EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2015

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, from Monday, February 2, 2015 to Thursday, February 5, 2015 I had to remain in California and was unable to vote.

Had I been present on the House floor on Monday, February 2, 2015, I would have voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 51, H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act. I would have also voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 52, H.R. 615, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act and ''aye'' on roll call No. 53, H.R. 623, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2015.

On Tuesday, February 3, 2015, I would have voted ''nay'' on roll call No. 54, H. Res. 70, On Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 596, To Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and ''nay'' on roll call No. 55, H. Res. 70, the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 596. I would have also voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 56, on Approving the Journal, and ''aye'' on roll call No. 57, on the Democratic Motion to Recommit on H.R. 596 with Instructions. I would have voted ''nay'' on roll call No. 58, on Passage of H.R. 596.

On Wednesday, February 4, 2015, I would have voted ''nay'' on roll call No. 59, Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, and H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015, and ''nay'' on roll call No. 60, H. Res. 78, the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 50 and H.R. 527. I would have also voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 61, H.R. 50, the Cummings of Maryland Part C Amendment No. 2, and ''aye'' on roll call No. 62, H.R. 50, the Connolly of Virginia Part C Amendment No. 3. I would have also voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 63, the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 50 with Instructions, and ''nay'' on roll call No. 64, on Passage of H.R. 50.

On Thursday, February 5, 2015, I would have voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 65, H.R. 527, the Schrader of Oregon Part A Amendment No. 4, and ''aye'' on roll call No. 66, H.R. 527, the Jackson Lee of Texas Part A Amendment No. 6. I would have also voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 67, on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 527 with Instructions, and ''nay'' on roll call No. 68, on Passage of H.R. 527.

REINTRODUCING THE LENA HORNE RECOGNITION ACT OF 2015

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Lena Horne Recognition Act of 2015, which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the late, renowned singer, actress, and Civil Rights icon, Ms. Lena Mary Calhoun Horne.

As an African American woman born in 1917, Ms. Horne, who passed away in 2010, was truly a woman of firsts, having pioneered the way for many men and women of color through her work in Jazz, film, and the Civil Rights movement. She began her career in the chorus line at Harlem's famed Cotton Club before moving on to record dozens of musical tracks and playing roles in movies and musicals.

As a young woman, Lena drew much fame from her beauty and talent, yet found many roadblocks in her personal success due to the hyper-racialized nature of show business at the time. However, this adversity would not limit her, and presented a platform for her increasing support of and action in the Civil Rights movement.

The first to do so, Lena signed a long term contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) and embarked on a career in Hollywood, as her celebrity had been noticed by many, despite the color of her skin. She was also the first African American woman to be nominated for a Tony Award. However, again, she found road blocks in her professional life, due to state-law restrictions in on-screen interracial relationships as well as the need to have her roles edited out for Jim Crow abiding viewers. Blacklisted during the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Ms. Horne still recorded what would become the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor's history in 1957.

From music and film, Lena had built a substantial fan base, and by the 1960s, at the peak of the Civil Rights movement, she became a staple on television. She had become so renowned in popular culture despite her race that she appeared on shows such as the Dean Martin Show and Ed Sullivan Show. In 1970, Horne co-starred with well known actor, Harry Belafonte, on a show for ABC donning their names—''Harry and Lena.'' She would go on to play herself on The Muppet Show, Sesame Street, and Sanford and Son. In 1981, Lena then received two Grammy awards and a special Tony award for her cast recording of her Broadway show, Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music. In 1989, she received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Amongst her many awards, Ms. Horne was the recipient of the Kennedy Center honor for lifetime contribution to the arts in 1984. She received two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—for her work in both motion pictures and recording—in addition to a footprint on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Lena always fought back when opportunities presented themselves.

For example, during World War II, Lena had been slated to perform for segregated troops of U.S. servicemen. She was appalled to find that African American servicemen had been seated behind German prisoners of war, and refused to partake unless she could sing before an integrated group. As a compromise, Lena left the stage and sang directly in front of her African American counterparts, with the German prisoners of war to her rear.

Lena notably remained committed to bettering lives of the underserved and underrepresented for the entirety of her life. An active participant in the movement, Lena met President John F. Kennedy shortly before his assassination, marched in the March on Washington, and ultimately performed and spoke on behalf of the NAACP, SNCC, and National Council of Negro Women. Also notable is the work that she engaged in with former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt to pass anti-lynching laws. Lena was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in support of honoring Lena Horne posthumously with a Congressional Gold Medal, for her outstanding contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A beautiful person inside and out, Lena willed her talent, intelligence, and fame to fight against discrimination, traversing her career on a road filled with potholes full of racial bias and degradation. Lena represents the very best of American ideals and signifies the true purpose of the American Dream.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. AZIZAH AL-HIBRI'S LIFETIME OF SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Azizah al-Hibri, a distinguished women's and human rights advocate, on receiving the prestigious ACCESS Purple Rose Award. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Dr. al-Hibri for her many years of service and contributions which have enriched and strengthened our community.

Dr. al-Hibri is the Founder and Chair of KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights. KARAMAH is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting human rights throughout the globe, especially focusing on gender equity, religious freedom and civil rights in the United States. KARAMAH translates as ''dignity'' in Arabic and the stated vision of the organization is ''Dignity for All.'' In 1993, Dr. al-Hibri, then a law professor and

noted Islamic scholar at the University of Richmond, was inspired by the verse which reads: "We have given dignity to the Children of Adam." With faithful commitment to the idea that this verse establishes the fact that human dignity is bestowed upon all human beings, Dr. al-Hibri has committed herself to advancing this understanding of the unalienable rights of women, a cause she continues to champion today.

Dr. al-Hibri has dedicated her life to education, legal outreach and advocacy. Among her many accomplishments, Dr. al-Hibri is a Fulbright scholar and is the founding editor of the journal Hypatia, which is dedicated to Feminist philosophy, particularly as it relates to Muslim women. Recognizing the national importance of her voice and contributions, in 2011 President Obama appointed Dr. al-Hibri to U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, a truly deserved honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Dr. al-Hibri for her many contributions to our community and her leadership in advancing Human Rights. I wish her many more years of health, happiness, and productive advocacy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS W. BIRMINGHAM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Mr. LAMALFA to pay tribute to the life of Thomas "Tom" Birmingham, who passed away on January 8, 2015 at the age of 93. Tom was an extraordinary person, and he will always be remembered as a man who lived his life with purpose and great dedication to his students, family, friends and community.

Tom was born on March 21, 1922 to Thomas and Nell Birmingham in Red Bluff, California. He spent much of his childhood living in various northern California towns, as his father's career as a Highway Patrolman required. It was while living with his family in Westwood, California that Tom developed many life-long friendships and his happiest childhood memories. He graduated from Clarksburg High School in Clarksburg, California, now called Delta High School, in 1940.

World War II interrupted Tom's first attempt at attending college. He left school to join the United States Navy. In the Navy, Tom was assigned to Bombing Squadron Nineteen which flew off of the USS *Lexington*. Mr. Birmingham proudly served our country as an aviator, and was awarded an Air Medal and a Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions on October 25, 1944 during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Tom was extremely proud of his service and of the men with whom he served on board the *Lexington*.

Mr. Birmingham continued his education after the War. He enrolled at San Jose State College and graduated in 1950. While at university, Tom competed in numerous track events including the high hurdle and the triple jump, known at the time as the "hop, skip, jump." A talented, athletic individual, Mr. Birmingham garnered the reputation of a world class athlete. In addition to his skills on the track field, Tom was an avid skier, becoming one of the first instructors at the Mt. Shasta Herald Ski School.

It was while Tom studied at San Jose State College that he met the love of his life, Lulu Archer. Tom and Lulu were married in 1951 and stayed in the bay area for another year while Tom completed his teaching credential. Lulu truly was Tom's one and only. Later the same year, Tom and Lulu moved to Yreka, California where they grew their family with the addition of three children, Kate, Thomas, and John.

