

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING REBECCA FLANAGAN
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rebecca Flanagan for her public service.

Rebecca Flanagan was selected on March 24, 2002, as Director for the Field Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Phoenix, Arizona and for the last 2 years has taken on the responsibility of the Tucson Office jurisdiction, as well. Rebecca is the senior management official for the close to 100 staff. She ensures that HUD's current and prospective customers gain the necessary access to the whole range of HUD services. She provides communities with technical expertise and continues to foster and develop public/private partnerships, and sustains her involvement within various community organizations.

Rebecca represents the Department throughout the State of Arizona to ensure effective and coordinated customer service and public relations.

Rebecca began her career 34 years ago with HUD as an Equal Opportunity Specialist in Denver, Colorado. She was hired to outreach to the Hispanic community to ensure their inclusion and access to HUD's programs business opportunities, and employment.

Rebecca transferred to Los Angeles and worked in the Community Planning and Development Division for the Los Angeles Office of HUD for 10 years, developing and sharing her expertise in community development with both large (ex. Los Angeles County) and small (ex. Santa Paula) communities within the greater L.A. area.

In 1990, Rebecca moved with her two high school aged sons to Phoenix after being selected as the Deputy Manager for the Phoenix HUD office. During her tenure, she was able to develop a number of key local policies including, the use of "cash on hand" by FHA borrowers to qualify using a down payment that was saved at home and not in a bank. It was very clear that in order to provide FHA insurance to the local underserved market of Hispanic and immigrant populations in Phoenix, that a policy like this was needed to allow these creditworthy borrowers to provide so-called "mattress money" as well as ensure that the prospective borrower was providing his/her own money. Another party to the transaction, namely the real estate agent or homebuilder, could not give the money. Given the policy's success in Phoenix, it has been adopted nationally by HUD.

During the last few years she developed a number of important partnerships for the Office including a HUD/DES partnership in which for the first time, the Arizona Department of Economic Security and HUD are jointly fo-

cused on their mutual clients living in public and assisted housing striving to become self-sufficient. Rebecca continues this focus through her involvement with Maricopa Workforce Connections Board, which oversees the one-stop career centers within the County.

In addition, Rebecca has involved the Phoenix HUD Office staff and resources in a wide range of community activities such as Job Fairs, Minority Appraiser Training, Adopt-a-School Programs, Summer Youth Programs, Homeownership education and fairs, and Faith-based conferences, all in support of HUD's mission and initiatives.

Rebecca is especially proud of her past community development efforts in the local Wilson neighborhood, located just east of Downtown Phoenix. After being the Principal for the Day she heeded the request from the school to "be a role model and help provide housing for the neighborhood". Rebecca created a coalition of school and neighborhood representatives, stakeholder businesses and agencies to assist in meeting the unmet needs of the Wilson students and their families. Rebecca was instrumental in getting the first 4 homes built in the Wilson area in over 40 years. Rebecca proudly mentored a young girl through high school, and tutored another young student in reading.

Rebecca was influential in bringing together Arizona leaders in business, industry, banks and non-profits, for a "peer to peer" meeting with the Mayor of San Jose and their leaders. The Arizona group flew to San Jose in the first ever endeavor by HUD's Phoenix Office, in gathering a prestigious assemblage of housing experts for a roundtable forum discussion of affordable housing. The meeting enlightened attendees about San Jose's strides and actual accomplishments to incorporate their best practices here in Arizona. Soon, other groups branched out to address the issue of affordable housing by formulating meetings and conferences, dialogs, summits, and other ongoing efforts to continue to assess the need for affordable housing within our communities.

Rebecca earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Sociology, from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). She is married to Ray Lechuga, a local businessman, the proud mother of two (2) grown sons, Andres and Daniel Benites, and the proudest of all Nanas to Erin's and Andres' real live angels, Raven, Willow and Ivy and Jennifer and Daniel's angel Diego.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARJO
RIVINIUS

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize MarJo Rivinius in the event of her retirement after thirty-eight years of dedicated service as Association Executive for the Lodi Association of Realtors.

MarJo was born and raised in Gackle, North Dakota. Her parents owned a local grocery store where she worked while growing up. MarJo attended local schools and graduated with a teaching degree from Jamestown College in North Dakota. She moved with her parents to the Santa Rosa area after college and got her first teaching job in Potter Valley.

MarJo married her high school sweetheart, Dennis in 1960. Dennis was in the Navy and stationed in Florida where she joined him after they were married. This was an eye opening experience for a girl from North Dakota. She learned about southern food, grits and segregation.

MarJo and Dennis moved to Lodi in 1961, where they have lived for the past 50 years. Over the years, MarJo has been involved in many activities associated with their two daughters, Pam and Denise. She is a past Campfire Girls Leader, 4-H Project Leader and also served on the original Lodi-Tokay Band Review Committee. She is a long-time member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church where she serves on the Finance Committee. MarJo is also an enthusiastic supporter of her five grandchildren's activities.

MarJo went to work for the Lodi Association for Realtors in 1974, where she has served as the Association Executive for the past 38 years. She has participated in the Association Executive's Committee for the California Association of Realtors during that time. MarJo has served the Association with the utmost of integrity and professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring MarJo Rivinius for her dedication to the Lodi Association of Realtors and our community as a whole.

JOSEPH ANTHONY FORTINO
TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph Anthony Fortino, who was born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado. During his life Mr. Fortino was both a successful businessman and a dedicated civil servant.

Early in life Mr. Fortino worked for his family grocery store. After graduating high school he served in World War II in the United States Coast Guard. After the war, he returned to Pueblo and his family grocery business with his father before joining Jackson Chevrolet as a salesman, and working his way up to partner. He won the Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award in Colorado for his hard work and dedication to the community.

Mr. Fortino was truly a leader and was involved on several boards and committees in Pueblo, including the Colorado Transportation Commission, on which he was the longest serving member. He was the president of the Pueblo Community College Foundation,

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

through which he was elected to the Pueblo Hall of Fame for his civic and business activities.

On October 4, 2011 Mr. Fortino passed away at the age of 89. I have no doubt that his business and civic legacy will have a lasting effect on the people of Colorado for many years to come.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL
TRADEMARK EXPO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) National Trademark Expo. In a time of ongoing challenges for the American and global economy, I want to join the USPTO in its efforts to recognize the vital role trademarks play in the economy.

Trademarks are words, names, symbols, sounds, or colors that identify and distinguish the goods and services of one party from those of others. American innovation and its associated intellectual property are very important to job creation and economic recovery. The USPTO facilitates the efficient approval of intellectual property rights to deliver goods and services to the global market. Through the registration of trademarks, the agency assists businesses in protecting their investments, promoting goods and services, and safeguarding consumers against confusion and deception in the marketplace.

The USPTO disseminates trademark information at the Expo to educate the public about the important role trademarks play in our society and the global marketplace. The National Trademark Expos have been very successful events attended by the trademark community and the public at large. This year's 2-day event will be held on Friday, October 14th, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday, October 15th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.

During the Trademark Expo, Chubby Checker will twist with the audience and costumed trademarked characters to music played by Max Impact, the rock band of the United States Air Force. A new cast of characters featuring registered trademarks including Barbie, The Pink Panther, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Hamburger Helper, Rita's Ice Guy, and Fruit of the Loom "fruit suits" will join veteran Expo characters GEICO's Gecko, Crayola crayons' mascot "Tip," Pillsbury's Doughboy, Curious George, Clifford the Big Red Dog, Popeye, Olive Oyl, the 5-Hour Energy Bottle, Spuddy Buddy, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, and Hershey's Milk Chocolate Bar. Large inflatable characters, including a Pinocchio Giant Inflatable, a Bridgestone Tire, GEICO's Gecko, Collegiate mascots and NFL Football player inflatables of the Washington Redskins and Baltimore Ravens will once again transform the USPTO's campus into a "Trademark Theme Park". A NASCAR show car for 5-Hour Energy, a UPS truck, and Caterpillar machines will also decorate the grounds. A story time featuring literary trademarked characters sponsored by Hooray

for Books!, a local children's bookstore, will help tell the story of the prevalence of trademarks in our daily lives and their value as source indicators.

Some of America's leading large corporations, small businesses, governmental agencies, and non-profit corporations will highlight the various types of trademarks, the breadth of trademarks used by one source, interesting stories about trademarks and their creation, and the benefits of federal trademark registration. The exhibitors include 5-Hour Energy; 1000 Cranes, LLC; American Girl, LLC; American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA); Bigsby Division and the Gretsch Company; Bridgestone Americas, Inc.; Caterpillar Inc; City of Falls Church; CMG Worldwide, Inc.; Cotton Incorporated; Elevation Burger; GED Testing Service; GEICO; Idaho Potato Commission; International Trademark Association (INTA); Mattel, Inc.; Rita's Italian Ice; The Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital; The Hershey Company; The Pepsom Group; Travelers; UPS; U.S. Air Force; U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration; U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, National IPR Coordination Center; U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection; U.S. Department of Interior, Indian Arts and Crafts Board (IACB); and U.S. Department of the Army.

The Expo will also feature educational seminars, children's workshops, story time and guided tours. Educational seminars will include presentations on "What Every Small Business Should Know About Intellectual Property," "Counterfeiting & Piracy—Why Buy 'Legit'?", "Common Mistakes to Avoid When Filing for Trademark Registration," "Know What You're Buying: American Indian Art and Imitations," and "Trademarks 101" which covers basic facts about trademarks and trademark law. A video made to instruct pro se applicants will play in the National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum throughout the Expo. Also, the Museum's current exhibit titled "Exercising Ingenuity: Inventions in Health and Fitness" highlights trademarks related to fitness and health.

The National Trademark Expo will also display different types of trademarks including non-traditional trademarks such as sound marks, which are marks comprised of a sound or series of sounds, highlighted in an exciting interactive exhibit, and trademarks that identify shapes and configurations of products highlighted in an elaborate display of trademarked bottle shapes and a variety of other goods. Banners will feature century-old registered trademarks, the evolution and transformation of trademarks, the history of people behind certain trademarks, and other information about trademarks.

I applaud the USPTO for its continued efforts to educate the public on the important role of trademarks and the benefits of federal registration through the National Trademark Expo. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the USPTO, at this time when trademark protection and intellectual property rights play an increasingly important role in our global economy. And, I encourage the public and my fellow Members of Congress and staff to bring their family and friends to this family friendly and free event.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
ELAINE GAWRONSKI

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Elaine Gawronski of Revere, Pennsylvania who passed away on September 20, 2011 at the age of 71 after a courageous battle with cancer. As a public servant, Elaine was truly committed to the well-being of her friends and neighbors in Nockamixon Township.

Having moved to Bucks County from Ithaca, New York, Elaine received her education in Southeastern Pennsylvania, graduating first from Germantown High School, and later from Temple University.

A prominent member of her community, Elaine served both local government and community groups as treasurer for Nockamixon Township, the Palisades Republican Club, the Nockamixon Community Day Committee, and the Nockamixon Historical Society. Additionally, she served as Nockamixon Township Auditor and as Recording Secretary for the Nockamixon Planning Commission.

Elaine's faith also played an important role in her life. She served as parishioner of the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and as a member of the school's Home and School Committee.

As a beloved family member, dedicated worker and loyal community servant, Elaine's life serves as an example to all of us. She generously dedicated her time and her efforts to enhance the quality of life of her family and community, and she will certainly be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF
THE LAKESHORE AREAS RE-
GIONAL RECOVERY OF INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the efforts of the Lakeshore Areas Regional Recovery of Indiana, or LARRI for short, and to recognize its esteemed partners for their dedication as this organization reaches the end of its third, and final, year of operation. Although LARRI has served the Region admirably since the widespread flooding of Northwest Indiana in September of 2008, its work has come to an end, and the organization ceased operations on September 30, 2011.

LARRI was formed by a coalition of dedicated non-profit organizations in response to the heavy flooding of Northwest Indiana in September of 2008. As the Little Calumet overflowed its banks, LARRI went into immediate action for its neighbors in need, and by the time it closed its doors, LARRI had coordinated more than 6,000 volunteers in removing 15,920 pounds of debris, building 5 homes, restoring another 600 more, and relocating 26 displaced families to new homes throughout the area. In short, LARRI has helped to get a struggling region back on its feet with