

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO
MARK PETTITT FOR HIS SERVICE TO AMERICA

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, after ably and honorably serving as my chief of staff for more than 9 years, Mark Pettitt will retire in June. Mark has provided exceptional leadership, and I've greatly benefited from having him as my chief advisor. I will miss his sound and candid guidance.

When asked how he came to be my chief of staff, Mark will often reply, "I complained about politics too many times to an old friend." That is only partly true. Really, it was Mark's deeply ingrained sense of patriotism that led him to Capitol Hill.

Mark's tenure as chief of staff caps an already exemplary career as a successful private sector engineer. For Mark, there are few more patriotic acts than simply working hard and contributing each day to America's economic and industrial prowess.

Mark worked hard throughout his career. He earned both his masters and undergraduate degrees in engineering from Brigham Young University. He served as an R&D Engineer and Project Manager at Wylie Laboratories in Huntsville, Alabama from 1978 to 1989. While at Wylie, Mark earned his Professional Engineer license. He went on to work as an Executive Consultant and Product Manager for Intergraph Corporation from 1989 to 2010. As an aside, Mark is a 10th degree Jiu Jitsu black belt.

Given his private sector background, Mark offers a unique perspective on federal policy issues. Always one to put America first, Mark has been particularly active in addressing America's trade imbalances and has long advocated for trade policies that benefit American workers.

As Mark's career concludes, I cannot thank him enough for the value he provided me, the Tennessee Valley, and America. I wish Mark joy and contentment as he embarks on this next phase of life. He is looking forward to enjoying well-deserved time with his wife, Diane, five children—John, Jared, Ben, Nichole, and Joseph—and 12 grandchildren. Mark has earned every bit of that family time.

America is a stronger, more prosperous nation thanks to Mark's exemplary career.

HONORING SWEET MAGNOLIAS
DELI AND GRILLE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in the midst of the Wuhan Virus pan-

dem ic it is so inspiring to learn of citizens volunteering to assist persons in need. A classic example is Aimee Crosby of Pelion, South Carolina, who was highlighted in the article, "How sweet it is" by Kay Collins on April 23rd in The Lexington Chronicle:

A special recognition to Sweet Magnolias Deli Grille for partnering with the Pelion Senior Center to aid their Meals On Wheels. Owner Aimee Crosby advised WLTX that they have been able to keep all of their employees on the payroll. Because the community has been supportive, they wanted to pay it forward.

Sweet Magnolias joined Meals On Wheels to provide homebound seniors additional meals to have enough food to last all week. The meals include one meat and three sides, a roll and desert. Each plate has enough food for 2 meals. The community has donated \$600 and aims to raise \$5,000 for 20 weeks of meals.

The restaurant has started a GoFundMe page to help raise money. To donate please visit Sweet Magnolia's Facebook page or GoFundMe.com "Bridging the Gap—Pelion." Call Aimee Crosby during normal business hours for details.

Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission, Council of Aging thanks Sweet Magnolias who generously donated their time and resources to make sure 25 homebound seniors are not forgotten. Their Eastern dinners were delivered by Laura Dowey, Pelion's Senior Center Director, and her daughter.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2020

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Police Week. Taking place during the week of May 10 through 16, 2020, National Police Week highlights our brave men and women in uniform for all their hard work keeping their communities safe. In the Fourth District of Colorado we are lucky to have many exemplary law enforcement officers serving the public every day. These dedicated individuals risk their lives to protect others and are deserving of our deepest gratitude, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am proud to celebrate the many law enforcement officers in Colorado.

I also rise to recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by several police officers while serving in Colorado's 4th district. Corporal Daniel H. Groves of the Colorado State Patrol was killed in a vehicle accident during a blizzard on March 13, 2019. He was assisting a motorist who had skidded off the road when another vehicle lost control and struck him. Master Trooper William James Moden, also of the Colorado State Patrol, was killed while assisting at the scene of a previous accident on June 14, 2019. He was also tragically struck by a passing vehicle. These brave men, both of whom had twelve years of dedicated serv-

ice to the Colorado State Patrol, died serving their communities and it is an honor to recognize them for their sacrifice.

