

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HUNGARY CELEBRATING FREEDOM EVENTS AND THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

#### HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2011*

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I am congratulating Hungary on the series of events which pay tribute to the lasting idea of freedom and the principles of liberty. Hungry will erect a statue in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's birth. Hungary will honor President Reagan for his contribution toward ending the Cold War and promoting democracy and liberty in Central Europe. In addition, Hungary is hosting the Hungarian Freedom Dinner and establishing the Hungarian Freedom Award.

I also note that Hungary formally and symbolically overcame the legacy of Communism by having recently passed a new Constitution, replacing its previous, temporary Constitution rooted in the Soviet era, to solidify the rule of law.

In addition, I recognize Hungary as an important strategic partner of the U.S. in Europe, and commend the country for reaffirming its commitment to transatlantic values, the principles of constitutionalism, and republican government; and contributing to the stability of the region.

Hungary is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and is an ally of the U.S. Hungary has been an important ally of the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan, and recently gave invaluable assistance in freeing the two American journalists captured in Libya.

Historically, Hungarians have fought for the ideals of freedom, popular sovereignty, the rule of law, and the cause of liberty at home and abroad, most notably in 1848, 1956 and 1989. Michael Kovats de Fabriczy fought for, and died defending America's independence during the American Revolution in Charleston, South Carolina. In the Revolution and Freedom fight of 1956, Hungarians rose up against communist rule first within the eastern bloc countries. In 1989, Hungary was the first country to open its border and allowed refugees from East Germany to cross. Hungary became the first among the former Soviet bloc countries to transition to a Western-style parliamentary democracy.

In transatlantic relations, between 1995 and 2004, Hungary played a critical role in implementing the Dayton Peace Accords in the Balkans by allowing its airbase at Tazsár to be used by coalition forces transiting the region. Between April 2003 and December 2004, Hungary helped stabilize Iraq by deploying a 300-strong battalion to Iraq as part of the Multi-National Force, and in 2003 allowed the Tazsár airbase to be used for training the Free Iraqi Forces.

Since 2006, Hungary has led a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan and has

also deployed an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team, which operates in partnership with the Ohio National Guard and other United States military personnel in Afghanistan.

More recently, Hungary's military has taken over command of a joint battalion on the Balkans in support of NATO missions, and Hungary's Pápa Airbase is the home base of the Strategic Airlift Consortium's C-17 operations for NATO missions.

The United States and Hungary share common values of democracy, rule of law, separation of powers, cultural diversity, religious tolerance, and social mobility; and the United States is home to approximately 1.5 million Hungarian-Americans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hungary on the commemorative events to honor the legacy of Ronald Reagan in the region; recognizing Hungary as an important strategic partner of the United States in Europe; and commending Hungary for reaffirming its commitment to transatlantic values, the principles of constitutionalism, and democracy; and contributing to the stability of the region. We wish Hungary a prosperous future.

### HONORING THE BOROUGH OF ELVERSON, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2011*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Borough of Elverson, Chester County, Pennsylvania on its 100th anniversary.

Elverson celebrates March 14, 1911 as the day it was incorporated as a borough. It was on that day that the arguments for and against incorporation were presented to Judge Hemphill at the Chester County Courthouse. The arguments in favor of incorporation were principally: (1) the need by the residents to govern themselves and to use their own taxes for improvements such as a public water supply and street lighting; (2) the need for their own polling place; and (3) the need for an independent school system. The main arguments against incorporation were: (1) the town had not grown sufficiently, and (2) the new responsibilities would create an undue tax burden.

In weighing these issues, Judge Hemphill felt that the democratic process would help ensure that the new responsibilities would not necessarily result in taxes that were either "burdensome" or "ruinous" and stated:

"... if men of good judgment, careful, economical, and cautious, were placed in charge of the Borough's business and development such would not necessarily be the result. The outcome, must of necessity, be dependent upon the action of the electors themselves, as in the case in every elective municipality."

Over the years, the citizens of Elverson have seen the wisdom of Judge Hemphill's

words borne out, as their Borough has grown from meeting the needs of pre-World War I America to the present day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Borough of Elverson and its storied history on the occasion of its 100th anniversary and to extend best wishes to all its citizens—past, present and future.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2011*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for a vote on Thursday, June 23, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 491.

### HONORING PASTOR WILLIE JACKSON ON HIS TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF MINISTRY

#### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2011*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the steadfast and sacrificial service of Pastor Willie James Jackson, Sr., of Union Missionary Baptist Church in Muncie, Indiana. Pastor Jackson has been a leader not only in his church, but in his community, for twenty five years now, and I applaud his work and dedication.

Pastor Jackson became the shepherd of Union Missionary Baptist Church in 1986. His heart for service and missions has taken him across the country and the continent of Africa, but he has never forgotten his community at home. He has served on many civic, community, and religious organizations in Muncie and the surrounding area, and he is currently a member of the Collective Coalition of Concerned Clergy, third vice-president of the Northeastern district Sunday School and BTU Congress, board member on the Whitely Neighborhood Association, and is a board member for the Muncie Black Expo.

Those who know Pastor Jackson know him as a kind and generous man. He strives to unify and bring together people from all walks of life, and he is greatly respected throughout the community. A loving husband, father to three children, and grandfather to two grandchildren, Pastor Jackson has also mentored and cared for countless others in the community and in his church over his many years of ministry.

I congratulate Pastor Jackson for his twenty five influential years of service, and thank him for his many contributions to the community

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