

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF RANDY M. HITI

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Randy M. Hiti of Rice Lake, Minnesota.

Mr. Hiti died suddenly on Wednesday while responding to a fire call as a member of the Rice Lake Volunteer Fire Department. During his 26 years of service, I am told that it was a very rare occasion that you would not see him show up when the Fire Department called. He was awarded the Firefighter of the Year Award and taught fire prevention to the Homecroft Elementary School third graders for over ten years.

He wasn't just a firefighter. He was a friend to many in all his volunteer activities, which included the Rice Lake Halloween Carnival and Rice Lake Day. Randy also was an eager volunteer for the Grandma's Marathon each year. He was the kind of guy who would drop anything for a family member, friend in need or anyone he saw outside of his driving hours to provide roadside assistance or help with day-to-day tasks. It was only recently that his daughter, Katherine Hiti, was inducted into the Volunteer Fire Department and I am sure it was a very proud moment.

I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife, Laura, his daughters Anne and Katherine, his mother Millie, and his brothers Brian and Leon.

He will be missed in his community as he touched so many lives with his spirit of generosity and time.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MATTHEW EVERETT GREENLEE, MARK ALLEN GREENE, AND ROBERT WAYNE VON BOKERN

HON. THOMAS MASSIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three of my constituents from Owenton, Kentucky: Matthew Everett Greenlee, Mark Allen Greene, and Robert Wayne Von Bokern. These three outstanding power linemen from Owen Electric Cooperative recently volunteered for a project in Haiti that, when completed, will provide safe, affordable, and reliable power to 1600 consumers.

The goal of the project is to build a distribution system that will connect three towns in Haiti and establish its first electric cooperative, the Cooperative Electrique de l'Arrondissement des Côteaux. Upon completion, this diesel-solar hybrid electricity distribution system will provide safe, affordable, and reliable power to rural consumers.

Tragically, less than 15 percent of Haiti has regular access to electricity. So, Mr. Greenlee, Mr. Greene, and Mr. Von Bokern generously gave of their time for two weeks in the town of Roche-à-Bateaux to help solve this terrible problem. My constituents upgraded and installed new lines and service drops. They also trained locally hired linemen in proper construction methods, pole climbing techniques, proper handline use, and important safety practices.

Electricity is essential to the quality of life for those in Haiti's rural communities. It assists in the provision of clean water, healthcare, education, and general economic opportunity. Therefore, I salute my constituents for contributing their time and efforts in Haiti on this critical project. Their selfless service for others truly helps make this world a better place.

HONORING WILLIAM 'ZEKE' GRADER, JR.

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize the incredible legacy of William 'Zeke' Grader, Jr., who has tirelessly served California's fishermen and coastal communities and as an environmental champion and community leader for many decades. Always willing to share his vast knowledge and expertise with others, Zeke has helped fishermen to define their interest in battles over offshore oil and gas development, land-use, timber harvesting, water allocation, and other issues of social equity and sustainability.

From an early age, Zeke Grader grew up in the coastal fishing community. His father founded Grader Fish, Co., in Fort Bragg, California, to buy, process, and broker fresh, local fish. Zeke spent much of his childhood on the family dock, helping fishermen to unload their catch. He graduated from Fort Bragg High School and moved south to attend Sonoma State University, where he studied political science and graduated in 1970.

Zeke Grader served his country in the United States Marine Corps before obtaining a law degree from the University of San Francisco and passing the California State Bar in 1975. At that time, Congress was deliberating how to assert our national sovereignty over a two-hundred mile wide economic zone in order to curb foreign overfishing in U.S. waters, allow depleted stocks to recover, and conserve fishery resources. Amidst such explosive public interest in natural resource protection, some in the fishing industry felt threatened by the burgeoning environmental movement. Zeke Grader was asked to serve as the executive officer of the newly formed Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), and he led the organization in a more productive and effective direction by em-

bracing efforts to protect the coastal environment.

