

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FORMER VILLAGE OF
LA GRANGE PRESIDENT ELIZA-
BETH ASPERGER ON HER YEARS
OF SERVICE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Asperger for her accomplishments as the first woman elected President of the Village of La Grange, and her years of dedicated service to local residents. In order to recognize Ms. Asperger's positive impact on our community, the Village of La Grange is dedicating a garden at the historic Stone Avenue train station in her name on November 27th. I am pleased to be attending this celebration so that I can personally thank Ms. Asperger for her contributions and her tireless work to improve the lives of so many people.

Liz Asperger was elected President of the Village of La Grange after serving nine years as a trustee on the Village Board from 1996 to 2005. Prior to that she served on the village's Economic Development Commission beginning in 1993. Her two terms as President, from 2005 to 2013, were marked by tremendous accomplishments, and she was especially active on transportation and infrastructure issues. I was fortunate enough to work with Ms. Asperger and help La Grange accomplish vital projects including the parking deck behind Village Hall, modernization of La Grange's 9-1-1 call center, and the restoration of the Stone Avenue train station.

Prior to her time serving the Village of La Grange, Liz Asperger practiced law for sixteen years. As partner in her law firm, she specialized in real estate development. However, Ms. Asperger had a strong desire to serve our community, and in 1996 she resigned from her law firm in order to pursue opportunities in public service. After her retirement as President of the Village of La Grange, Ms. Asperger has remained committed to serving local residents and seniors. Liz and her husband, Jonathan, have resided in La Grange since 1983 and have one son, Kyle.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Elizabeth Asperger for her long history of public and community service. I am proud to have worked with such a dedicated public servant and leader, and I know that Ms. Asperger's example continues to inspire others to follow in her footsteps to work on behalf of La Grange and the region.

WISHING BUSTER AUSTIN A
HAPPY 107TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 107th birthday of Fourth District cattle producer, Buster Austin.

Mr. Austin was born in Madison County, Arkansas on October 20, 1912, and has lived most of his young life in the Fourth District. He has seen over one hundred years of American change and progress. Born before the start of World War I, he has now lived to see the end of polio and the start of the computer age. Today, he and his wife, Gayle, raise cattle in Madison County.

I find deep encouragement in hearing the story of Mr. Austin's life and history. I take this time to wish him a happy birthday and to thank him for his years of work and service in the Fourth Congressional District.

HONORING MELVINDALE-DEAR-
BORN FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL
BRANNON

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Melvindale-Dearborn Firefighter Michael Brannon as he retires after eighteen years of service.

During his eighteen years of public service, Firefighter Michael Brannon has garnered accolades for his bravery and dedication to safety along the way. In 2001, Brannon joined the City of Melvindale's Fire Department. From there, he was quickly promoted to Firefighter II, and ultimately, Firefighter III. A hardworking public servant, Michael Brannon has been acknowledged for his military service, exceptional driving record, and has spent countless hours advancing his certification, including rope rescue operations. Beyond this, Michael Brannon has been recognized for his courage in the line of duty both in military service and as a firefighter receiving awards like the Meritorious Company Commendation and the Fire Chief Unit Commendation.

Firefighter Michael Brannon has spent nearly two decades tirelessly working to ensure safety for the community. Please join me in saluting him for his years of public service as we wish him well on his retirement.

COMMEMORATING WORLD AIDS
DAY 2019

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, World AIDS Day affords us an opportunity to reflect on our progress in the fight against the global AIDS pandemic and to rededicate ourselves to ending the disease once and for all.

We have come a long way since the first World AIDS Day in 1988 by dramatically expanding investments in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, and research.

Strong advocacy has paved the way for the Ryan White Act, the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS Initiative, growing investments in NIH research, and an end to the ban on federal funds for syringe exchange.

Beyond our borders, our efforts have extended care to millions in the developing world, through increased resources for PEPFAR and the Global Fund.

Our investments have saved lives—preventing millions of new HIV cases, expanding access to improved treatments, and enabling medical advances that help HIV/AIDS patients live longer and healthier.

Here and across the globe, AIDS deaths are on the decline, and studies are pointing the way to new approaches to limit the spread of the disease, with treatment as prevention.

While our efforts have grown, we still only reach half of all people eligible for HIV treatment; and more must be done.

Working together, we must continue to strengthen—not weaken—our national and international efforts to combat AIDS and other infectious diseases.

We must work to achieve the goal of an AIDS-free generation.

We must honor the memory of those we have lost and act on our hope, optimism, and determination to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We must continue to work with programs and clinics, like the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD), who are treating and caring for patients with HIV/AIDS.

In 1989, HCHD opened Thomas Street Health Center, the first free-standing facility dedicated to outpatient HIV/AIDS care in the nation.

The center has become the cornerstone of all HIV/AIDS care available to Harris County residents.

The Thomas Street Health Center has dedicated their services to about 25 percent of Harris County's HIV/AIDS.

Annually, the health center, along with HCHD, serves 4,463 unique patients for about 37,000 patients' visits.

We will continue to fight a tough fight against HIV and AIDS.

We will continue to strengthen and support centers like Thomas Street Health Center who work diligently with HIV/AIDS patients.

Our focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness will be to ensure all of our friends,

● 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.