HONORING CHING KA LAU AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Ching Ka Lau, a native of Hong Kong, has been a resident of Orlando since 1999. In 2005, Mr. Lau and his wife, Shally Wong, first published Asia Trend Magazine, which has become a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission of strengthening understanding and communication for the local Asian American community.

Over many years, Mr. Lau has worked tirelessly together with local volunteers and community leaders to organize enriching cultural events in Central Florida, including the very first annual Dragon Parade in Orlando's Mills 50 District during the Lunar New Year, the Asian Cultural Festival during May, and the Asian Cultural EXPO in October. These cultural events have helped bridge together thousands of members of the community in sharing the culture of Asia with local Central Florida residents, particularly the youth, and helping to foster pride, inclusion, and diversity. For his work with Asia Trend, Mr. Lau received the Ellison S. Onizuka Humanitarian Award at the 2010 Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida Golden Dragons Awards. Mr. Lau and Asia Trend work together with many groups of amazing and passionate volunteers who come together to educate, connect and engage the community in discussions about Asia's history, arts, and cultures.

Ching Ka Lau is also one of the founders of CHARGE Dragon Boat Team, the first Asian American team to promote the ancient Chinese sport of dragon boating in the community for team building, unity, and a healthy lifestyle.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 102ND
ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 102nd Anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan.

On May 28, 1918, Azerbaijan gained independence from the Russian Empire and became the first secular parliamentary democracy in the Muslim world. Unfortunately, Vladimir Lenin's Bolsheviks invaded Azerbaijan in

• 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.

1920 and incorporated it into the Soviet Union a few years later. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Azerbaijan declared independence and was quickly recognized by the United States.

After restoring diplomatic relations in 1992, the United States and Azerbaijan began a partnership that has continued to this day. Azerbaijanis have fought alongside American troops in the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq, and their country was among the first to express support for the United States after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Azerbaijan has also fostered close ties with American allies such as Israel, providing approximately 40 percent of the oil Israel consumes and partnering on economic and national security issues. Through its leadership in the Southern Gas Corridor initiative, Azerbaijan plays an important role in diversifying energy routes to maintain the energy security of key U.S. allies in Europe. As a pluralistic and secular Muslim-majority country, Azerbaijan is also home to thriving Jewish and Christian communities. This religious tolerance has been recognized by the European Parliament.

I extend my best wishes to all Azerbaijanis on this momentous occasion and look forward to continued partnership between our two nations.

JERRY FALWELL JR., CORRECT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, despite fake news reports during the Wuhan Virus pandemic from the New York Times and the Washington Post parroted by other biased media, President Jerry Falwell, Jr., of Liberty University has been praised May 19th by William McGurn in The Wall Street Journal:

How it must hurt to have to admit: Jerry Falwell Jr. was right.

No doubt this explains why we're not reading stories about how the president of Liberty University kept his Lynchburg, Va., campus open while keeping his community safe from Covid-19. The doomsday predicted when Mr. Falwell announced Liberty students would return after spring break never came to pass.

As the Times reported nearly a dozen Liberty students had come down "with symptoms that suggested Covid-19," a fact endlessly repeated in other news outlets. A snarky Financial Times op-ed citing "Falwell's hubris" dropped the qualifiers and asserted "twelve students promptly came down with coronavirus," which was corrected about a week later.

In a part of his early statements on Liberty's reopening that received almost no attention, Mr. Falwell said in its handling of coronavirus Liberty would prove a "model" for others. Would it kill the critics so quickly to paint Mr. Falwell as the Grim Reaper to acknowledge, if only in the name of science, Liberty's experience might have something to teach them.

RECOGNIZING MISS CLEO STEELE

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special lady, Miss Cleo Steele, founder and President of the North Myrtle Beach Republican Club and also a very dear friend.

