

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MS. MARY BAKER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Ms. Mary E. Baker of Eureka, California, on the occasion of her retirement as Team Leader of the Redwood Vet Center.

Ms. Baker began her career with the Readjustment Counseling Service in 1999 as a Readjustment Counselor for Veterans in Kansas City, Missouri. With a Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Kansas, she has an extensive background in the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and is a Military Sexual Trauma Therapist and Bereavement Specialist. Since 2005, she has ably led the Redwood Vet Center in providing counseling services to combat Veterans and their families, helping them adjust to life after deployment.

A 20-year Army Veteran, Ms. Baker's awards include the Korean Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Award, amongst other awards and decorations. She is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, for whom she also served as the Women Veterans Committee National Chairwoman, District 21 Commander, Department of California Surgeon, and Department of California Woman Veterans Chair. She is a life member and Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, member of both the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association and Vietnam Veterans of America, and has served as President and Treasurer of the Korean War Veterans Association. Ms. Baker also belongs to the National Association of Social Workers and University of Kansas Alumni Association.

Ms. Baker's contributions to her community and fellow Veterans extend well beyond her military and public service. She formerly served on the North Coast Stand Down Board of Directors and North Coast Veterans Resource Center Advisory Board. One of her most significant qualities is her demonstrated passion for helping women Veterans embrace their role in American history, including her work to start the annual "Honoring Women Veterans" Program in 2009, serving as Women Veterans Lead Social Worker of the Women's Odyssey Project, and Committee Member of Women Veterans Retreat Region 4A-4B. The Soroptomist International of Eureka recently acknowledged Ms. Baker's efforts with their Ruby Award, which honors a woman who makes extraordinary differences in the lives of other women.

Ms. Baker is known for being a vocal and tireless advocate for her fellow Veterans with a talent for helping them to take pride in their service, heal from their wounds, and access available resources. Please join me in expressing deep appreciation to Ms. Mary E. Baker for her long and impressive career, and

her exceptional record of service to our great Nation.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY (YOM HASHOAH)

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on April 28th, communities in the U.S., Israel, and around the world will gather to observe Holocaust Remembrance Day, known in Hebrew as Yom Hashoah. We remember the six million Jews who were deemed "undesirable" and thereby systematically murdered by Nazi Germany. On this day—and everyday for that matter—we remember the power racism and bigotry can wield, as well as the enduring spirit and lessons of humanity.

I am reminded of the Jewish concept of tikkun olam which embraces our shared humanity and duty to heal the world. Having experienced injustice and intolerance in some of its most brutal forms, I have dedicated my life to protecting and expanding the civil rights of all people around the world. I believe it is up to each and every one of us to stand against hatred and intolerance. We must create the more peaceful world we want our children to inherit. As human beings, we have a responsibility to keep the Holocaust at the forefront of our collective historical memory.

This week, we dedicate a memorial tree in honor of Anne Frank on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. The Anne Frank Memorial Tree is an offspring of the original chestnut tree that grew outside of the Amsterdam building where she and her family hid from the Nazis during World War II. This tree was featured in Anne's diary writings. Anne's experience has been immortalized beyond cultures and languages. She has become a symbol of the human cost of the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, as we plant the new sapling on the Capitol Grounds, may we always live by the words, "never again." Like the new sapling, may Anne's words of hope for a better humanity take root within each of us, wherein "nobody need wait a single moment before beginning to improve the world."

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF PHIL YOST

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of an extraordinary man, Phil Yost, who died at the age of 63 after a three-year battle with cancer.

The venerable San Jose Mercury News, Mr. Yost's employer for more than a quarter cen-

tury, captured the essence of this special man in its obituary.

Phil Yost was a gentle and decent man, a writer with an ethical compass that belied the stereotype of the cynical journalist. He was known for an unerring sense of fairness, a willingness to consider an argument from another side. Mr. Yost possessed a wry and wicked sense of humor, a light touch that emerged in his writing and life.

Phil Yost was born in Chicago on February 6, 1951. He attended Earlham College, and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. The child of a Mennonite family, he was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, and a tutor of underprivileged children in Cincinnati. He worked at the Middletown Journal in Ohio and the Cincinnati Post, and joined the Mercury News in 1981. In 2006 he left the Mercury to work at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and in 2010 became the policy and press aide to former California State Senator Joe Simitian. Simitian fondly noted that "unflinching fairness" was Yost's most aggravating trait.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and work of Phil Yost, and in extending condolences to his wife Susan, his parents Elnore and Burton Yost, his brother and sisters, and his entire family. He will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know him and be the beneficiaries of his extraordinary work. Phil Yost strengthened our democracy with his instructive journalism, and I'm proud to have known him and was privileged to call him my friend.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the Republican Budget Resolution for fiscal year 2015. The budget put forth by House Republicans is unnecessary and unwise. Congress has already passed a budget target for FY2015. The House Appropriations Committee has already marked up two bills. This Republican budget is a complete distraction from the real work Congress should be focusing on—issues such as comprehensive immigration reform, the restoration of long-term unemployment insurance, the Paycheck Fairness Act or others. Instead, Republican leaders have wasted another legislative week with endless floor debate on a

• 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.

budget that recycles many of the rejected Tea Party proposals from the past. Once again, Congressional Republicans are demonstrating their true priorities: providing massive tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans and corporations at the expense of Middle Class America.

