

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PHYLLIS LYON

#### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the beautiful life and legacy of a dear friend, Phyllis Lyon, who passed away peacefully on April 9, 2020 at the age of 95. Phyllis Lyon was an icon of San Francisco and a trailblazer in the fight for civil rights, who dedicated her entire life to advancing equality for the LGBTQ community. Her passing is a profound official loss for the countless San Franciscans whose lives she touched and a deep personal loss for her many friends and loved ones.

Phyllis, along with her late wife Del Martin, was a pioneer in the fight for LGBTQ equality. In their kitchen, in 1955, they created the Daughters of Bilitis, the first national lesbian rights organization. Through their skillful advocacy and Phyllis's brilliant writing, they helped lesbians and all LGBTQ Americans unite in solidarity and, in the process, helped develop the foundation on which the entire LGBTQ equality movement was built.

Phyllis was a tireless force for progress. As a journalist and community organizer, she fought relentlessly to decriminalize homosexuality, promote women's health and end employment discrimination in San Francisco. In all her endeavors, Phyllis's voice and expertise were instrumental in bringing our nation closer to its founding promise of justice and equality for all.

In 1979, the Lyon-Martin Health Services, named in honor of Phyllis and Del, was created to provide LGBTQ women access to quality, comprehensive health care, free from fear, stigma or discrimination. In its four decades of service to the Bay Area community, the Lyon-Martin Health Services has become an essential lifeline for countless women and their families, regardless of who they are or whom they love. As a model for community-based care, it is a fitting tribute to Phyllis's legacy of service and commitment to lifting up all vulnerable communities.

Phyllis and Del's passion, dedication and vision were an inspiration to me and to generations of leaders, activists and public servants. In 1995, I was honored to appoint Phyllis to the White House Conference on Aging where she advocated powerfully to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable were heard at the decision-making table. It was a privilege to speak of Phyllis and Del's beautiful commitment to each other on the Floor of the House during the debate of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act and, again, last year, as the House passed the landmark Equality Act to finally end LGBTQ discrimination once and for all.

All those who were blessed to know Phyllis and Del remember the extraordinary love that they had for each other and the great joy we

felt watching them becoming the first same-sex marriage recognized in San Francisco. As we mourn the loss of our dear Phyllis, we find peace in knowing that she and Del are together again. May it be a comfort to their daughter Kendra, Phyllis's sister Patricia, grandchildren Lorri and Kevin and her entire family that so many mourn their loss and pray for them at this sad time.

### AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP DURING COVID-19

#### HON. CHRISSE HOULAHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020*

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, Americans have a proud history of global leadership, of coalition building, and of pushing the boundaries of technological advancement. These values are now being put to the test as we face the novel coronavirus, an invisible threat that will not be overcome quickly.

There is no successful way through this crisis without a global effort, one in which we build a coalition of our allies, share information, work in tandem with the World Health Organization, and contribute to and benefit from international organizations who are on the frontlines of fighting this deadly disease. It goes without saying that cutting funding to the WHO at this time is not only naïve but also presents a threat to the American people down the road as we determine how to safely return to normalcy and avoid a second or third spike.

This is not to suggest we blindly trust other nations—it's been made clear the Chinese Government has misled the world about its cases and, early on, spread misinformation about the virus' transmission. China must be held accountable for its actions but taking a harsh isolationist stance at this current moment, when tens of thousands of Americans are dying, is irresponsible. A global pandemic requires a global solution, and we must act deliberately in convening our international allies and partners to develop a coherent testing strategy and mitigation plan as quickly as possible.

We have talked at length about the economic impact of this crisis. It's important to remember that our economy is a global one, and if we refuse to cooperate with the larger global community, our economy will continue to suffer.

Put plainly, I am urging the Administration and Congress to reach across oceans and re-enter the international conversation about the COVID-19 epidemic. As a Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I will be seeking the advice of medical, scientific, and development experts from around the world so that we can create a plan of action that stops the spread of this deadly virus.

We're in this together whether we like it or not. So, we may as well start acting like it.

### AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP DURING COVID-19

#### HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020*

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, as our country and world confront the unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, some say, as a reason or excuse, that we should turn inward away from the rest of our world and to our own affairs.

But neither can nor should we disengage. Instead, I join many of my colleagues and our fellow citizens in stating clearly that there has never been a better time or greater need to embrace an across-the-board renewal of America's global leadership.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently warned that COVID-19 poses the greatest challenge for our world since the Second World War. As this pandemic claims lives and cripples health care systems across the world, it also leaves in its wake the specter of a global recession without parallel in recent memory that will claim countless millions of jobs and livelihoods. The impacts of this pandemic will last years if not decades, and we will return to a world drastically changed.

This comparison of our present crisis to the Second World War reminds us of the extraordinary sacrifices Americans made then and must make now. Yet, just as the greatest generation fought to liberate Europe and the Pacific, so too must we commit to fighting this virus wherever it may emerge. The successors of American factories that assembled tanks and planes over 75 years ago must now build ventilators and medical supplies, not for ourselves alone but for any nation who shares our fight against this pandemic.

We are also reminded that the greatest generation, faced with a global economy ruined by war, chose not to celebrate victory in splendid isolation but did what no country had ever done before. That generation of Americans led the way in creating the United Nations and rebuilding the economies of friend and foe alike through the Marshall Plan, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. No one can deny the spirit of generosity and good will that motivated those actions, but it was also the practical self-interest of acknowledging that our own future lay in international engagement. Americans learned from the war that freedom, prosperity and peace go hand in hand and that, if we want to secure those blessings, we need to lead on the global stage.

Today, those lessons still ring true. We know that a virus from one part of the world can swiftly spread, that a fragile state poses security challenges beyond its borders and that a slowdown in one economy can affect the entire global supply chain. So long as this pandemic persists in one country, we all are at risk, from a public health, economic, social, environmental and every other perspective.

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