

COMMENDING FORMER IOWA
CHIEF JUSTICE MARSHA TERNUS
AND JUSTICES DAVID BAKER
AND MICHAEL STREIT

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, courage is a virtue that is too often in short supply. That's why I congratulate former Iowa Chief Justice Marsha Ternus and Justices David Baker and Michael Streit. These courageous public servants received the prestigious John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for doing their jobs on the Iowa Supreme Court. Together, they stood up for equal protections under the law for all Iowans. These courageous Justices were part of a unanimous decision that recognized marriage equality for all Iowans.

Although these Justices faced intimidation and threats after deciding the landmark case *Varnum v. Brien*, they did what they were supposed to do: uphold the Constitution. Justice Baker's words are a great example of why they deserve such a prestigious honor, "I am comfortable with my vote in that case and even if I had known what would have occurred, I would have not changed my vote. We fulfilled our role as judges."

Efforts to intimidate judges and try and turn the bench into a political soap box will do nothing to advance justice. Iowa judges are chosen based on merit, not politics. After they are appointed, their positions are subject to retention elections. In 2010, these judges were on the ballot for a retention vote and were ousted from their positions on the Supreme Court after large sums of out-of-state money funded a "Vote No" campaign.

They were voted off the bench because they fulfilled their sworn oath to uphold the Constitution of Iowa, which guarantees equal protection under the law to all citizens of Iowa, without regard to their sexual orientation. They are great role models for my children and all Iowans. By their actions, they became symbols that doing what's right isn't always easy; and doing what's easy isn't always right.

HONORING THE 60TH WEDDING AN-
NIVERSARY OF CONCETTA
(CONNIE) AND CARMEN
CACCIOTTOLO

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two long time residents of the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois, Concetta, to her friends, and Carmen Cacciottolo who will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on May 3rd, 2012.

Their story starts back in 1937 when Connie and Carmen met in their kindergarten class at St. Mary of Mount Carmel School in Chicago. At the age of five, Connie and Carmen became very good friends; and now, 75 years later, they are celebrating 60 years of marriage. They attended classes together throughout grade school and split for their four years

of high school with Connie attending Lourdes and Carmen attending Tilden Tech. On May 3, 1952, Connie and Carmen were married at St. Richard Church on Kostner Avenue in Chicago.

Carmen served our country proudly in the United States Army during the Korean War for two years. Upon returning home, Carmen worked as a full-time printer and lithographer for Raynor/Carquivele Company while running the family-owned Italian store on Kolin Avenue in the Archer Heights community with Connie.

Connie went on to become a real-estate agent, insurance sales representative, and finally retired from her job at Talman/LaSalle Bank after 23 years. Carmen retired after 38 years with Raynor/Carquivele. Connie and Carmen have raised three beautiful children: James, born in 1957, Albert in 1963, and their daughter Mary Ann who was born in 1964. All three of them still live close to their parents in the Chicago area preserving their strong family bonds.

Since their retirements, Connie and Carmen have enjoyed spending time with their five grandchildren: Kristin, Anthony Connor, Jenna and their angel Megan. Connie and Carmen have selflessly given their time for their community. They have been active residents in the Chicago Archer Heights neighborhood, at their schools, church, and community, including the local American Legion and V.F.W. After moving to Palos Park in 1995 they once again became active in their new church, Sacred Heart, with the local senior club, along with their neighbors and the Palos Park Women's Club.

Today as Connie and Carmen Cacciottolo celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with their children, grandchildren, neighbors, friends, and bridal party, I would like to extend my best wishes to the happy couple. This is truly an amazing event in their lives, and as they celebrate together their 60 wonderful years of love and marriage, I wish them great happiness and joy for many more years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for several of the rollcall votes on amendments to H.R. 5326 held that day. Had I been present I would have voted:

"no" on rollcall 202, the Peters Amendment to increase funding for the International Trade Administration and US Trade Representative by decreasing funding for NASA's Cross Agency Support account. While I support fully funding the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center in FY 13, I believe it is unwise to do that by taking funding away from NASA.

"no" on rollcall 203, the Broun Amendment (#1), which unwisely seeks to make dramatic cuts to numerous accounts in the bill.

"no" on rollcall 204, the McClintock Amendment, which would make an excessive 59 percent cut to the International Trade Administration at a time when we are trying to grow US exports.

"no" on rollcall 205, the Michaud Amendment to increase funds for Economic Develop-

ment Assistance Programs by taking funds from the Bureau of Census, Periodic Censuses and Programs. While I support increasing EDA funding, if there is any lesson to be learned from the last decadal census it is that short-changing the program in the early years of a census cycle leads to much greater costs in later years.

"no" on rollcall 206, the Scalise Amendment, which seeks to cut Economic Development Administration funding at a time when we need to invest in growing our economy.

"no" on rollcall 207, the Pompeo Amendment, which would go even further than the Scalise and completely eliminate Economic Development Assistance programs and grants.

"no" on rollcall 208, the Quayle Amendment, which unwisely seeks to cut funding for the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia, which will help us regain our edge so that we "Make it in America" again.

"no" on rollcall 209, the Harris Amendment, which continues Republican efforts to keep their heads in the sand on climate change by cutting funding for a NOAA climate website.

"no" on rollcall 210, the Grimm Amendment, which sought to increase funding for Regional Information Sharing Activities at DOJ by cutting funding for NOAA. While I support RISS, I do not believe this is an appropriate offset for that funding.

"no" on rollcall 211, the Broun Amendment (#2), a wrong-headed attempt to cut funding to recover Pacific salmon.

"no" on rollcall 212, the Runyan Amendment. While I support increasing funding for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program, which is a worthy program, the offset used is ill advised, particularly because it would impact the Civil Rights Enforcement Office of the DOJ.

"no" on rollcall 213, the Davis (IL) Amendment. While I support the Second Chance Act grants that this amendment sought to increase funding for, I am greatly concerned that the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program is already woefully underfunded and cannot support further reducing SCAAP funding for an offset.

"no" on rollcall 214, the Grimm Amendment. While I support the COPS program that this amendment sought to increase funding for, I cannot support the use of NASA as an offset.

"no" on rollcall 215, the Huizenga Amendment, which seeks to allow the outsourcing of federal correctional worker jobs.

"no" on rollcall 216, the Johnson (GA) Amendment. While I support the EEOC and the purpose that this amendment sought to increase funding for, I cannot support the use of NASA as an offset.

"no" on rollcall 217, the Flake Amendment, which sought to make drastic cuts to the National Science Foundation.

"no" on rollcall 218, the Westmoreland Amendment, which sought to dramatically reduce funding for the Legal Services Corporation at a time when more and more Americans facing hard times rely upon the services it provides.

"no" on rollcall 219, the Austin Scott (GA) Amendment, which went even further than the Westmoreland Amendment and sought to eliminate LSC.

"no" on rollcall 220, the Black Amendment, which blocks the federal government's ability to defend its authority to write and enforce immigration law.