

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my LGBTQ+ family, friends, colleagues, and constituents in celebrating the many hard-earned gains that have been made for equality in our nation and around the globe. We have come a long way in the last several years: from the passage of the Equality Act in the House last year, to same-sex marriage being legalized in twenty-nine countries, and now the Supreme Court holding that the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits sex discrimination, applies to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

This Pride Month, as our nation reckons with its long history of racism and police violence, we must remember that the fight for LGBTQ+ rights goes hand-in-hand with the fight for racial equality. On June 28, 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, the police rounded up and arrested LGBTQ patrons and forced them into police cars. Fed up with police harassing and brutalizing the gay community, other Stonewall Inn patrons started an uprising outside the bar. Among them were Marsha P. Johnson, a black drag queen and Sylvia Rivera, a Latinx drag queen, both pioneering activists who were key figures in resisting police violence that night, alongside other transgender and queer activists. The LGBTQ+ rights movement as we know it today was born out of these brave people resisting police mistreatment.

This year would have marked the 50th anniversary of the Chicago Pride parade, and 51 years since the Stonewall riots. While we cannot march and gather this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can continue to celebrate our progress and our shared history in the LGBTQ+ community. I'm particularly proud of the role my district has in the LGBTQ+ community, with the Pride Parade stepping off just blocks from my Chicago District office, to the historic Andersonville neighborhood, and to being the home of so many historical institutions like the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, the Baton Show Lounge, the Test Positive Aware Network, and the Leather Archives and Museum.

Despite our many advances, LGBTQ+ people, and disproportionately Black trans women, still face hatred, discrimination, violence, and police harassment and brutality around the country and globe. Over one-third of Black trans women who interact with law enforcement in the U.S. are assumed by police to be sex workers, leading to harassment, abuse, and mistreatment. Since 2013, about 111 out of at least 157 transgender and gender non-conforming victims of hate killings have been Black trans women. And just last week, we lost two Black trans women, Riah Milton and Dominique "Rem'Mie" Fells, who were brutally

murdered. They were the 13th and 14th trans women in the U.S. to be killed this year alone. And the violence extends to the transgender community overall, including right here in Chicago. Last month, Selena Reyes-Hernandez was killed by an 18-year old man who shot her in her home on the south side of Chicago. We will not forget them, and we will continue to seek justice, equality, and liberty on their behalf.

This Pride Month we must also remember and celebrate Aimee Stephens and Don Zarda who passed away before seeing the outcome of their nearly decade long case that made it all the way to Supreme Court. Aimee, who was fired for being transgender, and Don, who was fired for being gay, fought relentlessly to ensure that LGBTQ+ people can go to work as themselves without fear of retaliation. This week, in perhaps the biggest LGBTQ+ case in U.S. history, the Supreme Court sided with Aimee and Don and held that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects LGBTQ+ workers from discrimination. Let this victory renew our hope and our drive to continue fighting for a world where everyone can live freely and authentically.

My hope for our country this Pride Month is that we can reflect on the decades' long fight for LGBTQ+ equality, learn from our mistakes, and look forward to righting the wrongs of our past. As a proud grandmother of a young trans man, and as a Representative in the U.S. House, I will continue fighting to ensure my grandson and all LGBTQ+ people inherit a world that embraces everyone regardless of sexuality, gender identity, race, or class. Love is love.

HONORING JOYCE SMITH

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joyce Smith, who is retiring as Chief Executive Officer of the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

NACAC, founded in 1937, is an organization of more than 14,000 professionals from around the world dedicated to serving students as they make choices about pursuing postsecondary education.

Ms. Smith has served NACAC for 33 years, including 22 years as CEO. She has been in the college admissions profession for more than 40 years.

