

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXXONMOBIL RECEIVES 2014 W.O. LAWTON BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 31, the National Association of Workforce Boards will present its 2014 W.O. Lawton Business Leadership Award to ExxonMobil for its important contributions to our community. The W.O. Lawton Business Leadership Award aims to honor and recognize businesses that make valuable investments in a community to help meet its needs through workforce training, educational programs, and funding for similar services. ExxonMobil has long demonstrated its commitment to the greater Houston community but its particular work with the "Community College Petrochemical Initiative" deserves special recognition.

ExxonMobil is currently investing billions in capital investment to expand its petrochemical operations in the Houston area, including a new corporate 285-acre campus. This expansion will soon be home to 10,000 jobs. However, with the thousands of baby boomers within the petrochemical industry who are retiring, ExxonMobil recognized the need to proactively train and hire more skilled workers. Working with the Gulf Coast Workforce Board and the Texas Workforce Commission, ExxonMobil partnered with nine Houston-area community colleges to create a training and education initiative that will train and recruit new workers for high-paying jobs, helping to replace the continually increasing number of retirees from the industry. To do so, ExxonMobil committed \$500,000 to fund its Community College Petrochemical Initiative. In partnership with Lee College in Baytown, Texas, ExxonMobil leveraged equipment and provided volunteers to help the community college upgrade its labs with industry standard equipment. The company also served as a "gold sponsor" for the college's EnergyVenture Program, a 36-hour program or "camp" that teaches middle and high school students about careers within the energy industry. The company also provided paid internships to Lee College students. The results have been remarkable: 100 percent of the interns whom completed the program were hired by ExxonMobil.

Of course, in Texas we know that ExxonMobil's commitment to its community expands beyond this initiative. Last year, ExxonMobil also participated in a number of other community collaborations, including Partners in Education, a program that funds and provides volunteers to serve as tutors and mentors for students on STEM-related assignments; Introduce a Girl to Engineering, a program that provides 180 middle school girls with hands-on activities to learn and get excited about careers in the STEM fields; Ad-

vancement via Individual Determination (AVID), a program that has helped more than 400 students achieve their dream of attending college by improving their academic and organizational skills; Science Day, a program that has taught over 350 eighth grade students about the many daily uses for chemical reactions; Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP), a program that has donated \$580,000 to schools or nonprofits where ExxonMobil employees volunteer; Student Essay Contest, a contest sponsored by ExxonMobil for high school students to write about energy awareness; and paying for internships for students at Lee College, Texas A&M University and The University of Texas.

In addition, ExxonMobil's management and employees participate and provide leadership to local community economic and workforce development entities, serving on the boards for economic development associations, chambers and workforce committees. They also work closely with the Gulf Coast Workforce Board's career offices to help recruit and hire new employees.

These accomplishments are impressive in and of themselves, but they are only indicative of the long-lasting impact that this company's community collaborations will have down the road. ExxonMobil is setting the standard in how employers today can make meaningful investments to help prepare tomorrow's workers and to benefit local communities. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MS. ROSA MARÍA PAYÁ ACEVEDO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Rosa María Payá Acevedo, an outstanding individual who has been a strong advocate for a democratic Cuba and an inspiration to women around the world.

Ms. Payá Acevedo was born on January 10, 1989 in Havana, Cuba. She graduated with a degree in physics and is an active member of El Cerro en La Habana, a Catholic parish where she participated in youth groups and parish activities in her childhood. Her parents, Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas and Ofelia Acevedo Maura, were the leaders of the Christian Liberation Movement, and she soon became very involved in the organization herself.

Ms. Payá Acevedo collaborated with Harold Cepero Escalante to coordinate the younger members of the Christian Liberation Movement and eventually published "Somos Liberación," a newsletter the group still continues to write. Unfortunately, her life took a tragic turn in July of 2012 when her father and Mr. Cepero Escalante were both killed in a car crash under suspicious circumstances. There is significant evidence, including statements

from Angel Carromero, the Spanish politician who was driving the car, that the Castro regime is responsible for the deaths of Mr. Payá and Mr. Cepero Escalante.

