

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE CHABAD HOUSE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

#### HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Jewish Community Center of Granite Bay, California, and join in celebrating the commissioning of a new community Torah scroll.

Opened in 2005 as a local home for Jewish life in Placer County, the Chabad House Jewish Community Center serves as a center of education and support to the local Jewish community and an inspiration to people from all walks of life.

The Granite Bay center is a branch of the International Chabad movement, which seeks to promote a greater awareness of education, morality and decency among all people. Chabad serves the community through a wide variety of services and programs, including by making the beauty of Jewish principles and heritage accessible to all Jews, and by bringing Jewish traditions into their daily lives.

As part of this effort, the Chabad House Jewish Community Center has commissioned a professional scribe in Israel to write a Torah scroll in the traditional method, which dates back thousands of years.

The Torah, a sacred text over 3,300 years old, contains the Five Books of Moses and is the most precious article in Jewish life. Its guidance provides a strong foundation for morals in today's global society.

On October 26, 2014, members of the Jewish community gathered with rabbis and community leaders in Placer County to witness the first letters of the Torah being inscribed.

Mr. Speaker, since the inception of our nation organizations like the Chabad House Jewish Community Center have been the bedrocks of their communities; and bastions of civic engagement upon which our society depends. As George Washington stated in his Farewell Address: "of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports."

We are fortunate to have the Chabad Jewish Community Center as a pillar of religious and moral teachings in our community and I am proud to join in honoring this auspicious occasion.

### CELEBRATING MARIN TRANSIT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Marin Transit on the occasion of the organization's 50th Anniversary Celebration, held on October 20, 2014.

For the last five decades, Marin Transit has advanced its responsibility to serve the community by strengthening local public transportation and launching contracts with other bus and paratransit service providers, including Golden Gate Transit, Marin Airporter, MV Transportation, and Whistlestop Wheels.

Marin Transit has provided seniors and Americans with disabilities services to accommodate the mobility needs of an aging transportation network and a diversely growing population. It has demonstrated a powerful commitment to fostering a strong transit system and more engaged community by offering comprehensive operational programs including Local, West Marin Stagecoach, Novato dial-a-ride, and the award-winning seasonal Muir Woods Shuttle in cooperation with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The organization has kept pace with the growing demands for transit options; in particular the Muir Woods Shuttle is estimated to carry 95,000 passengers in 2014, a significant increase from 77,000 passengers in 2013. This service keeps vehicles off narrow mountain roads, relieves congestion, and improves the experience of visitors from across the United States and around the world.

Marin Transit has been a vital tool for the people of Marin County and beyond, and I am confident it will continue to serve as a valued transportation agency for future generations to come. Please join me in congratulating Marin Transit on their 50 year Anniversary celebration and wishing them many more years of success.

### RECOGNIZING HELEN CISNEY

#### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Ms. Helen Cisney as she celebrates her 100th birthday on November 22, 2014.

Ms. Cisney was born in Hammond, Indiana in 1914. She married Irvin Cisney, and together they owned a diner in Grand Rapids, Michigan. During World War II, Ms. Cisney worked on the assembly line at General Motors. Upon retirement, Mr. & Mrs. Cisney moved to Zephyrhills, Florida where they lived for thirty years. Today, Ms. Cisney lives in Fruitland Park where she attends Sunday services at Faith Bible Baptist Church and plays dominoes on Tuesday evenings at First Baptist Church of Leesburg. Ms. Cisney is a talented bowler and has won many trophies over the years. She is also a breast cancer survivor and was named Grand Marshall of the Lake County Cancer Walk in 2005.

Ms. Cisney has two daughters, eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren. I wish her a very happy 100th birthday and all the best to her and her family.

### HONORING TARKIO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Tarkio First Baptist Church, which will commemorate the 125th anniversary of its founding in my hometown of Tarkio, Missouri on September 21st, 2014. Since 1889, the Tarkio First Baptist Church has served the community through its faith, fellowship and welcoming spirit.

From the first time they opened their doors until today, First Baptist has stood as a cornerstone of the Tarkio community. First Baptist has experienced wars and conflicts as well as times of peace and prosperity. It has served as a haven through many hardships of economic struggle and social change. Through droughts, floods, tornadoes, blizzards, as well as harvests both good and bad, this church has remained a constant source of comfort. It has served congregants by promoting faith in God, the Bible, prayer and the community itself.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Tarkio First Baptist Church. For 125 years, this church has supported Tarkio and its people come what may. It is truly an honor to serve this church and its congregation in the United States Congress.

### CELEBRATING THE CONGREGATION SOCIETY B'NAI ISRAEL 150TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the B'nai Israel Jewish Center in Petaluma, California on the occasion of the organization's sesquicentennial on November 1, 2014.

Congregation Society B'nai Israel is one of the oldest Jewish communities in the State of California and is the oldest congregation between San Francisco and the Oregon border. For the past one hundred and fifty years, the B'nai Israel Jewish Center has provided a place where all who identify with the Jewish community may gather and participate in enriching spiritual, social, cultural, and educational experiences. The diverse programs and educational opportunities offered through Congregation Society B'nai Israel strengthen, celebrate and sustain Jewish culture in Petaluma, build cross-cultural understanding, and enrich the lives of those in the community at large.

