

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. TERRY GEILING UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE AMERICAN GOLD STAR MANOR

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the leadership and accomplishments of Mr. Terry Geiling, who has, after 12 years serving as President and CEO of the American Gold Star Manor, announced his retirement.

Located in Long Beach, California, the Gold Star Manor is a one-of-a-kind 25-acre retirement community providing affordable housing for 400 Gold Star Mothers, fathers, veterans, and other eligible seniors.

During Mr. Geiling's leadership tenure, he oversaw a major expansion and renovation of the facility, marshalling the resources of state, federal, county, and city agencies through his tireless efforts.

He showed unparalleled determination in building important partnerships and developing the necessary financial plans to ensure the completion of the \$55 million rehabilitation project. By the completion of the work, Mr. Geiling had built the Gold Star Manor into a nationally recognized housing facility for veterans and their families.

In the midst of the Gold Star Manor rehabilitation project, Mr. Geiling also played a key role in the development and construction of a Fisher House at the Tibor Rubin Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Long Beach.

While his leadership at American Gold Star Manor will be dearly missed, he will continue to support the organization as a consultant for another major expansion project that will develop 150 additional housing units at the manor.

Mr. Geiling is a pillar of the Long Beach community, a tireless advocate for our veterans and their families, and his name is synonymous with honorable public service.

I want to offer my deepest appreciation to Mr. Geiling for his service to our country, his dedication to our veterans and their families, and his deep commitment to the Long Beach community.

I wish him the very best of luck in future.

CELEBRATING OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE UPWARD BOUND'S 55TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Upward Bound at Occidental College as it celebrates its 55th anniversary. As one of the country's oldest and most success-

ful Upward Bound programs, Oxy Upward Bound has been assisting low-income, underserved, and first-generation students from central and northeast Los Angeles achieve success both in their pre-college achievement and their higher education pursuits.

Through one-on-one academic advisement, weekly academic enrichment services, workshops, cultural activities, and a summer residential experience, Oxy Upward Bound's programs helps students develop key skill sets that positively impact their academic performances in high school while also exposing and guiding them through the rigors of the college experience.

Oxy Upward Bound works to ensure scholars graduate from high school with a solid post-secondary plan—both academic and financial—and those students can graduate from a 4-year college or university in 6 years or less.

Over the past five years, 99 percent of Oxy Upward Bound students have advanced a grade level or graduated from high school, with 90 percent of those graduating from high school going on to enroll in college.

Among college access programs, Oxy Upward Bound stands out in that its chief goal is not to produce applicants to Occidental—although some participants have ended up enrolling at and graduating from the College—but to contribute to higher education nationwide and empower students to triumph over systematic, institutional barriers to opportunity and progress.

As Oxy Upward Bound celebrates 55 years of success, I am confident it will continue to inspire and serve students for even more years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Upward Bound at Occidental College on their anniversary for their excellent work on behalf of students in Los Angeles.

TIM HORNE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tim Horne who is retiring after 27 years of public service.

Tim began his career with the General Services Administration in 1993 in the Rocky Mountain Region. He worked his way up and is retiring as the Regional Commissioner for the Rocky Mountain Region of GSA's Public Buildings Service based out of the Denver Federal Center, located in the heart of my district. The Denver Federal Center is an important asset with the highest concentration of federal agencies located outside of Washington, D.C. comprised of approximately 28 federal agencies and more than 6,000 federal employees.

Tim also served as the Acting GSA Administrator in 2017 leading GSA's staff of 12,000

nationwide, overseeing more than 375 million square feet of property, and approximately \$50 billion in annual contracts. These positions reflect his leadership abilities, passion for public service, and a true talent for bringing people together to get things done and improve local communities.

In his years of service, he has worked with me and my staff on a number of important issues and projects that impact federal agencies and federal employees in my district and the state. Tim always held the mission of GSA and the agencies and employees he served in high regard and worked to find innovative solutions on behalf of those he served.

I want to congratulate Tim Horne on a long and distinguished career, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MIKE PERSON OF GLENDIVA

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today, ahead of the Super Bowl, to honor Mike Person of Glendive for his resiliency and determination and for serving as an example of never giving up on your dreams.

Two weeks ago, Person helped the San Francisco 49ers beat the Green Bay Packers to earn a spot in Super Bowl LIV. As an offensive lineman, he helped the 49ers rack up 287 rushing yards and set a new franchise record for rushing yards from one running back in a game.

Person's story starts in Glendive where he was born and raised. In high school, he was a three-time all-conference selection in Montana's Eastern A division. He earned offensive lineman of the year honors twice while playing for the Red Devils. For his junior and senior seasons, he was all-state and selected for Montana's East-West Shrine Game as well as the Knights of Columbus Badlands Bowl.

Person then went to play for Montana State University where he became a first-team all-conference selection, first-team all-American, and a Big Sky Conference champion.

Person's story, however, is about more than statistics and honors. It's about Person's challenging journey to get to where he is today.

In 2011, Person was a seventh-round draft pick for San Francisco. Nothing is guaranteed in the National Football League, especially for a seventh-round pick.

For the first part of his career, Person was a journeyman, playing for six different teams. He was released midseason from three different teams which eventually made it to the Super Bowl. For some players, that much adversity would lead to an early retirement, but Person stood strong and kept moving forward until he eventually returned to the 49ers.

In May 2018, Person's hard work and dedication paid off, and he signed a contract to

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play with the 49ers. Then in March 2019, San Francisco gave him a three-year extension, and now he'll play in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

Madam Speaker, for his tenacity and resiliency, I recognize Mike Person of Glendive for his Spirit of Montana.

