

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING OFFICER DANIEL
BALLONI

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Oswego Police Officer, Daniel Balloni, for his heroic actions to save a woman from the freezing Oswego River.

On December 29, 2019, at 1:17am, police responded to the Oswego River after local residents called 911 to report screams coming from the river. As officers began investigating on the west side of the river, Officer Balloni, who was not originally dispatched to the call, went to the east side to see if he could help. Officer Balloni and his colleagues located a young woman in the freezing water struggling to stay alive. After several failed attempts by the officers to rescue her using a floating ring, Officer Balloni removed his gear and jumped in the frigid water, grabbing the ring and the woman. Aided by his fellow officers, Officer Balloni was able to bring the woman to shore. Shortly thereafter, paramedics arrived on the scene and transported the woman to a local hospital where she was treated for hypothermia and is now recovering.

Officer Balloni risked his own safety and suffered from hypothermia during this rescue. His actions reaffirm that first responders in our community and nationwide put the safety of our communities ahead of their own. I am tremendously grateful for the heroic actions of Officer Balloni, members of the Oswego Police Department, and all of those who work every day to keep us safe.

Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor Officer Daniel Balloni for acting to save the life of a young woman. Every day, first responders like Officer Balloni put their lives on the line to serve and protect our community. I thank him as well as the first responders in Central New York and across the country for their service.

HONORING RICHARD STEVEN
GREEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Richard Steven Green. Richard is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Richard has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Richard has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his fam-

ily, peers, and community. Most notably, Richard has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Richard Steven Green for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life and, unfortunately, his untimely death, remind us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. In his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, Dr. King embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. I am honored to rise today to recognize several individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District who will be recognized during the 41st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 18, 2020, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

The Gary Frontiers Service Club will pay tribute to local individuals who have for decades selflessly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. This year, Mark Spencer will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award. Additionally, Lieutenant Derrick Cannon, James Harris, Suzette Raggs, Verlie Suggs, and Mildred Guthrie will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of each of these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Madam Speaker, I invite you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these honorees, as well as the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers, President Oli-

ver Gilliam, who also served as the MLK Breakfast Chairman, Vice President Charles Jackson, Secretary Linnal Ford, Financial Secretary Valerie Tate, and Treasurer Floyd Donaldson, and all members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

RECOGNIZING GINA LOSS OF
GREAT FALLS

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gina Loss, founder of the Great Falls Project Linus chapter, for leading efforts to provide comfort to Montana's children.

Project Linus is a national organization with chapters throughout the country. Its primary mission is to create handmade blankets to give to children who face a challenge, crisis, or emergency.

Facing her own challenges, Gina was inspired to create a local chapter of Project Linus. When faced with personal challenges, Gina believes many people often ask, "Why me?" When she confronted her own challenges, she asked herself, "How do kids get through hard times in life?" Considering that question led her to found the Great Falls chapter of Project Linus in March 2006.

Since its launch, the chapter has given more than 15,000 blankets to kids through hospitals, dentist offices, and neonatal intensive care units, among others. The entire community has embraced the effort, and now hundreds of volunteers across Montana offer handmade gifts of comfort for thousands of kids in need.

Volunteering her time and resources, Gina uses her home as the chapter's headquarters, overseeing everything from storage to quality control. Her home is also the distribution center where the blankets are sent around the state.

Gina says people don't realize how much a blanket means to a child who is thrust into difficult, challenging circumstances. She says as soon as a kid gets one of their blankets, they immediately settle down and never let it go.

Madam Speaker, for bringing together people across the state to provide comfort to children when they need it most, I recognize Gina Loss and the Great Falls chapter of Project Linus for their Spirit of Montana.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I

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