With Zeke at the helm, the PCFFA took a leading role in crafting important state and federal legislation to preserve the coastal fishing industry. Zeke lobbied strongly for California's 1988 Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act, which called for a statewide salmon conservation plan to double the present numbers of wild salmon. He pushed for modernization of the federal Fishery Conservation and Management Act, litigated to expedite water quality restoration under the federal Clean Water Act, and fought for protections of fishing grounds by organizing for the prevention and clean-up of petroleum spills.

In 1988, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration honored Zeke Grader with its prominent Environmental Hero award. For many Zeke has been a hero over many decades and his tireless efforts to protect the wild California Coast have ensured the present vitality of our fishing communities.

Our friend and former colleague George Miller is one of those who counts Zeke as an inspiration. He passed along this message to us to include in the RECORD: "Zeke Grader has been my friend almost my entire time in the Congress. During that time Zeke has been a leader in our state, on the Pacific Coast and in our nation to give voice and rights to the men and women of our vital and historic commercial fishing industry. The Pacific coast fisheries from time to time are threatened with droughts, economic downturns, high fuel prices, habitat destruction, and bad public policy. Through it all, Zeke Grader has led this magnificent group of fishers to maintain and grow our fisheries. So many people in California's diverse economy are dependent on their success. The commercial fishers of the Pacific coast must both catch and protect this magnificent species. Zeke Grader for so many years has successfully advocated for both the fish and the fishers. All of us owe him great thanks."

Today, Zeke continues his strong advocacy by working with and advising leaders at every level of industry and government. His legacy shows us the lasting positive impact that one man can have on countless others and he has shown that you can build a thriving and sustainable economy without depleting natural resources for future generations. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor Zeke today for his work in representing the fishing community, and we express our deepest appreciation for his friendship and his service.

RECOGNIZING THE SKANEATELES HIGH SCHOOL BOYS HOCKEY TEAM

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the victory of the Skaneateles High

● 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.

School Boys Hockey team in the New York State Championship game on Sunday, March 15th. The Skaneateles Lakers defeated Williamsville East High School by a score of 5–2 for its first title in 26 years.

The Lakers fought back from a 2–0 deficit, working as a cohesive team to score 3 goals in under 6 minutes. Sophomore Raymond Falso received the tournament's Most Valuable Player Award, after having missed six weeks of the regular season due to an injury. Senior Captain Owen Kuhns, sophomores Raymond Falso, Reggie Buell, and Patrick Major were named to the All-Tournament team. The Lakers finished their season with a 22–3–1 record due to the hard work of seniors: Briggs Carter, Owen Kuhns, Jarrett McDonald, Cullen McGlynn, James Motyl, Brett Singler, and Trey Wirth; juniors: Karl Adams, Devin Callahan, Sam Clymer, Reece Eddy, Erik Huba, Bennett Morse, Kyle Ochsner, Jacob Patalino, and Benn Russell; sophomores: Matt Benson, Reggie Buell, Dimitris Christou, Ray Falso, Adam Lupo, Patrick Major, and Nick Rottger; freshmen: Matt Leveroni and Marc Welch; and eighth-grader: Luke Lynn. The team was coached by Mitch Major, a former captain of the 1989 Skaneateles Lakers team.

The Lakers have played with dedication and respect throughout the entire season. I commend the hard work, commitment, and teamwork these players have displayed throughout the season and the example they have set for youth throughout the 24th District. Excellence on the ice translates into excellence off the ice and the practice of sacrificing for the common goal, builds character in our children. I could not be more proud to congratulate these young men on their tremendous season.

CONGRATULATING NATHAN ECKERT ON RECEIVING THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RACHEL CARSON INDIVIDUAL AWARD

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Nathan Eckert, the recipient of the 2014 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Rachel Carson Individual Award. This award is bestowed upon employees of the Service whose outstanding contributions improve the Service's knowledge and management of fish and wildlife resources. Nathan is a mussel biologist at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery in Genoa, Wisconsin, and this recognition—considered one of the highest honorary awards in the Service—is well deserved for his extraordinary work in freshwater mussel conservation.

