

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5 The Student Success Act. I rise in opposition to this bill because education is a civil right. The Elementary and Secondary Schools Act, also known as ESEA, was initially passed in 1965 as part of President Johnson's "War on Poverty." President Johnson understood that without a good education, economic stability was impossible and poverty inevitable.

The goal of the original ESEA was to provide a fair and equitable education to every child in America. Unfortunately, H.R. 5 is neither fair nor equitable. This bill creates the warped concept of Title I Portability, which would shift resources from poor school districts such as the ones in my district of Brooklyn, New York to wealthier communities. Children in poor districts stand to lose upward of \$85 per student, while children in wealthier communities would gain an average of \$290 dollars per student.

It ends the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program, among 70 other programs also slated for elimination. You would think that with the rise in school shootings and rampant school violence, that if we ever needed a Safe and Drug Free School Program it would be now.

It also eliminates Title III, which helped to ensure that English Language Learners attain English proficiency. H.R. 5 not only figuratively, but also literally, silences the voices of our Hispanic students and in doing so relegates them to a life of inequity and poverty.

Under H.R. 5, New York State is projected to receive \$1.52 billion in 2016 and \$6.943 billion over the 2016–2021 period. This is \$46 million less in 2016 and \$606 million less over the 2016–2021 period than under the President Obama's budget. In fact, my district of Brooklyn, New York is in Kings County. Kings County, with a poverty rate of 33.3 percent, will see a \$39.9 million cut in Title I funding under this bill.

Today, we Democrats are shining a light on H.R. 5 so that America can see how ugly, dangerous and divisive this bill really is. And just like during the civil rights movement, we won't back down! We won't give up! We will fight until every child in America—Black, Brown, Asian or White—has a fair, equitable, and quality public school education—because Education is a Civil Right.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF JOE VIOLANTE TO OUR GREAT NATION AND HER WARRIORS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on July 31, our Nation's veterans will lose one of their strongest advocates when Joe Violante retires as the National Legislative Director for the Disabled American Veterans at DAV's National Service and Legislative Headquarters here in Washington, DC.

A New Jersey native, Mr. Violante joined the Marine Corps in 1969. He served with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines and Battalion Landing Team 2/4 in Southeast Asia where he was injured. After being discharged in 1972 with the rank of sergeant, Mr. Violante received a bachelor's degree in history and political science from the University of New Mexico, and eventually earned his law degree from San Fernando Valley College of Law, in California. Following private practice in California, Mr. Violante began working as a VA Staff Attorney at the Board of Veterans' Appeals in 1985. But Joe felt he could better-serve veterans by working for an organization that advocates for veterans.

Leaving the VA, Mr. Violante joined DAV's professional staff as Staff Counsel/Judicial Appeals Representative at the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in 1990. Following his time at the Board, Mr. Violante was appointed Legislative Counsel for DAV in 1992 and was later promoted to Deputy National Legislative Director in 1996 and Legislative Director in 1997. In addition to his work at DAV, Mr. Violante has served on numerous boards and committees.

Mr. Violante served as a member of the Board of the National Foundation for Women Legislators from 2001 to 2009 and a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Circuit Bar Association from 2001 to 2004. Additionally, Mr. Violante co-hosted "Veterans' Forum," a local cable television program dedicated to veterans' issues from 1991 to 1994; chaired the Veterans Appeals' Committee and Legislative Committee of the Federal Circuit Bar Association from 1992 to 1996 and 1997 to 2001, respectively; was vice-chair of the American Bar Association Coordinating Committee on Veterans Benefits and Services from 1991 to 1994; and at-large member of the Board of Governors of the Veterans' Law Committee of the Federal Bar Association from 1992 to 1993.

Mr. Speaker, it would be a challenge to find someone who has done more as an advocate for veterans than Mr. Joe Violante. So, in the long-standing tradition of the Navy and Marine Corps, I wish Joe and his family fair winds and following seas. Bravo Zulu Marine.

IN HONOR OF MIKE ROOS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished public service career of our friend, Mr. Mike Roos. I had the great honor of working with Mike as colleagues in the California State Assembly along with several other current and former members of this House. I count myself fortunate to call him a good friend. After many years of public service, Mike is retiring from Mike Roos and Company, the public affairs firm that he founded in 1999, and turning to the next chapter of his life.

The firm that Mike shaped specializes in government relations, corporate issues management, media relations, and ballot measure campaigns. Prior to establishing Mike Roos and Company, Mike served as President and CEO of the Los Angeles Alliance for Restructuring Now, a coalition of business and civic leaders from the Los Angeles Area dedicated to implementing systemic reform and restructuring within the Los Angeles Unified School District. His significant efforts in this capacity have undoubtedly changed countless lives of children in the Los Angeles area for the better.

Mike's distinguished Assembly career began in 1977. He earned the love and respect of both his Democratic and Republican colleagues. His own caucus chose him Majority Floor Leader in his second term, a position he held until his 1987 election as Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore. He had the reputation as a genuine legislator—someone who used the power of lawmaking to make the lives of the People of California better. Perhaps his most well known achievement is the Mello Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 and the Roberti-Roos Weapons Control Act of 1989. Mike authored the finest and strictest laws to date protecting the confidentiality of HIV patients, as well as the law creating the Alternative Test Sites Program, which established centers where individuals could receive free, anonymous testing for the AIDS antibody. He consistently fought for a better education for all, authoring legislation prohibiting sex discrimination in California's educational institutions.

Prior to his election to the State Assembly, Mike served as the Executive Director of the Coro Foundation, a leadership training program for future leaders in public service. Thanks to his substantial experience and insight, he continues to be a valuable consultant to civic and educational organizations, speaking on topics ranging from education reform to the legislative process in California politics.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in thanking Mike for his years of service on behalf of the people of California. I know he looks forward to spending more time with his family in this next chapter of his life, including his four daughters Shelby, Melissa,

• 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.

Catherine, and Caroline. I wish him nothing but success and happiness.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN NEWBY ON HIS PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF MAJOR GENERAL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian C. Newby on his promotion to the rank of Major General, United States Air Force.

I have known Major General Newby for many years and have the honor of calling him my friend. He is a man of integrity and kindness. He is the epitome of what a General should be.

Major General Newby was born in Dayton, Ohio, but attended Western Hills High School in Fort Worth. He was commissioned in 1983 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force ROTC program at Texas Tech University and earned a law degree from the University of Texas Law School in 1986.

For more than 25 years he has been a true National Guardsman, serving his country while also working at senior positions in government and at a top legal firm.

He served as the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of the Texas Air National Guard before being promoted to Brigadier General.

Major General Newby also served as Chief of Staff to former Texas Governor Rick Perry and in that capacity co-chaired the State of Texas' recovery efforts following Hurricane Ike. He also served as the Governor's General Counsel before being appointed to serve as Chief of Staff.

He currently holds an Of Counsel position at Cantey Hanger, LLP of Fort Worth while also maintaining his own legal practice.

Major General Newby has been and continues to be an incredible public servant.

RECOGNIZING PAUL GROMOSIAK FOR HIS SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO THE NIAGARA FALLS COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and honor Mr. Paul Gromosiak for his passionate support of and commitment to the City of Niagara Falls and Niagara Falls State Park. As a tribute to his hard work and dedication, a monument will be placed at Heritage Park commemorating his impact on the community.

As a committed life-long Western New Yorker, Mr. Gromosiak has inspired countless individuals who have come to visit the Niagara Falls State Park. He graduated from Niagara University with a B.S. in Chemistry and went on to receive a permanent certification in mathematics as well as in chemistry and general science from the State University of New York.

Mr. Gromosiak has spent countless hours walking the park and helping visitors learn

more about the nation's oldest park. Moreover, he has authored numerous books about the place that means so much to him. In addition to being a well-respected historian, he is also an engaging teacher and a dedicated leader in the community. He worked as a chemistry teacher in the Niagara Falls School District as well as a chemist for both the Eastman Kodak Company and the Hooker Chemical Company.

Mr. Gromosiak is frequently interviewed by national and local media for his insight on the history and continued progress of Niagara Falls. In 1989, Mr. Gromosiak appeared on the CBS program "America Tonight" for a special segment on the environment surrounding Niagara Falls. He served as a guest columnist for The Buffalo News and The Niagara Gazette. Furthermore, he was consulted in 1993 by Canada's weekly news magazine MacLean's for information on the storied custom of honeymooning in the Falls. In 1997, he was featured in the PBS documentary "Fading in the Mist," speaking about efforts to maintain the natural environment of Niagara Falls. Mr. Gromosiak also contributed to a web page on the history of Niagara Falls.

Mr. Gromosiak has been an avid fighter for the City of Niagara Falls and has championed projects such as the Niagara Experience Center as well as the relocation of the Stone Chimney. His ideas have sparked interest in and made the region's history more accessible to the public, as exemplified by his emphasis on history as an experience.

Family and friends of Mr. Gromosiak can attend the event to unveil the monument in his honor. It takes place on Friday, July 10th at 11pm at Heritage Park on Main and Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize Mr. Paul Gromosiak. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Gromosiak for his vital influence on the City of Niagara Falls, the State Park, and the community. His outstanding impact is derived from a deep understanding of the region's rich history, an innovative vision for its future, and a passion for its success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPE, ISLANDS AND SOUTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Cape, Islands and Southeast Massachusetts Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Established in 1915, this Chapter of the American Red Cross of Massachusetts has served as a lifeline within our community—responding to the needs of residents and visitors alike by providing food, shelter and other disaster assistance in emergencies, teaching life-saving skills, and organizing blood drives. The Cape, Islands, and Southeast Chapter reaches a population of more than 1.2 million people across Barnstable, Bristol, Plymouth, Nantucket and Dukes counties and saves millions more from suffering the harm or loss of a loved one.

The American Red Cross of Massachusetts has served as a pillar for our community

through the world's most trying times and through local and regional challenges. During the First World War, the Red Cross notably sent nurses to treat recovering soldiers and undertook initiatives such as knitting over 90,000 pairs of socks and treating the sick infected with influenza during the height of the epidemic. In 1955 when Hurricanes Edna, Carol and Hazel hit Massachusetts the Chapter provided shelter and food services to over 200 people across Cape Cod. By 1991, the number of people it was able to provide shelter to had increased to 17,000. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks the Chapter's blood drives was inundated with willing volunteers that individuals were asked to return at a later date. Chapter volunteers responded once again when Hurricane Katrina struck the shores of the southern United States by sending volunteers down to the areas hardest hit. And, most recently, when tragedy struck closer to home at the Boston Marathon in 2013, Chapter volunteers were quick to become involved in relief efforts.

Furthermore, this Chapter has a global reach. Volunteers have gone on to serve in the International Red Cross across the globe, from war-torn Afghanistan to impoverished African nations. Chapter volunteers exemplify the Red Cross' mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. I am proud of the work they have done in Southeast Massachusetts and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Cape, Islands and Southeast Massachusetts Chapter of the American Red Cross. I take comfort knowing that this Chapter will remain a vital humanitarian organization in not only the Commonwealth, but across the nation and the world, for generations to come.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, this amendment is critically important. The designation of the Northern Long Eared Bat as threatened has had a significant impact on the Ninth District of Georgia, despite the fact that the only evidence it is there is a geo-tagged dot on a map.

These bats are listed as threatened because White Nose Syndrome has led to a drastic decline in their population. Humans don't cause White Nose Syndrome but they are being penalized for it. There are some counties in my district where the bat has never been seen, but because they're in the bat's "range" they are subject to burdensome restrictions.

A construction project for a new interchange in my home, Hall County, was delayed because of the need to survey for the bat.

What's worse, even if no bats are found during the preconstruction bat survey, Fish and Wildlife Service requires a clearing restriction in construction contracts for prime-building months if certain factors contributing to a quality bat habitat are present. These types of restrictions increase prices and create unnecessary and burdensome delays on important infrastructure projects. Similar restrictions can also negatively affect other sectors such as forestry, ranching, and utilities.

The underlying bill takes important steps to address the problematic requirements associated with the bat's status as a threatened species. This amendment goes the extra step to prevent the current situation from getting even worse by prohibiting the use of funds to list the Northern Long Eared Bat as endangered.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY MATHIASSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Jerry Mathiasen of Council Bluffs. Jerry was recently named the president and CEO of the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF). He had previously served as the interim president and CEO at PCCF before his most recent post. PCCF serves as a community builder within Council Bluffs and the surrounding area by leveraging partnerships and providing grants across the county to improve the lives of its citizens.

As a native of Council Bluffs, Jerry returned home after serving in the administration of Governor Terry Branstad for 14 years. Once home, he gave his time and talents to the Iowa West Foundation for almost 18 years. Jerry has had a long, successful career as a philanthropic leader and has earned the title of President and CEO of PCCF.

I applaud and congratulate Jerry for his recent promotion to President and CEO of PCCF. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress and I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Jerry and wishing him nothing but continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote #417 on House Amendment 64 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING CHANCELLOR WILLIAM
"BRIT" KIRWAN

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator and faithful public servant, Chancellor William "Brit" Kirwan, for his years of faithful dedication to the University System of Maryland. After 46 years as an exemplary advocate of educational excellence, Mr. Kirwan retired last month. I would like to thank him for his passion, dedication, and commitment to the students of Maryland. From his 24 years as a faculty member, to his decade serving as President of the University of Maryland, College Park, and on to his 12 year tenure as Chancellor of the Maryland University System, Chancellor Kirwan has touched and contributed to the lives of countless Marylanders. In addition to his stewardship of Maryland's institutions of higher education, Chancellor Kirwan has also been a national thought leader on a wide range of topics including innovation, academic transformation and higher education's role in economic development. Among others, Chancellor Kirwan has received the Carnegie Corporation Leadership Award, the Tech Council of Maryland's Lifetime Achievement Award in Education, the Regional Visionary Award from the Greater Baltimore Committee, and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce's Public Service Award. His achievements speak for themselves. Chancellor Kirwan's services have been greatly appreciated and his efforts will be sorely missed. I congratulate Chancellor Kirwan on his many accomplishments and wish him all the best in his retirement. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Chancellor William "Brit" Kirwan for his years of leadership and excellence in the education of Maryland's students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed recorded votes #390 through 391. Had I been present,

On Roll Call #390, Motion to Close Portions of the Conference on H.R. 1735—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, I would have voted YES;

On Roll Call #391, Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 91—Veteran's I.D. Card Act, I would have voted YES.

TRIBUTE TO KNAPP PROPERTIES
INC.

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Knapp

Properties, Incorporated of Des Moines, Iowa. Knapp Properties was recently recognized for their outstanding commitment to business ethics by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and presented with a 2015 Integrity Award.

The Better Business Bureau has been developing and administering self-regulation programs for the business community for the past 75 years. The Integrity Awards were established in 1993 to recognize exemplary businesses while promoting the BBB's mission of leadership in advancing marketplace trust.

Knapp Properties has lived up to these goals and strives to treat all of their associates with the same respect and integrity that they would expect in return. This attitude spreads throughout the entire organization from their President, Gary Neugent.

I applaud and congratulate Knapp Properties for earning this prestigious award. I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Knapp Properties Inc. and wishing them nothing but continued success in the future.

IRAN

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of the Chairman and the Members of her subcommittee.

I rise today with grave concerns about this agreement that could very well lead to an increased likelihood of a nuclear Iran.

This outcome is unacceptable and the consequences would have harmful effects on our country and the region.

Simply put, we cannot trust a country that continues to sponsor and sanction terrorism against U.S. interests and actively promotes the destruction of our strongest ally in the Middle East—Israel.

The United States must limit opportunities for Iran to obtain nuclear weapons rather than providing avenues for the spread of such weapons.

A nuclear Iran will be very unlikely to respond to peaceful international intervention. By permitting Iran to obtain nuclear weapons capability—even after 10 years—we will increase the likelihood of future military action in the Middle East.

This will increase the burden on our already strained military and put the brave men and women of our armed forces at risk unnecessarily—while increasing the possibility of further destabilization in multiple countries in the Middle East.

Additionally, by lifting the sanctions on Iran and releasing the money held in accounts held abroad will we be promoting the further funding by Iran of terrorist activities and groups such as Hamas and the Taliban. Strengthening a regime well known for state sponsorship of terrorism goes against all reason.

Further, we can be sure that other countries are looking at this agreement with Iran as a bellwether of permissive activity. If one country in the region is allowed by the United States to obtain a nuclear weapon, surely others will look to follow suit.

It's my belief that Congress should step up the pressure and reject any agreement that

does not meet our nation's strategic objectives. I am deeply concerned that the U.S., once a strong leader on the world stage, is now allowing ourselves to be duped and undercut by a country with an agenda of terror and instability rather than the peace and cooperation that developed nations seek.

I urge my colleagues to reject any agreement that diminishes the standing of the U.S. and does not completely cut off weaponized nuclear capabilities for Iran.

RECOGNIZING RIGIDIZED METALS CORPORATION FOR ITS OUTSTANDING INNOVATION AND ITS PASSION FOR THE BUFFALO COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and honor Rigidized Metals Corporation as it celebrates its 75th Anniversary. Along with the dedicated team of Rigidized Metals, CEO Rick Smith has made significant contributions to metal technology while sustaining strong local ties. Rigidized Metals consistently seeks to improve both its product and the region, focusing on energy and environmental sustainability as well as maintaining the highest quality product.

Since 1940, Rigidized Metals has been fostering collaboration, passion, and achievement both in its field and among its employees. The company continues to attend events such as trade shows to continue its improvement and discuss ways to further reduce cost, energy use, and environmental harm. Rigidized Metals manufactures, textures, and finished metals that are not only made of sixty-percent recycled material but that are also one-hundred-percent recyclable. Moreover, Rigidized Metals has received LEED Credits, which recognizes its leadership in energy and environmental design.

Besides their positive ecological impact, the company strives for durability, strength, and natural beauty in their products. From impact resistant railing overlooking Niagara Falls to scratch-resistant textured metal in the National Hockey League's locker room, Rigidized Metal's products are designed expertly to augment each unique environment, considering factors such as acoustics, shade and reflection. Its Cave of the Winds project in Niagara Falls required a unique curvature, lightweight structure, moisture resistance, and a textured depth. Another local project at the Burchfield Penny Art Center includes light and projector totems along the side of the institute, allowing for a new and public approach to viewing art.

The company does not shy from a challenge and is recognized for its national influence. A research collaboration with the University at Buffalo School of Architecture combines industry and academia to achieve a seemingly impossible vertical metal installation that opens up the field to further metal work opportunities.

Family and friends of the Rigidized Metals team will attend the anniversary celebration to commemorate its achievements and usher in a new era of innovation. It took place on Wednesday, July 8th at 4pm at 658 Ohio

Street, where the newly remodeled transfer station was revealed. The revitalization of the station reflects Rigidized Metals work within the community as it reinvigorates historic landmarks rather than build new facilities. It now features a gallery showroom for products at a key location on Ohio Street, connecting the Inner and Outer Harbors.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize Rigidized Metal Corporation and my good friend Rick Smith on the occasion of the company's 75th Anniversary. Rick is the third generation president. The company was founded by his grandfather, Rick Smith, followed by his father, until Rick took the reins in 2000. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the company for its leadership in quality, architectural design, sustainability, and commitment to community. Its exceptional impact resides in its pioneering technology, longstanding leadership, and passion for future success in Buffalo and beyond.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF
JOSHUA ZARKA

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellent work of Joshua Zarka. Since 2011, Josh has served as the Minister for Congressional Affairs at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C. At the end of July, Josh will conclude his service at the Embassy and return to Israel for a new chapter in his career.

The United States has historically maintained a warm relationship with Israel. This friendship is built by those at the executive level, but nurtured by diplomatic staffs, such as Josh, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to further our countries' shared goals. In his role as a liaison to the United States Congress, Josh has worked with many of my colleagues and me to strengthen this relationship. Josh's energy and commitment to follow up on even the smallest details was evident each and every day.

Joshua Zarka serves as an example of how diplomacy should take place—friends first. His desire to serve Israel and the broader U.S.-Israel relationship is seldom seen and equal. He will be dearly missed, and I wish him well in his studies at the Israel National Defense College.

HONORING TONY J. JARAMILLO,
SR.

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with family and friends in celebrating Tony J. Jaramillo, Sr.'s 87th birthday.

Tony was born July 14, 1928 in Socorro County to Juan and Flora Jaramillo—he was the eldest of eight children. When it came time to start high school, Tony received a scholar-

ship to attend Lourdes High School in Albuquerque with the intent of becoming a priest. Ultimately, Tony decided not to stay at Lourdes and would later graduate from Socorro High School in 1947. Shortly after, in 1948, he married the love of his life, Gloria Jean Bowers and they started a family.

What drives Tony is his passion for politics, his selfless dedication to public service, and his resolve to ensure that the citizens of Socorro are living in a thriving community. He has held many elected offices during his lifetime, beginning with Justice of the Peace from 1966 through 1970; member of the Socorro School Board from 1966 through 1972; member of the Socorro City Council from 1970 through 1978; Mayor of Socorro from 1978 through 1986; and Socorro County Manager from 1986 through 1990. He has also been very involved in the Democratic Party, serving as the Democratic Party Chairman from 1972 to 1988 where he actively engaged the New Mexico Legislature.

As a businessman, Tony has been very successful. A licensed Real Estate Broker, he owned and operated a Property and Casualty Agency for many years and was the owner of La Fiesta Bakery and the Mountain Mail Newspaper. Many in Socorro remember his time as the manager of the local Loma Theater, a position he held for over 20 years. And, when he served as mayor, he made economic development a priority and brought the Industrial Park and new businesses to the city.

He and his wife, Gloria, raised eight children and they have many grandchildren and great grandchildren. I would like to extend a "Happy Birthday" to Tony J. Jaramillo, Sr., and thank him for his dedicated public service and for his efforts to create a vibrant community for the citizens of Socorro.

SPEECH OF MARYAM RAJAVI, THE
ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RESISTANCE
OF IRAN (NCR) IN 2015
PARIS GRAND GATHERING OF
THE IRANIAN RESISTANCE—13
JUNE 2015

HON. ROBERT PITTENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following speech by Maryam Rajavi, the elected President of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NRC).

In the name of God, In the name of Iran, In the name of Freedom, In the name of 120,000 shining stars, the blazing flames of honor and dignity who defied the religious tyranny, and In the name of all the unsung heroes and heroines who made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could live free; so that in the darkest hour of her history, Iran shines with stars, stands proud and cries out: "Down with the velayat-e faqih regime!"

VOICE AND MESSAGE OF IRAN'S GENUINE
OWNERS

Elected representatives of nations around the globe, Honorable dignitaries, My fellow compatriots, here and all over Iran: I sincerely extend my gratitude to you all for joining this gathering. We have come here to convey to the world the voice and message of Iran's rightful owners, the Iranian people.

Amid an unrelenting uproar over the Iranian regime's ominous nuclear program and three inhuman wars in the region, we have come to say that those who are speaking on behalf of Iran are in fact the enemies of Iran and all Iranians. The people of Iran neither want nuclear weapons, nor meddling in Iraq, Syria or Yemen, nor despotism, torture and shackles. The people of Iran are the tens of millions of enraged teachers, students, nurses and workers who demand freedom, democracy, jobs and livelihood.

They say: First, the velayat-e faqih regime has reached the end of the line. Second, the only way to end the violations of human rights in Iran, the nuclear impasse, the crises in the region, and the confrontation with ISIS and terrorism, is to topple the Caliph of regression and terrorism in Iran.

MAJOR CHANGE, A COMMON DEMAND

Look at Iran as it has risen up today. It is inflamed and seething despite nearly 1,800 executions during Hassan Rouhani's tenure: The uprising in Mahabad and the protests in Sanandaj, Sardasht, Saqqez and Marivan, reflect the courage and upheaval of Iranian Kurds in the face of crime and injustice. Successive demonstrations by teachers all across our nation echo the cries of those who have been ignored and have now risen up for the right to life and right to freedom; The daily strikes and sit-ins by workers resonate the outcries of starving families nationwide; Dozens of armed clashes involving young Baluchis, Kurds and Arabs reflect the fury of an enchained nation which has been denied of any means to protest; Hundreds of hunger strikes and protests by political prisoners, embody the perseverance of a nation that has defeated the mullahs even in torture chambers; The sit-ins of the mothers of death-row prisoners, the protests of Gonabadi and Ahl-e Haq dervishes, and the suffering of impoverished street vendors are the rumblings of a mountain about to erupt. Look at today's Iran. Do you see any Iranian not discontented or not wanting change?

The 15 million deprived and destitute citizens languishing in shanty towns in the suburbs, the 10 to 15 million young people who cannot find jobs and the millions of families feeling the heavy burden of high prices, all of them, feel the same pain and demand major change. So, I am speaking to you, my beloved countrymen and women across the nation. Your resistance, your struggle and your solidarity are stronger than any other force. Stand up to the ruling regime and create 1,000 Ashrafs, meaning 1,000 bastions of rebellion in Iran. Major uprisings will arise out of your protests. And the army of rebellion and liberation will be the harbinger of Iran's freedom for the world.

A DEFEATED NUCLEAR STRATEGY

Ladies and gentlemen: The nuclear program that projected the power of the velayat-e faqih regime for the past quarter century is now a source of the mullahs' weakness and impasse. Why did Khamenei acquiesce to the Geneva Accord, despite being only two to three months away from nuclear weapons capability? The answer is simple: Because he feared another eruption of uprisings; because his nuclear strategy has run aground; and because in the words of his foreign minister, the regime's strategic capacity has been eroded. This explains why the Geneva Accord destabilized the regime and the Lausanne Agreement destabilized it even further. Unlike Khomeini, who drank from the chalice of poison of ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war in 1988, Khamenei could not agree to a comprehensive deal with the P5+1. He says, "I neither agree nor disagree." This means that his regime is at an impasse. The same situation prevails as pertains to the final, comprehensive agreement. Whether or

not Khamenei agrees to it, the regime cannot escape the prospects of being overthrown.

WRAPPING UP THE BOMB-MAKING STRUCTURE

Unfortunately, western governments, the United States in particular, violated UN Security Council resolutions and offered major concessions, propelling the regime closer to the Bomb. I should therefore remind western governments that the Iranian people and Resistance will not accept any agreement that does not dismantle the regime's bomb-making infrastructure. UN Security Council resolutions must be implemented fully. Uranium enrichment must be halted completely. All suspect sites, military or otherwise must be inspected. And the regime must provide answers to the military dimensions of its nuclear project and make its nuclear experts available for IAEA questioning.

P5+1 Leaders: If you do not want a nuclear-armed fundamentalist regime, stop appeasing it. Do not bargain over the human rights of the Iranian people and recognize their organized Resistance which is striving for freedom. You are gravely mistaken in thinking that there is no solution. There is a solution for ending the mullahs' nuclear weapons program: regime change by the Iranian people and Resistance. As the Iranian Resistance's Leader Massoud Rajavi has declared, "Resistance against this regime is our duty and our inalienable right. We have been and will be at war with this regime. With or without enrichment, with and without nuclear weapons, and under any circumstances, the struggle for freedom is the inalienable right of the Iranian people."

FAILURES AND FLAWS OF VALI-E FAQIH

Ladies and gentlemen: The regime's critical situation can be seen in Khamenei's failures and in the erosion of his standing. Khamenei has failed to unify the ruling clique. His acquiescence to Rouhani's presidency reflects this failure. This failure, however, was initially neither because of international sanctions nor due to the economic crisis. The most important reason was the Resistance and the Iranian people's uprisings. Today, the regime's Supreme Leader and its President have faced off, bashing one another on a daily basis. The power struggle is reaching the final phase. Rafsanjani has openly called for dividing the power and authority of the Supreme Leader. For the first time, a rival faction has taken shape against Khamenei. The pro-Khamenei faction has significantly split and disintegrated. In other words, the body whose task is to preserve the regime in times of tension and turmoil is itself crumbling. Indeed, the ruling theocracy has rotted at its core. All signs point to the end of this decadent regime.

MULLAHS TRAPPED IN THREE WARS

Ladies and gentlemen: Today, the clerical regime has fallen into the trap of three regional wars, in which it can neither advance nor retreat. The bubble-like expansion of the ruling theocracy has put it in a perilous predicament. In Syria, what the mullahs built is teetering because it was erected on quicksand. Although the clerical regime has spent billions of dollars annually to prop up Bashar Assad, today the Syrian dictator is gasping for air. I hope that on victory day, Khamenei joins Assad before the International Criminal Court for the slaughter of 300,000 Syrian men, women and children. In Iraq, the clerical regime has lost its puppet government of Nouri al-Maliki. This is the beginning of the regime's demise not only in Iraq but also throughout the region. Although the regime continues to commit genocide against the Sunnis by the Quds Force that meddles in Iraq under the pretext

of fighting the ISIS, these efforts will prove futile and will not restore the regime's losses. And in Yemen, Khamenei sought to take over the country to gain the upper hand during the nuclear talks and amid the regional crisis. It, however, turned the largest regional coalition against Tehran. When Bashar Assad is toppled or when the regime's forces are defeated in Iraq or in Yemen, the regime's entire front in the Middle East will collapse. This regime lacks the capability to advance in these three wars. On the other hand, if it retreats, it will implode. Such an impasse thus attests to the certainty of the overthrow of the velayat-e faqih regime.

