

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBB LALLY

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Mr. Robb Lally, a dedicated public servant and volunteer for more than 35 years.

Robert (Robb) Lally entered the seminary at a young age and as a deacon, served in a Catholic Parish. After finishing seminary school, Mr. Lally continued to help and aid those in need through his work with the Franciscans at Arch Street, and later for the Salvation Army.

In 1988, Robb Lally headed to San Diego to work with the founder of the Alpha Project, a non-profit human services organization that serves over 4,000 men, women and children daily. As director, he empowered individuals, families and communities by providing work, recovery and support services to those who were motivated to change their lives and achieve self-sufficiency. During his tenure, Robb was instrumental in the overall mission and growth of the organization and had assisted with over 1,000 apartment units that were preserved and created.

On June 7, 2023, Robb's life and legacy were honored at a Celebration of Life in San Diego, CA. On behalf of the residents of California's 52nd Congressional District, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family of Robb Lally. His legacy is felt, and his presence will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN HARRIS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Harris for his incredible contributions to the Central Valley and to wish him a very happy 80th birthday.

A native of Five Points, Mr. Harris has dedicated his life to California's agricultural industry. Following his graduation from Bullard High School, Mr. Harris earned a degree in Agricultural Production from the University of California, Davis and served for 2 years as an artillery officer in the U.S. Army. Mr. Harris returned to his family farm where he would dedicate the next 5 decades to building Harris Farms into one of the largest agribusinesses in the nation. Mr. Harris and his family's leadership in the agricultural industry spans more than 100 years—a true testament to their commitment to their work and community.

After his father Jack Harris' passing in 1981, John Harris became the owner and Chief Executive Officer of Harris Farms. Under the leadership of his grandfather, father, and now Mr. Harris, Harris Farms has become a staple

of the Central Valley. Under Mr. Harris' leadership, the family operation has grown to span over 17,000 acres and produces a wide variety of crops annually—including lettuce, onions, garlic, almonds, pistachios, wine grapes, cotton, and citrus. Perhaps the most well-known undertaking by Mr. Harris throughout the Central Valley is Harris Ranch Beef Company, California's largest fed cattle processor that produces nearly 200 million pounds of beef a year.

In addition to its impressive ranch and farming operations, Harris Farms has also become a popular destination for travelers and locals alike with its restaurant, butcher shop, and hotel. Mr. Harris is also an accomplished horse breeder. Harris Farms Horse Division has produced numerous champions including Eclipse Award Horses of the Year California Chrome and Tiznow. Harris Farms has raised and campaigned 100s of top racehorses over the last 60 years. Mr. Harris has played at a most active role in the California and national racing scene, serving multiple terms as the Chairman of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Chairman of the Bay Meadows Racing Association, as well as being on the California Horse Racing Board for multiple terms, being appointed by both Republican and Democratic Governors, and serving as board chair for several terms.

He is also a member of The Jockey Club and has served as a Steward there. Mr. Harris represents the very best of the Central Valley. He has grown a small family operation into one of the largest farms not only in California but the nation—all while providing high-quality food products, creating thousands of jobs, and building a welcoming community center for Valley residents. Mr. Harris is also deeply dedicated to his philanthropic work, having supported critical organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, Boy Scouts of America, and Community Medical Centers for decades. His contributions to our community will have a lasting impact for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the tremendous contributions of Mr. John Harris to our Central Valley community and wishing him a happy 80th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2023

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 317, on Greene of Georgia Amendment No. 48, I inadvertently voted "Aye." On that vote, I intended to vote "No."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2023

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support Ukraine and agree with the President's decision to send the Ukrainians cluster munitions to defend their sovereignty. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 317.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY FEENSTRA

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2023

Mr. FEENSTRA. I was unable to cast my vote in the allotted time. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 305.

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER WESLEY BESSELL

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2023

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wesley (Bob) Bessell for being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his service and bravery in the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II.

Bob began his maritime career at the age of 15, as a member of the crew of the Corsair, an impressive private yacht owned by the J.P. Morgan family. Shortly afterward, he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard, and it was during his training that America entered World War II. Upon the completion of his training, Bob joined the U.S. Merchant Marines as an Able-Bodied Seaman.

He served as a merchant mariner for more than 4½ years, which included a deployment on the SS *West Hardaway* when it was sunk by a torpedo from a German U-boat in 1942. After the U-boat attack, Bob and his fellow sailors took refuge in the small town of Porlamar on Isla de Margarita in Venezuela. The island's inhabitants, though facing their own challenges, extended a warm welcome to the stranded crew, offering them shelter, sustenance and a renewed sense of hope. Bob forged bonds of friendship with the local community, transcending language barriers and cultural differences, and he recalls walking around the island like a rockstar, always surrounded by 10 or 20 smiling faces.

In 1943, Bob completed Officer Candidate School and rose to the rank of a lieutenant commander. It was in the same year, on a mission to deliver documents in Liverpool, England, that Bob met Susan, the British love

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