

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CARLOS A. PENIN FOR
HIS DEDICATION TO SOUTH
FLORIDA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, in recognition of his long-standing contributions to the engineering profession and his dedication to bettering South Florida, I rise today to honor my good friend, Mr. Carlos A. Penin.

Born in Holguin, Cuba, Carlos was forced into exile by the Castro dictatorship with his mother and three sisters in 1962. They arrived in Miami, Florida where they rebuilt their lives in pursuit of the American Dream. Carlos knew that with hard work and perseverance, he could turn this dream into a reality. In 1977, he graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and Construction Management. He continued with his studies and received an M.S. in Environmental and Urban Systems from Florida International University in 1982.

After graduation, Carlos remained in South Florida and worked for several architectural and engineering firms. He played a key role in designing and managing major infrastructure projects, including the Joe Robbie Stadium, now known as the Hard Rock Stadium. Despite his success, Carlos always knew he wanted to start his own company and give back to the community that has given so much to him. In 1989, he took a chance and began C.A.P. Government, Inc. (CAP), and, in 2019, CAP celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. Under his leadership, CAP has provided unparalleled expertise for government clients who need assistance with building department services. Presently, they serve over sixty municipalities and six educational institutions across Florida.

While Carlos's professional accomplishments are impressive, it would be remiss to honor him without touching on the love he has for his three daughters, Monica, Teresa, and Isabel. His daughters are truly his greatest treasures, and, with their support, he has become not only a successful businessman, but also a leader in his community. He has been actively involved in promoting the importance of engineering careers through leadership positions in several organizations. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Cuban American Association of Civil Engineers (CAACE), and, in fact, is the 2020 recipient of their Plinio Villanueva Award. This award recognizes his commitment and dedication to advancing the civil engineering profession. Further, it acknowledges the difference that he has made in the lives of so many, and it is one that he greatly deserves.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to call Mr. Carlos A. Penin a close friend, and to pay tribute to his impressive accomplishments. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

RECOGNIZING CLAY COUNTY SUPERVISOR,
MR. SHELTON DEANES

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clay County Supervisor, Mr. Shelton Deanes, who is being inducted into the West Point Hall of Fame for his outstanding public service.

Supervisor Deanes was born in West Point, Mississippi, in 1956. He and his wife, Mrs. Frances Deanes, are blessed with eight children, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Supervisor Deanes has always set an example of faith for his family to follow. He has been a proud member of Palo Alto Missionary Baptist Church for over 54 years and has served his congregation as a Deacon.

Supervisor Deanes was first elected as Clay County Supervisor in 1991. During his 29-year career, he has been instrumental in developing multiple projects for Clay County. His initiatives included building the Judicial Court Building, adding more voting precincts to the county, developing the Una Community Center, adding the walking trail and Fun Day, and paving residential roads.

Supervisor Deanes is a remarkable Mississippian who has set a shining example for others to follow. I thank him for his positive impact on his community, and I wish him many more years of good health.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD
POLLARD

HON. LAUREN UNDERWOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Donald W. Pollard, III for his service in my office in Washington, D.C.

Donald joined our office as a legislative assistant and served as an advisor for my work on the House Committee on Homeland Security, in addition to handling a policy portfolio that included energy, environment, natural resources, judiciary, campaign finance, and other issues. Among other accomplishments, he developed and led introduction of the Climate and Health Protection Act and the Safe Communities Act. Donald was instrumental in our office's work to advance clean energy policy, protect communities from domestic threats, and counter gun violence.

Donald's intellect, diligence, and professionalism have been invaluable assets as we worked to establish our legislative operation from scratch during my first year in office. I commend his ability to direct a wide policy portfolio while leading my staff work on the Committee on Homeland Security. Although

Donald may be leaving our office, our community in northern Illinois will continue to benefit from the results of his hard work and accomplishments.

Prior to joining my staff, Donald earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Richmond. He then earned a Master of Public Administration from American University while serving his home-state Senator. I am grateful he chose to continue his career in public service by joining my office. Our team will miss his expertise, work ethic, sense of humor, and encyclopedic knowledge of Beyoncé.

Madam Speaker, I would like to formally thank Donald W. Pollard, III for his service to my office, to Illinois's 14th Congressional District, and to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this week marks the 28th anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly in what was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Khojaly, which is located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was once home to 7,000 people. Tragically, on February 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces massacred over 600 unarmed people—including 106 women and 83 children—and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than one hundred children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were completely killed.

Even though a ceasefire went into effect over two decades ago, more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, remain occupied and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis remain unable to return to their home villages. Ongoing violence along the line of contact surrounding occupied Azerbaijani territory emphasizes the urgency of robust American participation in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group as it works toward a peaceful resolution of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

Azerbaijan has been a strong partner of the United States and its allies. This cooperation has included: playing a leadership role in non-proliferation issues; providing troops to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit of non-lethal equipment used by coalition forces through Azerbaijan to Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy, thereby providing Europe with an alternative to Russian energy sources; and supplying 40 percent of Israel's oil. Azerbaijan also has a thriving Jewish community and has outstanding relations with Israel.

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