

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on December 10, 2019, I was absent from votes. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on Roll Call No. 660; nay on Roll Call No. 661; nay on Roll Call No. 662; yea on Roll Call No. 663; nay on Roll Call No. 664; yea on Roll Call No. 665; yea on Roll Call No. 666; and nay on Roll Call No. 667.

HONORING REYMUNDO BARRON RUIZ

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Reymundo Barron Ruiz, a Korean War combat veteran, who recently received his high school diploma and celebrated his 90th birthday.

Reymundo Barron Ruiz was born in Mexico but spent much of his youth in Del Rio, Texas with his mother, three brothers, and four sisters. During the Great Depression, he attended school, while working to help support his family. His older brothers were called to serve during World War II, and as the youngest, Reymundo, stayed at home to support his mother and sisters. When his older brothers returned from war in 1945, two of them were gravely injured and another relocated to Oregon, leaving Reymundo as the primary breadwinner of his family.

While he was 17 years old, Reymundo attended San Felipe High School and attended class as often as he could, while providing for his family. He would routinely travel with his mother to the Santa Clara Valley to work in the orchards and fields. This continued until 1950, when Reymundo was inducted into the U.S. Army, before he could receive his high school diploma. He then served in combat in the Korean War, until he was honorably discharged. Reymundo and his brothers were not citizens when they fought for our country and proudly became U.S. citizens for their combat and military service.

When Reymundo returned from the U.S. Army, he relocated with his mother to San Jose, California in pursuit of a better life. In 1954, he married Adelaida Macias and raised six children. As a young husband and father, Reymundo resumed and continued his education at night, while working day jobs as a laborer. In the evenings, he worked to improve his English while also studying chemistry and metallurgy in night school.

In the 1960s, Reymundo worked in the burgeoning electronics and semiconductor industry. Despite having no formal degree or di-

ploma, he was recognized by the National Semiconductor Corporation as a co-inventor of processes and methods for electro-plating computer chips during the early stages of the Silicon Valley computer industry.

After his retirement in 1992, Reymundo has devoted his time to the betterment of his family and community. He has volunteered at the local public schools and also helped establish the McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Association, as one of their founders.

An extraordinary role model, he taught his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, the importance of education and selfless service to others. Now his family includes teachers, law enforcement officers, active and retired military, as well as other public servants.

Reymundo always had the regret that he had not received his high school diploma. However, this year on November 11, he was recognized as a 2019 graduate of Del Rio High School and received his diploma, 69 years after he joined the U.S. Army and a month before his 90th birthday.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Reymundo Barron Ruiz on a life extraordinarily well-lived and for receiving his high school diploma. I thank Mr. Ruiz, for his service and for his contributions to our country and community.

CONGRATULATING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ANN MARIE SYDNOR ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Command Sergeant Major Ann Marie Sydnor on her retirement from the United States Army.

CSM Sydnor is a native of Rock Island, Illinois and a graduate of Rock Island High School. She attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training in 1992 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, graduating as a Unit Supply Specialist. She held many leadership positions during her career in the U.S. Army, such as Squad Leader, Supply Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, Senior Drill Sergeant, Battalion S4 NCOIC, Supply Accounting NCOIC, G4 Multi-Class Logistics NCOIC, First Sergeant, Support Operations Sergeant Major, Battalion Command Sergeant Major, Brigade Command Sergeant Major and U.S. Army Command G4 Sergeant Major. CSM Sydnor has been stationed at home and abroad on various important assignments and has earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and several others. She exemplifies patriotism, determination and passion.

It is because of community leaders such as Command Sergeant Major Ann Marie Sydnor

that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate CSM Ann Marie Sydnor on her retirement from the United States Army.

STRATA-G, 2019 DREAM BIG SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Knoxville-based engineering firm Strata-G on winning the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 2019 Dream Big Small Business of the Year Award.

Strata-G was founded in 2002 by retired Navy veteran Dan Hurst. Since then, the Strata-G team has grown to include more than 200 engineers, scientists, safety professionals and project managers that provide technical support to clients in environmental, energy, defense, utility and infrastructure sectors.

Strata-G has received numerous awards for both its outstanding engineering services and focus on community service. The firm supports numerous charities, non-profits and land stewardship initiatives. The Small Business of the Year Award came with a check for \$25,000, which Strata-G is investing in two of its community partners: Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries and Westview Community School.

It's an honor to have Strata-G located in Tennessee's Second District, and I know I speak for many in East Tennessee when I say congratulations on this prestigious award.

IN RECOGNITION OF LINA FAT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of my dear friend Lina Fat. Lina was not only the woman credited with building the Fat Family Restaurant Group empire, but an astounding woman and example for the rest of Sacramento. As we mourn this tremendous loss, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her life and legacy.

Born Po Ying Yue in Hong Kong in 1938, Lina moved to the United States to attend college in Tennessee. After she graduated, she moved on to attend UC San Francisco Medical Center's School of Pharmacy, where she met her husband Ken. Although Lina and Ken originally became medical professionals, in 1974, Lina Fat changed careers to help her family expand and open the Fat City Bar & Cafe in Old Sacramento.

Lina went on to become a trailblazer and an industry icon. Her generous and dynamic soul

• 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.