

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 550TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF GURU NANAK

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 550th anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh religion. The 8th Congressional District of Illinois is home to many Sikh-Americans and Sikh faithful. I wish to acknowledge Guru Nanak's birth anniversary in the history of the Sikh religion and the important influence of Guru Nanak and Sikhism on other religions.

Born the child of Hindu merchants, Guru Nanak spent his childhood in the village of Talwandi, which is located in the modern-day province of Punjab in the modern nation of Pakistan. In keeping with the custom of the times, he married at an early age and was quickly blessed with two sons. He began his adult years working at a storehouse for tax collections, and exploring his spiritual side through meditation, writing hymns, and poetry.

Guru Nanak soon felt an irresistible calling to pursue spiritual enlightenment, however, after his thirtieth year embarked upon a series of pilgrimages in search of wisdom and religious truth. During this phase of his life, he composed a series of hymns that formed the basis of the Sikh religion and the foundation of the Adi Granth, the sacred text compiled in the early 17th century by the Fifth Sikh Guru Arjun.

As revealed by Guru Nanak and the Adi Granth, Sikhism teaches that there is only one God, that God is without form or gender, that we are all equal before God, and that a good life is lived as part of a community and expressed by good deeds (and not merely by faith or good thoughts). Sikh spirituality encompasses a belief in an unending succession of birth, life, death and rebirth until perfection is realized and one's soul is released from this cycle after achieving a complete understanding and acceptance of the nature of God.

Guru Nanak is recognized as the first of the ten gurus revered by Sikh faithful throughout the world. His truths continue to guide the Sikh community and form the bedrock of its commitment to public service and deeply ethical behavior.

Madam Speaker, on this 550th anniversary of his birth I want to recognize the founding contribution of Guru Nanak to Sikhism, one of the world's great religions, and also the many gurdwaras in the greater Chicagoland area and the Sikh faithful in the 8th Congressional District, for their service to their communities.

HONORING XANDER CARTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Xander Carter. Xander 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 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Xander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Xander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Xander has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Xander helped perform habitat maintenance at Martha LaFite Thompson Nature Sanctuary in Liberty, Missouri, clearing over an acre of land of invasive honeysuckle and unhealthy trees and planting 25 new Missouri Dogwood trees.

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

TRIBUTE TO DEAN SEIF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona in Riverside County, California are exceptional. On Thursday, February 6, 2020, Dean Seif will be honored as the 2019 Citizen of the Year by the Corona Chamber of Commerce.

The mission statement of the Corona Chamber is to promote business, advocacy, community and economic development while serving as a catalyst for improving the overall quality of life in our community and region. Dean exemplifies this mission statement in all that he does in business and beyond. Dean has served the Chamber through various roles, including as the Chairman of the Board in 2016, and remains a strong advocate for the Chamber and their principles.

Today, Dean continues to serve our community as a Board Member for the Corona Chamber and as the President of the Corona Chamber Foundation. He is also a Corona-Norco United Way Board Member, sits on the Governing Board of the Corona Regional Medical Center, and is a Member of the Corona Rotary Club. Dean is a local business owner, an active community member, and role model for many.

Considering all that Dean has done for the community of Riverside County and the city of Corona, it is only fitting to honor him as Citizen of the Year. Dean has contributed immensely to the betterment of our region and I am proud to call him a friend, a fellow community member, American and a constituent of the 42nd Congressional District of California. I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating Dean Seif on being named Citizen of the Year by the Corona Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) on the 75th anniversary of its founding.

Greater Vallejo Recreation District was established in June of 1944 and has provided exceptional services to better the quality of life in our community ever since. This independent special service district offers recreational activities and leisure services to the people of Vallejo. GVRD is strongly committed to creating and managing age inclusive programs and facilities for the benefit and enjoyment of over 120,000 residents.

Greater Vallejo Recreation District manages mostly city-owned recreational properties and an additional 1000 acres of public land. These city properties include neighborhood parks, special purpose parks, an Olympic-size swimming pool and community centers. GVRD is responsible for organizing and overseeing services provided by Parks & Recreation. GVRD holds a variety of youth and family-friendly programs, such as Family Campouts, Breakfast with Santa, Concerts in the Park and Family Movie Nights. The GVRD staff works tirelessly to uphold the organization's mission to improve the livelihood of our community, and their outstanding service is evidenced by the gratitude of our community.

GVRD also offers educational programs to adults and youths. Students can attend an array of afterschool programs, including martial art classes, painting lessons, Spanish classes, online drivers education courses and many more. Furthermore, GVRD advocates passionately for a healthy lifestyle. The District organizes basketball and baseball trainings for children and teens along with cardio and weight lifting classes for adults. GVRD has maintained a tradition of creativity paired with excellent services that demonstrate ideals defined by the programs it provides.

Madam Speaker, the Greater Vallejo Recreation District has been instrumental in fulfilling the educational and amusement needs of our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Greater Vallejo Recreation District on the 75th anniversary of its founding.

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