The B'nai Israel Jewish Center is a treasure to the City of Petaluma, and countless residents of Sonoma County have benefitted from

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

the organization's longstanding commitment to the Jewish faith and strong community values. Please join me in congratulating the B'nai Israel community on this milestone one hundred and fifty year anniversary and wishing them many years of future success.

HONORING DORAL PERFORMING  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ACADEMY

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doral Performing Arts & Entertainment Academy and to congratulate the school on being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon recipient.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U.S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, and Doral Academy has earned that distinction.

This is quite an accomplishment, and a testament to the commitment the school has shown to educating its students and providing them with the best faculty and resources to succeed. The school has truly taken its mission of preparing students, and instilling in them a belief in their own efficacy, seriously.

Doral Academy opened its doors in 1999, and currently serves 2800 students. Doral Academy believes that engaging families and communities contributes to greater academic achievement and to the improvement of the school as a whole. This model of engagement is predicated on three core beliefs: student achievement increases the more knowledge parents have about their children's school experience; greater involvement of families through non-academic channels still contributes to greater academic buy-in by all; and the more a school invests in a community, the more resources, support networks, and allies are available to bolster the health and vitality of the school holistically.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Doral Performing Arts & Entertainment Academy for their tremendous service to its students and the tireless work of their faculty, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable school.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF  
VERLEIGH BLOOM

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of a dear lady in our district, Ms. Verleigh M. Bloom, 83, who passed away peacefully on Friday, August 29th.

Verleigh was a genuinely thoughtful and loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, who held onto her family very dearly.

Verleigh cherished the time spent with her loved ones, and considered her family one of her greatest joys and accomplishments.

Preceded in death by parents, James and Verleigh Darnell, Verleigh will continue to live on through the many lives she has touched. Verleigh is survived by her daughter Verleigh I. Gray of Niles, OH; two sons, James C. Bloom of Leavittsburg, OH and Ted E. Bloom of Howland, OH; nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. It gives me great pride to honor the life of Verleigh M. Bloom. I am deeply saddened and I extend my condolences to her entire family. Her loving character and considerate nature will be immeasurably missed. Our community is a much better place because of Verleigh's loving approach to life.

RECOGNIZING PETER LAVALLEE  
AS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Peter LaVallee, who was honored as the Humboldt Citizen of the Year on October 2, 2014, an award he richly deserves.

Peter LaVallee's long history of public service has been of tremendous benefit to the community. His work as an elected official, as an advocate for youth and vulnerable populations, and as a conservationist has made Peter LaVallee a vital member of my congressional district and the surrounding region.

After attending Wayne State University, Peter LaVallee completed his bachelor's degree in political science at Humboldt State University. He went on to graduate studies at Sacramento State University. Peter LaVallee served as director of youth services for Trinity County from 1980 to 1985. He then spent 26 years as director of Redwood Community Action Agency's Youth Services Division. California Gov. Pete Wilson appointed Peter LaVallee to the State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 1992 and he served until 2000 in that capacity.

Peter LaVallee was mayor of the City of Eureka from 2002 to 2006. During that time, he also was a member of the Eureka Rotary Club. From 2006 to 2011, Peter LaVallee served on the Humboldt County Housing and Homeless Coalition. Among his contributions are the development of services for runaway and homeless youth, including 24-hour crisis intervention, street outreach, school-based prevention and intervention services, short-term emergency shelter and long-term transitional housing and supportive services.

Mr. Speaker, Peter LaVallee's dedication to youth and community services in Humboldt County is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to him.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support and congratulations for the people of Taiwan, who celebrated their National Day on October 10, 2014.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the enduring value of Taiwan's friendship with the United States, and to reaffirm our commitment in Congress to strengthening our nations' ties.

Taiwan stands as an example in the Pacific of what economic and political freedom can bring to a country and its people. Since its founding 103 years ago, Taiwan has established itself as a country dedicated to citizen government and the free exchange of goods and ideas that forms the foundation of any modern and prosperous society. Taiwan has also made significant economic and cultural contributions to the global community, and to peace and stability in the region.

Again I would like to offer my congratulations to the people of Taiwan on their 103rd National Day.

HONORING MATER GARDENS  
ACADEMY

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mater Gardens Academy and to congratulate the school on being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon recipient.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U.S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, and Mater Gardens Academy has earned that distinction.

This is quite an accomplishment, and a testament to the commitment the school has shown to educating its students and providing them with the best faculty and resources to succeed. The school has truly taken its mission of bringing about meaningful achievement enabling students to become confident, life-long learners.

Mater Gardens Academy opened its doors in August 2006 as a K-8 charter school sponsored by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Mater Gardens upholds core values that pave the way for student success: setting high expectations, valuing individuality, expecting accountability, and demonstrating respect, honesty, and integrity. The school has consistently been recognized for outstanding achievement. In 2011 Mater Academy placed sixth in the county on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Science, and has also won the Gold Award from Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 2006 and 2007. In 2012 and 2013 the school was named one of the top 10 schools in Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mater Gardens Academy for their tremendous