unique Polish cultural traditions and to support strong ties between Poland and the United States. The members' devotion to their community and their mission is commendable and I wish them the best as they continue to impart their traditions for generations to come. Good wishes (Sto lat).

RECOGNIZING COLLIN COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO END HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS

**HON. VAN TAYLOR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 20, 2019*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, each year during the week prior to Thanksgiving, communities across the country come together to bring awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness. Today, I want to recognize the Collin County organizations working to end hunger and homelessness throughout our community.

Today, there are nearly 42 million Americans facing hunger and on any given night, more than 194,000 people will sleep on the street.

While these numbers are sobering, we are incredibly grateful to those in our community who work so hard to ease the suffering of others. Organizations such as the Collin County Homeless Coalition, Family Promise of Collin County, North Texas Food Bank, Minnie's Food Pantry, and Hope's Door New Beginning

Center, Allen Community Outreach, and many, many others work year-round to take care of those less fortunate.

Through these organizations, volunteers, businesses, and faith communities come together to provide necessities like shelter and nutritious meals. They go above and beyond to ensure those in need have access to basic medical care and hygiene products and even provide job training and placement resources to those struggling with homelessness.

As we approach the holidays, let us not only remember and support those facing hunger and homelessness, but also those in our community who give so much for their fellow man.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 20, 2019*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 630. Had I been present, I would have voted: on roll call vote number 630 YES.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM O'HALLERAN**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 20, 2019*

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, on November 19, 2019, I voted in favor of H.R. 5084, the Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act, on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. However, my vote did not register on Roll Call 630. I would like the record to reflect that I supported passage of this legislation on the House floor.

RECOGNIZING MS. MEGAN HANDAL

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 20, 2019*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize Ms. Megan Handal, upon her departure as Clerk, Readiness Subcommittee and Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, House Armed Services Committee to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In this role, Ms. Handal was personally responsible for ensuring that the Chairs of the Readiness Subcommittee and Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee had the appropriate administrative information and hearing details, handled all logistics for each hearing, and ensured all hearings ran on time. Ms. Handal coordinated with Congressional Members, Congressional staff, and all witnesses for

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