

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF MELISSA AND DAVID COMRAS AS A 2020 ANGELS IN ADOPTION HONOREE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to honor Melissa and David Comras, for their extraordinary contributions to the lives of children and teenagers in the foster care system.

Melissa and David were recognized as a 2020 Angels in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). The Comras family has a strong history of involvement with both adoption and foster care. Melissa began her career helping children as a Guardian Ad Litem 20 years ago, when she began working with teenagers aging out of the foster care system. She is a fierce advocate for the rights of teens and guides them through the process of the independent living program through their 18th birthday and beyond. By opening their home and, most importantly, their hearts, through their personal experience with fostering and adopting their daughter Amelia, and by fighting for children who are at their most vulnerable as they age out of the foster system. Melissa and David truly exemplify Angels in Adoption.

Founded in 2001, CCAI is a nonprofit organization with the vision that every child should know the love and support of a caring family. Every year, CCAI selects a small group of outstanding individuals, families, or organizations across the nation to be recognized as Angels in Adoption. These honorees have gone above and beyond to demonstrate their commitment to improving the lives of children in need of permanent, loving homes.

Madam Speaker, I am so very proud of Melissa and David Comras for all the work that they have done in our community. I wish them the best as they continue their work to make the dream of a forever family a reality for so many children in need.

OUTLYING AREA APPRENTICESHIP EXPANSION ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Outlying Areas Apprenticeship Expansion Program, so the benefits of the National Apprenticeship Act are available to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands as in the rest of the United States.

The National Apprenticeship Act has proven its value over the last 83 years, helping grow local economies and ushering young people into successful careers. Yet the Act does not

support apprenticeships in the Marianas and other insular areas. My bill fixes that inequity, providing the annual funding necessary to support the creation of, and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in the Marianas, and the rest of the smaller insular areas.

Apprenticeship programs foster opportunity and innovation in fields affecting the well-being of people across the Nation, and help communities prepare for the future by developing workforces in crucial fields, like telecommunications and healthcare.

I have every reason to believe that apprenticeship programs will similarly lift up the hard-working people of the Marianas, and other insular areas.

I urge all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

JACK SCHURMAN—VETERANS LEADER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a great friend of mine and a tremendous advocate for America's veterans, Mr. Jack Edward Schurman. A little more than two years ago, I spoke about Jack as he moved from his longtime residence of Shelbyville, IL, in my 15th Congressional District, to the Mississippi State Veterans Home to be near his daughter, Kelli Ann, in Bay St. Louis, MS. On September 13, Jack passed way, a victim of the ongoing, tragic COVID-19 pandemic.

Born in Iowa on June 12, 1939, Jack joined the U.S. Navy in 1959. He rose to the rank of yeoman third class before a disability cut short his service in 1964. Jack made his way to Illinois. In 1976, he married Nancy Ellen Cranford. They raised two daughters, Kelli Ann and Kim Marie.

As chairman of my Veterans Advisory Committee, Jack used his valuable experience and perspective as a disabled veteran in leading our meetings through the years. Between meetings, he would direct a number of veterans to my office for casework assistance, several of whom he had to use his well-known persistence to convince they could trust a government representative.

Jack's health declined after the death of his beloved Nancy in 2016, leading to his move to Mississippi. But even after leaving the state, he continued advocating for his fellow veterans in Illinois, staying in contact with my office from long distance.

Madam Speaker, Jack Edward Schurman was laid to rest next to Nancy at Mt. Zion Cemetery near Shelbyville. After fighting the good fight, may he rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP HEZEKIAH ROSS

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, Bishop Hezekiah Ross, who passed away on July 29, 2020, at the age of 91.

Dr. Ross was a man of faith and a man of action. His life was defined by service to others. Dr. Ross served in the Army, deploying to Korea in 1950.

After returning home to Central Florida, he became assistant pastor and then senior pastor at the West Sanford Freewill Holiness Church, serving there for over six decades.

When I took office, I asked Dr. Ross—and he generously agreed—to serve on my faith leaders' advisory board. Despite his advanced age, he never missed a session. In his quiet, dignified way, he helped me better understand, and address, the needs of the Sanford community.

Throughout his life, Dr. Ross ministered to his congregation, but he also led a street ministry and a prison ministry, counseling and mentoring men and women on the margins of society, those forgotten or forsaken by others.

He was the epitome of grace and compassion in a world that needs more of both.

Dr. Ross was also a trailblazer. In 1969, he became the first black firefighter in the city of Sanford. For 22 years, he was firefighter and a pastor, a rare and wonderful combination, saving lives while saving souls.

Of course, it could not have been easy to integrate this institution. But Hezekiah Ross was never interested in doing easy things. He was a determined man. He wanted to serve his community, and he wouldn't be deterred or discouraged.

At that time, in that place, the idea of a black firefighter could be hard to fathom—and Hezekiah faced his share of prejudice. But, over time, Hezekiah came to be accepted, admired, and—ultimately—beloved by his fellow firefighters.

A few asked him to forgive them for the way they had initially treated him, which of course he did.

Being a firefighter under any circumstances takes courage. Being a firefighter under these conditions takes courage and character, and Dr. Ross possessed both.

In 2004, more than a decade after he had retired from the force, Dr. Ross was invited to become the Sanford Fire Department's first chaplain, ministering to firefighters and their families.

The man who was once tolerated was now treasured.

Bishop Ross is survived by his wife Lelia, who was kind enough to speak to my office about her late husband. "We were married for 68 years," she told us. "We did everything together."

• 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.

