

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

• 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.

ceremony at the White House where the two Arab nations signed an agreement to normalize relations and make peace with Israel.

Make no mistake, this is a historical achievement and I want to congratulate all parties, especially President Trump, on this major accomplishment to bring peace to the region.

To put it lightly, Israel is in a bad neighborhood with many state and non-state actors who wish nothing more than to bring death and destruction to Israel.

However, we know that violence is not the answer and we will only bring peace to the region through careful and deliberate negotiations. Yesterday is an example of that diplomacy and a step in the right direction.

Israel is and always has been our strongest ally in the middle east. The United States must always continue to support Israel by providing necessary resources for their protection, as well as diplomatic support to achieve a lasting peace.

I am proud of the efforts made here and will continue to do everything in my power to support our ally Israel and bring peace to the Middle East.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOUIS P. ESCOBAR

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and passing of a gentle caring soul. As August turned to September, Louis Escobar entered eternal life.

Louis was a role model to many young people and a mentor to many in the LGBTQ community. The first Latino elected to Toledo City Council, he served three years as Council President.

Louis' servant's heart led him to involvement in a wide array of Toledo Area community organizations including Northwest State Community College, the AIDS Resource Center, The Fair Housing Center, Toledo Sister Cities, Toledo/Lucas County Homelessness Board, the Latino Arts Council, the Latino/Hispanic Alliance of Greater Toledo, Stonewall Democrats, St. Paul's Community Center, the Area Office on Aging and many others. Always, his life was helping others to rise.

Louis was born to Nancy and Peter Escobar. He graduated from Central Catholic High School in Toledo, then went on to earn his bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College, a Master of Divinity from SS Cyril and Methodius Seminary, and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Detroit. A loving and deeply spiritual seminarian, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1976 and served St. Joseph Tiffin, St. Agnes Toledo, and St. Joseph Maumee parishes. He taught at Central Catholic and Tiffin Calvert high schools. Later, Louis worked as a counselor and probation officer, for the HIV/AIDS Task Force, in community mental health through the Zepf Center, Latino empowerment with Adelante, serving the most vulnerable while at La Posada, and at Owens Corning and the University of Toledo.

We offer his companion, his mother and brothers, nieces and nephews and many dear

friends our compassion and sympathy. As they mourn Louis' loss, may they find comfort and strength in his memories and his teachings.

Louis Escobar was a kind, gentle, intelligent, brave and pioneering soul who endured deep illness for a very long time with such dignity and bearing. His struggles as a gay man in the Catholic Church where he desired to become a priest, and as a rising Latino leader were prophetic and huge. He never yielded as a standard bearer for truth and social justice. His election and steady, honorable service on City Council rising as its president became part of America's transformative social and political change toward human rights and liberty and equality for all. Louis Escobar lived the change he knew in his heart was essential for humankind to advance the reality of the human condition. His lifelong partner Kelly cared for him throughout his long illness and set the standard for love and fealty to family. Our community mourns his loss and expresses its deep gratitude for his courage, love, service, and sacrifice.

A U.S. flag is being flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of his life.

CELEBRATING THE MOORESTOWN 8U BASEBALL TEAM, THE BABE RUTH STATE TOURNAMENT, SOUTH JERSEY CHAMPIONS

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Moorestown 8U baseball team, who on August 26, 2020, became the eight-year-old Southern New Jersey Baseball State Champions.

Led by Coach Andy Berman and Assistant Coaches Geoff Degener, Dustin Jerdan, and Ron Obermeier, the Moorestown 8U baseball team displayed incredible perseverance all season amidst a global pandemic. Their countless hours of practice, dedication to safety, and commitment to their teammates led them to win Moorestown 8U Baseball Team's first State Championship while staying safe and healthy. Throughout the entire season they dominated their opposition, losing only one game and making it to the State Final, which they won 9 to 2.

I congratulate team members Ben Berman, Braden Castner, Austin Degener, Jack Finazzo, Jace Jerdan, Jack Krumins, Shane Krumins, Matt Laufer, Brett Obermeier, Eshaan Panchal, Alex Seamon, and Nate Seibel on their incredible season and state championship.

I'm proud to be able to celebrate the success of some of the talented student-athletes from New Jersey's Third District. I want to congratulate the entire coaching staff, the team, and their parents on their tremendous season.

LENNY KRAWCHECK

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Lenny Krawcheck to the city of Charleston in his time as the chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals. In his more than four decades on the board, Lenny played a critical role in shaping Charleston into the destination it is today, a consummate tourist attraction that has never lost its charm or sense of self.

Lenny became chairman of the board in 1979 at the request of Mayor Joe Riley. During his tenure he helped revitalize the city, while staying true to Charleston's unique history and culture. Lenny quickly developed a reputation as a knowledgeable and fair arbiter. Even if folks disagreed with the final decision made by the Board of Zoning Appeals, they respected Lenny's integrity and commitment to do right by the city.

As he leaves public service to focus on his personal life, the city of Charleston owes Lenny Krawcheck an enormous debt of gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY BRINDISI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Speaker, I missed a vote on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 as I was at the White House Ceremony for the signing of the historic Abraham Accords. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call Vote No. 186 On Agreeing to H. Res. 1107, YEA.

HONORING LINDA CASSARLY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Cassarly for her generous efforts to beautify Altoona, Pennsylvania and honor our military community.

Ms. Cassarly has been a seamstress serving the Greater Altoona area for years. Recently, she volunteered her time and talents to refurbish, Christmas wreaths that the City of Altoona uses to decorate the downtown area for the holidays.

In addition to her wreath project, Ms. Cassarly has helped to refurbish military monuments around the city. As the mother of a combat veteran, she understands the importance of preserving these tributes to those who have served our country. To honor the region's military community, Ms. Cassarly refurbished the area surrounding a memorial plaque on Juniata Street in Altoona, made two "Quilts of Honor" with the names of Pennsylvanians who were killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan, and created banners for thirteen Gold Star families in Pennsylvania. Her