Under her leadership, membership has increased from approximately 6,000 members in the mid-1990s to more than 14,000 college counseling and admission professionals today; attendance at NACAC's signature event, the annual national conference, has more than doubled in 20 years from 3,518 attendees in San Francisco in 1997 to 7,934 attendees in Boston in 2017; and the National College Fair program hosts 95 fairs throughout the U.S. an-

nually, with nearly 200,000 students each year gaining exposure to more than 1,700 colleges, universities, and other postsecondary programs.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Smith has worked tirelessly on behalf of students around the country and world, helping to ensure they reach their academic dreams and fulfill their potential. The profession and the college application process are constantly changing but Ms. Smith has led the association with distinction.

Our students and our colleges are better because of Ms. Smith's leadership.

Please join me in wishing Ms. Smith the best in her retirement.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MR. ANDREW JAMES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and express sadness over the passing of Mr. Andrew James. Mr. James was a chronically homeless man who spent nearly 20 years suffering on the streets, vulnerable and struggling with mental illness. He was able to find hope, treatment, and housing security through the help of The Lord's Place. The staff that worked with him at The Lord's Place described him as a "gentle soul, showing nothing but kindness to all he met, despite being treated unjustly while on the streets."

After receiving assistance through The Lord's Place, Mr. James flourished. He was placed in a supportive housing program and was connected to mental health care, but it was the connection to others that made all the difference in his life. He loved others and they certainly loved him too.

Mr. James passed away with dignity, in his own home on May 15, 2020. I extend my heartfelt condolences to all who were lucky enough to know Mr. Andrew James. He will be dearly missed.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF PATROL AGENT FELIX CHAVEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of Chief Patrol Agent, Felix Chavez. Chief Chavez has retired after several decades of service as a member of the U.S. Border Patrol.

Chief Chavez began his service with the U.S. Border Patrol in 1985 at the Sierra Blanca Border Patrol Station in what is now Big Bend Sector. Over time, Chief Chavez would

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go on to serve in a variety of roles and Sectors before eventually becoming Chief Patrol Agent of the Laredo Sector. As Chief, he was responsible for over 86,673 square miles in 101 counties from the U.S.-Mexico borders to the Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas borders.

Chief Chavez showed strong direction and experience as Chief Patrol Agent of the Laredo Sector. In addition, he also ensured that the Laredo Sector was led with honor and integrity. He developed these leadership qualities and skills over the course of his career after serving in a variety of positions including: Border Patrol Agent, Senior Patrol Agent, Supervisory Border Patrol Agent, Field Operations Supervisor, Patrol Agent in Charge, Assistant Chief Patrol Agent, Deputy Chief of Southwest Border Operations, Deputy Chief Patrol Agent for the Tucson Sector, and Chief Patrol Agent of Del Rio Sector.

In addition, Chief Chavez is a graduate of Ashford University with a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management. In addition, he completed the Executive Institute at the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business and the Customs and Border Protection Command Leadership Academy. He is also a graduate of the National Defense University Capstone Program.

As we move forward, let us take the time to appreciate the service of individuals like Chief Chavez and all the men and women who risk their lives each day to protect our communities. However, in the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

RECOGNIZING BELOVED RADIO
HOST, GRISEL BARAJAS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and recognize Grisel Barajas, a leader in the Hoosier Latino community who tragically passed away on Sunday, June 14, 2020.

Born in Guadalajara, Mexico, Grisel moved to the United States at the age of 10, first to Chicago and then to Indianapolis where she graduated from North Central High School. She faced many difficulties as an immigrant and was inspired to practice social work to help other families navigate the same hardships and language barriers. After obtaining a bachelor's degree in Social Work and Spanish, she decided to change career paths, earning a master's degree in Mass Communications and Media Studies from University of Southern Indiana.

Grisel began her radio career in 2013 when she co-hosted "Soul & Salsa" on Magic 98.5 before returning to Indianapolis in 2015 to become a host for the Continental Broadcast Group's Radio Latina. Grisel also worked as an education and communications director for the Indiana Latino Institute, mentoring Latino high school and college students. In 2018, Grisel helped to establish Radio One's La Grande 105.1 radio station, becoming its first Program Director and serving as the afternoon host for "El Relajo de La Tarde" show. Grisel

was also a news personality for Telemundo Indy.