After her eloquent speech before the U.N. in February 2013 about the need for a formal investigation of the accident, she returned to Cuba and began receiving death threats. This has forced her to live in exile in the United States, where her relentless journey to achieve justice for the death of her father and Mr. Cepero Escalante continues. Her courageous and determined spirit is truly inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Rosa María Payá Acevedo for her continued fight for democracy and truth against the murderous Castro regime, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, Women's History Month is a time for all Americans to pay tribute to the generations of women who have made our world a better place in which to live. Today, it is my great honor to recognize Kalamazoo, Michigan's Lucinda Hinsdale Stone for her efforts to advance education reform and women's rights.

Lucinda was born 200 years ago this year, at a time in our history when women did not share the same rights as men.

Upon moving to Michigan in 1843 with her husband, Dr. James Stone, Lucinda became the first principal of the Ladies Department at the Kalamazoo Branch of the University of Michigan, which would soon become Kalamazoo College. Together, Lucinda and James Stone helped shape the school's direction, in part by introducing coeducation and promoting abolitionism and women's rights.

Lucinda flourished in her role and assisted in the education of a variety of professions and skills for women who came through her school. When Lucinda was ultimately forced to resign her office because of her advocacy for women's rights, she devoted her life to women's education and founded the Women's Club Movement in Michigan. As our country faced a turning tide of abolition and women's suffrage, Lucinda took it upon herself to educate and lecture from in her own home and doubled her efforts to give women everywhere a better chance.

Lucinda quickly became one of the foremost individuals in the state promoting women's rights and soon her tireless battle to bring higher education to women spread her reputation from coast to coast. Susan B. Anthony would share the works of Lucinda Hinsdale Stone and affectionately gave her the title, the "Mother of Women's Clubs in Michigan."

In the more than 50 years that she served as a leader in Michigan, Lucinda watched her groups expand as the rest of the country

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

caught on to the women's rights movement. Twenty years before areas in the Northeast formed associations for women, Lucinda was leading the Kalamazoo Ladies' Library Association as a model for the rest of the nation. That Association and its present members like Betty Lee Ongley—the first female mayor of neighboring Portage, Michigan—have continued to play a major role in keeping Lucinda's legacy alive today.

Lucinda would go on to work in social reform movements and women's organizations throughout the state and became a pillar for American women to turn to for strength and guidance. Her life's work was recognized in 1890, when the University of Michigan bestowed upon Lucinda their first honorary doctorate to a woman.

She lived to watch her very own pupil, Madelon Stockwell, become the first woman to be granted admission to the University of Michigan, and watched as Kalamazoo College granted its first academic degree to a female student. The legacy of her work for women and education remains evident today.

Throughout her extraordinary life, Lucinda became friends with other suffragist and abolitionist leaders including Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Lucy Stone, Antoinette Brown Blackwell, and the Grimké sisters. She was also a lifelong friend and admirer of Helen and Frederick Douglass, and even played host to Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Lucinda Hinsdale Stone represents the strength that we all hope to have in the face of oppression and inequality. Her lasting impacts have motivated women for generations and her name lives on in Michigan lore as one of the finest Americans to stand up for what they believe in.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS, INC.

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Homeless Solutions, Inc., located in Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

Homeless Solutions, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is "to offer shelter, services, and supportive housing to homeless and low-income people." They help those in need to rebuild their lives and become independent.

Homeless Solutions, Inc. began as an emergency men's shelter in Morristown, through the help of local clergy and business people. Originally known as the Morris Shelter, the organization housed ten men in facilities at the First Presbyterian Church of Morristown. Today, Homeless Solutions, Inc. provides 85 emergency shelter beds for men, women, families, and the homeless that are mentally ill. Since its inception 30 years, Homeless Solutions, Inc. has not only increased the amount of beds offered, but has also created many support programs and services, established the Housing Development division, and opened the Furnishing Solutions store.

The Housing Development division was established in 2004 to provide permanent sup-

portive housing. Housing Development works with various municipalities to create attractive and cost effective housing. Due to its non-profit status, the organization is able to reduce building and project costs through grants, donations, and government project subsidies. The staff within the Housing Development division is selected based on their extensive knowledge and experience. Two of the most important qualities of the staff are their knowledge of green building and neighborhood context.

