

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE
WEEK 2020

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn recognition of the selfless sacrifice made by law enforcement officers across this great nation and to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty. Ever since President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating May 15th as Peace Officer's Memorial Day, we as a nation have paused to show our support and eternal gratitude for the brave men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting their fellow citizens.

I embrace this opportunity to pay tribute to our fallen law enforcement officers. These are true and brave public servants who made the conscious decision to stand in between the men, women, and children in their communities and those who would do them harm. While these courageous individuals hail from a broad spectrum of social and economic backgrounds, they all share the common instinct to protect and serve their fellow citizens. These officers are husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters. They understand the perils they face every day when they go to work in service of others, but they are defined by a rare sense of duty and a love for their fellow human beings. They keep our roads and highways safe. They safeguard our property. They secure the event sites and venues where we gather. They respond to incidents of domestic violence and calls for help. They bring criminals to justice. They are the ones who are moving toward the sound of the gunfire when everyone else is running away.

Law enforcement officers engage in thousands of face-to-face encounters throughout their careers. They do so in most cases without knowing, even in the midst of the encounter, if the individual or individuals they are confronting are in need of their help or intend to harm them. Too often, these encounters end tragically. 128 officers died in the line of duty in 2019. Including officers identified from previous years, 307 names will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial here in Washington, D.C. this year. Eight of those names are from my home state of Maryland.

Officer Kyle David Olinger was a husband, a father, and a Police Officer in the Montgomery County Police Department. On August 8th, 2003, while serving the citizens of my home district, he initiated a traffic stop in Silver Spring, MD on a vehicle with three passengers. Officer Olinger observed one of the occupants attempting to conceal a handgun under the seat, and he ordered the man to drop the weapon. A struggle ensued, and Officer Olinger was shot in the neck and paralyzed below the chest. Despite his wounds, Officer Olinger, a former U.S. Marine, contin-

ued to serve his department until his injuries forced him to retire in 2007, demonstrating the type of man he was and his commitment to the service of others. On April 18th, 2019, Officer Olinger succumbed to complications from the gunshot wound he suffered in the line of duty. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Beyond recognizing the bravery and sacrifice of law enforcement professionals like Officer Olinger, we must acknowledge the sacrifices made by their loved ones. Every day our officers leave for work, their families must live with the anxiety of knowing that they may not return home. The burden of the profession is not just borne by officers themselves. Their family members endure these circumstances for the benefit of others—in exchange for all the pain and suffering that is prevented by the actions of these dedicated officers. So, today we salute not only the fallen officers, but the loving families that supported them in their very challenging profession.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring all the courageous men and women who have taken the oath to protect and serve, and who have fallen in the line of duty. We are forever grateful for their sacrifice, and they will not be forgotten.

HONORING MURINDIA WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious woman, Ms. Murindia Williams. Murindia has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Murindia was born and raised in Rolling Fork and began her career with Sharkey County in 1992 as a deputy clerk in the Chancery and Circuit Clerk's office. Ten years later she was chosen by the voters in the county to serve them as the first black Chancery and Circuit Clerk.

She is also heavily involved in community organizations, serving as co-chair for the Deep Delta Blues Heritage Festival and is a long-time member of the Ebonette Social and Civic Club. She is currently a member of the Circuit Clerks Leadership Committee, and is past president of that association, a member of the WWISCAA Advisory Board, and member of the Shiloh M. B. Church where she serves as choir president.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Murindia Williams for her passion and dedication to serving Sharkey County and desire to make a difference in the community.

RECOGNIZING GREATER
VALDOSTA UNITED WAY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greater Valdosta United Way from Georgia's First District.

Since 1954, Greater Valdosta United Way has raised over \$35 million to support human services across their community.

Through their hard work and dedication of numerous businesses, clubs, and individuals, the organization has made a difference in the lives of thousands of Georgians.

Greater Valdosta United Way strives to advance the common good by investing in education, income, and health, which are the pillars for a strong and healthy community.

Last year, they remarkably exceeded their fundraising goal of \$750,000 by 105 percent.

I am so thankful for the tremendous work this organization has done to improve the lives of countless individuals across our district for so many years, and for their outstanding volunteers.

I want to encourage all involved with Greater Valdosta United Way to keep up the wonderful work they've done, and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

RECOGNIZING TEJ PATEL AS
CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Tej Patel and his team at Fluxergy, a local company developing rapid COVID-19 testing, as my April Constituent of the Month. During this time of uncertainty and crisis, Americans are looking for beacons of hope in the fight against COVID-19. Tej and his team answered the call. Founded in 2013 by engineers Tej Patel, Ryan Revilla, and Jonathan Tu, Fluxergy, a medical diagnostic company based in Irvine, worked in collaboration with UC San Diego Health to create a testing system designed to diagnose COVID-19 in under an hour.

Tej saw a deficiency in the turn-around of testing for COVID-19, and knew there was a better way to address testing in the most efficient way possible. Many tests sent to outside labs range from days to weeks for a patient to receive their results. Fluxergy's on-site test for COVID-19 requires a very small sample, typically a nasal swab. This swab is mixed with a reagent solution, loaded onto the Fluxergy card and inserted into the Fluxergy Analyzer that produces results in under an hour.

During a rapidly spreading global pandemic, it is imperative to know the results of a patient's test as soon as possible. The quicker

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