

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DE'UNA WILSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. De'Una Wilson, the 2012 Valedictorian at Canton High School, in Canton, Mississippi. De'Una is the daughter of Mr. Derreco, Sr. and Ms. Regenia Wilson. She was born and raised in Canton and attends Canton United Methodist Church.

De'Una's accomplishments can be greatly attributed to her desire to fulfill her grandmother's dying wish for her to graduate at the top of her class. To achieve this, De'Una dedicated herself to her academics and completed her senior year with an "A" average, earning her the merit of Class Valedictorian. In addition to her academics, De'Una has remained active in her community by volunteering at the Open Door Community Outreach Center at Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Canton, and working a part-time job.

De'Una has been accepted into the Engineering Program at Jackson State University where she earned a full scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. De'Una Wilson in being Valedictorian of Canton High School's 2012 graduating class.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
SENECA FALLS CONVENTION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the first Women's Rights Convention in history, held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. This groundbreaking convention spanned two days and six sessions, and is considered by many to mark the beginning of the Women's Suffrage Movement in America.

The Seneca Falls Convention was attended by such important figures as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Frederick Douglass. It was there that these luminaries mapped out the strategy to liberate and empower future generations to come. It was there that these women debated Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Declaration of Sentiments, regarded by Frederick Douglass as the "grand basis for attaining the civil, social, political, and religious rights of women."

Since the launch of the first wave of political activism at the Seneca Falls convention, women's rights activists have fought tirelessly for equality and independence and have vigilantly guarded and protected these hard won gains. From 1848–1895, states passed laws that extensively expanded the property rights of married women. And in 1920, women finally earned the right to vote.

In the 1960s, the second wave of political activism brought an expansion of the successes in the fight against gender inequality with the inclusion of workplace and reproductive rights. The Equal Pay Act was passed in 1963, followed a year later by the creation of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The 1965 Supreme Court ruling in *Griswold v. Connecticut* struck down state law banning the use of contraception. And in 1973 *Roe v. Wade* granted women the right to privacy and to make their own decision to have an abortion. The passage of landmark Title IX in 1972 mandated equal opportunities for women in higher education. In 2009, President Obama signed into law the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to reset the 180-day statute of limitations on equal pay lawsuits every time a discriminatory paycheck is issued.

These victories over the last 164 years were possible because of the foundation laid out by the historic Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention.

But, unfortunately Mr. Speaker, despite all of these achievements, there is still a substantial amount of work to do. I have witnessed, over the last few years, efforts by my colleagues across the aisle begin to roll back many of these hard won rights. We have seen the attempt to strip women of their reproductive rights and of their right to choose. We have seen attempts to strip funding for family planning programs. We have seen attempts to redefine rape, in a way that turns the innocent into an "accuser" rather than a victim.

Let us not allow the 72-year struggle for women's suffrage, and the 164-year battle for women's rights to be in vain. We must resist and defeat those who would wage war on women. Let us not allow a War on Women to continue to permit violence against women, workplace discrimination, and disparate wages. Women, indeed, and all Americans must stand for what is right and honor our Nation's maxim of freedom and liberty for all. We must remember the Seneca Falls Convention and fight for the principle of equality that serves as the foundation of our great Nation.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
EDWARD RAMIREZ, SR.

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments and celebrate the life of Edward Ramirez, Sr.

Edward Ramirez, Sr. was born on March 1, 1930 to Bernardina and Pedro Ramirez and he recently passed away peacefully on July 13, 2012. He was surrounded by his family in his final moments.

As a young boy, Edward Ramirez, Sr. worked in the fields of San Jose. He enlisted

when he was only 15 and served our country during World War II in Germany. In 1967, he started his social activism as an original member, parishioner, and leader at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in San Jose, where he gave his time and resources in the fight to improve the community.

Edward graduated from San Jose State University in 1973 and advocated for the establishment of the Educational Opportunity Program, EOP, that improves student academic support of low-income and educationally disadvantaged students. He established the first alcohol rehabilitation center, Casa Adelante, in Santa Clara County. His expertise with the Hispanic Community in need of alcohol rehabilitation services has earned him the respect and gratitude of our community.

Edward is survived by his children, Edward, Jr., Arlene, Julian, Margaret, Catherine, and Julieana; 16 grandchildren; 6 great-grandsons; and numerous loving siblings, nieces, and nephews he loved. He was a much beloved son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and pillar of the community.

We honor and mourn the passing of Edward Ramirez, Sr. We thank Edward for his invaluable service to our community and applaud his numerous contributions to the economically disadvantaged. We are very fortunate to have benefited from his passion, advocacy, and tenacity. He has left his mark in San Jose and the larger community.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE MCGOVERN
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George McGovern who is celebrating his 90th birthday and to thank him for his many years of service and dedication to social justice.

McGovern was a steadfast student at Dakota Wesleyan University, where he was elected school president twice. Following his service during WWII, McGovern enrolled at Northwestern University where he earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in government and American history.

In 1956, McGovern was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he spent two terms as an advocate to the American farmer. Continuing on his mission of social justice McGovern was named Director of the Food for Peace Program by President John F. Kennedy, leading efforts to donate food to developing countries. As a U.S. Senator from South Dakota, McGovern made an immediate impact by challenging the U.S. military involvement in Vietnam, and by being named Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. He held office for three terms during which time he continued challenging the Vietnam War.

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