Homeless Solutions, Inc. opened Furnishing Solutions in 2012. Furnishing Solutions is a resale furniture and design store located in Morris Plains. People donate items they no longer need, and those items will either go towards shelter services, or can be purchased at reduced prices. Since the opening of the store, there have been over 100 volunteers who have helped to sell more than 10,000 items.

Homeless Solutions, Inc. has grown significantly since its start 30 years ago. With the mission to provide shelter and housing to those in need, the organization has helped thousands through the good work of its volunteers and supporters. As Homeless Solutions, Inc. continues to grow and help the community, it looks forward to the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Homeless Solutions, Inc. as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOHN DI STASIO'S RETIREMENT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to Mr. John Di Stasio. On April 11, 2014, Mr. Di Stasio will retire from a long and distinguished career with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, where he has served for 32 years, the last six as General Manager and Chief Executive Officer. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this individual who has contributed so much to the Sacramento community.

SMUD—which is the nation's sixth-largest public electric utility, providing affordable and reliable power to 610,000 customers in my district and California's capital region—has been a leader in the public power community and in energy efficiency and clean resource development nationwide.

Mr. Di Stasio's commitment to the Sacramento community and to the environment, coupled with his business sense, people skills, and personal integrity, have added to SMUD's remarkable reputation during a transformative time in the energy industry. Hundreds of thousands of Californians' lives have greatly benefited from his leadership and vision.

Under Mr. Di Stasio's leadership, SMUD has consistently earned the top customer satisfaction scores of any California utility, and is regularly ranked among the top three utilities in the nation, in terms of residential and business customer satisfaction. Mr. Di Stasio also recently received Electric Power & Light magazine's CEO of the Year honors for large utilities.

Mr. Di Stasio, a native Californian, played a key role as SMUD became the first large utility

in the state to have 20 percent of its power come from renewable resources such as wind, solar and biogas. And it is on track to increase its renewable portfolio to 33 percent by 2020, making it one of the greenest utilities in the country.

In 2009, SMUD received a smart grid infrastructure grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, the largest amount awarded to any public utility in the nation. SMUD used the smart grid grant money to augment its \$308 million SmartSacramento initiative that included a ground-breaking time-of-use pricing pilot program, and construction of a state-of-the-art control room in SMUD's new East Campus—Operations Center. The East Campus—Operations Center received LEED Platinum status from the U.S. Green Building Council.

In addition to his service in Sacramento, Mr. Di Stasio is active in national and international energy issues, serving as a delegate with the United States Energy Association, where he assisted in electrification operations in Bangladesh, Brazil, Botswana, India and Jordan. Mr. Di Stasio has also helped effectively communicate and advance important legislative policy issues by providing expert testimony to Congress in 2009 on protecting the electric grid from cyber attacks, as well as advocating on behalf of consumer-owned utilities on Capitol Hill and at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

My personal and professional respect and admiration for Mr. Di Stasio runs deep, and as his friend, colleague and a fellow Sacramento citizen, I wish him happiness and good health.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and recognizing John for his many years of service.

THE PASSING OF MRS. MARIELLA UKINA AMA HOLMAN

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a wonderful and beautiful spirit; Mrs. Mariella Ukina Ama Holman was a friend, mother, wife, teacher, activist, and trailblazer.

A woman of the world, Mariella Ukina Ama was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 4, 1922 to Kiushu Amakaya and Ada Adams. Her father, an immigrant from Japan, changed his name to Frank Ama and worked as a cook and caterer, and her mother was a laundress. Mariella and her brothers—Charles, Lloyd, and Bobby—were expected to meet their parents' high standards and were determined to overcome all odds.

As a child of the Great Depression, she worked hard, stood strong, and held her head high as one of the few children of color at the historic Philadelphia High School for Girls. Mariella continued her education in Atlanta, where she graduated from Atlanta University Laboratory High School. She completed her formal education at the renowned Spelman College, where she truly found her voice. At Spelman, Mariella bloomed into a woman of culture and class—studying and excelling in French and the humanities—gradually becoming more socially and politically conscious and active.