

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, this is a special week for the more than 32 million Americans living with potentially life-threatening food allergies. Food Allergy Awareness Week, May 10 through 16, is dedicated to raising awareness about the challenges our food allergy families and friends face each and every day.

Of course, this year's Food Allergy Awareness Week comes at a critical time. Our country is grappling with its greatest public health threat in over a century. The COVID-19 pandemic has made life even more challenging for most Americans, including our food allergy families. The New York Times recently reported on the lack of safe, healthy, and affordable food choices for allergic families. In addition, CNBC reported that the threat of contracting the corona virus is keeping people away from visiting emergency rooms. In ordinary times, a food allergy reaction sends one person in the U.S. to the emergency room every three minutes. During the pandemic, food allergy families have needed to change the way they prepare for emergency care related to anaphylaxis.

Individuals and families with food allergies are resilient, and I have long been inspired by their courage to navigate life's challenges. That's why I have been working for the past year with FARE (Food Allergy Research & Education), the world's leading food allergy advocacy organization, to improve the quality of life for the more than 1.5 million Americans allergic to sesame.

Sesame is a common ingredient and is found in food like bread, cookies, and pizza dough. But many people don't know that it is also found in other items such as candy corn, ice cream, and sushi.

Sesame's widespread use is why those allergic to it desperately need to know what foods it is found in so they can avoid this ingredient. Unfortunately, that information does not exist. Currently, sesame is often labeled as a "natural flavor" or as a "spice" on the ingredients label leaving millions of Americans unable to make smart and healthy food decisions to protect themselves or their family members.

Thankfully, there is hope. Last year, I wrote and introduced the Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education, and Research (FASTER) Act, H.R. 2117 that would require sesame be added to the list of allergens that must be labeled. It would join other common allergens like milk, eggs, and peanuts that are already labeled. The FASTER Act is the first meaningful food allergy legislation at the federal level in more than a decade and would change the lives for millions of Americans. The FASTER Act is a bipartisan solution that provides food

allergy families with the life-saving information they need.

I am proud to fight for food allergy families and during this year's Food Allergy Awareness Week, I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of the more than 32 million Americans affected by life-threatening food allergies.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE ANDREW HOWORTH

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the outstanding career of Judge Andrew Howorth. Mr. Howorth chose to create his first Facebook post to announce to friends and family his plans on retiring as of June this year. In his nearly two decades on the bench, Mr. Howorth has honorably served the state of Mississippi and the people of the Oxford-Lafayette County in his commitment to both his career and the well-being of North Mississippi.

Mr. Howorth best described his dedication to public service in this way: "This is an opportunity . . . to work to preserve the integrity of the judicial system as is the responsibility of every judge. The part I'm most looking forward to is meeting and working with new people." Mr. Howorth is not only an example of judicial leadership but embodies a commitment to his community that is nothing short of admirable. He has served on the Mississippi Drug Court Advisory committee and is a Mississippi Bar Foundation fellow. He is an active member of the Oxford Rotary Club, has served on the Oxford Housing Authority and the Oxford-Lafayette County United Way. Last year, he was honored as the county Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, and I cannot think of an award that better suits Mr. Howorth.

In his retirement, Mr. Howorth plans to spend time on his farm in Abbeville with his wife, Elizabeth. They have an extensive bucket list they intend on checking off, and I wish them the best in this treasured season of life.

I commend Judge Howorth for his admirable service to the state of Mississippi and his commitment to advocating for justice. Whom ever is to be appointed by the Governor has a substantial legacy to live up to.

THE WUHAN VIRUS WEB OF LIES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as a former journalist myself, it is sad the mainstream media is so biased due to Trump Derangement Syndrome of mindless

hatred. There is unlimited U.S. fake news, the Chinese Communist Party is relentless with propaganda, Russia blogs sow absurd discontent, Iranian zealots flat out lie, but in the midst of this madness it should be gratefully recognized there are rare beacons of truth as evidenced on March 19th with The Epoch Times editorial The Web of Lies Spun Around the CCP Virus.

It is especially noteworthy what was correctly opined months ago is still rarely true today. It is so important and correct it should be worthy of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the American people to know today and historians in the future. I include in the RECORD a piece authored by Heng He, a commentator on Sound of Hope Radio, a China analyst for NTD and a writer for The Epoch Times newspaper.

"THE WEB OF LIES SPUN AROUND THE CCP VIRUS"

The world can learn much by paying attention to how the outbreak of the CCP virus—commonly known as the novel coronavirus—has been handled in China.

There were at least two well-known doctors at Wuhan Central Hospital during the outbreak, the whistleblower Dr. Li Wenliang and whistle-provider Dr. Ai Fen.

Ai is the emergency room director who saw a SARS coronavirus-positive test report for a patient on Dec. 30, 2019, and sent the report to a friend. The report immediately circulated in a circle of eight doctors that included Li.

The reaction was almost instantaneous. At 10:20 p.m., the hospital sent a message conveying a Wuhan Health Commission notice that anything about the "unknown pneumonia" shouldn't be made public. One hour later, the hospital sent another, similar notice. Then, on Jan. 2, Ai was called to the hospital office and was rebuked by a hospital official, who also conveyed orders from higher authorities. Ai didn't talk about the virus afterward, not even to her husband, until Jan. 20.

Li and seven other doctors who were considered whistleblowers got more serious punishment. They also were censured, and not by hospital officials, but by police on Jan. 3. The censorship effort turned out to be very successful; all of the doctors who knew about the outbreak kept silent.

Meanwhile, the rest of China and the world were kept in the dark for at least another 20 days.

The coverup and censorship had begun before Ai shared the test report. Wuhan Central Hospital sent out the first "unknown pneumonia" patient sample on Dec. 24, 2019. The report, which the hospital received Dec. 27, indicated that a coronavirus was found in the sample, with 70 percent similarity to SARS coronavirus. A report from a second test facility stated simply, "SARS." Both facilities were private companies.

The hospital reported the results to the Wuhan Health Commission the same day, which means that Wuhan officials knew of the disease three days earlier than Ai. While the Wuhan Health Commission can directly order the hospital to silence doctors, only administrative officials can order the police to punish whistleblowers.

The coverup was already at the city government level as early as Jan. 3.

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

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