NECESSARY EVICTION FROM THE ENTIRE REGION

Today, western and Arab world's policy makers stress that ISIS and Bashar Assad are the two sides of the same coin. I add that the Caliph in Tehran is the godfather of both of them. The fact is that ISIS emerged out of the atrocities perpetrated by Bashar Assad and Maliki committed on orders from the clerical regime. I therefore call upon western governments to refrain from taking sides with the Tehran regime. In Iraq, do not collaborate with the regime's Revolutionary Guards Corps and the so-called Shiite militias who are a hundred times more dangerous than the other henchmen. The solution in Iraq is to evict the mullahs' regime forces, to empower Sunni power-sharing, and to arm the Sunni tribes. The solution in Syria is to evict the Iranian regime's forces and to support the people of Syria in overthrowing Assad's dictatorship. The solution in Yemen is to stand up to Tehran, as the Arab coalition has already done. This must be pursued until the regime is uprooted all across the region. Indeed, the solution is to evict the Iranian regime from the entire region and to topple the Caliph of regression and terrorism Iran.

AN ORGANIZED MOVEMENT

Ladies and gentlemen: When social conditions are ripe for change, there is no element more vital than the existence of an organized movement. This explains why the mullahs fear and attempt to destroy the People's Mojahedin (PMOI/MEK) and the National Council of Resistance of Iran. The mullahs have always considered the PMOI's presence in Iraq as an existential threat because they are the vanguard force in the fight against religious fascism. The PMOI and the NCRI hoisted the banner of peace in diametric opposition to Khomeini's persistence on prolonging the Iran-Iraq war. The PMOI formed the National Liberation Army. The PMOI and the NCR foiled the nefarious conspiracies of the Iranian regime and its appeasers, and nullified the unjust terrorist label by winning in more than 20 courts in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere in Europe. The PMOI and the National Council of Resistance discredited and terminated the 15-year-long case opened by the French Judiciary. They upheld the Iranian people's right to regime change.

TERMINATION OF PRISON CONDITIONS AND BLOCKADE OF CAMP LIBERTY

Dear friends: Over the past three decades, the mullahs have endeavored to annihilate this movement more than anything else. Their efforts include thousands of conspiracies and churning out allegations particularly against the Resistance Leader Massoud Rajavi. They have also fired 1,000 missiles at PMOI and National Liberation Army bases in 2000. We all recall that in an attempt to crack down on the June 2009 uprisings, the regime first attacked Camp Ashraf. Similarly, the morning after his defeat during the Presidential elections in 2013, Khamenei ordered a rocket attack on Camp Liberty. And two years ago, when he decided to sign the

nuclear accord, he ordered that Ashraf residents be massacred. The mullahs' real aim is to annihilate the residents of Liberty or secure their surrender to the regime. This explains why the regime is hindering their relocation out of Iraq. On the other hand, by repeatedly violating international treaties and reneging on their written obligations toward the Ashrafis, the U.S. and the UN have in practice sided with the religious fascism ruling Iran. I once again call on the U.S. and the UN to take urgent action to protect the Camp Liberty residents and put an end to the medical and logistical siege of the camp and its prison-like conditions. If the United States does not guarantee that the PMOI is protected against attacks by the terrorist Quds Force, it must, at least, return part of its member's personal arms for self-defense and protection purposes.

HOPE AND CAUSE

Dear friends: Change in Iran is within reach because not only has the regime rotted to the core, but Iranian society is also ready for change and path to that change has already been paved. This path has been opened and led by Massoud Rajavi and this is his great mandate. When he left the Shah's prison, Massoud asked: "How could anyone shackle and enchain a nation forever?" In pursuit of the ideal of freedom, Massoud Rajavi created a movement that has propelled Iran towards freedom. Yes, the national uprising of June 20, 1981, the National Council of Resistance and the National Liberation Army, Ashraf City and Camp Liberty, are all cornerstones that he shaped and inspired in order to take freedom in Iran. The late Ayatollah Taleqani said that interrogators at Evin Prison feared Massoud Rajavi's name. Now, the ruling mullahs and their cohorts also fear both his name and his words because he has turned the forbidden word of "toppling the regime" into a major movement that has driven the religious fascism into an impasse. He has taught the vanguard generation of Iran that in the struggle against the velayat-e faqih's barbarism, the only gem blessed with an eternal spirit is one's commitment to an ideal, having faith, maintaining hope, being truthful, and making sacrifices. The PMOI, which just this year will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary, has advanced a struggle for a cause and ideal, without focusing on what they will themselves gain from it. Having an ideal means standing as resolute as a mountain, yet flowing as freely as a river, and gripping ever so tightly the banner of liberty despite all the storms and calamities. It means shedding all fears of both the length of the struggle and the enormous price it demands. This is the path that guides the ship of freedom toward the shores of salvation.

From the PMOI founder Mohammad Hanifnejad and his associates to young people who join our ranks every day, from the men who believe in the ideal of equality to the 1,000 vanguard women who form the PMOI's Central Council, they all have one thing in common. They have chosen the tradition of sacrificing themselves without expecting any reciprocity. They adhere to a tradition that has guided the actions of vanguards and pioneers of freedom since the beginnings of time; the tradition of embracing a fiery commitment and remaining faithful to the idea that this world is defined by change and not by destiny. Our Constitution is freedom, democracy and equality. With this ideal and this faith, we are determined to build a free and democratic society. A century ago, the Mojahedin of the Constitutional Movement sought to realize "justice, freedom, equality and unity." Afterwards, the great nationalist leader of Iran, Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq, rose up and said, "The

aim is to ensure that people participate in every aspect of affairs, whether good or bad, and take over the affairs of the nation." Subsequently, the Fedayeen and the PMOI and other vanguard militants opened the path to overthrowing the Shah's dictatorship. And now, our Resistance—with a galaxy of fallen heroes and heroines from Ashraf Rajavi and Moussa Khiabani to Sedigheh Mojaveri and Neda Hassani to Zohreh Ghaemi and Giti Givechian—has arisen to ensure freedom of choice for each and every one of our fellow Iranians. We have rejected the ruling tyrannical regime. We have rejected forcible and misogynous religion. And we have rejected the Constitution of the velayat-e faqih. Our Constitution is freedom, democracy and equality. Our Constitution has not been drafted by the Assembly of Experts, a collection of criminals. It has been engraved in the hearts of each and every Iranian. And it will be drafted by elected representatives of the Iranian people in a Constituent Assembly. This Constitution is founded on a free, tolerant and advanced republic. It is founded on pluralism, separation of religion and state, women's equality and their active and equal participation in political leadership. We believe in equal rights for all ethnic and religious minorities and a society devoid of torture and executions. My fellow compatriots, who have gathered here, and my dear compatriots who are hearing me right now all across Iran, are you ready to expand the campaign for Iran's liberation and overthrow the velayat-e faqih regime? Indeed, to carry out this great responsibility, which will herald a glorious future, we pledge before Iran's history and nation that we are ready, ready, ready. Indeed, with the hope and faith in freedom, we have gone through half a century of struggle against two dictatorships. And we will continue with ever-greater hope and determination until freedom and democracy reign supreme in Iran. Yes, we can break the chains; And flow to the sea like a river; With a radiant cause, we can; Destroy the darkness of injustice; We can and we must sing in unison; In every breath, of Iran's freedom; No doubt, the future belongs to you; Hundreds of hails to you and your struggle.

May victory be yours!

