

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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from Mississippi State University, then received his Masters from the University of Mississippi before answering the call to serve our great nation in the United States Army during WWII.

On August 22, 1948, Buster married Billie Faye South, and they remained together for over 63 years. Buster's love for basketball brought him back to Belmont High School where he became a basketball coach. He also coached at both Kossuth High School in Corinth, Mississippi and Thrasher High School in Booneville, Mississippi. In 1962, Buster began coaching at Itawamba Junior College in Fulton, Mississippi, and led the team to multiple State Finals. He left his coaching career in 1975 and started his career with Davis Ford. He stayed with Ford for over 55 years.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughters: Pam Davis Horton of Birmingham, Alabama, and Patti Davis Bennett of Fulton, Mississippi; his grandchildren, great-grand children, as well as many friends and extended family members.

Buster's life was one of service, grace, love for his family, and community. He will be greatly missed by all who he encountered.

TRIBUTE TO THE SPITZER SPACE TELESCOPE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) mission managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), the Spitzer Space Telescope. After 16 years of discovering hidden truths of our Universe, Spitzer will be retired on January 30, 2020.

Designed to study the cold, old and dusty, Spitzer was launched in August of 2003 and used its sensitive sensors to study infrared light emitted by celestial bodies and cosmic objects from our own solar system to the furthest reaches of the Universe. Spitzer returned data on space phenomena from asteroids to the most distant galaxies ever detected whose light was emitted 13.4 billion years ago when the universe was less than 5 percent of its current age. It discovered the largest ring around Saturn made of dust particles, identified the first Buckyballs in space, found distant blackholes and mapped out our Milky Way with unprecedented clarity. Spitzer gave us a view beyond the gas and dust clouds to study the youngest stars and the ingredients to create planets, comets and other components of our solar system.

As with many NASA missions, the telescope operated much longer than expected and has a long list of accomplishments beyond the mission's original science goals. Undoubtedly, one of Spitzer's greatest discoveries was seven Earth-size planets in around the star TRAPPIST-1. Spitzer enabled scientists to study exoplanets and identify atmospheric molecules, temperature variations, and wind speed.

As Spitzer is safely retired in deep space orbit far from Earth, the legacy of the mission will be continued by the James Webb Space Telescope, which will also conduct infrared astronomy based on Spitzer's pioneering and

trailblazing work in infrared light. The massive amount of data collected by Spitzer has been used in over 8,700 scientific publications and its data will continue to be available to the scientific community around the world for future research.

I have great appreciation and pride for the countless personnel that have worked to ensure that Spitzer operated with precision, from design to data analysis, that allowed Spitzer to study the Universe with infrared light. The numerous discoveries made move us closer to shedding light on the profound mysteries of our Universe. I ask all members to join me in honoring the achievements of the Spitzer Space Telescope and the hard-working individuals and organizations that made Spitzer's mission so successful.

CONGRATULATING DR. JEAN G. CHAMPOMMIER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Jean G. Champommier on his retirement from a distinguished career in community organizing and social work. He has dedicated his life to creating programs that improve the lives of those in underserved communities throughout Los Angeles County.

Dr. Champommier began his career in social work during the 1960s when he took on a field-work placement at the Kennedy Child Study Center in Santa Monica. Through this position, he worked with children with developmental disabilities and their families, solidifying his passion for helping his neighbors and his community.

Since 1983, Dr. Champommier has served as the Executive Director, and later President/CEO, of Alma Family Services. This agency provides communities throughout Los Angeles County with multilingual and multicultural services, including helping families and individuals cope with substance abuse, emotional difficulties, and developmental challenges. Through his role at Alma, he expanded the agency's first contract with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and oversaw Alma's growth as a provider of community-integrated social programs. During his tenure, Alma has added social rehabilitation programs for child abuse, gang prevention and reduction programs, and has grown to 16 sites throughout Los Angeles County. In 2015, Dr. Champommier was appointed by County Supervisor Hilda Solis to Los Angeles' Public Health Commission. Eventually serving as chair of the Commission, he supervised the Public Health Department's programs and made recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to ensure that community input was heard in matters of public health.

Dr. Champommier's impact stretches outside his field work and into the classroom. He has taught courses in child welfare and community organization at UC Santa Barbara, Cal State Northridge, and Cal State L.A., and has also been an instructor in social work for USC and UCLA. Additionally, he has coordinated conferences on youth empowerment and farm labor for UC Santa Barbara Extension.

Dr. Champommier's career demonstrates his admirable dedication and service to his community. I thank him for his 40 years of contributions to Los Angeles and wish him nothing but the best in retirement.

IN HONOR OF JOHN ROBERT MILLER

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of World War II veteran John Robert Miller of Barren County, Kentucky.

After growing up in Freedom, Kentucky, John Robert volunteered for the Army when he was just eighteen years old in June 1941. He served in the Pacific theater until World War II concluded in 1945. During his Army service, John Robert rose to the rank of technical sergeant in an artillery unit, and he witnessed General Douglas MacArthur stepping off the landing craft to make his triumphant return to the Philippines.

Following his service in the Army, John Robert became a fixture in the Barren County community. He married his wife Christine in 1945, and they were married for 67 years until her death in 2013. John Robert was a farmer with hogs, corn, and tobacco, and he also worked as a crop insurance adjuster. John Robert served as a Magistrate on the Barren County Fiscal Court for three years, and he has served as an Election Commissioner since 1993. In 2016, John Robert was awarded the Patriot Award by Barren County Veteran's Association, and he was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Honor for Barren County Schools.

I thank John Robert for his service to our country and to our community.

RECOGNIZING LEXI RODRIGUEZ FOR BEING NAMED THE 2019-2020 GATORADE ILLINOIS VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lexi Rodriguez, a junior from Sterling High School, who was named the 2019-2020 Gatorade Illinois Volleyball Player of the Year.

Lexi led the Golden Warriors to a 36-6 record and a second win at Class 3A State Championships this year. Showing her dedication to sports, she also took part of this season to help Team USA win a gold medal at the FIVB Girls U18 World Championships in Egypt. In addition, she is a three-year class president and a youth volleyball coach. As a former athlete, I commend her for her determination and attitude. Lexi is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud to see her represent Sterling so well throughout the state and the country with her talent and passion.

It is because of student leaders such as Lexi that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam