EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PASSENGER RAIL REFORM AND INVESTMENT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 749) to reauthorize Federal support for passenger rail programs, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to voice my strong support for high-speed rail service along the Northeast Corridor with stops in Connecticut. High-speed rail service provides a fast, safe, and reliable transportation alternative for passengers. Expanding high-speed rail in Connecticut would go a long way in alleviating highway congestion and promoting faster travel within and through the state. In addition, high-speed rail along the Northeast Corridor would create new jobs, boost manufacturing, and bolster America's competitiveness in our global economy. Not including a stop for Connecticut in a study on high-speed rail along the Northeast Corridor is a serious mistake, and I stand firmly against any proposal that excludes Connecticut.

STEPHEN AND KATHLEEN HUVANE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 13, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is always a pleasure when neighborhood groups in my district pick incredibly deserving community members to fill important positions of prominence. This year, the planning committee of the Eastchester Irish American Social Club (EIASC) has outdone themselves with the selection of Stephen and Kathleen Huvane as Honorees of the annual Eastchester St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Like me, Stephen and Kathleen are both Bronx natives, with families who immigrated to America searching for a better life. Stephen's parents came from the counties Mayo and Galway in Ireland, while Kathleen's came from County Kerry.

A graduate of Manhattan College, Stephen received his B.S. in Computer Science and Engineering, while Kathleen earned her B.S. in Nursing from the College of Mt. St. Vincent. Today, Kathleen is a Registered Pediatric Nurse at the Eastchester Pediatric Medical group, and Stephen works at Purdue Pharma LLP.

Both Stephen and Kathleen are active in the community, especially the EIASC, of which they have been members for over 16 years. They are also five year members of Swazi Legacy, a not-for-profit that helps marginalized and homeless young people in Swaziland.

Today Stephen and Kathleen live in Eastchester, where together they have raised four wonderful children; Kaitlin, Eilish, Stephen, and Kieran. They are active members of various school functions and fundraisers, in addition to Stephen's work on the EIASC St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which he has been a part of for the past 10 years.

As this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade approaches, I want to congratulate Stephen and Kathleen for their selection as Parade Honorees, and thank them on the occasion for all they have done to better our community.

HONORING VERNA TELLER

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 13, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Verna Teller, a remarkable woman whose steadfast political leadership and tireless civic activism has had a lasting impact on the people in her community.

In March of each year, we celebrate Women's History month to honor women who have made invaluable contributions to their communities and the world. Verna is one such woman. Verna has never tired of fighting for the community she loves. In the face of gender discrimination, Verna ushered in a new era of leadership, becoming the first female governor of Isleta Pueblo in 1987. By spearheading passage of a constitutional amendment requiring tribal leadership positions to be elected, as well as fighting to make tribal council meetings more open and accessible, Verna ensured that women's voices were not only heard but amplified within the Pueblo community.

Following her tenure as governor, Verna continued to serve Isleta Pueblo as Chief Justice, President of the Tribal Council, and council member. Under her watchful guidance, Isleta Pueblo became the first tribe in the United States to assert their right under federal law to establish water quality standards to protect their community.

Verna went on to serve as project manager for the Native Peoples-Native Homelands Southwest Initiative, a project sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to examine the effects of climate change on Native Americans. As Project Director for Tribal Tobacco Health, Education and Outreach, Verna helped develop cancer prevention programs through Indian Health Services, the Centers for Disease Control, and the American Cancer Society. She also ran a consulting business, ATV Enterprises; served as a member of the All Indian Pueblo Council; was named "Indian Woman of the Year;" and has received numerous other accolades.

It is astonishing to think of all that Verna has accomplished in her life. In the face of adversity, discrimination, and uncertainty, Verna's determination to lead her community never faltered. As Eleanor Roosevelt once said: "We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face—we must do that which we think we cannot." Verna's enduring legacy of community development, service and sacrifice will continue to be an inspiration for future generations of young women.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 13, 2015

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this week we commemorate the 27th Anniversary of the horrific Sumgait Pogroms. On February 27, 1988 organized mobs of Azerbaijanis aimed at killing and driving Armenian Christians living in Sumgait from their homes. Police allowed the pogroms to go on for 3 days, during which Armenians were burned alive and thrown from windows.

The Sumgait massacre is a black mark on history and sadly, this event sparked further violence as Armenians would be targeted less than 9 months later in Kirovbad and again in Baku in 1990.

The Azerbaijani Government has shamefully continued to undermine prospects for a lasting peace in the Southern Caucuses, recently they were reported violating the ceasefire and killing several Armenian soldiers on the border.

From the earliest days of its formation, the people of Nagorno Karabakh have fought and died for their independence and held open and transparent elections, a tradition of democracy that the United States should honor and respect.

As we reflect on these horrific outbreaks of ethnic violence, I join with Armenians in Rhode Island, and across the world in remembering these victims and renewing our commitment to justice, independence and finding lasting peace.

HONORING JOSEPH B. HOULIHAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 13, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the story of America is the story of men and women emigrating from foreign lands to make a better life for themselves and their families. Joseph Houlihan's success, a result in part of the sacrifices his great grandparents made in coming to America from county Kerry in Ireland, is exactly what that American story is about.

The Houlihans came to America and found success in real estate, a family business that