TRIBUTE TO CHERYL BEAVER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to congratulate Cheryl Beaver of Clarinda, Iowa for being selected as the Educator of the Year by the Iowa Family and Consumer Sciences Educator Association. After attending Iowa State University, Cheryl worked for the Clarinda Community School District, where she has taught high school in Family Consumer Science (FCS) for the past 34 years. In addition to her teaching career, Cheryl has further invested in her students with her leadership of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) at the Clarinda High School and Clarinda Middle School.

Cheryl takes great pride in teaching life skills and promoting family life in her schools and community. She teaches valuable life skills in consumer resource management, family living, food and nutrition, culinary arts, interior design, human development, child development, and textiles and clothing. She has

earned the respect and admiration of students by giving them the opportunities for personal growth, expanding their leadership potential and developing indispensable skills to serve their families, communities, and workplaces. Cheryl teaches with energy and integrity. She treats all of her students equally and cares for their personal growth. Cheryl is a positive role model and has dedicated her life to improving her students' lives both in and outside of the classroom.

I commend Cheryl's leadership and her caring style because it will leave a lasting impact on many of her students. Cheryl is an Iowan who is making a great difference in the lives of her students and for that we are deeply proud. She has dedicated her life to helping and serving others and so it is with great honor that I recognize her today. I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring her accomplishments. I thank her for her service and wish her and her family all the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING DAYTON RASMUSSEN, SAM ROSSINI, AND GARRETT WAITE OF THE WATERLOO BLACK HAWKS

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge three players on the Waterloo Black Hawks, a United States Hockey League (USHL) team from my district, as they prepare to represent the United States in a prestigious international hockey tournament.

Goalie Dayton Rasmussen, defenseman Sam Rossini, and forward Garrett Waite were chosen to participate on the national team for the Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup Tournament in the Czech Republic and Slovakia this August. The tournament, hosted by the Czech Ice Hockey Association and Slovak Ice Hockey Federation, serves as the premier hockey tournament for under-18 teams.

As the co-chair of the Congressional Slovak Caucus and a member of the Congressional Czech Caucus, I look forward to this international display of athletics in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. I am excited to watch these three Waterloo Black Hawks represent their country and hope they do so with the utmost dignity and class that reflects my constituents in Iowa. This type of international cultural exchange with our friends in Eastern Europe demonstrates the universal appeal of sportsmanship, competition, and international diplomacy that athletics can provide.

Congratulations to Dayton, Sam, and Garrett on their selection to the United States under-18 team and I wish them the best of luck in the tournament.

MR. MARK MOELLER—
EMBODIMENT OF SERVICE

HON. JOHN RATCLIFFE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the recognition of an outstanding public servant,

leader, and family man, Rockwall Police Chief Mark Moeller. Chief Moeller plans to retire on July 17th after 38 years in law enforcement, the past 13 years serving as chief. He began his career with the Dallas Police Department in 1977, where he worked in several divisions and held a variety of positions including detective, sergeant, and lieutenant. In 2002, he was appointed Chief of the Rockwall Police Department, where he brought his broad base of experience and wisdom to lead the Department through unprecedented growth and change. During that time, he tirelessly served the citizens of Rockwall and the surrounding area with the highest level of professionalism and integrity, and his community is forever grateful for his dedication.

When Chief Moeller began his tenure in Rockwall, the city had a population of 20,000 and 42 sworn officers. The city now supports 43,000 residents and has almost doubled the number of sworn officers to 79. Included among Chief Moeller's many accomplishments in Rockwall, he established a fully trained SWAT team and a police volunteer program, Citizens on Patrol. A career highlight was twice earning recognition from the Texas Police Chiefs Association, which requires meeting 166 standards.

Mark earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration and a Master of Science in Human Relations and Business, and he is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. In retirement, he plans to travel with his wife of almost 36 years, Debbie, volunteer more with the First United Methodist Church, Helping Hands, and Habitat for Humanity. He and Debbie also plan to spend time with their two married children, Matt and Kimberly, and their four wonderful grandchildren. Chief Mark Moeller leaves behind a distinguished legacy, and the influence of his steadfast and progressive leadership will be felt for many years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Mark Moeller, and wishing him all the best in this next chapter of life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, during the roll call votes on Wednesday, July 8, 2015, I recorded an incorrect vote on an amendment that was offered to the Student Success Act.

On roll call number 410 to the Student Success Act, I intended to vote YES.

TRIBUTE TO RANDY CHAPMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Randy Chapman of Sidney, Iowa, on his recent retirement as a Deputy with the Fremont County Sheriff's Department. For more than 20 years, Randy has served in law enforcement in Fremont County. Randy started his career as the Sidney Police Chief before join-

ing the Fremont County Sheriff's Department in 1994. He said helping people was the reason for becoming an officer and a deputy.

Randy said, "I got to take care of many issues and in the process I was able to help many county residents." He has seen many changes in the methods and procedures of being an effective law enforcement officer. Randy reflected, "being a native of the Sidney area has helped me perform my duties. People knew I was fair and that I did not play favorites. It has been a rewarding career."

Randy Chapman made a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I know that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service to Fremont County, Iowa, and wish him and his family all the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT GENE LAWSON

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert Gene Lawson, a renowned professor who greatly contributed to law reform efforts and education in Kentucky. He retired on July 1 after 50 years of teaching at the University of Kentucky, College of Law. He advanced the lives of countless students through education and public service. A few of his students include U.S. Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL, Governor Steve Beshear, U.S. Representative ANDY BARR, and most of the Kentucky Supreme Court. He was also one of my favorite professors, and I have a great deal of respect and admiration for him.

Professor Lawson was born in 1938 in a small coal mining community in West Virginia. His father, a coal miner, urged him to escape the coal camp through education, and Professor Lawson worked his way through tuition-free Berea College and then went on to receive a law degree from the University of Kentucky in 1963. He practiced law for two years and then accepted an invitation to teach at his alma mater in 1965. He served as the Dean of the College of Law from 1971–1973 and again from 1982–1988. Professor Lawson is a Member of the University of Kentucky, College of Law Hall of Fame, and University of Kentucky Hall of Distinguished Alumni.

In addition to his impressive teaching history, Professor Lawson has many other significant accomplishments that contributed to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He was the principal drafter of Kentucky's Penal Code, and its rules of Courtroom Evidence, and led investigation into the Beverly Hills Supper Club fire in 1977 that killed 165 people in Northern Kentucky. Bob Lawson has tirelessly worked with the General Assembly to ensure that state jails and prisons are housing criminals and not people, such as the mentally ill and the addicted, who can be rehabilitated into productive members of society. Professor Lawson has written an important paper on criminal and evidence law, books that now occupy the shelves of law libraries and judicial chambers.

The University of Kentucky and the entire Commonwealth have surely benefitted from

Professor Lawson's time and service. His legacy will carry on as his students continue to serve in the legal profession and public service, and I personally thank him for his years of honorable dedication and tutelage.

THE CLAIMS LICENSING ADVANCEMENT FOR INTERSTATE MATTERS ACT (CLAIM ACT)

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Claims Licensing Advancement for Interstate Matters Act, known as the CLAIM Act to help consumers save millions of dollars in insurance costs and create more jobs.

Under current law, independent claims adjusters face a hodgepodge of inconsistent state regulations that only serve to delay the prompt adjustment of claims for natural disasters, accident victims, and other tragedies in life. Independent claims adjusters must take a license examination in each state in which they work. This requires adjusters to take time off from their job and travel to each state in which they seek a license. This is a costly burden on the claims adjusters, the companies that employ them, and ultimately, the consumer. Sadly, it is the consumer who currently pays for these costs in higher premiums.

