EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF BONITA SHEPHERD'S EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the admirable and steadfast service of Bonita ''Bonnie'' Shepherd. Bonnie is preparing to retire at the end of this year following 48 years of public service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Bonnie started working in the House on June 18th, 1967. In the 48 years since, she has been an invaluable member of the Capitol Hill community. She began her lifelong commitment to public service working in the Rayburn Cafeteria, where she served thousands of tourists, Members, and staff. She continued her service, working the past 27 years for the Architect of the Capitol, where she helps transport Members to votes as an elevator operator. When she isn't helping get Members to votes on time, she is honoring our greatest American heroes and loved ones through her work in the House flag office.

I have only had the opportunity to know Bonnie for the last three years, but her commitment to service and gracious attitude have left an indelible impression on me and thousands of others who have gotten to meet her. I want to wish her the best as she begins her retirement, and thank her for her public service to our nation.

TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Principal Financial Group for being recognized with a 2015 Women of Innovation award at the eighth annual Women of Innovation Awards hosted by the Technology Association of Iowa. Overall, 10 women, along with a single corporation, were recognized with innovation awards. The award highlights today's extraordinary women and recognizes leaders in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Principal Financial Group is a Des Moines based global investment manager. More than 45 percent of the organization's IT professionals are women. Principal Financial is also involved in a number of efforts to support STEM education throughout the community and the entire state.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent community leaders like those at Principal Financial Group in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Principal Financial Group on receiving this award and wishing each of their employees nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS OF ISRAELI HOSPITALS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to recognize the efforts of the Israeli hospitals and medical teams treating the Syrians injured as a result of their country's continued violence.

Numerous Syrians travel to the Israeli border in their hour of need, and in an act of compassion Israeli hospitals have provided lifesaving medical treatment. Medical teams along the Syrian and Israeli border treat these Syrians in field hospitals, and those requiring more intensive medical treatment are transferred to one of four hospitals. Among the victims treated by these hospitals are innocent children who have been gravely injured by the violence.

These heroic efforts may seem inconceivable considering the longstanding conflict between the two nations. However, these Israeli hospitals demonstrate that by welcoming Syrians in need humanity trumps politics and hostility. The impact of this generosity goes beyond that of medical treatment. As one doctor from the Ziv Medical Center stated, the compassion shown by the Israeli medical teams is ''planting the seeds of peace.''

In an area of the world that has been plagued by violence and destruction, the assistance provided by these hospitals offers a beacon of hope. It is my hope that the seeds of peace will grow and that future generations may live amongst each other, no longer in hostility, but in solidarity and friendship.

HONORING MAJOR TRENT COLESTOCK

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Army Major Trent Colestock, for his extraordinary dedication and service to the United States of America. Major Colestock will be moving on from his current assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives to Fort Hood, Texas.

Army Congressional Liaisons provide an invaluable service to both the Military and Congress. They assist Congressional Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their first-hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congress.

Raised in Texas, Major Colestock commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army's Field Artillery. He has served and commanded in a variety of assignments including service at Fort Drum, Fort Hood, the Pentagon, and in Iraq. Major Colestock was selected for the highly competitive Congressional Fellowship Program in 2011.

A few of Major Colestock's military awards include the Combat Action Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Iraq Campaign Medal. He has also earned both the Parachutist and Air Assault Badges. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas Christian University and a Master of Arts in Congressional Affairs from George Washington University.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Major Colestock as he proceeds to the next chapter in his remarkable career serving our great Nation. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues in recognizing and commending Major Colestock for his dedicated service to our Country. It is my distinct pleasure to join with Trent's family, friends, peers, as they honor the accomplishments of his outstanding ongoing career.

REMEMBERING JEAN STARKWEATHER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jean Starkweather, who passed away in San Rafael, California, on November 23, four days shy of her 86th birthday. A lifelong advocate for the environment and a beloved leader in Marin County, Mrs. Starkweather will be remembered for her unyielding activism, her gentle spirit, and her steadfast sense of purpose related to protecting natural resources in Marin County.

Mrs. Starkweather was born in Seattle in 1929 and moved to San Rafael with her husband soon after graduating from Carleton College. She began her environmental advocacy in the early 1970s as chair of a local homeowners group, when she fought against developments on a hillside near Terra Linda. From there, she joined a litany of groups working to preserve natural spaces, including the Citizens Advisory Committee for the San Rafael, Audubon Canyon Ranch, and the Marin County Parks and Open Space commission.

Not only was Mrs. Starkweather involved with numerous conservation groups—she was a leader in practically every organization she joined. Throughout the decades, she helmed the San Francisco Bay Association, Marin Audubon Society, and Marin Conservation League (MCL), among others. Her involvement did not go unnoticed. She received the