

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING VANESSA MARCANO-KELLY AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 20, 2020*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Vanessa Marcano-Kelly, owner of Caracas Language Solutions and passionate community activist, as our Iowan of the Week for the week of October 9, 2020.

Each year, Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated nationwide from September 15th to October 15th. It is an opportunity to celebrate and highlight the culture, traditions, and contributions of both Hispanic and Latinx Americans and shine a light on how these contributions have and continue to build our country and society for the better. Today there are nearly 195,000 Hispanic and Latinx Americans residing in Iowa—more than six percent of the state's population—and their families have enriched Iowa's culture and communities for generations. I have no doubt Vanessa's good work will leave its mark for generations to come.

A native of Caracas, Venezuela, Vanessa is a certified court interpreter in the state of Iowa, owner and lead linguist at Caracas Language Solutions since 2015 and respected by many for her drive to improve the lives of others by breaking down the language barrier. She specializes in community, conference, and legal interpretation, as well as translation and subtitling. She began regularly interpreting and translating during her work as a community organizer for Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement in 2012, and a year after realizing her passion for this profession, she obtained the Iowa Spanish Court Interpreter Certification, which she has held since 2015.

In 2014 Vanessa was the recipient of the LULAC Iowa Latino Leadership award. She also graduated from the Latina Leadership Initiative in 2014 and earned a place on the New Leaders Council in Des Moines. She serves on the board of directors of the Des Moines Film Society and the inaugural board of the Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice.

Vanessa believes strongly in the importance of civic engagement and has utilized her skills and determination to make an impact. The pursuit of making her community a better place through positive action has led her to creating the first Spanish speaking caucus site in Iowa and becoming involved with organizations like the Latino Political Network and the Department of Latino Affairs. She's worked with Grand View University on a multi-day program to ensure the parents of prospective first-year college students not only had support but felt included and welcomed as they learned about their young adults' educational opportunities. Vanessa also spearheaded the effort to expand access to COVID-19 information through a live audio interpretation of the briefings in Spanish.

I appreciate the opportunity to celebrate the culture and contributions of our Hispanic and Latinx neighbors not only during Hispanic Heritage Month but also year-round. I am honored to be their voice in Congress, and I will never stop fighting for legislation that makes Iowa a better place for their families.

Providing better access to opportunities and success for all Iowans is one of my primary goals while serving in Congress, and I have tremendous respect for how Vanessa approaches the same goal. Her work is opening doors, creating connections, and fostering a stronger sense of community in our state. The Hispanic and Latinx population is the fastest growing group of individuals in Iowa, and advocates like Vanessa have been working every day to make sure they have the representation they deserve. I want to thank Vanessa for her amazing efforts in Iowa's Third Congressional District, and it is my pleasure to recognize her as Iowan of the Week.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 20, 2020*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes due to a death in the family. Had I been present for Roll Call vote number 222, On Closing Portions of the Conference for the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act, I would have voted "Yea." Had I been present for Roll Call vote number 223, On Ordering the Previous Question Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8294) National Apprenticeship Act of 2020, and for other purposes, I would have voted "Nay." Had I been present for Roll Call vote number 224, On Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8294) National Apprenticeship Act of 2020, and for other purposes, I would have voted "Nay."

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 20, 2020*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Nov. 18, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 222.

HONORING DR. HAROLD C. SAYLES, PH.D.

**HON. A. DONALD MCEACHIN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 20, 2020*

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and recognize Dr. Harold C. Sayles as the 2020 recipient of the inaugural Veteran of the Year Award for the Fourth Congressional District of Virginia.

Dr. Sayles has dedicated his life to serving our country, both as a Major in the United States Army and as a veteran assisting former servicemembers in his community and across our nation. Since 2015, Dr. Sayles has served as the State Chaplain for the Department of Virginia's Veterans of Foreign Wars. He offers spiritual counseling to veterans and their families, performs funerals for servicemembers, visits hospitals and homes of ailing veterans, and provides countless other services for Virginia's veterans. Dr. Sayles also serves on the Suicide Prevention Task Force for the Southern Conference of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, helping our veterans access much-needed mental health services and support.

For his service, Dr. Sayles has earned numerous awards, including the Bronze Star Medal for heroism in combat action against enemy forces on February 10, 1991 in direct support of Operation Desert Storm. He was also awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptional service and outstanding achievement in the performance of duties from November 1990 to March 1993 while serving with the 4th Psychology Operations Group, Airborne. Dr. Sayles has received a total of seven national and state-wide awards for his tireless work as Post Commander in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a title he has held on three different occasions.

In addition to his commitment to uplifting and caring for our nation's servicemembers, we owe Dr. Sayles a debt of gratitude for the work he does for communities across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dr. Sayles serves as the Executive Director of the Crater District Area Agency on Aging, providing services to senior citizens, and as Cub Master for Cub Scout Pack 525 and as Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 525, helping younger generations learn vital civic and interpersonal skills.

Dr. Sayles writes that, "I enjoy what I do and feel that I was not only born to serve, but a calling on my life." His dedication to serving his country and community is matched only by his commitment to his wife, Dr. Cheryl Jordan-Sayles, and their four children.

It is for these reasons and so many more that I am proud to recognize Dr. Sayles as the 2020 recipient of the Fourth Congressional District of Virginia's inaugural Veteran of the Year Award for his continued service to our Commonwealth and our country.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Sayles for his devotion to the United States of America and his selfless efforts to improve the lives of veterans and all those around him.

• 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.