Today, it is my pleasure to introduce a bill that would end this costly burden. The CLAIM Act would lead to a process that would provide independent claims adjusters licensing reciprocity so their home-state license is valid in any other state.

This legislation builds upon the success Congress has already had in encouraging states to coordinate licensing for agents and brokers, and appropriately expands that precedent to claims adjusters, who face many of the same licensing issues.

To be clear, the CLAIM Act does not create a new federal law and does not "federalize" the insurance industry. The CLAIM Act respects states' rights to continue to regulate insurance. The CLAIM Act would make sure that each state keeps its independence to adopt rules as they see fit and recognizes that state insurance regulators are best situated to address insurance licensing standards.

The goal of this bill is to streamline the claims adjustment process so that individual claims adjusters can respond in the fastest possible and most cost-effective manner possible. I look forward to further discussing the issues of uniformity and reciprocity and the CLAIM Act as we move forward in the Committee process.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,929,875,352.39. We've added \$7,525,052,826,439.31 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO PELLA CORPORATION

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Pella Corporation of Pella, Iowa. Pella Corporation has reached an important milestone this year and I join them in celebrating their 90th anniversary of providing window services to America.

Since its founding on February 6, 1925, Pella Corporation has strived to provide innovative products to meet the needs of their customers and has been determined to maintain excellence through even the toughest of times. They kept their doors open during the Great Depression, both World Wars, and the 2007–2009 recession. Even during these trying times, they have continued to care for their hardworking employees and the communities where their manufacturing facilities are located. They continue to strive for excellence in everything they do and provide a beacon of leadership not only in Pella, but in the entire state of Iowa.

It is with great honor that I recognize Pella Corporation and its hard working employees today for their hard work and perseverance. I also invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Pella Corporation on their 90th anniversary. I wish them nothing but continued success for another 90 years.

TRIBUTE TO THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE MASONS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons as they celebrate their 151 years of service.

The Scottish Rite Masons is a national organization of individuals that strive to enrich the lives of their members and enhance the communities in which they live. The Scottish Rites' first Supreme Council was founded in Charleston, South Carolina in 1801, and a second Supreme Council was created in New York in 1806.

The Scottish Rite Masons' mission proclaims that they "emulate the principles of brotherly love, tolerance, charity and truth while actively embracing high social, moral and spiritual values including fellowship, compassion, and dedication to God, family and country."

They also produce a strategic plan that displays five objectives, including offering Masonic knowledge, establishing a public relations department, supporting philanthropic ac-

tivities, providing a framework for effective leadership and providing financial stability for a long-term success of the Fraternity.

The Scottish Rite Masons have been instrumental in assisting youth in their academic pursuits and have made generous contributions to the American Heart Association, American Cancer Foundation, YMCA, NAACP and a myriad of other non-profit entities.

Mr. Speaker, The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons have improved the lives of many and continue to make outstanding and a wide-range of contributions to our society. I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating them on this celebration.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL GASTROPARESIS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Americans affected by gastroparesis, also known as delayed gastric emptying, in observance of National Gastroparesis Awareness Month in August.

Gastroparesis is a chronic medical condition where the stomach cannot empty properly in the absence of any observable blockage. Factors causing gastroparesis may include longstanding diabetes, complications from surgeries, or other illnesses, such as MS and Parkinson's disease.

Gastroparesis is relatively common, affecting an estimated 5 million Americans including thousands in my district in Milwaukee. While it can strike anyone at any age, gastroparesis is four times more likely to affect women than men.

Gastroparesis can be debilitating and sometimes life threatening. Symptoms (including nausea or vomiting, stomach fullness, inability to finish a meal, and others) usually occur during and after eating a normal sized meal and can result in problems, such as severe dehydration, difficulty managing blood glucose levels, obstruction, and malnutrition.

There is no cure for gastroparesis. Treatments like dietary measures, medications, procedures to maintain nutrition, and surgery can only reduce symptoms and related problems with the hope of maintaining quality of life.

Studies reveal a growing incidence of gastroparesis, as well as increasing rates of related hospitalizations and emergency room visits. However, as gastroparesis is a poorly understood condition, delayed diagnosis, treatment, and management of the condition are frequent challenges faced by this patient population.

Gastroparesis creates a significant burden on individuals and families. It also places a burden of direct and indirect costs on the community, economy, and U.S. healthcare system.

I applaud the efforts of nonprofit groups like the International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders (IFFGD) from Milwaukee, as well as other patient organizations, to provide education and support that will help those affected by gastroparesis.

I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing August as National Gastroparesis Awareness Month in an effort to improve our

understanding and awareness of this condition, as well as support increased research for effective treatments of people affected by gastroparesis.

IN MEMORY OF GERALDINE SIMMONS RUTLEDGE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Mrs. Geraldine Rutledge. Known affectionately as "Gerri" to her friends and family, she was born on April 8, 1945, and passed peacefully on Thursday, July 2, 2015 at her home surrounded by her family and friends.

Mrs. Rutledge received her formal education in the Ecorse Public School system in Ecorse, Michigan. She continued her higher education at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, where she earned an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education. She later received a graduate degree from Eastern Michigan University. Her teaching career spanned more than thirty years in the Willow Run Community Schools, and she retired in 2000 from Henry Ford Elementary School. During her tenure, she was an active member of the Michigan Education Association, served two consecutive terms as President of the local union, and touched the lives of countless children.

On Christmas Eve, 1967, she married her college sweetheart, State Representative David Rutledge, a dear friend of mine. They are the loving parents of Felicia and Marcus and together, they supported each other's endeavors in business and public service.

As an active member of the community, Mrs. Rutledge was a faithful member of the Second Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. She continually worked to strengthen her relationship with God through biblical studies and church attendance. She was also an active member of the Red Hat Society, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the life and memory of Mrs. Geraldine Rutledge. She lived a life worthy of recognition. As she makes her way to her heavenly home, may her family and friends take comfort in the memory of the love she shared and the contributions she made to her community.

TRIBUTE TO CHILDREN'S CANCER CONNECTION

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Children's Cancer Connection of Des Moines, Iowa. Children's Cancer Connection was recently recognized for their outstanding commitment to business ethics by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and presented with a 2015 Integrity Award.

The Better Business Bureau has been developing and administering self-regulation programs for the business community for the past

75 years. The Integrity Awards were established in 1993 to recognize exemplary businesses while promoting the BBB's mission of leadership in advancing marketplace trust.

Children's Cancer Connection has lived up to these goals and provided excellent service since 1988 to children battling childhood cancer. They offer their service at little or no cost to the families dealing with this devastating disease and do not turn away patients because of their finances.

I applaud and congratulate Children's Cancer Connection for earning this prestigious award and for their dedicated service to our community. I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Children's Cancer Connection and wishing them nothing but continued success in their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF CHANCELLOR WILLIAM
ENGLISH "BRIT" KIRWAN

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brit Kirwan, Chancellor of the University System of Maryland on his recent retirement. Dr. Kirwan has been a strong and inspirational leader of the university system in our great state, and we are sad to see him go.

Dr. Kirwan first left his mark on the University of Maryland when he served as an educator and instructor at our flagship campus in College Park for 25 years. When he left Maryland in 2002 to become President of the Ohio State University, he did so after having risen from an assistant professor in the mathematics department to department chair, provost, and eventually university president.

