

## 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.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP ACT  
OF 2020

SPEECH OF

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 19, 2020*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my colleague Congresswoman TITUS' amendment to H.R. 8294, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2020, which I cosponsored.

Our travel and tourism industry employs nearly 16 million workers across our nation. In my home state of Hawaii, tourism is our main economic pillar, with one out of five workers statewide employed within this industry.

I have literally hundreds of thousands of constituents and their families who are dependent on travel and tourism fear for their future due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of tourists arriving in Hawaii each day has dropped over 97 percent compared to a year ago. COVID-19 has devastated Hawaii's economy and threatened the livelihoods of countless individuals, forcing all into uncertainty and too many into unemployment and worse.

This bipartisan amendment will ensure these families and millions of their fellow workers and families across the country are not left behind by adding hospitality and tourism to the list of non-traditional apprenticeship industries eligible for the 21st Century Grants in the Modernizing the National Apprenticeship System. The amendment supports our workers and businesses in the hospitality industry at a time of great need, and it invests in this critical sector of our economy to help ensure a clearer path to recovery.

I am proud to support Congresswoman TITUS' amendment, and I remain committed to finding and pursuing opportunities that will help the travel and tourism industry swiftly recover from the impacts of this pandemic.

Mahalo.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 20, 2020*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I regretably missed one vote on Monday November 16, 2020. On Roll Call vote 220, S. 3147 Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act, I would have voted YEA.

CONDEMNING ACTS BY PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND GOV-  
ERNMENT OF HONG KONG SPE-  
CIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION  
THAT VIOLATE FUNDAMENTAL  
RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF  
HONG KONG RESIDENTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2020*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional China Caucus and senior member of the House of Representatives, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1033, "Condemning acts by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region that violate fundamental rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents as well as acts that undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy".

First and foremost, I wish to thank my colleague, Chairman ENGEL, for his leadership on the Foreign Affairs Committee as well as on this vital, bipartisan piece of legislation.

Time and time again, the Federal Government of the United States has had to rebuke Beijing for its aggression against Hong Kong and the Chinese Government's continuous efforts to restrict the region's autonomy.

Today, we will once again defend Hong Kong by passing this resolution, which calls on Beijing to rectify national security law provisions inconsistent with the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law and advises the U.S. government to coordinate with allies and partners to respond to the deterioration of rights and freedoms in Hong Kong.

In 1997, the British relinquished control over Hong Kong to China under a unique agreement which created the infamous "one country, two systems" principle.

For over two decades, the people of Hong Kong enjoyed strong democratic institutions, including an independent judiciary, and have been able to proudly exercise their civil liberties.

However, since 2014, the Chinese government has increasingly sought to undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy.

Most recently, on July 1, 2020, the Government of China imposed sweeping national security legislation on the people of Hong Kong, fundamentally altering Hong Kong's autonomy and undermining the basic rights and freedoms promised to the people of Hong Kong under the Sino-British Joint Declaration, a legally binding international agreement guaranteeing that the social and economic systems, as well as the life-style, in Hong Kong will remain unchanged through 2047.

Beijing's national security law is the culmination of Xi Jinping's years long assault on Hong Kong's democratic freedoms and autonomy, and we must do our part as defenders of democratic freedom around the world to push back on Beijing's aggression.

Under the national security law, the Chinese Government has criminalized any acts of:

Secession, breaking away from the country;  
Subversion, undermining the power or authority of the central government;

Terrorism, using violence of intimidation against people; and

Collusion with foreign or external forces.

In addition, it authorizes China's national security agencies to establish a presence in Hong Kong.

This national security law gives Beijing a new tool with which to crack down on protesters and dissidents as well as push forward education that trumpets the successes of the Communist Party.

Mr. Speaker, you may remember that last year, pro-democracy protests erupted in Hong Kong in response to legislation that would have enabled suspected criminals to be extradited to mainland China.

Thousands of students, lawyers, pro-democracy legislators, corporate executives, and others came together to protest that grave incursion of Hong Kong's autonomy and appealed to the United States support their pro-democracy movement, and we did by making the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act public law.

By passing this crucial resolution today, Members of Congress are standing up for the democratic principles we hold so dear.

Since its founding, the United States has been a city upon a hill, the model of democracy for the rest of the world, and a fierce defender of civil liberties for all.

It is our moral duty to stand up for what is right and condemn what is wrong.

Our vote to pass H. Res. 1033 sends a clear message to China and the world that the U.S. not only condemns Beijing's actions as violation of international law but also that we will continue to stand with Hong Kong.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for H. Res. 1033.

## 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. 17, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 221.

HONORING KELLIE MARKEY 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 Kellie Markey, the founder and executive director of Dorothy's House in Des Moines, as our Iowan of the Week for the week of October 16, 2020.

Raised and educated in Iowa, Kellie moved back to Des Moines in 2011 and began volunteering in order to reconnect with her community. She started working with teen girls at Youth Emergency Services & Shelter (YESS) and began to learn more about not only the nature of abuse against kids in our area, but also the extreme challenges these individuals face as they age out of care systems and try to find success in the world without proper resources.