

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on March 17, 2021, I was unable to vote for H.R. 1651, the COVID-19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 1651.

### CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF ROMANI AMERICANS

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, this body has long recognized the accomplishments, unique heritage, and rich diversity of cultures that make up the United States.

Roma have been part of every wave of European migration to the United States from the colonial period to the present day, coming from every part of Europe. There may be as many as a million Americans with some Romani ancestry, whether distant or more recent. Roma enrich the fabric of our nation, tie our country to Europe, and build the transatlantic bond.

Few cultures are as geographically diverse as the Romani people. Romani people trace their ancestry to the Indian subcontinent and settled throughout Europe roughly a thousand years ago. In some places, Roma were subject to expulsion or arrest solely because of their ethnicity. In the Wallachian and Moldovan principalities, Roma were enslaved by the crown, nobility, and monasteries until the founding of modern Romania. Sometimes Roma were subjected to forced assimilation.

Roma were among the many groups of people that suffered at the hands of the Nazis and their allies during World War II. At least 23,000 Roma were brought to Auschwitz; almost all of them perished in the gas chambers or from starvation, exhaustion, or disease. Some Roma also died at the hands of sadistic SS doctors, like Joseph Mengele, who performed inhumane medical experiments on Roma. Approximately 25,000 Roma were deported en masse from Romania to Transnistria by the Antonescu regime in 1942; at least 11,000 of them perished. The Romani collective farms in German-occupied Soviet territory became Romani mass grave sites. It is estimated that between 200,000 to 500,000 Romani people were killed in death camps and elsewhere throughout Europe.

As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have supported efforts to acknowledge this tragic past, including by ensuring that survivors and historians have access to relevant archives like those from Bad Arolsen and Lety.

I've also ensured that Romani voices have been heard in the Commission's work to advance safe, equitable, and inclusive societies. I welcome the groundbreaking collaboration by the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard and the Voice of Roma to collect qualitative and quantitative data about the lived realities and challenges faced by American Roma.

Today I am re-introducing a resolution recognizing and celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans.

This resolution does four things. First, it celebrates Romani American Heritage. Second, it supports International Roma Day and the Department of State's robust engagement in related activities. April 8 marks "International Roma Day" around the world and is a day to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Romani people. Third, it commemorates the destruction of the "Gypsy Family Camp" at Auschwitz. Fourth, it commends the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for its critically important role in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and educating about the genocide of Roma.

Through this resolution, we celebrate our shared history and applaud the efforts to promote transnational cooperation among Roma at the historic First World Romani Congress on April 8, 1971.

I ask that you join me and cosponsor Chairman GREGORY MEEKS in supporting the resolution.

### CONGRATULATING THE FALCONS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

#### HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hustisford Falcons High School boys' basketball team for their record breaking and historic win at the Division 5 state championship earlier this month.

The Falcons convincingly delivered the program's first-ever state championship title. They kicked it off with a 26-5 run over the game's opening 13 minutes and cruised to a 69-35 victory at the final buzzer. When all was said and done, the Falcons finished the game with 11 blocks against the Macks, setting a new record, and finished the entire tournament with 15 blocked shots, breaking yet another state tournament record. This is a game that is sure to go down in the program's history books, each player should be very proud of themselves.

Hustisford is my very own alma mater and I'm proud of these young men on their victory. I applaud Coach Hopfinger and the entire team for bringing home the first-ever gold ball to add to the school's trophy case. This team has overcome many obstacles in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, but they persevered and brought home impressive hardware to

show for it. Congratulations to the Falcons for their hard work all season. This achievement is well deserved.

### RECOGNIZING THE FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

#### HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize, celebrate, and honor the frontline healthcare workers of the great state of South Dakota.

Some of these South Dakota heroes are: Codi Jean Ackerman, Marie Adams, Larin Michelle Albertson, Savannah Allen, Shiann Jo Allen, Christina Marie Allery, Candace Alvarado, Amber Marie Andersen, Stephanie Ashley Anderson, Laryssa Jean Anderson, Christina Lee Anderson, Angela Marie Andre-Lyle, Hannah Kathleen Annetta Andreae, Tara Rae Andrews, Terri L. Andrews, Donna Kay Appletoft, Erica Marie Arends, Megan Rose Armfield, Shawna Nichol Augustine, Teresa Ann Austin, Rachel Ivy Aydelotte, Karla May Bailey, Jackie Ann Bair, Taylor Marie Baker, Noelle Page Bakley, Brooke Erin Baldwin, Naomi Banks, Brena Kay Banks, Stacey Bannwarth, Kassi Raquel Barington-Steele, Deborah Kay Barnard, Tara Ann Barrick, Miranda Marie Barta, Nicole Barthel, Dena Kay Barton, Kimberly Jo Barton, Robin Elaine Bass, Arlene Batin, Melissa Baumgartner, Kaylee R. Baustian, Marissa Paige Beck, Theresa Beck, Stacie R. Becker, Tara Lee Beckmann, Amy Beek, Ashley Lauren Behl, Vicki Lynn Behrens, Maggie Bell, Jenica Lynn Bender, Erica Rose Bender, Megan Louise Bennett, Kelcey Colene Benson, Mary Margaret Benson, Sarah Jeanne Benting, Tara Leigh Berg, Lydia Michelle Best, Julie Bickett, Lori Ann Bies, Joan Marie Biever, Mary Lynn Blegen, Michele Block, Renae Esther Blume.

Chimere Lanee Board, Sandra Caryl Bohr, Danielle Janae Boluyt, Lindsay Boomsma, Amber Lee Bootsma, Rachelle Bosma, Jessica Leigh Bowar, Rebecca Bracha, Carissa Kelli Brandt, Ashleigh JeAnne Brandt, Kristina Breske, Evelyn Briest, Autumn Grace Brockevelt, Bryan Bronson, Jessica Erin Brown, Natasha Yvonne Broz, Haley Cheyenne Bruske, Kellie Anne Bryant, Kara Lynn Buettgenback, Susan Burckhartzmeyer, Sharon K. Buseman, Courtney Amanda Callejas, Jamie Lynn Carlson, Darla Ann Carlson, Samantha Michelle Carlson, Brenda Rae Carrillo, Debra D. Carter, Jennifer Jo Centineo, Katlyn Marie Chaloupka, Jamie Lynn Cheng, Mia Marie Cherry, Joseph Blake Child, Gaelle Albane Chleborad, Kimberly Kay Christensen, Roxanne Clausen, Cassie Lynn Clausen, Cathleen Patricia Climis, Stephanie Renae Coats, Sarah Elizabeth Cole, Lisa Dawn Conklin, Wendy Dawn Connell, Nicole Anne Conrad, Kelsey Ranae Cordell, Ann

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