Grisel was an important voice for Latinos in Indianapolis, helping to inform, entertain and encourage the community. She served as a frequent master of ceremonies for local non-profit events, organized yearly toy drives, and continued to mentor and inspire high school students. During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Grisel worked with local organizations to help inform the Latino community about how to stay safe.

Grisel is survived by her parents, Genoveva and Salvador Barajas, and her sisters.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Grisel Barajas, a dedicated and beloved community advocate who will be dearly missed by her family, friends and community.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORIC VIRGINIA KEY BEACH PARK

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park was established on August 1, 1945 as the "Colored only Beach" in Miami, Florida. Today, the civic, social, and environmental characteristics of the park hold national, state, regional, and local significance in the history of civil rights, highlighting the achievements of local African American communities and providing an opportunity for the public to explore various environmental phenomena unique to the park.

The Historic Virginia Key Beach Park was added to the national register of historic places in 2002, added to the State of Florida Heritage Trail in 2006, included as a major stakeholder to the Virginia Key master plan in 2010, and added to the City of Miami's Historic and Environmental Preservation List in 2013. In 2006, the Miami City Commission approved the Virginia Key Beach Park master plan, which included the restoration of the park and the creation of a museum. The museum will showcase the history and contributions of the communities the park has served, the natural environment of the park, and the creation of a Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation.

The history of the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park highlights the contributions of civil rights leaders from our communities. Today, the park is a model of social engagement opportunities through the incorporation of the public shoreline, green space, and the various amenities on Virginia Key.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FLORIDA'S FIRST WOMAN SENATE PRESIDENT GWEN MARGOLIS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of my dear friend, Florida's first woman Senate

President, Gwen Margolis. Gwen was a trailblazing figure in Florida and Miami-Dade politics, who dedicated her life to public service. During this time of great sadness and loss, it is helpful to reflect on the wonderful life she led. Gwen's reputation for honesty, kindness, and generosity made her the loving mother, great friend, and respected public official that she was. She was an excellent role model, not just for people wanting to follow in her footsteps, but for everyone in our community.

Gwen compiled an exemplary record as a Miami-Dade County Commissioner, including time as that body's first female chair. She also served multiple terms in the Florida legislature. Gwen was beloved throughout South Florida and will always be remembered for her selfless dedication to public service.

Madam Speaker, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Gwen's family and friends. As we honor the life and legacy of Senator Gwen Margolis, we will always be grateful for the glass ceilings she shattered and her indelible mark in history. I pray that her family finds comfort during this extremely difficult time. She will be dearly missed.

CONGRATULATING THE THREE GRADUATES FROM THE KEETON FAMILY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three phenomenal women in the Keeton family who graduated from school this year.

After a successful 20-year career at the Johnson Space Center and raising an incredible family of four children, Jasmine Keeton graduated with her master's degree in engineering management. Coincidentally, two of her daughters also graduated from college as well. Unfortunately, like many people, their graduation celebrations were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking to find a way to honor her daughters' hard work, Jasmine reached out to the "Today" show to be included in a virtual party for 2020 graduates. Jasmine was even more surprised when they were asked to speak on-air.

Jasmine's younger daughter, JoyLynn, graduated from Robert Turner College and Career High School and Alvin Community College with her associate degree. Her oldest daughter, Jadean, graduated from Prairie View A&M University with a bachelor's degree in social work. This fall, Jadean will begin pursuing her master's degree in social work at the University of Houston and JoyLynn will be continuing her education Howard University to pursue a career in journalism. Their mom, Jasmine, may pursue a doctoral degree in engineering. Education lifts people up and helps them achieve their God-given potential. American education has extended a ladder of opportunity to help people across the nation and from every generation improve their quality of life. The Keeton family grabbed hold of that ladder, and they're not done climbing yet.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to the Keeton women for your scholastic achievements. Their drive in their educational pursuits sets an example for others to follow.