

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2020*

Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, I was not present the week of March 9–13, 2020 on account of supporting my son's continuing recovery. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 91; YEA on Roll Call No. 92; YEA on Roll Call No. 93; NAY on Roll Call No. 94; NAY on Roll Call No. 95; NAY on Roll Call No. 96; YEA on Roll Call No. 97; YEA on Roll Call No. 98; NAY on Roll Call No. 99; YEA on Roll Call No. 100; and NAY on Roll Call No. 101.

COMMEMORATING THE 1790 ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST CARMELITE SISTERS IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2020*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of the Carmel of Port Tobacco, Maryland, will mark the 230th anniversary this year of their establishment as the first women's religious order in our state. Established in 1790, the same year that Maryland and the other thirteen states were in the process of ratifying the First Amendment guaranteeing freedom of worship, the Carmelite nuns were Americans who had left for Europe years earlier in search of the Catholic religious

life. With their return, they began a tradition of religious orders for women and men of many faiths to build and grow in Maryland and in America.

Founded originally as a haven for those facing religious persecution in Europe, the colony of Maryland welcomed many Catholics to its shores from its origins in 1634. In the years before the American Revolution, Catholics in Maryland and elsewhere faced persecution for practicing their faith. An absence of any local Catholic religious orders for women led a number of American women to travel to Europe to join orders there. Among them were Mother Bernardina Matthews and her nieces Sister Mary Aloysia Matthews and Sister Mary Eleanora Matthews, who had left Maryland in their youth. Together with Mother Clare Joseph Dickenson of England, they set off from their convent in Hoogstraten, Belgium, on April 19, 1790, and reached New York on July 2 after an arduous sea journey. On the evening of July 10, they arrived in Port Tobacco, which was then the seat of Charles County, Maryland.

From 1790 to 1831, the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of the Carmel of Port Tobacco grew from these original four to twenty sisters. Guided by their spiritual director, Father Charles Neale, they followed the rule established by Saint Teresa of Avila in the sixteenth century, living a life of poverty and prayer, focusing on contemplation, meditation, and charitable works. After Father Neale's death in 1823, the convent fell on hard times, and the sisters resettled in Baltimore in 1831, where they served the population of the growing city.

Although the Discalced Carmelites eventually spawned chapters across the northeastern United States, only one chapter remains active today, serving Maryland. In 1933, a group of

supporters founded 'The Restorers of Mount Carmel' to purchase the site of the original convent, which was preserved as a historic site. In 1976, a group of American Catholic missionary women from Great Mills, Maryland, were granted permission to move to the site and re-establish a religious community there. They left in 1982 but were quickly followed by the return of Carmelite nuns from elsewhere in the country determined to carry on the order established in 1790. Since that re-establishment, there have been as many as fifteen Carmelite nuns living at the convent, carrying on the traditions of their forebears and adding to the religious diversity of our state and our nation.

I am proud to represent a state that was founded to promote religious tolerance and be a welcoming haven to all seeking freedom to worship and pursue a better life. Maryland has been enriched by its many religious communities, including the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of the Carmel of Port Tobacco, who were pioneers at the start of America's independence. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the order on celebrating its 230th year.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2020*

Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, I was not present on March 14, 2020 on account of family reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 102.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.