

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

#### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2013*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 170th Anniversary of B'nai B'rith International. I am proud to acknowledge the accomplishments of the oldest existing Jewish service agency and celebrate their achievements.

On October 13, 1843, twelve German Jewish immigrants convened to address the challenges of their growing community. Immediately, they established a financial support system for families of the deceased, open a Jewish public library, and assisted flood victims in Baltimore. They also began to speak out against anti-Semitism. These early priorities of advocacy, education, and community support can still be seen in B'nai B'rith's work around the world today.

B'nai B'rith is one of Israel's strongest advocates in the United States and Europe. Working with policymakers in the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations, B'nai B'rith has championed Israel's right to defend itself, advanced the rights of Jewish refugees in the Middle East, and ensured that life insurance companies cannot refuse coverage due to travelling to Israel.

B'nai B'rith has also sustained the health and well-being of the aged through advocating for senior services, tirelessly working for affordable access to medical care, and providing housing for seniors. In partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, B'nai B'rith is the largest Jewish sponsor of subsidized housing in the United States. Residents are accepted regardless of religion, race, or handicap.

Following the Jewish tradition that every life is sacred, B'nai B'rith assists victims of natural disasters around the world. From the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, B'nai B'rith is on the front lines helping those who need it most.

This esteemed organization is a beacon to all who strive for a safer, healthier, more tolerant world. I welcome the opportunity to stand with B'nai B'rith International on the 170th anniversary of its establishment.

### IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF GEORGE BAKER

#### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2013*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief George Baker upon his retirement from the Mashpee Fire Department.

Chief Baker has spent the past thirty years serving the town of Mashpee through his in-

valuable service to the Mashpee Fire Department, filling the role of Fire Chief for the past two decades. His many friends and colleagues describe him as a man truly dedicated to his service, always putting his fellow firemen and the Mashpee community first. Even on his last day at the Department, Chief Baker chose to wear a blue firefighter's uniform instead of his usual white chief's uniform to remember his earlier years of service, and he spent the day responding to emergency calls throughout the community. His dedication to helping others sets an example for us all to follow, and I know I speak for many when I say that his accomplishments have been invaluable to the town of Mashpee.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Chief George Baker upon his retirement from the Mashpee Fire Department. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Chief Baker for his many years of service.

### TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES VETERANS INITIATIVE

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2013*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United States Veterans Initiative upon its 20th anniversary.

U.S. Vets is the nation's largest nonprofit provider of comprehensive services such as housing, counseling, and career development to homeless and at-risk veterans. Since its founding, U.S. Vets has established 11 facilities across the nation dedicated to providing vital services to over 20,000 veterans and their families.

In 1992, the West Los Angeles Veteran Affairs Medical Center discovered that 25% of its veterans were being discharged into homelessness. As a result, "The Genesis Committee" was formed under the guidance of Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Harry Pregerson, a Marine veteran of World War II, to address the dire need for veteran housing. "The Genesis Committee" later became the first U.S. Vets Board of Directors.

U.S. Vets opened its inaugural site, the Westside Residence Hall in Inglewood, California, in 1993 with five veterans. Since then, U.S. Vets has risen to national prominence with locations in Houston, Texas; Las Vegas, Nevada; Phoenix, Arizona; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Washington, D.C. In 2000, U.S. Vets opened the largest transitional housing facility for homeless veterans in the nation, Villages at Cabrillo, a 26-acre project in Long Beach, California that houses over 550 veterans.

To address the continually evolving needs of veterans, U.S. Vets has expanded their efforts into specialized programming to provide services to veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, female veterans, and the chronically mentally ill.

The time, energy and care the United States Veterans Initiative has given to our veterans in

need is truly extraordinary, and the nation as a whole has greatly benefitted from their dedicated efforts. At this time, I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the United States Veterans Initiative upon its 20th anniversary.

### RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Northwest Florida State College located in Niceville, Florida. Throughout the past 50 years, its faculty and students have exhibited an assiduous dedication to excellence that has led to the college's growth from its beginnings as a junior college with a makeshift campus to now a state college with seven campuses and centers and six bachelor's degree programs. I am proud to congratulate them on this great achievement.

Access to education is one of the most vital components for a successful society, and in the spring of 1963, the Florida Legislature, recognizing the opportunity to better serve the educational needs of the citizens in Northwest Florida, authorized the establishment of a junior college to be located in Okaloosa County. Originally named the Okaloosa-Walton Junior College, its doors opened for the first time to 767 students in a temporary location in the City of Valparaiso, Florida on August 24, 1964. In honor of the heroism of the Doolittle Raiders, the students chose "Raiders" as their college's official mascot.

Just a few years and an Act of Congress later, the permanent home for the college in Niceville was established. In 2004, the college name was officially changed to Okaloosa-Walton College in reflection of the new accreditation to award bachelor's degrees, and in 2008, it was changed to Northwest Florida State College, upon the creation of the Florida College System.

While its name and structure has evolved throughout its 50-year history, students have never stopped pouring through its doors. Students of all ages made the college their alma mater, whether high school students taking dual enrollment courses or adults simply interested in expanding their knowledge in a variety of areas. Fifty years; seven locations; numerous state, regional, and national athletic titles; and more than 350,000 students later, Northwest Florida State College is recognized for its cultural enrichment and stellar educational opportunities provided to the Northwest Florida community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Northwest Florida State College. My wife Vicki and I join the citizens of Northwest Florida in congratulating the faculty, students, and alumni of the

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