

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.

• 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.

Madam Speaker, we have the capacity to address the ongoing threats to our security even as we address this unprecedented public health crisis amidst an economic downturn. The bicameral group of legislators who serve on the U.S. Helsinki Commission do so in a bipartisan way, and when we participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, we do so with our European friends and allies in this effort.

I concluded from my discussions last week that more difficult times may lie ahead, but by working together, we will persevere.

Madam Speaker, please join me today recognizing the importance of these discussions with our European allies and friends.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR
RALPH SARGENT

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the service of an American patriot and decorated Marine, Sergeant Major Ralph Sargent. Sargent took part in some of the most intense fighting of the Vietnam War, including the Battle of Khe Sanh, when the hilltop outpost of 6,000 Marines was surrounded by 34,000 North Vietnamese troops. Despite heavy artillery bombardment and the constant threat of being overrun, the Marines, of course, held their ground. Later while on patrol, his company got into an extended fire-fight that would claim the lives of 35 Marines, but it would have been far worse if not for Sergeant Major Sargent's actions that earned him the Bronze Star with a "Combat V" for extraordinary heroism, in addition to his Navy Commendation Medal.

But one of the greatest stories of his service was when he saved the life of another Marine decades after Vietnam. That Marine is his grandson, whom I was privileged to serve with in Iraq. The salty Marine sergeant major recognized what was wrong with his grandson when this great Marine returned from the war and, like so many of us, had trouble finding meaning in life back home. So one day the sergeant major asked his grandson to drive him to the VA for an appointment, but when they arrived, he told his grandson that the appointment was actually for him. His grandson, my friend, followed the sergeant major's orders and started going regularly to the VA. I'm not sure he would be alive today if he hadn't. And months later, after Sergeant Major Sargent saw what a difference the VA had made in his grandson's life, he decided, for the first time, to go himself.

Madam Speaker, Sergeant Major Sargent lived a life of service. Many Marines made it through Vietnam thanks to their sergeant major, and one of my great Marine friends is alive today because of his grandfather. What an American hero.

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 to recognize the valuable service of grocery workers.

Nearly three million grocery workers punch the clock in communities across the United States. In Northwest Washington, these women and men put themselves at risk to make sure their neighbors are fed.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, I have heard from families of grocery employees who worry every time their loved ones go to work.

Congress must support grocery workers the same way they support their communities. This means providing paid family and medical leave, guaranteeing workers' rights are protected and listening when they tell employers and Congress what they need to stay safe on the job.

I would like to thank and recognize grocery workers for their commitment to keeping Washington healthy and fed during this unprecedented crisis. I encourage my colleagues to support these essential workers in any future relief package.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVING
ACCESS TO SERVICES ACT

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Improving Access to Services Act along with my colleagues Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY and Congressman MARK TAKANO.

Our transportation system is failing Americans who are stuck in congestion, traveling on roads and transit systems in disrepair, and forced to travel further and further to reach essential services.

The Improving Access to Services Act would require that 'safe and convenient access to services' is an added condition for States' minimum standards for public roads—for both new construction and roadway improvement projects. These services include health care facilities, child care, education and workforce training, affordable housing, food sources, banking and financial institutions, and other retail shopping establishments.

States and metropolitan planning organizations will assess how the transportation system connects people to services by auto, transit, bike, and pedestrian investments, and ensures new investments do not degrade transit, bike, and pedestrian access.

The Improving Access to Services Act will also adjust the definition of access to incorporate a measurement of travel times, travel stress for active travel (bike and pedestrian), and cost for low-income travelers.

I am glad that the Improving Access to Services Act is endorsed by Transportation for America (T4A), Sierra Club, National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), National

Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC), Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

The Improving Access to Services Act will reconnect our communities, enabling people to take shorter, more convenient trips, reducing congestion and emissions, and improving access to services for all.

I urge this body to swiftly pass this legislation.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT
THE CARES ACT

HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, The vote we took on March 27, 2020, may be the most monumental vote during our tenure in Congress. The amount of money we committed our nation to is, in itself, epic. The causes of this legislation—the coronavirus and government reaction to the threat, which has placed our economy into a recession—are equally momentous.

The President has wisely acted to limit the spread of the outbreak, and he and Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL tried to negotiate in good faith with House Democrats. Unfortunately, Speaker PELOSI and Minority Leader SCHUMER chose instead to derail the process. As a result, we have a bill before us that is loaded down with more negative provisions than positive ones.

I have spent the past few days imagining what could have been, had the Democrats decided to act as honest brokers.

Could we have provided the liquidity and necessary interim relief for the families and businesses of Main Street USA for less than \$2 trillion?

Most certainly. And we should have found ways to help them because these businesses needed our support, because state and local governments have shuttered them and placed many Americans in economic peril.

Could we have acted more swiftly?

Without a doubt.

Could we have taken the time to repair the unemployment compensation portion of the bill that Senators SCOTT, SASSE, and GRAHAM noted will incentivize people not to work, because the compensation for unemployment will be superior to their wages?

Might we have produced a bill that didn't spend millions of dollars for non-essential, non-emergency-related funding to institutions such as the Kennedy Center, NPR, Smithsonian, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities?

Could we have done this without strengthening the hands of unions in the private sector?

These are all painful hypotheticals to think about as we look at the enormous sums of unnecessary spending in this bill.

To offer merely a few examples, we gave \$88 million to the Peace Corps, which fired over seven thousand volunteers in March. We spent millions more for refugee assistance, election security, and the Department of Education. Some of these efforts may be worth funding, but they certainly have no place in an economic relief package.