Cleo's dedication and invaluable service to her community and the Horry County Republican Party is unparalleled. During her three decades in South Carolina, she has worn many hats and been a master at each. She is a true leader who has been successful in everything she has tackled. Cleo's energy and tenacity are the envy of those a third the age. She never hesitates to tell you what she thinks, and I have learned you best listen. Her willingness to volunteer and help in any way possible epitomizes what it means to be a selfless servant. She is an inspiration to all that know her and all that know her are better for it.

She has served as the Vice President of the Horry County Republican Party, two terms on the South Carolina GOP Executive Committee, and the secretary for my district. Cleo has been a county, state, and national alternate delegate to the Republican Party Convention. In all roles, she has demonstrated passion for the party's conservative platform and enthusiasm.

Her presence and leadership in Horry County are irreplaceable. Cleo has been instrumental to the successes of the Republican Party in Horry County and throughout South Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of Horry County in recognizing Cleo Steele. We honor her and thank her for her past and continued service to her community and the Nation.

HONORING AMISH PARIKH, M.D. AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Amish M. Parikh, M.D. is a Central Florida native and University of Miami alumni. Dr. Parikh attended medical school at the University of South Florida, completing his residency at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital and his Cardiology Fellowship at the University of Florida—Shands Hospital in Jacksonville. He currently practices cardiology at Premier Cardiology in Maitland, Florida.

In addition to being a talented physician, inspired entrepreneur, and a devoted husband and father, Dr. Parikh considers meaningful and consistent service to his community a vital responsibility. Dr. Parikh is President of Premier Cardiology and serves on the Board for the Orange County Medical Society. His long-term leadership involvement with both CAPI (Central Florida Association of Physicians from the Indian Subcontinent) and AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin)

was taken to a new level when he served as the Convention Chair for the 33rd AAPI Convention and Scientific Assembly held in Orlando in June 2015. Dr. Parikh prides himself on taking a hands-on approach to positively impacting healthcare and education for children, both as a board member for A Gift for Teaching and as part of community outreach initiatives addressing childhood obesity and healthy eating programs. He is also a devoted cultural leader to the Indian-American community, serving each year as the chair of the official India Day Celebration in Downtown Orlando, which was recognized by the NBA as the "Best Heritage Night in the NBA."

In recognition of his ongoing enthusiasm to support arts and culture in Orlando, Dr. Parikh and his wife Beena have recently been added to the "Donor Wall" at Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Blending his skills in healthcare with his passion for his community and family, Dr. Parikh is honored to serve and support the Central Florida Community through the Parikh Family Fund.

IN HONOR OF HELEN HORLACHER EVANS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Helen Horlacher Evans. Mrs. Evans was born in Fortville, Indiana on June 11, 1920 and will soon be celebrating her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Evans graduated from the University of Kentucky and began teaching home economics at Versailles High School. After conversations with fellow teachers about the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, she joined the Army on a dare in 1942. She was in the first group of Kentucky women accepted for the WAC and at 21 years of age she was one of the youngest. She was accepted for the Officer Candidate School at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

Mrs. Evans was trained in army food service and served as the Office of the Quartermaster General inspector for stateside WAC mess halls. In early 1945 she was assigned to the European Theatre of Operations with the Office of the Quartermaster General outside Paris, France. At the end of the war she was working along the banks of the Rhine feeding German prisoners of war. Mrs. Evans earned the rank of Captain. Her experience as a WAC is documented as part of the Veterans History Project in the Library of Congress.

Upon returning to civilian life, Mrs. Evans began work at the Veterans Administration in Louisville, KY, where she served as a senior training officer until 1951. She has served as a volunteer on many projects related to veterans, including serving as Kentucky's representative on the committee to establish the National Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. She received the Spirit of Kentucky Award for Patriotism from the Kentucky Daughters of the American Revolution. In 2018, she was inducted into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame.

It is my honor to recognize this amazing patriot, celebrate her 100th birthday, and thank her for her service and sacrifice to our nation