

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING OFFICER KAIA GRANT

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor fallen Springdale police officer and hero Kaia Grant, who gave her life in the line of duty.

Growing up in Wyoming, Ohio, friends, family, and peers knew Officer Grant was destined for greatness. Officer Grant exemplified the best of what our nation has to offer—commitment to fighting for justice and protecting our people. She was a dedicated public servant who lost her life trying to help others.

The loss of Officer Grant is deeply felt in Wyoming, in Springdale, and across Hamilton County. Community members have displayed blue hearts on their front doors in memory of her and in solidarity with the Springdale Police Department.

I pray that God will bring comfort to Officer Grant's family, to the law enforcement community, and to all those in the Hamilton County community grieving her loss. While God has called Kaia Grant away from us, the positive impact of her service shall never die.

God bless.

THANK YOU TO WASHINGTON STATE'S FIRST RESPONDERS

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today with appreciation for health care workers in Washington state who are leading the charge against COVID-19.

The bravery and resilience of health care professionals throughout the COVID-19 response is inspiring. Many health care workers are facing the toughest challenges of their professional careers. Still these professionals continue to provide lifesaving care to their patients. In my conversations with health care professionals, I know the personal toll these past weeks have taken, as they work to keep communities safe while living with the fear of contracting COVID-19 and exposing their loved ones to the disease.

In addition, I want to express all of Northwest Washington's gratitude to the hundreds of volunteer health care workers across Washington state who have stepped up. In this time of crisis, retired health care workers and medical students are rising to the occasion, treating patients and keeping Washingtonians safe.

Madam Speaker, the current COVID-19 pandemic has presented Washington's health care workers with what seem like impossible challenges. Despite the obstacles, doctors, nurses, volunteers and other medical profes-

sionals are showing up every day to care for their friends, neighbors, and communities. On behalf of a grateful community, I express my sincere thanks.

TRIBUTE TO LUCIE GIKOVICH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an outstanding individual and my dear friend, Lucie Yvonne Gikovich, who lost her hard-fought battle with pancreatic cancer at the age of 70 on March 11, 2020. Lucie was a lover of life, a caring friend and she will be deeply missed.

In all Lucie did, every role she played, and every job title she held, she had a lasting impact on those around her. She began her career as an integral part of Jerry Brown's team, both throughout his gubernatorial campaign and during his first eight years in the California Governor's office. She worked behind the scenes, often running the day-to-day operations of the office as Brown's executive assistant. She went on to also serve as his scheduler, as a cabinet secretary, and as the campaign press secretary during his run for the U.S. Senate.

Lucie received her undergraduate degree from Immaculate Heart College and pursued a graduate degree from the University of San Francisco before joining Brown's campaign in 1974. After serving in the Governor's office, Lucie began a successful career in public affairs and lobbying. She was an integral player in the organization of the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles and subsequently managed public affairs for Major League Baseball. Later, she joined the Crane Group and went on to have a successful career in government relations in both Sacramento and Washington D.C.

Beyond her long list of career accolades, Lucie will be remembered for love of her Croatian heritage. Lucie's father immigrated to the United States from Croatia and her mother was also of Croatian descent and to honor that legacy she helped to establish the Croatian Congressional Caucus. She will also be remembered as a fighter, as prior to her battle with pancreatic cancer, Lucie beat breast cancer twice. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Gikovich family, and although Lucie may be gone, the impact she made on her community will be long lasting.

EXPRESSING THE UNITED STATES' SOLIDARITY WITH FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN EUROPE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to report discussions I had last week during a video conference with members of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly, and their response to COVID-19.

Let me stress at the outset that our country has not only treaty-bound allies in Europe, but genuine friends. Our friends and colleagues abroad welcomed Senator ROGER WICKER and my participation on behalf of the United States to discuss how we will continue our important duties amidst the dire situation facing the globe. I reported on the increasingly dire situation here in the United States and the efforts of the U.S. Congress to provide relief to our citizens. We all expressed solidarity with each other and a determination to move forward.

Every country in Europe is affected by this pandemic, Madam Speaker, just as every state in the United States is affected. The President of the Lombardy in Italy spoke about the particularly critical situation his region is facing. In a crisis like this, while we have our primary responsibilities here at home, it is imperative we continue to help our international friends and partners. I assured our partners that the United States will continue to support our allies and provide considerable assistance to public health worldwide.

Such expressions of transatlantic unity, in my view, are important in times like these. They give our European friends and allies the confidence they need to move forward. It also helps to counter the considerable amount of misinformation and misperception currently spreading and dispel the malign influence attached to offers of help and friendship from elsewhere around the globe. We cannot let ulterior motives divide and weaken our ties at this time of vulnerability.

In spite of this crisis, other threats to European security have not gone away. Russian aggression against its neighbors, terrorist threats, and protracted conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus all still exist, requiring our continued attention. Much of our parliamentary conversation focused on how we can address these continual challenges we face while we are unable to meet and deliberate in person as scheduled. Despite the uncertainty, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will find a way and with a little creativity, will continue having these important discussions.

A final point made in the video conference is the need to defend our democratic principles and human rights in a time where restrictions and limits are imposed that could be abused. Our country defended Europe from tyranny last century, so it is rewarding to see our friends and allies determined to preserve those gains moving forward into this century.

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