This ten year Republican budget is the wrong vision for Minnesota and America. Yet again, the GOP abandons investments that ensure broad-based economic prosperity today and into the future. This budget jeopardizes the health and economic security of our seniors by re-opening the donut hole and ending the Medicare guarantee. Their proposal fails our children by making irresponsible cuts to our schools and Pell Grants, putting the dream of a college education out of reach for millions of young adults. Extreme reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Social Services Block Grant, and Medicaid will inflict unnecessary pain on our children, working families, and seniors. By slashing investments in infrastructure, their budget rejects a proven path to grow our economy and create jobs. Instead, it advances the priorities of the wealthiest Americans—massive tax breaks for the top one percent and corporations, while adding to the tax burden of middle class families and destroying the social safety net. The Ryan-Republican budget is a recipe for American economic decline and increased pain for the vulnerable. It moves our nation backwards and gives up on the American dream, the idea that everyone has a fair shot at success. I strongly reject these misguided priorities and the Republicans' harmful vision for our Nation.

Instead, I am pleased to support the budget resolution offered by the Democrats. Our budget proposal prioritizes the needs of our seniors and middle class families. It strengthens the social safety net, protects Medicare, and preserves the Affordable Care Act to help ensure all Americans have access to affordable health coverage. The Democratic Alternative invests in the needs of our communities and will help create jobs by expanding tax incentives for low- and middle- class families. It makes critical investments in education to help make college more affordable and ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed. And it rejects the reckless cuts caused by sequestration to non-defense spending starting next year, while maintaining the funding level requested by the President for defense. The Democratic Alternative is a vision for our country that will keep our communities and our economy strong into the future.

There were also good ideas put forward by the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). Both budget proposals would help support the needs of Minnesota families and keep America strong.

The bottom line is that the Ryan-Republican budget resolution increases the tax breaks for wealthy, abandons America's middle class, and punishes the poor. I came to Congress to move our Nation forward. I urge my colleagues to reject this backward vision put forward by Chairman RYAN and instead support the Democratic Alternative.

CONGRATULATING THE HONOREES
OF THE MID-MAINE CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE'S 51ST ANNUAL
AWARDS DINNER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce's 51st Annual Awards Dinner. The Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business communities of the region, working hard to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the area and the state.

Each year, the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and a healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity, prosperity, and community service in Maine.

The 2013 award winners are: John and Jackie Dalton, Distinguished Community Service Award; Bart Stevens of Century 21 Nason Realty, Elias A. Joseph Award; Shane Savage of Fairfield, Oakland, Unity, and Winslow Pharmacies, Business Person of the Year; Kennebec Behavioral Health, Business of the Year; Darlene Ratte of the Best Western Plus, Outstanding Professional; Maine Film Center, Community Service Project of the Year; Joshua Remy of the Town of Fairfield, Rising Star Award; and Doreen Brown of the Hampton Inn Waterville, Customer Service Stardom Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and their incredible commitment to their communities and to the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce and the award recipients on their outstanding service and achievements.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM
GRAHAME WILKIN III, ARTIST

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Grahame Wilkin III of Aurora, Illinois for his contributions to our nation's Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. Mr. Wilkin is currently an art teacher at Aurora Christian High School, helping young men and women learn how to express themselves through art. However, in 1983 when he was a young art student at Glenbard South High School, Mr. Wilkin participated in an art contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

While his entry did not win the competition that day, it would go on to become an image we all recognize. His artwork reminds us of soldiers who were held captive and those whose deaths were never confirmed. His entry was a circle with the black silhouette of a man's face, a guard tower to the left with three supporting crosses, and barbed wire on the right.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Wilkin for his contribution to all of our veterans and their families.

PASSING OF HOLOCAUST
SURVIVOR LEO BRETHOLZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary life of Leo Bretholz, a Holocaust survivor who passed away in his home on March 8, 2014, at the age of 93. Leo is survived by three children, Myron Bretholz of Phoenix, Md., Denise Harris of Ellicott City, Md., and Edie Norton of Herndon, Va.; a half-sister; and four grandchildren. He was married for 57 years to Florine Cohen, who passed away in 2009.

He was beloved by the Baltimore community who recognized him as a courageous and inspiring individual. He worked for many years as a salesman and later managed bookstores. When Leo retired, he spent his life visiting schools and speaking with people from many diverse backgrounds.

His work with schoolchildren and the positive impact he had on them was depicted in the documentary, "See You Soon Again," which preceded his memoir "Leap into Darkness: Seven Years on the Run in Wartime Europe" that he produced with journalist Michael Oleskor. Students described him as a "true inspiration" who "never stopped teaching or trying to make a difference in the lives of his students and friends."

Leo dedicated his life to fighting for justice for all victims of the Holocaust. One of Leo's great causes was the pursuit of reparations for U.S. Holocaust survivors from the Societe Nationale des Chemins de fer Francais (SNCF), the state-owned French railway.

Between March 1942 and August 1944, SNCF carried 76,000 people to Nazi camps, including Leo. But, out of the 1,000 people on the SNCF train car, Leo managed to be one of only five people who successfully escaped.

Leo frequently recounted the incredible story of his journey from Austria to France in this train car, when he and a friend forced open the bars of a cattle car to escape the Auschwitz-bound train. Ever since, Leo has been active in telling his story and fighting for justice through educating schoolchildren, lawmakers, and the general public.

Leo often gave the account of an elderly woman also on the train who told him, "If you get out, maybe you can tell the story. Who else will tell the story?" This encounter and his successful escape led him to speak out against unjust laws in his memoir that recounts his experience and successful escape.

In 2011, I testified with Leo in front of the United States House Foreign Relations Committee, about the need for long-overdue reparations for Holocaust survivors from SNCF.

I am proud and honored to have worked with Leo. He truly was a hero. It was his strong energetic force that has truly helped move forward the Holocaust Rail Justice Act, legislation that would provide reparations for hundreds of known survivors, veterans, and their family members living in the United