When Dr. Kirwan returned to Maryland in 2002, to become chancellor of the University System of Maryland he quickly set to work, helping to shift the focus of the system and create innovative ways to support student development. To do so he often used technology and the unique resources of the state of Maryland and national capital region to do so. Since Dr. Kirwan became chancellor, enrollment has risen 24 percent and the number of students receiving bachelor's degrees has also grown significantly, by 36 percent.

When he retired on June 30, completing a proud career of public service, Dr. Kirwan had led significant improvements to our university system that will benefit both students and faculty for decades to come. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Dr. Kirwan for his dedicated service to our students and congratulate him on an impressive career. The entire Maryland congressional delegation is proud to have worked alongside him and we wish him well in his hard earned retirement.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
VIVIAN E. JONES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with great sadness as I announce the passing of my longtime District Administrator, Vivian E. Jones. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable woman who, over her 45 years of service to me and this body, etched her name in the walls of Congress as one of its longest serving staff members.

Vivian's death on July 2, 2015, brought immense sorrow and loss to me, my staff, and to the countless constituents that counted on her assistance. The many who met and were touched by Vivian and her life's work can attest that she was equal parts strong mind and ample heart, a humble soul who cared deeply about the issues of the day and their impact on everyday people. And yet she was able to influence public decision making, develop activities of enormous impact and provide motivation, inspiration, and consolation to the younger members of my staff.

Vivian Jones goes back to my days at law firm Weaver, Evans, Wingate & Wright. She was my administrative assistant when I first practiced law. Vivian became a part of my campaign staff in March of 1970, when I, then a young New York State Assemblyman, challenged the legendary Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. for the Congressional Seat.

Upon election to the Congress, she joined the Congressional Staff as my Executive Secretary. As a freshman Congressman, I was the beneficiary of Vivian's previous experience with secretarial and paralegal work. She immediately became responsible for my schedule and constituent services in the district office, which was all done without computers in those early days of my career in the House.

In 1975, Vivian succeeded Virginia Bell as the District Administrator (District Director). In her new role, Vivian's responsibilities expanded to the role of a Chief of Staff in the District. She managed the local district offices, directed work activities, supervised staff, and oversaw and coordinated activities in the different communities of the Congressional District. As a woman in this role in the 1970's and proceeding decades, she was quite an effective leader and powerful force in pushing my agenda forward in the district. She continued this role until January 1999, when Vivian relinquished her role, reducing her work load, and began working part-time.

Although only part-time, a loyal colleague, Vivian Jones, continued to coordinate my schedule in conjunction with the scheduler in Washington, DC. She handled all personnel matters pertaining to district staff, and prepared correspondences of varying complexity for my signature. Vivian continued to arrive at the office in the wee hours of the morning on her assigned days. As always, she remained committed to offering a sympathetic ear or to jump start a slow or reluctant bureaucracy for a constituent.

For over 50 years, Vivian's dynamic spirit and sense of purpose served me and all of her past colleagues as a motivation and driv-

ing force. She provided the people of the Congressional District incredible assistance over her many years of service to Congress and was a devoted friend to her colleagues and agency staff.

A simple speech from the floor of this sumptuous body will never ease the pain of losing such a precious soul. I can only hope that all of those whose lives were touched by her can take solace in knowing that all of her hard work, guidance, and care throughout the years exceeded all measures of selflessness and devotion to our country. As I stand here with my heart filled with grief, I honor her, not only for her courage, loyalty, faithfulness, and generosity, but also for her simply being a true embodiment of the vision and determination of women that have strengthened and transformed America. No one can ever replace such a precious human being. She is survived by her brother Neil Jones and her niece Joyce Rodriguez.

Mr. Speaker, rather than mourn her passing, I would hope that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of our beloved Vivian Jones by remembering that she exemplified greatness in every way. She was, in life, a shining example of all the best in our land. There is no doubt that she will always be remembered for her extraordinary commitment, energy, wisdom, principle, and clear purpose which won the admiration of all those who were privileged to come to know her. As stated in Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." In rest, may she find the peace we all seek.

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE
FLAG

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, each day, as we begin our work in Congress, we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, a flag that preserves our republic's promise of liberty and justice for all.

This is not the message of the Confederate battle flag. We all know this flag represents hate, intolerance, and bigotry. Like the Nazi flag, the Confederate flag must be retired to history books and museums. It has no place in the public square.

Unconscionably, House Republicans are defending the Confederate flag by blocking Democratic efforts to remove this rebel flag from the U.S. Capitol grounds. This comes just hours after House Republicans offered an amendment to undo Democratic amendments that bar the display of the Confederate flag in federal cemeteries, and bar the National Park Service from doing business with gift shops selling Confederate flag merchandise.

It is a cold, cruel irony that just as South Carolina votes to finally remove the Confederate flag at their statehouse, House Republicans now seek to protect this symbol of hate at the federal level.

Let us remove the Confederate flag from the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. Doing so will honor our country and show respect for the flag of the United States of America, which is the symbol of freedom, justice, and democracy for all.

TRIBUTE TO MIDWEST
CONSTRUCTION & SUPPLY INC.

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Midwest Construction & Supply Incorporated of Grimes, Iowa. Midwest Construction & Supply was recently recognized for their outstanding commitment to business ethics by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and presented with a 2015 Integrity Award.

The Better Business Bureau has been developing and administering self-regulation programs for the business community for the past 75 years. The Integrity Awards were established in 1993 to recognize exemplary businesses while promoting the BBB's mission of leadership in advancing marketplace trust.

Midwest Construction & Supply has lived up to these goals and provided excellent service and customer satisfaction for 57 years and over three generations. This attitude spreads throughout the entire organization from their President, Kalliope Eaton.

I applaud and congratulate Midwest Construction & Supply Inc. for earning this prestigious award. I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Midwest Construction & Supply Inc. and wishing them nothing but continued success in the future.

HONORING COLONEL PETER
AHERN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MARTHA MCSALLY

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Peter Ahern on his many years of service to our country, and to wish him well on his upcoming retirement.

Colonel Ahern received his Bachelor's Degree from St. Ambrose University and was commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Course program in May of 1986. In 2007, he received a Masters of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the National War College.

Colonel Ahern served 29 years in the Marine Corps. His assignments included, but were not limited to, serving as Company Commander, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, MCRD San Diego; Battery Commander, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division; Future Operations Division (J35) United States Africa Command, Stuttgart, Germany; Commanding Officer Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF), II Marine Expeditionary Force; and culminating as Director, Strategic Initiatives Group (SIG), Headquarters Marine Corps.

Colonel Ahern participated in combat operations in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait (Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm), Iraq (Operation

Iraqi Freedom, OIF-II); and planning/advisory duties with the Ugandan Peoples Defense Force; and humanitarian assistance disaster relief operations in Japan (Operation TOMODACHI).

Colonel Ahern has received a number of awards over the course of his career, most notably the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with three gold stars, the Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars, the Joint Meritorious Achievement Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Navy-Marine Corps Expert Parachute Wings.

It's not an overstatement to say Colonel Ahern was one of the finest officers with whom I served. He and I were part of the initial cadre tasked to stand up Africa Command, and we worked closely on many security and humanitarian issues that arose anywhere on the continent. Colonel Ahern was an operationally-focused leader, a brilliant strategist, and utmost professional. He was instrumental to the success of Africa Command, not just while we served there, but long after he was reassigned as well.

I thank Colonel Ahern for his many years of service to our nation. It was a privilege to serve with him and call him a colleague, and I wish him all the best in his upcoming retirement.