

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FATHER KENNETH WESTRAY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2020

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Father Kenneth Westray, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in San Francisco and a civil and human rights champion in our city, who sadly passed away last week, on June 24, 2020.

Father Westray was a pillar of the San Francisco community whose selfless leadership was a tribute to the mission of the name-sake of our parish, St. Vincent. He ministered to the poor and the most vulnerable in our community with great love, respect and faith. We all will remember and be inspired by the unwavering compassion and courage he showed in the face of the AIDS epidemic, which brought strength and solace to so many during one of the darkest chapters of our city's and country's history.

Personally, my husband Paul, my family and I were deeply saddened to hear of Father Westray's passing. Our family have been parishioners at St. Vincent de Paul for generations, since Paul's parents John and Corinne Pelosi became parishioners in the 1930s. We count ourselves blessed to have known Father Westray, beloved by all for his kind and gentle soul, who strengthened our church as he built community and inspired love for service and love for God.

We enjoyed being with Father Ken in San Francisco and even in Washington. I had the privilege of welcoming Father Ken and his family to the U.S. Capitol for the visit of Pope Francis. His mother Jean was beaming with pride in him that day and on her visits to San Francisco. We shared a dedication to the San Francisco Interfaith Council and the San Francisco 49ers.

Over forty years, Father Westray was a powerful force for good in our community, lifting up the lives of so many. Although born in our nation's capital, Father Westray was proudly claimed by San Franciscans as a son of our city. He completed his seminary studies at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park and dedicated the rest of his life to ministering to the needs of our Bay Area community.

After-being ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Quinn at St. Mary's Cathedral, Father Westray began his first assignment as associate pastor at Sacred Heart Church in San Francisco. Over the next forty years, he would serve in parishes throughout our city: at St. Elizabeth Parish, on the Council of Priests, at Sacred Heart Grammar School where he would minister for 14 years, at St. Sebastian Parish in Greenbrae, at St. Isabella Parish in San Rafael, and at our St. Vincent de Paul Parish. He served several terms on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, a powerful force for healing and unity in our community, including on its inaugural Board.

Father Westray served our community and country in so many ways, including both in the church and in uniform. Before entering seminary, he was a Merchant Marine and later served with the Military Vicariate as chaplain in the United States Navy Inactive Reserve.

May Father Westray's lifetime of compassionate leadership to lift up the least of these continue to be a blessing to our community. May it be a comfort to Father Westray's family, his mother Jean, sister Cecilia, brother Kevin and nephew Vonty, that Archbishop Cordileone, the entire St. Vincent de Paul Parish and so many others mourn their loss and pray for them during this sad time.

HONORING BUFFY JAMISON

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Buffy Jamison, co-founder and co-chair of the Iowa Queer Communities of Color Coalition, as our Iowan of the Week for the final full week of Pride Month.

Pride 2020 has looked a little different than in years past. While the parades and events did not occur as originally planned, people of all genders and sexual orientations are still celebrating the tremendous strides and achievements that the LGBTQIA+ community has made throughout our history.

The observance of Pride means both commemorating the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which began on June 28, 1969, as well as celebrating achievement, diversity, and acceptance of our LGBTQIA+ friends and family. Pride also reminds us that the fight for equality of opportunity and justice for all is not yet complete. Even fifty years later, the same rejection of police brutality and discrimination is at the forefront of our conscience, as an intersectional issue, and protests and activism are once again promoting necessary reform.

That's why I've chosen Buffy as our Iowan of the Week. With the Iowa Queer Communities of Color Coalition, she works to address the inequity of services, socioeconomic disparities, and institutional racism experienced by communities through education, advocacy, intentional inclusivity, and organizing.

Buffy is a native Iowan who has worked both in a leadership role within community organizations and as an educator. After receiving her Master's in Higher Education from the University of Denver, Buffy returned to Iowa to dedicate her time and efforts to helping educate the general public about our marginalized communities who are too often overlooked in vital conversations and policymaking.

As Program Coordinator and LGBTQ Healthcare Liaison working with One Iowa, Buffy has helped train thousands of people on issues of intersectionality and inclusion. By emphasizing education that exposes individ-

uals to issues they may not come into contact within their own lives, she has been a leader in our state—making sure the voices of those long ignored by history are brought to the forefront.

Buffy works every single day to ensure our society actively considers the work still to be done. By shining a light on the challenges still ahead, and instructing our friends and neighbors on meaningful actions that can be undertaken at every level, she helps move us toward achieving a more perfect union.

In honor of Buffy's contributions to our state, and the work she puts in every day, I'm proud to name her Iowan of the Week.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN WILLIAM J. KULL

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2020

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of U.S. Army and World War II Veteran, William J. Kull of Huntington Beach, CA. Mr. Kull's patriotism and commitment to serve his community and the United States as a member of America's greatest generation should serve as an example for all especially as we continue to confront the challenges our nation faces today.

A young husband and father, Mr. Kull was a member of the New York Fire Department when he was drafted into the service in 1944. He completed Basic Training in South Carolina, then sailed to Glasgow on the HMS Queen Elizabeth, then took a Belgian ship to France. On June 6th, 1944, approximately 156,000 American, Canadian, and British forces landed on five beaches in the Normandy region of France. The operation took months of planning by General Dwight Eisenhower, who coordinated and led the attack of troops from three different nations. Mr. Kull was assigned to Rifle Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Regiment in the 4th Division, U.S. Army when he arrived the next day to replace the massive casualties sustained in battle.

Landing on Utah Beach, he saw six months of fighting on the frontlines, during which time he was promoted quickly through the ranks from Private to Staff Sergeant. His unit fought their way through Belgium and arrived in Germany before realizing confrontation at the Battle of Hurtgen Forest. Mr. Kull recalled it as "a terrible place . . . when we left, it wasn't a forest anymore."

Mr. Kull continued through the perilous challenges of war, including fighting at the Battle of the Bulge. Not knowing his sergeant had surrendered, Mr. Kull was fiercely engaged with the enemy when a German rifle held him at gunpoint. Now a Prisoner of War, in a miraculous display of loyalty to duty and country, it took only a few hours for him to escape, along with other members of his unit, and catch up with his remaining company.

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