

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on March 2, 2016—I was not present for roll call vote 105. If I had been present for this vote, I would have voted: “yea” on roll call vote 105.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING MATSON GUAM ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE ON GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Matson Guam as the company celebrates its 20th anniversary of business and service to the people of Guam. Matson Guam began operations on February 1, 1996, during which it has provided continuous and uninterrupted service to Guam. Matson Guam has also made strong partnerships and provides services to neighboring islands in the Pacific, including the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and Republic of the Marshall Islands. Matson Guam also served as the only U.S. carrier servicing Guam and Micronesia from 2011 to 2015.

Matson Guam is a part of a global company founded in 1882 which began carrying food and supplies from California to Hawaii. Today, Matson is a diversified company whose primary interest is in carrying freight between the Pacific Coast and Hawaii. Matson is the leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific and provides a vital lifeline to the economies of many Pacific islands.

In addition to Matson Guam’s shipping and logistics services in the region, Matson Guam also makes many contributions to the local community and throughout Micronesia through the Matson Foundation. In 2016 alone, the Matson Foundation is estimated to have contributed over \$200,000 to local causes. Additionally, Matson Guam is a key sponsor for the Festival of the Pacific Arts that will take place in Guam this summer. As part of the partnership, Matson Guam recently shipped a Sakman canoe, a traditional Chamorro fishing boat from San Diego, California to Guam. The Sakman symbolizes the tie between the company’s shipping operations and Guam’s seafaring heritage.

Matson Guam is also committed to environmentally friendly initiatives aimed at protecting and preserving the natural resources of the region. As part of this commitment, Matson Guam leads an environmental and community relations program called Adahi I Tano’ which translates to “taking care of our island.” The company donates the use of container equipment on Guam for environmental cleanup projects arranged by non-profit organizations, and pays for trucking expenses for the delivery and pickup of the containers. Matson also awards these non-profit organizations a \$500 contribution for each successful cleanup.

Since 2013, over 5 dozen non-profit organizations participating in the program have conducted over 80 cleanups to help the environment and in turn help their individual organizations carry out their missions.

I thank Matson Guam for their service to the island and region over the last two decades. I congratulate Matson Guam on its 20th anniversary and commend the company’s leadership and employees for their contributions to the people of Guam and communities throughout the region. I look forward to their future contributions and success.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MASON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a remarkable organization, the Mason County Farm Bureau. The Mason County Farm Bureau from Central Illinois is an integral organization that promotes agricultural prosperity. After many years of success and service, the Mason County Farm Bureau is celebrating their 100th anniversary.

Mason County Farm Bureau was chartered on February 16, 1916 by local farmers interested in promoting agriculture on a local, state, and national level. Today, the group has over 1,500 members supporting the agrarian community and economy throughout the county.

Not only does Mason County Farm Bureau focus on agricultural issues, but they have effectively established committees for young leaders involved in agriculture. These committees include initiatives like Farm Safety Day, Young Leaders Conference, and Farm Bureau scholarships. Programs like these greatly serve the community by ensuring that today’s young aspiring farmers effectively, safely and efficiently grow a better quality and more abundant crop for future generations.

Illinois has become a major economic force within the agricultural sector because of farm bureaus like Mason County that come together and enhance opportunities for local farmers, their families, and the community as a whole. I extend my sincere congratulations to Mason County Farm Bureau for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions to Illinois. I hope the organization continues to grow and prosper for the next one hundred years.

HONORING THE PASSING OF ATTY. LINDA SARNO

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the passing of community activist and civic and religious leader, Atty. Linda Sarno, who passed away on February 1, 2016. Atty. Sarno was a beloved community organizer and leader who supported the development and professionalism of Filipino Amer-

ican businesses and raised awareness and appreciation for Filipino culture and cuisine in Southern California. She started initiatives in the community to promote the advantages of green technology, health, and conservation both in business and everyday life. She was co-founder and director emeritus of the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County where she encouraged young entrepreneurship, and was also actively involved in the Asian Business Association of Orange County. Atty. Sarno will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and our community.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL CINDI FELDWISCH

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Cindi Feldwisch, a champion of women’s rights who served her country with distinction as one of the “First Five” women in the United States Air Force Honor Guard (USAFHG).

When Lt. Col. Feldwisch entered uniformed service in 1975, women did not serve in the USAFHG. This elite ceremonial unit in the United States Air Force (USAF) is charged with representing the USAF at all public and official ceremonies in the National Capital Region. These ceremonies include funerals for deceased USAF personnel, occasions for visiting dignitaries and military officials, wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns, and White House arrival ceremonies. In 1973, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs had issued a memorandum instructing the USAF to incorporate women into the USAFHG.

In 1976 a new training program began with the intention of integrating women into the USAFHG. Lt. Col. Feldwisch and four comrades defied expectations and, in the words of their commanding officer, Captain Marcel Mayer, “they not only survived the training, they excelled.” On July 15, 1976, Lt. Col. Feldwisch along with Teresa Brown, Margaret Jones, Madelyn Ritz, and Elizabeth Root graduated and became the first female members of the USAFHG. Collectively, they are known in the USAFHG as the “First Five.”

Nevertheless, the First Five still endured discrimination and sexism. For example, the First Five were not initially allowed to carry M-1 rifles in ceremonies because of a ban prohibiting women from participating in combat. It would have been easy to accept this second rate status, but Lt. Col. Feldwisch and the other female members of USAFHG refused. In 1977 they penned a letter to First Lady, Rosalynn Carter, who issued a statement in their support. By January 1978, there was a change in policy allowing women to participate in all ceremonies with their M-1s.

Lt. Col. Feldwisch went on to serve four years of active duty in the USAFHG. After receiving her Bachelor of Science at the University of Northern Colorado, she returned to duty as an enlisted member of the Colorado Air National Guard, earning her commission as a Second Lieutenant, in 1991. She has risen through the ranks, and in 2006 she became a