

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I firmly support H.R. 2639—The Strength in Diversity Act of 2020. This bill will bring much-needed support to school districts that are committed to school diversity initiatives.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 185; YEA on Roll Call No. 186; NAY on Roll Call No. 187; YEA on Roll Call No. 188; and YEA on Roll Call No. 189.

HONORING MARY BETH SANCHEZ

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a mother, friend and family member, my cousin, Mary Beth Sanchez, who will be celebrating her 60th birthday on October 9, 2020.

Mary Beth is a kind, caring and loving woman whose presence always lights up a room. Family means the world to Mary and she always goes out of her way to show it.

Happy 60th Birthday, Mary Beth.

We love her.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BILLIE FRANCES POLK

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Billie Frances Polk, a lifelong native of Woodville, Texas who passed away recently at the age of ninety. Mrs. Polk was a retired Director of the Woodville Housing Authority.

Billie was born on December 24, 1929 to Oscar and Lilla Chambless Fortenberry in Woodville, Texas. She spent her life growing up and working in Tyler County. Billie was the recipient of the James E. Wheat Award which recognizes truly exceptional leaders. She unselfishly gave of her time and talents to the Tyler County Dogwood Festival, a festival that celebrates the traditions and beauty of East Texas.

Mrs. Polk was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She frequently reminded her loved ones of what her father often said, "All we have is what we give away." She lived her life in this way, continuously giving to others, without any strings attached.

Billie is remembered by her friends and family as a great example of Southern grace and

hospitality. Whether it was enjoying her family or gathering with her friends for bridge, she wanted to recognize others. Her delight came from opening her home to friends and strangers alike.

In facing life's obstacles, Mrs. Polk would remind others, "All we need in times like these is just a closer walk with Thee." Billie gave of all she had, and because of that she was very rich. Indeed, she had a closer "walk with Thee."

Billie was preceded in death by her parents, Oscar and Lilla Fortenberry; husband, Alford Lee Polk; sister, Bobbie Jean Swinney; and brother, Lloyd C. Fortenberry.

Mrs. Polk is survived by her daughters, Cindy Green and husband, Greg of Woodville, Jennifer Balbuena and husband, Arturo of Houston and Nancy McNally and husband, Billy of Woodville; brother, Cecil Fortenberry and wife, Margie of Woodville; sister, Jayne Best and husband, Bertis of Woodville; grandchildren, Jill Nichols and husband Reece, Josh McClure and wife Christa, Jinger Fowler and husband Kris, Holly Douglas and husband Josh, Melissa Howe and husband Matt, Will McNally and wife Kelli and Cheryl Marshall and husband Derek and 16 great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Mrs. Billie Polk, for her many years of faithful service to her community. My thoughts and prayers remain with her family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING FRED IMLER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fred Imler of Imler's Poultry, who recently was awarded the Agricultural Community Excellence Award by the Farm-City Committee of the Blair County Chamber of Commerce.

The Imler family has been active in southcentral Pennsylvania's agricultural community for over a century, and six generations of Imlers have taken part in building the family's business. The Imler family has been a leader in our community since at least 1903, when Fred's great-great uncle operated a general store in Bedford County. In 1918, the business moved from Bedford County to Altoona. In 1951, Fred became a partner in the business and, following years of hard work, he became the full owner in 1977. Since then, Fred has worked tirelessly to provide quality products and excellent customer service.

As a leader in our region's agriculture industry, Fred consistently gives back to our community. Fred and his son frequently attend auctions at county fairs throughout the region, and they have made it a priority to buy animals to help local students obtain higher education.

Today, I join the Blair County Chamber of Commerce in recognizing Fred Imler's service to the agriculture community, and congratulate my friend on this well-deserved honor. As Fred Imler and his family continue to serve Pennsylvanians, I wish them every continued success.

REMEMBERING MR. ED BEARSS

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Ed Bearss, former chief historian for the National Parks Service from 1981 to 1994, author, and WWII veteran. Mr. Bearss just celebrated his 98th birthday.

Mr. Bearss served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the invasion of Guadalcanal and the Russell Islands. He received the Purple Heart after being badly wounded by gunfire at "Suicide Creek," Cape Gloucester.

Blessed with an impeccable memory, Mr. Bearss returned home to finish his education and became a regional historian for the National Parks Service in 1955. During his tenure as Chief Historian of the National Parks Service, Mr. Bearss helped craft national parks policy for 14 years.

After retiring Mr. Bearss continued to advocate for historic preservation through tours and lectures. He was an anchor for historic programming with the Smithsonian Institute and National Geographic Society.

Please join me in a moment of silence to honor and thank Mr. Bearss for the many years of service to his country both at home and abroad.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend because I was hosting an official event at the House Agriculture Committee. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 188.

ISRAEL, UAE AND BAHRAIN PEACE AGREEMENTS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the historic diplomatic breakthrough that was just accomplished.

Yesterday, President Donald Trump hosted leaders from Israel, UAE, and Bahrain at a

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