ROBERT ERPELDING

HON. PAUL MITCHELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Robert Franklin Erpelding, a loving father, husband, and grandfather of Michigan. Bob moved to Detroit as a child and enlisted in the Navy in 1951 during the Korean War. He served as a radarman on the USS *Watts*, a Navy destroyer. Following his service in the armed forces, he worked for over 30 years on computers at the Burroughs Corporation.

After his long and admirable career, he began his next phase of life as a vintner, model plane designer, and craft brew enthusiast.

Bob was an upstanding man who led by example and encouraged his friends and family to appreciate the little things in life. He will be missed dearly by his wife, Marguerite, his two children Laura Cox and Robert Erpelding, as well as his grandchildren and great-granddaughters.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize School Choice Week.

As a father of two, I am well-versed with the parental drive to give your child the best opportunities possible in life. Each student deserves a rich, challenging curriculum to prepare them for success, and I believe parents have the right to select the best school that will provide them with the best education.

Millions of American students are trapped in schools that do not meet their aptitudes and needs, and as a nation, we face a tragically high dropout rate. In Arkansas, one in every twenty high school students will drop out before graduation, and this statistic mirrors the national rate. School choice most benefits students from low-income families, whose parents cannot buy a new home in a zip code with a better-performing public school.

I support school vouchers and other innovative educational options, such as magnet and charter schools, because they give parents the flexibility to place their child in the school that best meets their educational needs. As lawmakers, we owe families the right to access a high-quality education, unrestricted by zip code or income.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VICTIMS
OF THE BAKU AND SUMGAI T PO-
GROMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 32nd Anniversary of the Sumgait pogrom and the 30th Anniversary of the Baku pogrom.

On February 27, 1988, hundreds of Armenian civilians living in the city of Sumgait in Azerbaijan were indiscriminately killed, raped, maimed, and even burned alive for no reason other than their ethnicity. This senseless violence was instigated by hostile, anti-Armenian rhetoric from Azerbaijani citizens and officials.

Similarly, on January 12, 1990, a seven-day pogrom broke out against the Armenian population in Baku during which Armenians were beaten, murdered, and expelled from the city. Over 90 Armenian civilians were killed, over 700 were injured, and countless others were permanently displaced by the ethnic violence that ensued.

For over three decades, Azerbaijan has taken steps to cover up these crimes against humanity and dismiss the atrocities at Sumgait and Baku. Even more disturbing is that the perpetrators of this event and similar violent attacks have been lauded as national heroes by the Azeri government.

It is critical for the United States government to recognize and denounce violent assaults against any civilians. I continue to stand with the Armenian people in condemning this horrific massacre. Tragically, the Azerbaijani government's approach toward the Armenian people has changed little since the pogroms were initiated. We still hear the same violent rhetoric and witness intimidation tactics aimed at the people of the Republic of Artsakh.

If we do not condemn crimes against humanity and allow them to go unpunished and unrecognized, we only strengthen the resolve of those seeking to perpetrate these crimes in the future. It is especially critical to consider this as we prepare to commemorate the 105th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in April.

I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus to remember the victims of the pogroms at Sumgait and Baku and condemn all acts of violence against people who are targeted simply because of their existence. I hope my colleagues will join me in rejecting violent rhetoric and intimidation. In doing so, we renew our commitment to achieving a lasting peace and more humane way of living in the Caucasus.

HONORING BUDDY BAKER'S INDUCTION INTO THE 2020 NASCAR
HALL OF FAME

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of racing legend Buddy Baker upon his induction into the eleventh class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

A native of Charlotte, Buddy Baker was a towering figure in the world of NASCAR and in 1980, won the Daytona 500 with an average race speed of 177.602 MPH—a track record that stands today. During his 33-year career, he accumulated 19 premier series wins, back-to-back Coca-Cola 600 titles, and a Southern 500 victory where he lapped the rest of the field.

Buddy Baker retired in 1992 and transitioned to television and radio, where he was a successful commentator for The Nashville Network and CBS and radio co-host on Late Shift and Tradin' Paint for SiriusXM NASCAR Radio. He passed away in 2015 and left behind a legacy of racing excellence and remains one of the sport's fastest drivers.

This year's class was selected by a comprehensive voting panel that included track owners, competitors, members of the media, industry leaders, a nationwide fan vote, and the reigning Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series champion. In total, a group of five was chosen to join the ranks of other NASCAR legends in the Hall of Fame. Buddy Baker is especially deserving of this honor and will now be enshrined forever for his remarkable contributions to racing.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring the legacy of Buddy Baker on his induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

CONGRATULATING MAX FISHER
FOR BEING NAMED
MOORESTOWN, NEW JERSEY'S
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of my constituents, Max Fisher of Moorestown, New Jersey, for being named as his town's 2020 Citizen of the Year.

Each year, the Citizen of the Year Award is presented by the Moorestown Service Council to a resident who through service activities has significantly contributed to improving the quality of life of the community and their fellow citizens. This year's recipient has not just been contributing to his community in the last year, but has been an institution of service and volunteerism in Moorestown for decades.

Max Fisher moved onto Main Street in Moorestown when he was just four years old, and he and his wife Beth have lived and raised their children here since. Max has been an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Moorestown, organizing and participating in over 25 church mission trips in New Jersey and around the nation, helping to rebuild in communities devastated by Hurricanes Charlie, Katrina and Sandy. He been a mainstay on the Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development Committee (MEND) for 20+ years, and has been Chairman for the past 12 years. He was an original member of the YMCA's Men's Service Club, and has been a member of the Moorestown Volunteer Fire Department since 1971.

Max has also run the Taylor Rental Center in Moorestown for the last 30 years. His generosity has been legendary around Moorestown: Max was always quick to lend a hand and say "yes" when a service organization needed to borrow some of his equipment