

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
AMBASSADOR FELIX ROHATYN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of vision and great intellect, whose life and legacy were marked by extraordinary achievements and a profound love for America: Ambassador Felix Rohatyn. From ushering New York City through economic crisis to proudly serving our nation as Ambassador to France to becoming a leading voice for building the infrastructure of America in a green way, Ambassador Rohatyn embodied the American spirit and helped build a brighter future for all Americans. His passing last December is a great official loss for our nation and a profound personal loss for all those privileged to call him a friend, counselor and loved one.

Felix Rohatyn was born in Vienna, Austria in 1928 to a prominent Jewish family. By 1935, he and his parents were forced to flee their home to escape the rise of Nazism, embarking on a years-long journey that eventually brought them to safety in the United States in 1942. His early experience as a refugee instilled in him a love for our bedrock American values of freedom, justice and economic opportunity for all, an appreciation that he honored throughout his life.

His professional success made him a sought-after economic expert and intellectual resource for countless public officials and leaders around the world. When New York City faced an unprecedented insolvency crisis in the 1970s, Felix Rohatyn's collaborative leadership skills brought together political and financial interests to make the difficult decisions needed to save the city. In the process, he made sure that the city invested in all its citizens, setting aside funding for schools, housing and public transportation to ensure a financially stable and prosperous future for millions of Americans.

Felix Rohatyn brought that same successful leadership, in addition to his fluency in French, to representing the United States as Ambassador to France. During his ambassadorship, he worked to strengthen the economic and cultural bonds between our nations, reaffirming an unbreakable friendship and partnership that dates back to the founding of our country.

It was always a privilege to have Ambassador Rohatyn meet with Members of Congress to discuss the most pressing issues facing our economy and our nation. His passionate advocacy for robust, climate change—resilient infrastructure made him a thoughtful advisor and effective Co-Chair of the bipartisan Commission on Public Infrastructure, helping Congress establish a framework to rebuild our nation and boost our economy in a sustainable, job-creating way.

After Superstorm Sandy in 2012, his forward-looking vision was essential to his serv-

ice as Co-Chair of the New York State 2100 Commission. The innovative strategies he helped develop have been critical in rebuilding devastated communities and will ensure the city is better prepared to meet the challenges posed by the worsening climate crisis.

America was blessed by the life and leadership of Ambassador Felix Rohatyn. May it be a comfort to his children, Pierre, Nicolas and Michael, his many grandchildren and the entire Rohatyn family that so many mourn their loss and pray for them at this sad time.

TRIBUTE TO FOSTENIA W. BAKER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of a tenacious and proud South Carolinian, who worked tirelessly her entire life to ensure her family's story was not forgotten. Earlier this month, we lost Dr. Fostenia W. Baker, a lifelong educator, family historian, and determined advocate. She will be sorely missed.

Fostenia Baker was a native of Florence, South Carolina, and she graduated from South Carolina State College (now University), which is also my alma mater. During her time as a student, I got to know Fostenia as my future wife Emily's roommate. There was always something different about Fostenia, but I didn't understand until much later the family history that made her demeanor stand out.

Fostenia, like many of our classmates, left South Carolina after graduation and earned a master's degree from City College of New York and a doctorate from George Washington University. She began her teaching career in the New York City Public Schools in 1970. Five years later, she returned to South Carolina to teach health education at Voorhees College and later served as a research fellow in the School of Epidemiology at the University of South Carolina. She remained in South Carolina, teaching education at Allen University and serving as a science instructor in Colleton County Schools in Walterboro, South Carolina.

In 1984, Dr. Baker was appointed instructor of education for the District of Columbia Department of Corrections in Washington, D.C. She went on to become an assistant professor of health education at Trinity College and later Howard University, both in Washington, D.C. Her final position from 1997 to 2005 was as instructor of science and health education in the Prince Georges County Public Schools in Hyattsville, Maryland.

Dr. Baker won numerous teaching awards including an Excellence Award as Health Education Chairperson for Prince Georges County Public Schools and the Innovative Professor Award at Howard University. She also published numerous articles in scientific journals and a book entitled *Women's Health, What Do You Know About It*.

In addition to her professional work, it was a personal family history that was her true passion. In 1897, her great uncle, Frazier B. Baker, was named the first Black Postmaster in Lake City, South Carolina. Immediately, he was threatened by the white community who didn't want him to serve in this important role. Postmaster Baker would not be deterred by their intimidation, and he performed his job with distinction despite constant torment. On February 22, 1898, the harassers make good on their promise to remove him from his post by firing upon the Baker family in their home. Frazier Baker and his infant daughter were killed in the attack, and the other five family members barely escaped.

Dr. Baker was determined to ensure that her great uncle's lynching would not be forgotten. She spent her life pursuing recognition for Postmaster Baker—writing a book of his life story and appearing in the documentary *An Outrage* that told the story of lynching in the American South.

She also contacted me to ask if Congress would name the Lake City Post Office in Postmaster Baker's honor. I decided to champion the effort and introduced legislation in 2018, that was co-sponsored by all members of the South Carolina delegation. It became law later that year.

On February 22, 2019, the 121st anniversary of Frazier Baker's murder, Fostenia Baker joined me in Lake City as we officially dedicated the Postmaster Frazier B. Baker Post Office. It was one of the proudest days in her life, and I was pleased to be there to share it with her.

Without her determination, Postmaster Baker's story may have continued to be lost to history. However, Fostenia's tremendous work has ensured that his story will endure. Her "bulldog tenacity" is a tribute to how one person can truly make a difference.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of Dr. Fostenia Baker. She is an inspiring example of a life well lived. Her legacy lives on in the students she taught and the lessons she has left for future generations by sharing her family's history.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MR.
BUSTER DAVIS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Buster Davis, who passed away on Thursday, January 9th at the age of 93.

Buster was born on October 25, 1926, in Tishomingo County, Mississippi. He was a basketball legend at Belmont High School in Belmont, Mississippi, where he led the team to win two State Championships. After High School, Buster obtained a Bachelor of Science

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