If Bishop Ross was the rock of Goldsboro, Leila was his rock.

The Bishop's funeral service was a sight to behold. The streets of Sanford were basically shut down for the procession. A soldier played "Taps" to honor his military service. His casket was transported on the back of a firetruck. Everybody was there. Black, white, young, and not-so-young, bound together by their affection for this extraordinary man.

He will be greatly missed, but he is now home. May God bless this trailblazer and may God continue to bless his beloved community of family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I was unable to be present for votes on September 17, 2020.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 194.

CONGRATULATING MELISSA COLLINS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Melissa Collins, a second-grade science teacher at the John P. Freeman Optional School in the Whitehaven neighborhood of Memphis, who last week was inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame. This honor was just the most recent recognition of Dr. Collins' huge influence in the classroom as an Early Childhood educator and as a policy maker. She was also the winner of a 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. During the East Room ceremony at the White House, President Obama jokingly asked Dr. Collins to consider tutoring his daughters. Among many of her accolades, Dr. Collins received the 2013 NEA Foundation's Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence, the 2014 West Tennessee Teacher of the Year Award, the 2015 Queen Smith Award for Urban Education from the Council of Great City Schools, the 2015 Kennedy Center-Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award, the 2017 National Science Teachers Association Science Educator Development Award, and was one of six U.S. finalists for the \$1 million Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Award in 2018. Dr. Collins has taught at John P. Freeman for 21 years and has been a standout from the start. In 2007, she instituted the "Muffins with Moms" days to have students see their mothers read to their classes and, later, the "Dates for Dads" days for fathers to have lunch with their children at school. She also instituted the "Dress Up Friday" days so students could show off a little. In class, she has her students don lab coats to conduct their science experiments and has been known to incorporate music in her teaching, part of the rationale for the Sondheim award. "I learned to take a risk

for my students and myself. I allowed my students to drive their own learning and curiosity," she has said. "In the beginning, I would seek opportunities. Now, those opportunities seek me. I was chasing my dreams and now my dreams chase me." After graduating in 1992 from Whitehaven High School, where she played basketball and her father, Stanley, coached the football team, she earned a master's and doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi while constantly giving back to her community. As a policy expert, Dr. Collins has travelled to India and Brazil and across the U.S. to confer with other recognized leaders, and to the Halls of Congress, where she has advised Senator ALEXANDER and me on best practices and good ideas. I value her insights and her passion for the students she loves. On Friday, students still learning from home will stage a drive-by parade in her honor outside the Freeman Optional School. She is a true inspiration, and I wish her well as she continues her astonishing career.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AEROSPACE WEEK

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I along with Representative THORNBERRY, rise to recognize the United States aerospace industry. For more than 100 years, the American aerospace industry has moved, connected, secured, and inspired the modern world with countless technologies that play a role in our daily lives. The industry has made a tremendous impact, strengthening both America's economy and national security. The aerospace and defense industry's economic presence is felt in all 50 states, representing 1.8 percent of total U.S. Gross Domestic Product in 2019. And it's one of our country's best employers, supporting more than 2 million world-class workers in 2019 and providing them wages and benefits that are more than 40 percent higher than the national average. It also supports the U.S. National Defense Strategy by providing our military with the most advanced and effective platforms and systems in the world.

In keeping with industry's strong commitment to our country and its citizens, our nation's aerospace companies have answered the call to help assist with the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Aerospace companies have used their unique skills and expertise to produce face shields, design and build portable ventilators, and deliver essential supplies to the front lines in effort to ensure our nation overcomes these unprecedented challenges.

While the history of the aerospace industry is filled with contributions to the technological advancement of humankind, from the development of flight to putting the first person on the moon, the future is just as bright. The industry is inspiring young Americans from diverse backgrounds to study and pursue science, technology, engineering, and math, so they can help drive future innovations. Through groundbreaking technologies like urban air mobility and planning the next great space

mission to Mars, the aerospace industry is working today to build a better, safer, and more successful tomorrow.

COMMEMORATING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS ON THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC) on their 80th anniversary. Formed in 1940, IADC's roughly 550 U.S. member companies employ more than 70,000 hardworking men and women and have played an invaluable role in bringing American energy to individuals, families, and small businesses all across our country.

The thousands of people who work each day to bring energy to market are essential to the State of Louisiana and to American energy independence. Energy produced in the Gulf of Mexico and throughout the country is crucial not only here at home, but also to our friends around the globe. American energy exploration and production helps keep energy prices low for families and small businesses, provides millions of people with good-paying jobs, and prevents hostile foreign regimes from using their energy resources to harm our allies.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic and economic shutdown has hit energy-producing states, and the jobs and communities they support, especially hard. It has crushed energy demand, and a foreign price war earlier this year exacerbated an already dire situation. This combination resulted in devastating lay-offs, oil prices plummeting to negative for the first time in history, and billions of dollars of planned investments lost.

But America's oil and gas workers are extraordinarily resilient, and the industry will recover from this downturn. The United States has vast reserves of oil and natural gas, resources that are produced here at home with some of the highest standards and safest technologies for energy exploration and production in the entire world. IADC has been, and will continue to be, a large part of that success.

I applaud IADC and the women and men who work each and every day to bring energy to individuals and families all across our country. I appreciate their work to advance innovation with a focus on safety, and I wish IADC continued success and another fantastic 80 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, for the floor votes on Thursday, September 17, 2020, I regrettably erred when casting my vote for roll call 194, the Motion to Recommit with Instructions H.R. 2694, the Pregnant Workers