In Yreka, Mr. Birmingham accepted a teaching and coaching position at Yreka High School. As a teacher of art and history, Mr. Birmingham was able to motivate students and develop an excitement in them for learning and personal development. Additionally, coaching track and basketball allowed Tom to form lasting bonds with his students, many of whom he kept in contact throughout his life.

Following a distinguished 31 years at Yreka High School, Mr. Birmingham retired in 1983. Upon his retirement, Tom and Lulu made it a priority to travel together. He also accepted the responsibility of taking care of his wife in the latter stages of her illness. Several years after her passing in 1987, Tom chose to relocate to Redding, California to be closer to family, specifically his beloved grandchildren. Throughout his life, his hobbies included hunting, fishing, and, in retirement, restoring old cars.

Tom's friendliness and honest nature built many lasting friendships during his lifetime. His long and remarkable life is fondly remembered by colleagues, students, friends and family. Tom leaves behind his three children; Kate, Thomas, John, their spouses, and his grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join Mr. LAMALFA and me in saying farewell to a man from the greatest generation, Mr. Thomas W. Birmingham. His genuine character and his loving commitment to his family and community will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 65–68 due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on #65, yes on #66, yes on #67, and no on #68.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan.

SH–216

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed carbon dioxide emissions rules from new, modified, and existing power plants.

SD–406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) new election rule, focusing on employers and employees.

SD–430

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine Social Security disability trust fund insolvency.

SD–608

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Internet.

SR–253

Committee on Finance

Business meeting to markup an original bill relating to access and administration of the U.S. Tax Court; an original bill to remove alcohol bonding requirements for certain taxpayers; an original bill relating to modifications to alternative tax for certain small insurance companies; an original bill to modify the excise tax on cider; an original bill to truncate the collection period for taxpayers hospitalized for combat zone injuries; an original bill to provide special rules concerning charitable contributions to, and public charity status of, agricultural research organizations; an original bill to provide an exception to the private foundation excess business holdings rules for certain philanthropic business holdings; an original bill to clarify a special rules for certain governmental plans; an original bill to modify the treatment of income received under student work-learning-service programs; an original bill for a waste-heat-to-power investment tax credit; an original bill to allow enrolled agents who meet certain requirements to use specified designations; an original bill relating to real estate investment trusts (REITs), regulated investment companies (RICs) and the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act (FIRPTA); an original bill to exclude from gross income certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents; an original bill to convert the tax on liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas to an energy equivalent

basis; an original bill to require the Internal Revenue Service to notify exempt organizations before revoking exempt status for failing to file information returns; an original bill to exclude from gross income certain clean coal power grants; and an original bill to create a military spouse job continuity credit.

SD–215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) 2015 list of high risk government programs.

SD–342

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine ending modern day slavery, focusing on the role of United States leadership.

SD–419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior.

SD–192

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To receive a closed briefing on worldwide nuclear capabilities.

SVC–217

3 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine the retirement and compensation proposals of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

SD–G50

FEBRUARY 12

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SVC–217.

SD–G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To resume hearings to examine regulatory relief for community banks and credit unions.

SD–538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Energy.

SD–366

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General, Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Alfred H. Bennett, George C. Hanks, Jr., and Jose Rolando Olvera, Jr., each to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Jill N. Parrish, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, and Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, Patricia M. McCarthy, of Maryland, Jeri Kaylene Somers, of Virginia, and Armando Omar Bonilla, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SD–226

Committee on Rules and Administration

Business meeting to markup the Omnibus Budget resolution for Senate committees for the period March 1, 2015, through February 28, 2017, and an original resolution to amend Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

SR–301

12 noon

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to markup S. Res. 65, supporting efforts to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections, and an original resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the January 24, 2015, attacks carried out by Russian-backed rebels on the civilian population in Mariupol, Ukraine, and the provision of lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine.

S–116

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup S. 165, to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SVC–217

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–216

FEBRUARY 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Interior.

SD–366

FEBRUARY 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Forest Service.

SD–366

MARCH 25

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR–222