At the Genoa Fish Hatchery, Nathan has been researching and implementing new techniques and rearing systems for imperiled freshwater mussels. As an expert in mussel identification, Nathan has helped the Genoa facility produce nearly 15 million mussels of 17 species, and his endeavors have directly resulted in the release of more than 50,000 threatened or endangered mussels into waterways in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. Nathan's work also includes assisting various

mitigation efforts involving projects that impact freshwater mussel populations, providing rare mussel species to partners such as the U.S. Geological Survey and many toxicology labs to study the effects of pesticides and contaminants on mussel survival.

Nathan's dedication and leadership has proved critical to protecting and sustaining the rich biodiversity of the Mississippi River. It is with great pride today that I rise to congratulate Nathan for receiving the Rachel Carson Individual Award and to sincerely thank him and the Genoa Fish Hatchery for building a legacy of conservation for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF EL CENTRO STUDENTS THIRD PLACE PRIZE IN C-SPAN'S VIDEO DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrea Vallejo, Shelbie Verbrugh, and Kennet Sandoval, seniors at Southwest High School in El Centro, California, for their outstanding achievement in winning Third Prize at C-SPAN's National 2015 StudentCam Competition. StudentCam offers students across the nation an opportunity to showcase their talents in a friendly national competition.

All aspects of the video production, including the research and planning in their documentary, "Salton Sea Restoration," demonstrated the highest level of critical thinking, initiative, and ingenuity. The "Salton Sea Restoration" placed third out of the 2,280 videos submitted, by more than 5,000 students around the country.

This competition is one of our nation's best platforms for our youth to express their opinions on national issues, provide eye-opening and inspiring views of the country, and contribute to the construction of a beloved community.

I want to congratulate these award recipients and encourage more youth involvement in the greater discourse about our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REV. DR. RONALD L. OWENS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rev. Dr. Ronald L. Owens as he celebrates his 25th Pastoral Anniversary as Senior Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Metuchen, New Jersey. Pastor Owens continues to provide outstanding spiritual leadership to the Metuchen community.

Dr. Owens attended New Hope Baptist Church as a child and in 1990 was called back to serve as its pastor. Under his leadership, the membership of New Hope Baptist Church has grown immensely. He has encouraged his congregants to practice faith in ac-

tion, serving the needs of people through several worship and outreach ministries.

In addition to his service to New Hope Baptist Church, Dr. Owens is also a leader in the Baptist church and an active member of the community. He has served as General Secretary of the General Baptist State Convention of New Jersey, Moderator of the Middlesex Central Baptist Association, Inc. and past president of the Metuchen/Edison Clergy Association. He is also the first Chaplain of the Metuchen Police and Fire Departments, where he continues to counsel, former Vice-Chairman of the Middlesex County Democratic Party and is a member of The Prince Hall Masons of New Jersey, among others.

Dr. Owens is married to Sister Cheryl Owens, formerly Cheryl Jones, and together they are blessed with two daughters and four grandsons. An active member of her faith, Sister Cheryl Owens is also celebrating her 25th anniversary of First Lady of New Hope Baptist Church and I would like to join with the church and community in thanking her for her service.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 25th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Ronald L. Owens. His leadership, service and dedication to the church and community are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

CONGRATULATING ELLIE CAMPBELL FOR HONOR ORCHESTRA OF AMERICA SELECTION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ellie Campbell from Richmond, Texas for her selection to the Honor Orchestra of America. She is one of only two Harpists who performed at the Orchestra America National Festival in Indianapolis.

Ellie performs with Virtuosi, a Houston-area orchestra, and the Region 13 Philharmonic Orchestra. With Virtuosi, she had the opportunity to perform the prelude music for Violinist Itzhak Perlman's performance with the Houston Symphony in Jones Hall. Music plays an important role in our lives and talented musicians like Ellie contribute to our ability to appreciate the beauty of classical music.

I commend Ellie for all of her musical accomplishments in Houston and beyond. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again Ellie Campbell for her achievements.

HONORING MS. GAYE LEBARON, SONOMA COUNTY WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gaye LeBaron as one of the Fifth District of California's Women of the Year as we celebrate Women's History Month. I regularly have the privilege to work with extraordinary women across our district, and I am proud to recognize Gaye as one of them.